

# The Review Crew



## Early Elementary Fiction

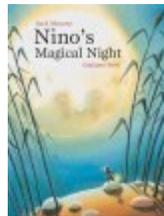
### Nino's Magical Night

By: Sueli Menezes

Illus. by: Giuliano Ferri

Minedition, 2014

ISBN: 9789888240753



*Curriculum: Fireflies; Night; Moon; Cooperation*

Not content with making the night beautiful and magical, little firefly Nino wants to be noticed for lighting up the whole sky like the moon. He gathers his friends to help make his dream come true. Beautifully illustrated with watercolors and metallic paint, this one will delight young readers as they learn about the power of cooperation.

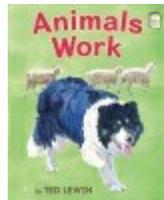
Reviewed by: Dr. Janice Pacheco  
Skinner M.S.

### Animals Work

Written and Illus. by: Ted Lewin

Holiday House, 2014

ISBN: 9780823430406



*Curriculum: Working animals*

This latest entry in the "I Like to Read" series portrays animals at work along with a short sentence stating what they do. Animals include horses, dogs, goats, sheep, donkeys, reindeer, llamas, camels, oxen, and elephants. Each animal is allotted a full spread beautifully illustrated in life-like watercolors. A

solid addition for any preschool or elementary library.

Reviewed by: Dr. Janice Pacheco  
Skinner M.S.

### Found

Written and illus. by: Salina Yoon

Walker Books for Young Readers, 2014

ISBN: 9780802735591



*Curriculum: Favorite toys; Honesty*

Bear has found a special bunny and wishes she could be his. But Bear knows someone has lost his or her special stuffed animal and searches high and low to find its owner. Many young students will relate to the worry of losing a favorite toy in this book, and this book shows how honesty pays off in the end.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds  
Alumni

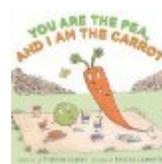


### You are the Pea, and I am the Carrot

By: J. Theron Elkins

Illus. by: Pascal Lemaitre  
Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013

ISBN: 9781419708503



*Curriculum: Friendship; Food*

Some things just belong together: peas

Brought to you by  
the Denver Public  
Schools Book  
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 fifteen 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.)

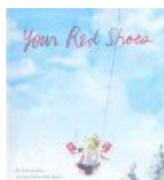
and carrots, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese. Two friends discover how some things seem to be made for one another; they often compliment each other, like so many different foods, to make each even better!

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds  
Alumni

### Your Red Shoes

By: John Hutton

Illus. by: Leah Busch  
Blue Manatee Press,  
2014



ISBN: 9781936669196

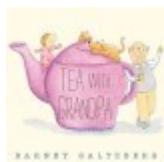
*Curriculum: Toddlers; Childhood; Growing up; Exploration; Discovery*

This picture book describes the early years in a child's life - the red shoes a child has chosen allow her to explore her world fully. Her loving father is present along the way to tie her shoes, guide her through first stages, and then finally, to help her choose her next pair of shoes as she enters the next phase of life. Beautiful watercolors grace each page.

Reviewed by: Jutta Gebauer  
South H.S.

### Tea With Grandpa

Written and illus. by:  
Barney Saltzberg  
Roaring Brook Press,  
2014



ISBN: 9781596438941

*Curriculum: Grandparents; Tea time*

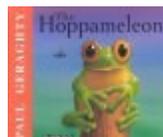
This is a darling book which reveals the love between a little girl and her grandfather. Everyday "at half past three" they clink their cups because it's "time for tea." During their afternoon tea, the two exchange stories, songs, dancing and have a good time together. It's not until the final

page that the reader finds out they are actual chatting over the Internet, but that doesn't spoil either one's enthusiasm for this daily ritual. Young readers will enjoy the rhyming lines and cute illustrations.

Reviewed by: Jutta Gebauer  
South H.S

### The Hoppameleon

Written and illus. by:  
Paul Geraghty



Anderson Press, 2013

ISBN: 9781849397735

*Curriculum: Frogs; Friendship; Identity*

Out of the sleepy, slurpy swamp arises a big-eyed green creature who is not sure what he is. He is told he must be a chameleon, since he has a long sticky tongue, but a grasshopper is sure he is an insect like himself because he hops. Is he a hoppameleon? After meeting a long series of other creatures, who all assure him he must be one of them because of their shared characteristics, the animal keeps lengthening his name.

Thankfully, he finally meets someone identical to himself, and the two jump off together. The author slyly invites the reader to tell what the animal's much shorter name is. Bold and colorful illustrations make the most of all the creatures in this humorous read-aloud that young ones will enjoy.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert  
Alumni



## Early Elementary Nonfiction

### Guess What? Food

Guess What? - Food  
Flaps & Friends



Written and illus. by:  
Yusuke Yonezu

Michael Neugebauer  
Publishing Ltd., 2010

ISBN: 9789888240623

*Curriculum: Food; Animals; Perspective*

"Is it a loaf of bread? Guess what? Lift the flap... it's a dog." Cheese, carrots, and squash are transformed into animals in this lift-the-flap board book intended for our youngest students. Bright, bold and simple illustrations complement the simple repetitive sentences, making it a fun interactive book and supporting individual reading.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds  
Alumni

### Budding biologist

By: Kristine Duehl

Illus. by: Katy

Castronovo

Self Publishing, Inc., 2012

ISBN: 9780985548148

*Curriculum: Insects*

What exactly is an insect? Insects have six legs. Is a spider an insect? No, it has eight legs. Insects have wings. Is a hummingbird an insect? No, it only has one set of wings. And so the rest of the book goes, each spread with a one line question or answer and a related picture. This is a very worthy book. Young entomologists will love it. The facts are clear



and the pictures are simple yet exact. Give this book to all young bug fans.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
CEC Middle College

## Upper Elementary Fiction

### Migrant

By: Jose Manuel  
Mateo and Javier  
Martinez Pedro



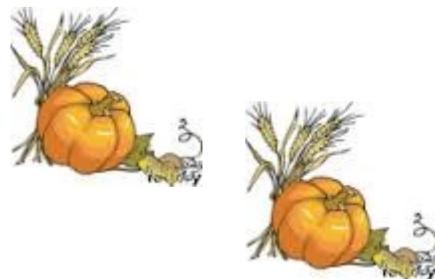
Abrams Books, 2014

ISBN: 9781419709579

*Curriculum: Emigration and immigration; Spanish language; Family life; Mexico; Bilingual; Migrant labor*

As conditions in their small Mexican village deteriorate, a young boy and his family leave to seek better jobs. *Migrant* is a simple story of the family's immigration to the United States. The format and illustrations are what sets this title apart. A detailed black-and-white illustration visually tells the story as it works its way down from the top of the page to the bottom and is presented on a single folded accordion panel with English text on one side of the page and Spanish on the flip side. *Migrant* is a powerful, beautiful piece that deserves to be closely examined. However, the format does restrict the inclusion of this title in the general collection.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen  
TJ H.S.



### A Taste of the Moon

Written and Illus.  
by: Michael Grejnieg  
Bright Connections  
Media, 2013



ISBN:  
9781622670246

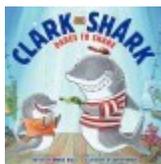
*Curriculum: Moon; Animals; Cooperation*

The animals have wanted to taste the moon for a long time. One day, tortoise climbed to the highest mountain to try and touch the moon. Soon, all the animals were working together to stand on each other's back to help. Giraffe, elephant, zebra, lion, fox, monkey and finally mouse, working together, touched the moon. Mouse tore off a small piece, tasted it, and shared with all the others. The illustrations have a texture to them, which really adds to the fun of the story.

Reviewed by Karen Burns  
Place Bridge Academy

### Clark the Shark Dares to Share

By: Bruce Hale  
Illus. by: Guy Francis



Harper Collins, 2014

ISBN: 9780062295071

*Curriculum: School; Sharks; Friendship; Sharing*

Clark the Shark is in school and must learn to share. Sharing is confusing to him. When he is told that sharing is caring, he tries, but seems to get it wrong. When he shares his hockey skills, he doesn't let anyone else get the puck. When he plays with a friend and breaks a toy, he finds out that sharing doesn't mean taking and breaking.

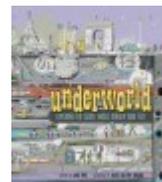
When he gets home and finds that his baby brother has one of his caps and is chewing on it, he starts to understand. He asks his mom to help him bake a cake and takes it to school. He apologizes to everyone and discovers that "sharing is sweet."

Reviewed by: Karen Burns  
Place Bridge Academy

## Upper Elementary Nonfiction

### Underworld: Exploring the Secret World Beneath Your Feet

By: Jane Price  
Illus. by: James Gulliver  
Hancock



Kids Can Press, 2014

ISBN: 9781894786898

*Curriculum: Underground construction; Underground ecology; Earth*

This title delves into the mysteries of what lies beneath the ground as caves, animal burrows, and tombs are investigated via photographs, cartoons, captions, and sidebars. A wide range of topics are explored within disciplines such as geology, zoology, history, and current events. Treasure, a lost army, a hidden city, and even an underground farm are all waiting to be discovered just under our feet in this captivating, detailed, exploratory title.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen  
TJ H.S.

### Polar Animals

By: Susan Hayes and  
Tory Gordon-Harris  
Scholastic, 2014



ISBN: 9780545667777

*Curriculum: Arctic;*

*Antarctic; Penguins; Polar Bears*

In this *Scholastic Discover More* title over 30 different topics, ranging from Arctic Season and Ice Bear to Caribou Journey and Orcas, are covered over three sections. Busy pages are filled with facts as well as terrific pictures and illustrations. Books in this series are great for introducing a topic or browsing. While this title is targeted for 3rd-4th grade students, people of all ages can enjoy and learn from its offerings. Each title provides a link and code for an additional e-book download on a related topic.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.

### Hinduism in Bali

By: Frances Hawker  
and Putu Resi

Tulip Books, 2014

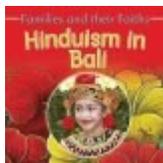
ISBN: 9781783880140

*Curriculum: Religion; Hinduism*

Meet Yoni, age 7, and read about her life as a Hindu on the island of Bali. Readers are introduced to the daily offerings the Balinese make to their gods and the importance of dance in their religion. Beautiful, detailed costumes also play a big part in their ceremonies. Fabulous photographs are included in each book in the *Families and Their Faiths* series and the books are very informative for children seeking information on other cultures and their religious practices. Helpful and fun activity suggestions and detailed background information are included.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.



### What's New? The Zoo! A Zippy History of Zoos

By: Kathleen Krull

Illus. by: Marcellus Hall

Arthur A. Levine Books,  
2014

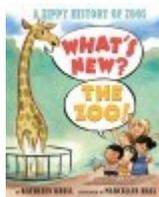
ISBN: 9780545135719

*Curriculum: Zoos; Animal protection*

All through history people have been interested in owning and showing off animals. Perhaps the oldest known zoo is from 4,400 years ago. It is reported in a clay tablet that the king of Ur (now Iraq) owned lions. And on down the years people have had reasons, some better than others, to own animals. Until the present day when zoos are seen not only as a place where we can go to see animals that we might never see otherwise, to a place where we can protect and raise species that are in danger of disappearing from the earth. Fun illustrations will enamor readers. The text is filled with interesting facts.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

CEC Middle College



## Middle School Fiction

### The Riverman

By: Aaron Starmer

Farrar Straus Giroux,  
2014

ISBN: 9780374363093

*Curriculum: Friendship;  
Fantasy*

Middle schoolers Fiona and Alistair rekindle an old friendship when she asks him to write her biography revealing a parallel life spent in the land of Aquavania where the "Riverman" is after her soul. Alistair must decide if



Aquavania really exists, or if Fiona is making a veiled cry for help. This one will keep you reading and wondering!

Reviewed by: Dr. Janice Pacheco

Skinner M.S.

### Sleeping Beauty's Daughters

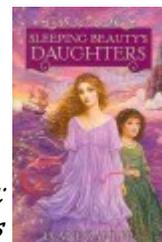
By: Diane Zahler

Harper Collins, 2013

ISBN:

9780062004963

*Curriculum: Fairy Tales;  
Sisters; Curses; Fairies*



After Sleeping Beauty and her Prince were married, they had two daughters. Princess Aurora, the eldest, who did as she was told, while Princess Luna had a stubborn streak. They lived, protected, in a palace with no sharp objects. When the new tutor was giving lessons, Aurora was pricked by the pen and fulfilled the curse that she would sleep for 100 years, like her mother. Aurora was strong willed and fought it. With the help of Luna and Symon, the fisherman, they traveled far and wide to find the good fairy to break the spell. There is adventure, magic and humor as the two sisters work together to keep Aurora from sleeping until they find the cure. This is good for middle school readers who still enjoy fairy tales.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns

Place Bridge Academy

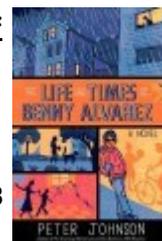
### The Life and Times of Benny Alvarez

By: Peter Johnson

Harper, 201

ISBN: 9780062215963

*Curriculum: Friendship;  
Schools; Poetry*



Middle schooler Benny is one of those "glass half-empty" people who consid-

ers himself a realist and wants to be in control. He and his Word Warrior friends, Beanie and Jocko, use their vocabularies and wit to confound their classmates. Now he is confronted with his grandfather's poor health, the enmity of the girls in his class because of a poetry project, and his strange attraction to his nemesis, sparkly-eyed Claudine. Things are getting complicated and maybe he has to adjust his approach to life. There's plenty of humor to counteract Benny's angst and confusion, feelings that all coming-of-age students can sympathize with.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert  
Alumni

### Dangerous

By: Shannon Hale  
Bloomsbury, 2014  
ISBN:  
9781599901688



*Curriculum: Saving the world; Space travel; Friendship; Disabilities*

Maise Danger Brown feels like the luckiest kid in the world when she gets one of the coveted spaces at space boot camp. And then when her fire team wins the top honors which includes a front row seat to a beanstalk launch; the launch of a shuttle up to a space station. Then, since the shuttle isn't full, they go on up to the space station. On the space station the five teens are gifted (infected) with something. Is it technology from another galaxy? The technology can kill them, or give them the ability to save the earth. Here it is, pure science fiction, with a touch of romance.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
CEC Middle College

## Middle School Nonfiction

### Because They Marched

By: Russell Freedman  
Holiday House, 2014  
ISBN: 9780823429219



*Curriculum: Civil rights; African Americans; Selma to Montgomery Rights March*

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the campaign for voting rights, Freedman has written an account of the events leading up to the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Accessible and well-written, this title takes a look at a critical turning point in American history. The black and white photographs are well-placed, poignant, and often dramatic. This is a striking title that will prove to be an essential addition to any collection.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen  
TJ H.S.

## High School Fiction

### The Secret Side of Empty

By: Maria E. Andreu  
Running Press Teens, 2014  
ISBN: 9780762451920



*Curriculum: Teens; Peer pressure; Immigration; The Dream Act*

Monserrat Thalia (a.k.a. "M.T." or "Empty") is a good student who has friends, a part time tutoring job, and a boyfriend. To her friends, she is just

## Review Crew Staff

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Leah Rounds  
Alumni

### From ETLs:

Dave Sanger  
Karen Shannon  
Antonio Nicotera

an all-American high school senior who, like them, has a great future ahead of her; however, the secret she keeps from everyone is that she and her family are actually illegal immigrants from Argentina. Because of her status, M.T. cannot get a drivers license, a regular job, or go to college. To add to her misery, her family is very poor and her father takes out his frustrations on her by physically and emotionally abusing her. Life seems bleak for M.T. until she sees a light at the end of the tunnel. This is a great read for all teens who may be experiencing feelings of alienation in high school.

Reviewed by: Jutta Gebauer  
South H.S

### The Infinite Sea

By: Rick Yancey  
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2014  
ISBN: 9780399162428

*Curriculum: Alien Invasion; Survival; War; Apocalypse*

With the 5<sup>th</sup> Wave rolling across the world and human extinction a distinct possibility, this second book in the 5<sup>th</sup> Wave series finds Cassie (eagerly) and her friends (not so eagerly) awaiting Evan's return. A second story line follows Ringer who is captured and brought to the center of alien activity where the secrets and horrors that await her are not to be missed. Readers are in store for an awesome action and suspense filled sequel and will be desperately waiting the concluding book.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas  
JFK H.S.

**High School  
Nonfiction**

### The History of Gospel Music

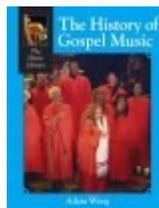
By: Adam Woog  
Gale, 2014

ISBN: 9781590187357

*Curriculum: Gospel music; Music history*

This volume is one in a series that details the history of the gospel genre from its inception to its influence on today's music, including jazz, blues, rap and hip-hop. Engaging photographs of famous singers, historical documents, drawings, and additional recommended resources complement the main text to make this a book that can be enjoyed by middle and high school students.

Reviewed by: Jutta Gebauer  
South H.S

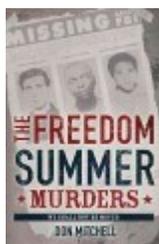


### The Freedom Summer Murders

By: Don Mitchell  
Scholastic, 2014  
ISBN: 9780545477253  
*Curriculum: Civil rights; Race relations*

In June of 1964, three young civil rights activists were murdered in Mississippi, an event that has influenced the landscape of American history, especially in the area of voting rights. Fifty years later, this book gives biographical information about Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, as well as background about the movement leading up to the tragedy and its resolution. Liberally illustrated with black and white photographs, this is an excellent overview in which the humanity and personalities of all the characters, good and bad, come through in anecdotes and quotes.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert  
Alumni



October

Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
Tomorrow' s wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call;  
Tomorrow they may form and go.

O hushed October morning mild,  
Begin the hours of this day slow.  
Make the day seem to us less brief.

Hearts not averse to being beguiled,  
Beguile us in the way you know.  
Release one leaf at break of day;

At noon release another leaf;  
One from our trees, one far away.  
Retard the sun with gentle mist;

Enchant the land with amethyst.  
Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all,  
Whose leaves already are burnt with  
frost,

Whose clustered fruit must else be  
lost—

For the grapes' sake along the wall.