

The Review Crew



What's New and Great for Our Youngest Readers?

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

Volume 8 Number 2

October 2011

Fiction

The Big Baby Book

Written and illus. by: Guido Van Genechten

Clavis, 2011

ISBN: 9781605370798

Curriculum: Babies; Animal babies; Animal characteristics

The world is full of babies, and this book shows how babies can be very different from one another. Some babies can only lie when they are born, others can immediately stand on their own two feet. But all babies come out hungry and thirsty.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds

Alumni



Reviewed by: Leah Rounds

Alumni

The Wheels on the Bus

Written and illus. by: Jane Cabrera

Holiday House, 2011

ISBN: 9780823423507

Curriculum: Africa; Animals; Songs

This is a colorful and exuberant version of the popular song that fills the bus with African animals. Monkeys call, crocodiles snap, and flamingos flap as they make their way to the waterhole where they "Splish, splash, splosh" all day long. Children will enjoy singing along and the chance to meet bush babies, hyenas, and chameleons.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert

Waller K-8



Itsy-Bitsy Babies

By: Margaret Wild

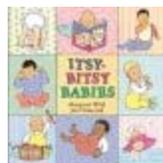
Illus. by: Jan Ormerod

Little Hare, 2009

ISBN: 9781921541360

Curriculum: Babies, Books in rhyme

Babies like to read about what other babies do, like clapping hands, playing fall down, and splashing through puddles. This book in rhyme with soft watercolor illustrations shows many different activities that are familiar to small children.



Morris the Mankiest

Monster

By: Giles Andreae

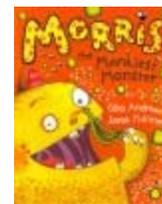
Illus. By: Sarah McIntyre

David Pickling Books, 2009

ISBN: 9780552559355

Curriculum: Friendship; Humor

Morris is really a very manky monster. He enjoys indulging in the most revolting living conditions, disgusting food choices and poor health habits. Yet despite all of his



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 ETLs, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)

gruesome traits his favorite thing to do is make friends.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Nonfiction

Meet the Dogs of Bedlam Farm



By: Jon Katz
Holt and Company,
2011

ISBN: 9780805092196

Curriculum: Working dogs; Farm life

Come meet Rose, Izzy, Frieda, and Lenore. Each with their own role, they are the dogs of Bedlam Farm. They guide the sheep, visit people, guard the farm, and make everyone happy. The descriptions and vivid photos bring life to their days on the farm and personality to each of the dogs. Readers, especially dog lovers, will be touched by the simple presentation of these special dogs.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
CMS Community School

I'm Adopted!

By: Shelley Rotner and
Sheila M. Kelly

Holiday House, 2011

ISBN: 9780823422944



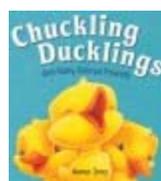
Curriculum: Adoption

There are so many adoption stories to be celebrated! No matter the reasons behind it, or the way a family looks - they are stories of love. This simple text with such powerful photos can be a real gift for families or classrooms to share. It also will encourage children to value their own story, even if it is different from most.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
CMS Community School

Chuckling Ducklings

By: Aaron Zenz
Walker and Company,
2011



ISBN: 9780802721914

Curriculum: Baby animals; Animals

Large simple text reveals the names of 54 baby animals presented in adorable illustrations. Some will be very familiar (kitty and puppy), while others will be less well known (cygnet and gosling), and still others will sound downright silly (pinky and porcupette) to little ears. All will enjoy this celebration of the young.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Edison Elem.



The Best for Upper Elementary Readers!

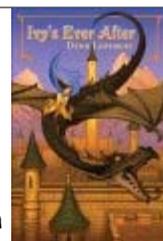
Many of these books
will work in middle
school, too.!

Fiction

Ivy's Ever After

By: Dawn Lairamore
Holiday House

ISBN: 9780823422616
Curriculum: Fairy tales; Dragons; Strong princesses;

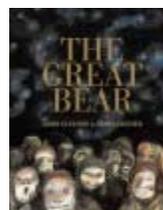


Traditionally, in the kingdom Ardendale, upon her 14th birthday, the princess is locked in a tower and guarded by a dragon until a hero comes to rescue and marry her. Princess Ivory, however, has no intention of continuing this silly ritual. When rude and brutish Prince Romil comes to her kingdom, she decides she must save her kingdom from his plans to lay waste to the land. With the help of the dragon, Eldridge, Ivy embarks on the adventure of a lifetime.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
CEC Middle College

The Great Bear

By: Libby Gleeson
Illus. By: Armin Greder
Candlewick Press, 2011



ISBN: 9780763751367

Curriculum: Bears; Freedom

An imprisoned Russian circus bear dances on the demands of her overbearing trainers. When the trainers' prodding is not enough to cajole the bear into an adequate performance, the crowd begins to throw stones, yank her chains and poke her with sticks. Longing to be free of the torment, the bear frightens the crowd and runs up the tallest tree she can find. Jumping into the night sky, she lives forever as the constellation Ursa Major.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.



Nonfiction

The Titanic Disaster

By: Peter Benoit

Scholastic, 2011

ISBN:

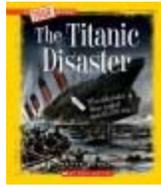
9780531206270

Curriculum: Titanic; Margaret (Molly) Brown

One of the most covered disasters, the 1912 sinking of the *Titanic*, is presented in this title. Details on the *Titanic's* construction, capabilities, passengers, iceberg collision, and evacuation are given. Local legend, Molly Brown, is also highlighted. Each *A True Book* title begins with a "Find the Truth!" quiz prompting readers to discover which question is true and which is false. Illustrations and photos have their own explanatory text. For more information many additional sources are suggested. These books are suitable for introductory research.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.



Lipman Pike: America's First Home Run King

By: Richard Michelson

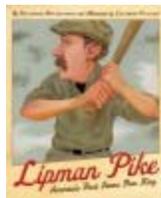
Illus. by: Zachary Pul-len

Sleeping Bear Press, 2011

ISBN: 9781585364657

Curriculum: Pike, Lipman, 1845-1893; Baseball players; Jewish Biography.

In the mid 1800's a new game was sweeping the nation. Baseball, or Base as it was known then, was gaining popularity. A young Jewish shop-keeper's son, Lipman Pike, grew up



to become the first "professional" ballplayer as well as a great slugger. Middle grade baseball aficionados will score with this informative picture book biography.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose

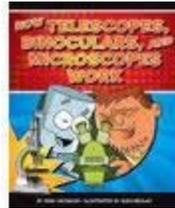
Trevista ECE-8

How Toilets Work

By: Ryan Jacobson

Illus. by: Glen Mul-laly

Child's World, 2011



ISBN: 9781609732233

Curriculum: Toilets

With such amusing headings as "History Stinks!" and "Wipe Out!" many interesting facts about the history of toilets and toilet paper makes the reader sit up and take notice. The mechanics of the flushing indoor toilet and the wastewater treatment plant are simply explained and well illustrated in this volume of the *Discover How Things Work* series.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier

Edison Elem.



Middle School Reader Gold Mine

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

Fiction

Vesper

Written by: Jeff Sampson

Balzer +Bray, 2011

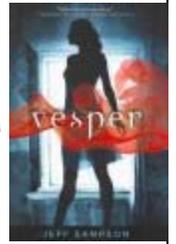
ISBN: 9780061992766

Curriculum: Science Fiction; Friendship; Wolves; Biological experimentation

Emily Webb is a normal teenager. She is more geek than outgoing and it suits her fine. Until one night, she had a strong urge to go out on the town. She stole clothes from her stepsister and went to a nightclub. By morning, she was back to normal and wondered what happened to her. This continued until one night she morphed into a wolf. Emily found others that were similar and they are determined to find the answers as to why this was happening to them. There is teenage drama and suspense with book one of the *Deviants* series.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns

Place Bridge Academy



Rage of the Fallen

Written by: Joseph Delaney

Greenwillow, 2011

ISBN: 9780062027566

Curriculum: Fantasy; Magic; Witches; Celtic gods

Book eight of the *Last Apprentice* series continues the adventure. Due to war, the Spook, Alice, and Thomas travel to Ireland to escape. However, they find a whole new set of witches, ghosts and Celtic gods to deal with. The Fiend is still after Alice and Tom, and they find help to bind him to the underworld forever. Alice finds out more about



herself and Tom gets to meet the god, Pan. This is a mix of magic and politics as the three figure out how to survive in an unfamiliar land.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns

Place Bridge Academy

The Book of Bones

Written by: Natasha Narayan

Quercus, 2010

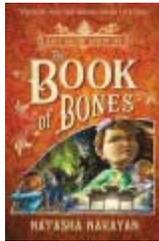
ISBN: 9781849162418

Curriculum: *China; Immortality; Friendship; Loyalty*

The Kit Salter adventures continue with book three. Kit and her three stalwart friends are kidnapped and put on a boat to China. Their mission is to find the Book of Bones that has the secret of immortality. The Baker Brothers have poisoned one of them, and in order to get the antidote, they must find the book and get it back. They find friends and have many adventures. The ending is somewhat of a cliffhanger, so readers will have to wait for book 4 to see what happens.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns

Place Bridge Academy



Jenna & Jonah's Fauxmance

By: Emily Franklin and Brendan Halpin

Walker, 2011

ISBN:

9780802723420

Curriculum: *Relationships; Media*

Until their hit TV show is cancelled, Charlie and Fielding have been pretending to be boyfriend and girlfriend, although their relationship is more like cat and dogs than lovebirds.



In an effort to save their careers, their agents book them into a Shakespeare festival in Oregon, where they must get along and their true feelings for each other are revealed. There are plenty of funny and tender moments that will please the romantic.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert

Waller K-8

Hidden

By: Helen Frost

FarrarStrausGiroux, 2011

ISBN: 9780374382216

Curriculum: *Novel in verse; Families; Interpersonal relationships*

This amazing novel is written in verse. When Wren was eight years old she was in the back seat of a car that was stolen by Darra's father. Darra, who is also eight, realizes that someone is in the car which is now hidden in their garage. Wren escapes from the garage before Darra can help her escape. Both girls feel that their lives have been changed forever by this incident: Darra because her father is in prison and Wren, because it happened to her at all. Six years later the girls meet at a summer camp.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

Kepner M.S.



Possum summer

By: Jen K. Blom

Holiday House, 2011

ISBN: 9780823423316

Curriculum: *Animal Rescue; Dogs; War*

P is eleven years old. Her real name is Princess and that is a name she just can't abide. P is happiest when she is running through the hollows on her



families Oklahoma ranch. Her father is in Iraq and has left her with specific instructions about how to manage the cattle and his cattle dog. But P wants a pet more than anything so when the dog, which is not a pet, kills a mama opossum, P is ready to save the one small baby who is left and maybe find the pet she craves.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

Kepner M.S.

Nonfiction

Saving Audie: A Pit Bull Puppy Gets a

Second Chance

By: Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Walker & Company, 2011

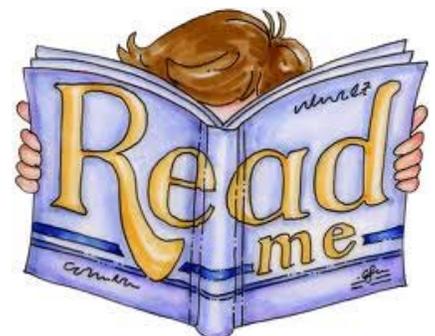
ISBN: 9780802722720

Curriculum: *Dog rescue; Animal welfare; Pit bull terriers; Vick, Michael, 1980-*

In 2007, the raid of NFL player Michael Vick's Bad Newz Kennels yielded 49 dogs bred to violence as fodder for his dog fighting events. The social, behavioral and physical rehabilitation of one pit bull puppy, Audie, is detailed in this inspirational story. A timeline, notes and resources for further reading and surfing are included.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose

Trevista ECE-8





Young Adults Deserve

Fiction

Unlocked

By: Ryan G. Van Cleave

Walker & Company, 2011

ISBN: 9780802721860

Curriculum: School violence; Conduct of life; Bullying

Told in verse, the story of loner, Andy, and his angry outcast friend, Blaze, unfolds. Blaze has serious issues and easy access to his terrorist-murdered father's gun. Andy keeps Blaze's mysterious behavior a secret, but a dramatic climactic scene forces Andy to choose between being a friend and doing the right thing. Novels about school violence and bullying are popular as we try to understand how these incidents happen and how to prevent them. This short novel will be



highly circulated in HS libraries. Recommend to reluctant readers wanting books with substance.

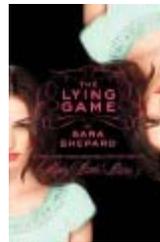
Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

The Lying Game

By: Sara Shepard
Harper Teen
ISBN: 9780061869709
Curriculum: Murder; Deception; Mystery;

Identical twins, snuff films, mean girls, and murder add up to an addictive first novel in Shepard's new series. Fans of *Pretty Little Liars* will snap this up and come back for more. While not quite the cross between *Pretty Little Liars* and *Lovely Bones* that the book jacket promises, it is a fun novel for teens. Not recommended for younger or immature middle readers.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
CEC Middle College



The Looking Glass Wars (Series)

By: Frank Beddor
Speak

ISBN: 9781435244689

In this futuristic Sci-fi adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic tale, *Alice in Wonderland*, mechanical robots battle magical creatures for control of Wonderlandia.

Highly Recommended
Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
CEC Middle College



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