



The Review Crew

What's New and Great for Our Youngest Readers?

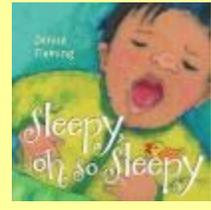
Brought to you by the Denver Public Schools Book Review Committee.

Volume 7 Number 2
October 2010

Fiction

Sleepy, oh so Sleepy

Written and illus. by: Denise Fleming
Holt and Company, 2010
ISBN: 9780805081268



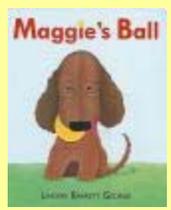
Curriculum: Bedtime; Animals - infancy; Mother and child

All tiny baby animals sleep with their parent - the possum, orangutan, otter, penguin, and the human baby as well. Fleming's distinctive pulp painting art style creates eye-catching images on every two page spread. The large art with its vivid colors along with the predictable, repetitive text will make this an appealing choice for both the classroom and also as a bedtime story.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elem.

Maggie's Ball

Written and illus. by: Lindsay Barrett George
Greenwillow Books, 2010
ISBN: 9780061721663



Curriculum: Dogs; Friendship

Maggie has her ball, now she is looking for someone to play with. While she is looking for a friend, she drops her ball and it rolls

downhill into town. The reader can help her look in many places. What color is that ball? What size is that ball? The illustrations provide a venue for map reading and prediction.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.

Interrupting Chicken

Written and Illus. by: David Ezra Stein
Candlewick Press, 2010
ISBN: 9780763641689



Curriculum: Storytelling; Bedtime; Chickens; Fathers and daughters; Humorous stories

Little Red Chicken promises not to interrupt the bedtime story yet in the midst of Hansel and Gretel she yells, "Out jumped a little red chicken, and she said, 'DON'T GO IN! SHE'S A WITCH!' So Hansel and Gretel didn't. THE END!" After more interruptions, papa runs out of stories so she writes her own. Guess who ends up asleep? A fun-filled read.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8

Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?

By: Audrey Vernick
Illus. by: Daniel Jennewein



Who are we?

- ☺ We are DPS teacher librarians from elementary, middle and high school.
- ☺ We know DPS students and the DPS curriculum.
- ☺ Every month each member writes reviews of at least fifteen recently published books.
- ☺ Our hard work earns thousands of dollars of free books for our school libraries and for the classroom library at ERS, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)

Balzer + Bray, 2005
ISBN: 9780061762758

Curriculum: Kindergarten; Buffaloes; Schools

Buffalo is shy and needs help with scissors but he has his strengths. "Okay, maybe your buffalo can't cut yet! But... most kids aren't the state animal of Oklahoma. Or pictured on old nickels." Though there are many adjustments to be made, like the "No Grazing" rule, buffalo loves kindergarten so much he may not want to leave! This humorous tale will ease first day jitters and help young readers appreciate individual differences.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8

Nonfiction

Munsch at Play: Eight Stage Adaptations for Young Performers: Plays

By: Irene N. Watts
Illus. by: Michael Martchenko

Annick Press, 2010
ISBN: 9781554512300

Curriculum: Plays; Munsch, Robert N. - adaptations

Fans of Robert Munsch (children and adults alike) will be thrilled to see this compilation of eight of his classic stories creatively woven into a play format. Performances can be put on by small groups or whole classes with the various suggestions offered. Using simple props and maintaining the basic storylines, the plays may even draw new fans to Munsch and his work.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elem.



The Best for Upper Elementary Readers!

Fiction

Thumbelina

Written and illus. by:
Sylvia Long
Chronicle Books,
2010
9780811855228

Curriculum: Fairy tale
In this rendition of the original Hans Christian Anderson's tale, Thumbelina is courted by a succession of undesirable suitors: a toad, a beetle and an arrogant mole. She escapes a life of tortured misery in saving a swallow's life and in the end finds herself married to a little adolescent sprite, just her size.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.



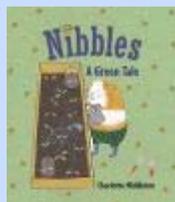
Nibbles: A Green Tale

Written and illus. by:
Charlotte Middleton
Marshall Cavendish Children, 2009
ISBN: 9780761457916

Curriculum: Plant conservation and propagation; Environmental responsibility

Nibbles the guinea pig loves to munch on dandelions, but soon finds that all but one has disappeared. He finds the sole dandelion and instead of eating it, researches how to propagate the plant instead. Soon his dandelion garden is flourishing and the community is full of dandelions for all to enjoy again.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni



Baby Ruby Bawled

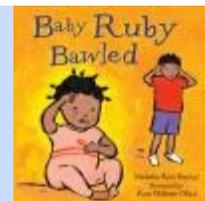
By: Malaika Rose
Stanley
Illus. by: Ken Wilson-Max

Tamarind, 2010
ISBN: 9781848530171

Curriculum: Family; Multi-Cultural families; Compassion; Siblings

All baby Ruby does is cry and her multi-racial and extended family try everything they can think of to help her. It isn't until big brother Theo sings his sister a lullaby that Ruby is at least happy and quiet for a little while, giving the family some much needed rest.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni



Nonfiction

Desert Days Desert Nights

Written and illus. by: Roxie Munro
Bright Sky Press, 2010
9781933979779

Curriculum: Ecosystems, Deserts

This is an excellent source for learning about six of North America's deserts, the landscapes and the animals that inhabit them, by day and by night. On every spread, readers are encouraged to learn about eighteen different species of animals. There is a key to finding the animals on each page and an excellent answer section at the end of the book, which is quite informative.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.



Many of these books will work in middle school, too.!

You Wouldn't Want to Be a Secret Agent During World War II!



By: John Malam

Illustrated by: Mark Bergin

Scholastic, 2010

ISBN: 9780531204740

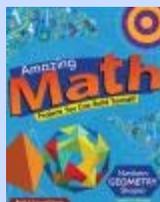
Curriculum: World War II; Espionage

Using a cartoon-like format, the skills and training necessary to be a WWII secret agent are described. Language lessons, physical endurance training, and the ability to keep a secret while being tortured are keys to being successful. Additional tricks, such as explosive rats, are also examined. The cartoon format creates a very engaging environment for young researchers. A fun and fascinating book with good information!

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.

Amazing Math Projects You Can Build Yourself



Written and illus by: Laszlo C. Bardos

Nomad Press, 2010

ISBN: 9781934670583

Curriculum: Math; Numbers & counting; Shapes; Patterns

Readers are introduced to the beauty and wonder of math through hands-on activities. Each activity includes facts, vocabulary, and connections to other topics. A website includes video instructions for these projects as well as others.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin

Park Hill Elem.

Middle School Reader Gold Mine

Many of these books will work in high school, too.!

Fiction

The Shadow Project

By: Hervie Brennan

Balzer + Bray, 2010

ISBN: 9780061756429



Curriculum: Suspense; Paranormal; Astral Projection; Spies

Danny breaks into a house that is actually the secret headquarters of the Shadow Project. He is caught, but found out to have a special gift, so they recruit him instead of turning him over. The Project has a group of talented teens that are able to astral project in order to spy. Their task is to find "the Skull," a known terrorist leader. Danny and his two partners, Michael and Opal, find themselves drawn into a conflict deeper than what they imagined. A combination of spy story and mysticism that will keep you reading until the end.

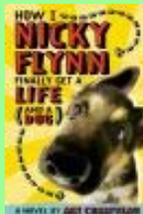
Reviewed by: Karen Burns

Place Bridge Academy

How I Nicky Flynn finally get a life and a dog

By: Art Corriveau

Amulet Books, 2010



ISBN: 9780810982987

Curriculum: Seeing-eye dogs; Divorce; Families; Friendship

Nicky and his mom are living in a one bedroom apartment – Nicky gets to sleep on the couch. Hoping to make his new life easier, Nicky's mom brings home a retired seeing eye dog named Reggie. When the town people recognize Reggie, Nicky starts to spin a tale that gets quickly out of hand.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

Kepner M.S.

The Dreamer

By: Pam Munoz Ryan

Scholastic Press, 2010

ISBN: 9780439269704



Curriculum: Neruda, Pablo; Poets; Chile History

This book is based on the childhood of Pablo Neruda. Painfully shy Neftali, (Neruda's real name), would rather read, write and reflect. His domineering father berates him and terrifies the entire family. His loving stepmother, uncle, and sister all support each other with their love and kindness.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley

MSLA

The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister

By: Charlotte Agell

Holt; 2010

ISBN: 9780805089028



Curriculum: Adoption; Families; Friendship

India is Chinese. She has the only Chinese body in the whole town. She is adopted. Now India lives with her mother and her dad lives with Richard in the next town. Her best friend Colby

is hanging out with her worst enemy, Amanda. Can things get any more confusing?

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

Nonfiction

The Colorado Avalanche

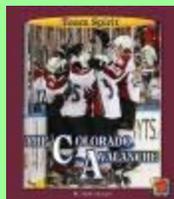
By: Mark Stewart
Norwood House, 2011

ISBN:
9781599534008

Curriculum: Sports; Hockey; Colorado Avalanche

"Few things in nature are as powerful as an avalanche." When the team moved to Colorado they chose the name of this powerful force of nature as their own. Find out who the star players are and what the history of this team is in this newly published book.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.



Young Adults Deserve the Best!

Fiction

Swim the Fly

By: Don Calame
Candlewick, 2009

ISBN: 9780763647766

Curriculum: Coming of Age; Swimming; Summer; Friendship

This engaging coming-of-age story features Matt, his friends, and their summer goal to see a "real-live naked girl." Matt also agrees to swim the butterfly to impress the vapid but beautiful Kelly, but he is woefully unprepared. Sadistic coaches, an evil sister, and ridiculous antics will have teens laughing out loud. Authentic dialogue and adolescent boy humor (penis jokes and masturbation references) are scattered throughout, but the humor and themes of friendship and perseverance make this book one to recommend to mature young high school students.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.



Green Witch

By: Alice Hoffman
Scholastic Press, 2010
ISBN: 9780545141956



Curriculum: Storytelling; writing; orphans

After losing her family and a portion of her community, Green rebuilds her life finding solace in gardening and writing the life stories of those who have died. Meeting with others, she becomes haunted by the idea that her true love did not perish, but is indeed imprisoned. Green's quest begins helping her and her neighbors find the closure they need. Alice Hoffman weaves a tale to astound the reader with awe, beauty, urgency and triumph.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Possessing Jesse

By: Nancy Springer
Holiday House, 2010

ISBN: 9780823422593

Curriculum: Grief; Supernatural; Possession

In comforting herself, Jessie wears her recently deceased brother's shirts, borrows his sunglasses and sleeps in his room. Jessie realizes this soothes her and causes her grieving mother to finally speak to her, not as Jessie, but as her dead brother, Jason. Reluctant to lead her mother on, events begin to unfold where she isn't sure where Jessie ends and Jason begins to live again.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.



Crusade

By: Elizabeth Laird
MacMillan 2008
ISBN: 9780330456999

Curriculum: Historical fiction; Crusades; Teen friendships
Adam is a young boy caught up in the



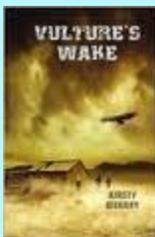
Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. Groucho Marx

Crusade to save the Holy land from the Infidels; Salim is a young doctor's physician treating the great Saladin as they stave off the barbaric invaders who have laid siege to his hometown. When the two boys are brought together, they begin to realize that there are humans on the other side of the battle line rather than evil monsters. This complex tale is a subtly woven explanation of human nature in times of war.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

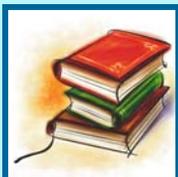
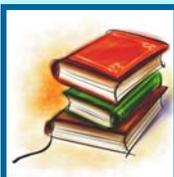
Vulture's Wake

By: Kirsty Murray
Holiday House, 2010
ISBN:
9780823422821
Curriculum: Survival;
Orphans: Science
Fiction



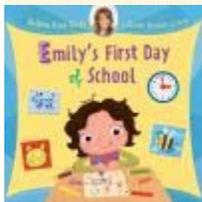
Females have been wiped out by an avian flu and the Colony rules the post-apocalyptic barren wasteland. Callum is captured by Outstationers and forced to work in a circus. He escapes and is intent on finding his fathers when he becomes injured and is rescued by Bo, an orphaned female who survived the avian epidemic. Together they search for Callum's fathers.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA



New Series

Helping Hands By: Sarah Mountbatten-Windsor, Duchess of York
PS-2—Nonfiction
Helping little ones cope with changes: babies, school, bullies and strangers.



Conspiracy 365 By: Gabrielle Lord
6-8 Fiction



Fans of the popular TV series 24 will love this fast-moving action and espionage YA series.

Perfectly Princess by: Alyssa Crowne
3—5 Fiction



Princess stories for young readers.

Baseball Great by: Tim Green

6-8 Fiction



Follow the Titans on their quest for the championship.

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