

The Review Crew

Early Elementary Fiction

One More Dino on the Floor

By: Kelly Starling Lyons
Illus. by: Luke Flowers
Albert Whitman & Co, 2016
ISBN: 9780807515963



Topics: Dinosaurs; Dancing; Counting

The dinosaurs are ready for a party. One dino hums and drums and begins to bop and boogie. Then another dino joins her on the floor and they waltz in time. Soon there are three, four and five dinosaurs joining the dance party. Others join in and soon there are ten. Soon twilight comes and they are tired and thirsty and make a dash to the watering hole. So they rest for a bit and slurp and splash. Then all ten dinosaurs hit the floor and dance some more. The story is fun, the dinosaurs are very colorful and little ones will enjoy counting the dinosaurs on the dance floor.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

Chicken in Space

By: Adam Lehrhaupt
Illus. by: Sharhar Kober
HarperCollins Publishers, 2016
ISBN: 9780062364128



Topics: Imagination; Perseverance

Zoey the chicken is no ordinary barnyard yellow-belly. She always finds a way to make her dreams come true. One morning, she decides that she and her best-pig Sam will go to space. They battle a comet (a kite), an asteroid (a baseball), and alien attack ships (pigeons) before they crash land back to

Earth just in time to plan their next adventure. A fun read for preschoolers and Kindergarteners as they learn about fact versus fiction.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing
Carson Elem

Pirate's Perfect Pet

By: Beth Ferry
Illus. by: Matt Myers
Candlewick Press, 2016
ISBN: 9780763672881



Topics: Pirates; Pets; Sequencing

After receiving a message in a bottle from his mum, Pirate Crave realizes he is missing a pet from the checklist she sent. With his first mate and crew's help they land and visit the beach, farm, and zoo, before they find the perfect pet at a pet shop--a commotion causing, pooping parrot. Students will laugh at the high-jinx, and allows teachers to create sequencing activities with the different places and/or animals mentioned. Gorgeous acrylic and oil illustrations create bright animals and characters alike with expansive landscapes.

Reviewed by: Emily Rubin
Barnum Elem.

School's First Day of School

By: Adam Rex
Illus. by: Christian Robinson
Roaring Press, 2016
ISBN: 9781596439641



Topics: Schools

Frederick Douglass Elementary had a wonderful summer being lovingly built and cared for by the janitor, but it doesn't

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Review Committee.

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Who are we?

- ☺ We are DPS teacher librarians from elementary, middle and high school.
- ☺ We know DPS students and the DPS curriculum.

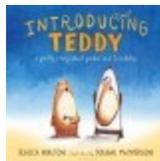
What we do!

- ☺ Every month each member writes reviews of at least twelve recently published books.
- ☺ This publication consists of the best books we review each month.
- ☺ Our hard work earns thousands of dollars of free books for our school libraries and for the classroom library at ETLs, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)

quite know what to expect when the children show up. There are so many and some are not happy to be here; "I must be awful," thinks the school sadly. The fire alarm sounds, milk is spilled in his nice clean cafeteria, and school isn't sure this is going to work out. However, when one of the most reluctant students makes a beautiful, glittery picture of him that the teacher pins ("Ouch!") on the wall, he decides he really does want the children to come back. Colorful collage illustrations depict a diverse population, and this unique perspective on a first day will make for interesting discussion with young ones.
Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Alumni

Introducing Teddy: a Gentle Story about Gender and Friendship

By: Jessica Walton
Illus. by: Dougal MacPherson
Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2016
ISBN: 9781681192109



Topics: Friendship, Gender identity, Acceptance
Errol and Thomas the teddy are the best of friends. They play together every day and are inseparable, until one day a great sadness comes over Thomas. Thomas is worried that Errol will no longer want to be friends if his secret comes out. Upon gentle urging, Thomas divulges that she has always known that she was a girl teddy and would like to be known as Tillie. Errol comments that he only cares about being best friends, not whether teddy is a girl or boy and the two go about playing together. The author presents this tale of acceptance in such a kind and nonchalant way that we can only hope that the children of today grow up to be kind to others with differences.
Reviewed by: Denise Cushing
Carson Elem.



Peep and Egg

By: Laura Gehl
Illus. by: Joyce Wan
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016
ISBN: 9780374301217



Topics: Sisters; Fear; Chickens
Ready for a new companion, Peep tempts Egg to hatch: they could watch the sunrise, ride sheep, splash, stroll, nap, play, and count the stars. Egg presents one niggling excuse after another. Will Egg always be a party-pooper? "I guess you're not quite ready," says the charitable Peep. "I'll see you later." Egg, however, calls out and breaks through his shell. Why? It's time for read-aloud. With a few expert brush strokes and a brilliant palette, Joyce Wan ups the charm and humor.
Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley
Cheltenham Elem.

There is a Tribe of Kids

Written and illus. by: Lane Smith
Roaring Book Press, 2016
ISBN: 9781626720565

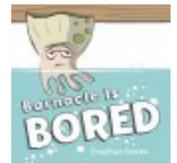


Topics: Animal classification; Adventure
Lane Smith does not disappoint in this deceptively simple and beautifully illustrated book. The story follows a young child who interacts with animals of the world, beginning smack dab in the middle of an actual tribe of kids (goats). It's unclear whether the child is lost, or is simply exploring. He encounters a pod of whales, an unkindness of ravens, a smack of jellyfish - all on his way back to finding his own "tribe" of human kids. A fun way to discuss adventure and collective animal nouns.
Reviewed by: Denise Cushing
Carson Elem.



Barnacle is Bored

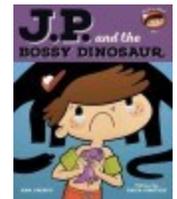
Written and illus by: Jonathan Fenske
Scholastic Press, 2016
ISBN: 9780545865043



Topics: Sea life; Barnacles; Fish
The reader is introduced to Barnacle, who spends his life attached to the bottom of the pier. He is bored. He watches the fish all swim around him. He watches the tide come in and go out. He watches the sun come up, go down and come up again. He watches the polka-dotted fish and thinks his life must be so much fun diving with dolphins and soaring with sailfish. Then he sees the polka-dotted fish get eaten. Then Barnacle decides that he is not bored after all. This is a fun to read book with wonderful illustrations by a Colorado author.
Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

J.P. and the Bossy Dinosaur

By: Ana Crespo
Illus. By: Erica Sirotich
Albert Whitman & Company, 2016
ISBN: 9780807539811



Topics: Feelings; Sadness,
One of the *My Emotions and Me* series, this time around, J.P.'s mood-meter reads sad. J.P. experiences his sadness through tears, frustration, and anger when at a water park with his family. J.P. remembers though how to keep himself smiling with strategies that turn his mindset to happiness by playing and having fun with friends and family. The author leaves a great note on the back page of the story, with strategies and ways adults can help children deal with different levels of sadness.
Reviewed by: Emily Rubin
Barnum Elem.



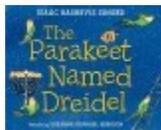
Upper Elementary Fiction

A Parakeet Named Dreidel

By: Isaac Bashevis Singer

Illus. by: Suzanne Raphael Berkson
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015
ISBN: 978037430094

Topics: Holiday stories; Hanukkah
One wintry Brooklyn night a lost parakeet, drawn by a menorah's light, finds a new companion in a boy named David. Nine years later, David is shocked to learn his beloved pet, Dreidel, rightfully belongs to his new college friend, Zelda. When neither is willing to give up the little bird, Dreidel turns matchmaker, and Zelda and David make a home together. Berkson's illustrations complement the text with a cheery homage to Chagall. Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley
Cheltenham Elem.



The Evil Wizard

Smallbone

By: Delia Sherman
Candlewick Press,
2016

ISBN:
9780763688059

Topics: Wizards; Magic
After running away from his uncle during a blizzard, Nick finds shelter at Evil Wizard Books, run by, naturally, an evil wizard. Determined to learn as much magic as he can, Nick pretends he can't read but makes friends with the shop itself, which teaches him what he wants to know. He's going to need that knowledge when his master has to go head to head with Evil Wizard Fidelou, a werewolf whose



minions have been terrorizing the people of Smallbone Cove. A little eerie, but not so much scary as suspenseful, there are some humorous moments and lots of twists in this book with well-defined, multi-dimensional characters. Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Alumni

Upper Elementary Nonfiction

New York Giants

By: Saulie Blumberg
Abdo Publishing, 2017
ISBN: 9781680782264

*Topics: Football history;
New York Giants*

Part of the *NFL Up Close* series, here's a highlight reel of the Giant's storied history from 1932 to 2012. Readers learn how New York won the 1934 championship in basketball shoes and relive David Tyree's miracle catch in Super Bowl XLI. All the Giant greats get their due. Even reluctant readers will find it hard to stop turning pages in this book filled with fun facts and action photos. A table of contents, timeline, index, and glossary make it easy for serious fans to deepen their knowledge.

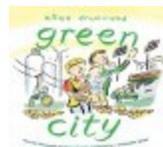
Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley
Cheltenham Elem.



Green City

Written and illus. by:
Allan Drummond
Strauss Giroux, 2016
ISBN: 9780374379995

Topics: Sustainability; Tornadoes
Greensburg, Kansas, was leveled by a tornado in 2007, but the town turned the disaster into an opportunity to become a model for sustainable living. When the townspeople asked "What do we want to be now?", ideas came tumbling forth, with the decision made to rebuild homes and businesses to be as



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eco-friendly as possible. Watercolor illustrations take the reader from the initial disaster through the process of designing and completing America's Green City with its reclaimed materials and wind farm. This is a very useful addition for an ecology or community unit and could easily be read aloud to younger students.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Alumni

Middle School Fiction

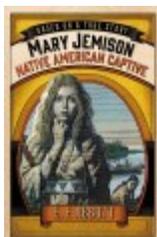
Mary Jemison

By: E.F. Abbott

Illus. by: Clint Hansen
Feiwei and Friends,
2016

ISBN: 9781250068385

Topics: *American history; Mary Jemison*



Mary is fifteen years old in 1758. She and her family live on an isolated farm in the Pennsylvania woods. One day they are raided by Shawnee warriors and French soldiers. The other captives are killed because they are too slow, but Mary is forced on. She is sold to the Seneca. Mary is taken in by two sisters and eventually she becomes a part of the family. What will Mary decide when she is faced with the decision to stay or go back to the white world? This is a true story. The book is sprinkled with old photos as well as line drawings depicting the time around the French and Indian War.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
CEC Middle College



High School Fiction

Losers Take All

By: David Klass
Farrar Strass Giroux,
2015

ISBN: 9780374301361

Topics: *Athletics; Sportsmanship; High school*



At the graduation day celebration, the elderly principal of Fremont High is leading the pack of runners when he suddenly has a heart attack and dies. Now there is a new principal, the former coach! Everyone in the school is now required to be on a sports team. This is a disaster for Jack and his non-athlete friends. They are forced to create a soccer team and they are determined to lose every game. They recruit the social studies teacher to be their coach. He spends most of the practice time discussing tactics from historic battles. This is a hilarious, and not so hilarious look at sports in American high schools.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
CEC Middle College

What Happens Now

By: Jennifer Castle
HarperTeen, 2016
ISBN: 9780062250476

Topics: *Depression; Cosplay; Friendship*

Ari is finally getting her life back together after a bad bout with cutting, depression, and therapists. During the summer Ari works up the courage to speak to Camden, a boy she has been crushing on for two summers. She finds out that he and his friends have a cosplay group who reenact an old television series that Ari loves. Ari's stepfather is understanding of her



friends and the reenactments but her mother is very controlling and has a hard time trusting Ari to not hurt herself if she is out of sight for very long.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
CEC Middle College

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."
Chief Seattle

"We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees." - Qwatsinas (Hereditary Chief Edward Moody), Nuxalk Nation

"Everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence." - Mourning Dove [Christine Quintasket] (1888-1936) Salish