

The Review Crew



Early Elementary Fiction

Special Delivery

By: Philip C. Stead

Illus. by: Matthew Cordell

Roaring Book Press, 2015

ISBN: 9781596439313

Curriculum: Elephants; Determination; Perseverance

Sadie decides to send an elephant to her Great Aunt Josephine who lives alone and needs company. So she tries all the usual channels - mailing him at the post office, sending him on an airplane and a train and even via an alligator river guide. Finally her determination pays off and she and the elephant arrive safely at her Great Aunt's place. There Sadie finds a menagerie of animals including a lion, horse, gorilla, penguins, and many other animals who will keep her Great Aunt and the elephant company. Young readers will enjoy following the crazy journey of Sadie and the elephant as well as studying the water color illustrations.

Reviewed by: Jutta Gebauer

South H.S.



Katie the Kitten and Lizzy the Lamb

Written and illus. by: Axel Scheffler

Campbell Books, 2014

ISBN: 9781447268284

Curriculum: Rhymes; Kittens; Lambs



This is a board book containing two animal stories - about Katie the Kitten and Lizzy the Lamb. Children will love the rhyming lines and story line of two animals who behave like children. Bold beautiful illustrations complement the cute stories. Children will enjoy hearing them over and over again.

Reviewed by: Jutta Gebauer

South H.S.

Missing Jack

Written and Illus. by: Rebecca Elliott

ISBN: 9780745965024

Lion Hudson, 2015

Curriculum: Cats; Pets; Mourning

Toby loves Jack because he is a non-traditional cat—never independent, always patient with a baby's groping, and fierce in pursuit of any bigger animal. Time passes and Jack grows old, slows down, and dies. Will Toby ever accept another pet? Well, maybe, when he meets Humphrey—a daredevil cat who is just as unusual as Jack, but in his own way. A light-hearted treatment of grieving and moving on.

Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley

Cheltenham Elementary



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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.)

Luke & the Little Seed

Written and Illus. by:
Giuliano Ferri

Minedition, 2015

ISBN:
9789888240944



Curriculum: *Mice; Grandfathers; Seeds; Plants; Responsibility*

It was Luke's birthday and everyone gave him presents. His grandfather gives him a bag with a seed in it. He is a little disappointed until his grandfather explains if he cares for the seed it will be the best present of all. So Luke planted the seed and watered it. Now he must have patience to wait and nurture his seed into something special. He and his friends were so excited when the little plant grew and grew. Then one day his little seed had produced a plant with wonderful little tomatoes. He told his grandfather that it was the "most wonderful gift of my life."

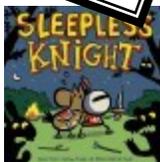
Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

Sleepless Knight

By: James Sturm,
Andrew Arnold, Alexis
Frederick-Frost

First Second, 2015

ISBN: 9781596436510



Curriculum: *Graphic novel*

Knight has an adventure planned and he needs his trusty steed, Edward. Knight has brought everything he thinks he could ever need-including Edward's ukulele and Knight's rock collection. Once he has everything he needs they leave the castle and head on their way. After a long journey they get ready to make camp, but Knight can't sleep. What will he do? Who will help him? Students will grow their vocabulary and enjoy all the dia-

logue, and even learn how to draw the characters. This is a great starter graphic novel to help students learn how to read and access a graphic novel.

Reviewed by: Emily Hungerford
Barnum Elem.

Winnie & Waldorf

Written and illus. by:
Kati Hites

Harper, 2015

ISBN: 9780062311610



Curriculum: *Friendship; Pets; Sisters*

Winnie's best friend is her dog Waldorf. Waldorf is perfect in Winnie's eyes, but definitely struggles to make the best choices all the time. Winnie goes along with Waldorf's high-jinks until one makes her oldest sister, Sara, upset beyond belief and ready to get rid of Waldorf and replace him with a cat. Will Waldorf survive his home or have to find a new one? Kati Hites creates an adorable story about a girl and her dog, illustrating a story that will entertain young children (specifically little girls) without a doubt.

Reviewed by: Emily Hungerford
Barnum Elem.

Have You Seen My Monster?

Written and illus. by:
Steve Light

Candlewick Press, 2015

ISBN:

9780763675134



Curriculum: *Shapes; Monsters; Fairs*

A little girl trips her way through a county fair while searching for her pet monster in this shape book. Passing the rides, displays, and food, she asks, "Can you see my monster?" until she locates him on the prize rack and takes him home by the light of the

crescent moon. Of course the reader can always spot the furry beast, but that's part of the fun. The intricate illustrations are mainly black and white, but the shapes, common and uncommon, are colored for easy identification by primary readers. Use this sweet story as a read aloud during math.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Alumni

The Most Magnificent Thing

By: Ashley Spires

Kids Can Press, 2014

ISBN:

9781554537044



Curriculum: *Anger; Dogs; Frustration; Girls; Inventions*

One day a girl decides to invent and make the most magnificent thing. She plans it, collects all the needed materials, and sets to work. But her product is not so magnificent. So she tries again and again. But none of her attempts match what she envisioned. In frustration she throws an epic tantrum, but finally realizes after reviewing her mistakes how to correct the problem. Her hard work pays off and she finds that she created exactly what she wanted. A nice title to add to any STEM collection with its emphasis on the value of planning, hard work, and perseverance.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

Princess Cupcake Jones and the Missing Tutu

By: Ylleya Fields

Illus. by: Michael

LaDuca

Bell Publishing, 2013

ISBN:9780578113036



Curriculum: Personal responsibility;
Preschool

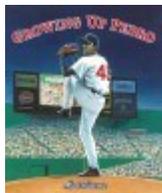
Princess Cupcake Jones is unlike typical princesses. Instead of wearing pink and lace, she favors a colorful tutu, but when her beloved Tutu goes missing, Cupcake learns the importance of tidying up after herself. Bright, cheerful illustrations with the word "love" hidden in each one. A great read-aloud for Preschoolers.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing
Carson Elem.

Early Elementary Nonfiction

Growing Up Pedro

Written and illus. by:
Matt Tavares
Candlewick Press,
2015
ISBN:
9780763668242



Curriculum: Baseball; Biography
Pitcher Pedro Martinez is featured in this picture book biography that follows him from poverty in the Dominican Republic to stardom with the Boston Red Sox. Pedro and his brother Ramon both fulfilled their dreams of playing in the major leagues in the United States but Pedro's small size worked against him until he proved he had the stamina and talent for pro ball. He quickly outpaced his older brother and helped the Red Sox win the World Series after an eighty-six year drought. The illustrations spill joyfully over the pages and capture the determination and love for baseball and the family the Martinez brothers exemplify.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Alumni

Upper Elementary Fiction

Francisco's Kites/

Las cometas de Francisco

BI-LINGUAL

By: Alicia Z Klepeis
Illus. by: Gary Undercuffler



Pinata Books, 2015

Curriculum: Kites; Immigrant experience; Children's businesses

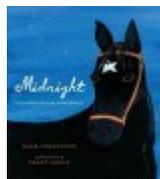
Young Francisco misses El Salvador and the kites he flew with friends. Undaunted by hard times in Chicago, he collects bits of string and paper, turning them first into a kite, then into a small business.

When Francisco can treat mama to a Salvadoran restaurant, where everyone speaks their brand of Spanish, he feels at home again.

Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley
Cheltenham Elementary

Midnight

By: Mark Greenwood
Illus. by: Frane Lesac



Candlewick Press,
2014

ISBN: 9780763674663

Curriculum: Horses; Owners; Respect; Love; War; Duty

On a cattle ranch in Australia, a foal is born. She is all black except for a white star on her nose and was named Midnight. Her owner was Guy Haydon, who trained and nurtured the exceptional mare. In 1914, the "drums of war are beating," and the two of them set off to war. The two were separated for a

while when Guy was sent to Gallipoli. When they were reunited on the outskirts of Beersheba, the charge was called and Guy and his mare were the first to hurdle the enemy trench. The bullet passed through Midnight and then lodged beside Guy's spine. He cried for his horse, as the stretcher carried him away. They were both hailed as heroes at the Capture of Beersheba.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

The Lost Track of Time

By: Paige Britt

Illus. by: Lee White
Scholastic Press, 2015
ISBN:9780545538121



Curriculum: Science-Fiction; Imagination

Penelope is an over-scheduled tween who is under strict orders from her mother to fill every moment of her summer vacation with activities, timed down to the minute. All Penelope wants to do is work on her creative writing. One morning, much to her mother's surprise, Penelope rises to find that the calendar pages stuck together and she has an entirely unstructured day. Not wasting the opportunity for freedom, Penelope rushes to her neighbor's house where she falls into an alternate universe, one where she must try to save others from the restraints of not being allowed to daydream. This book would be a great class read-aloud to encourage kids to make time for wonderings and daydreams. This book is a similar read to *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing
Carson Elem.



Upper Elementary Nonfiction

Famous Coloradans (Spotlight on Colorado)

By: Samuel Bankoff
Powerkids Press, 2016
ISBN: 9781499415339

Curriculum: Colorado history; Biographies

Spanning Colorado history from the 18th century, all the way to the beginning of the 21st century, this new book of Colorado biographies is a must have for all third and fourth grade classrooms, as well as the school libraries that serve them. Biographies are presented in short, easy to read entries, complete with pictures and captions. Those profiled range from Mountain men, all the way up to current entertainers and athletes.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing
Carson Elem

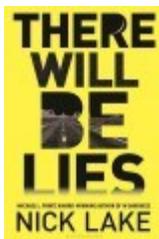
High School Fiction

There Will Be Lies

By: Nick Lake
Bloomsbury, 2015
ISBN: 9781619634404

Curriculum: Automobile travel; Mothers and daughters; Secrets; Single-parent families

After an accident lands seventeen-year-old Shelby in the hospital, her overprotective, single mother suddenly decides the two should go on a



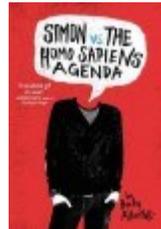
road trip to the Grand Canyon. What happens next changes everything. Shelby thought she knew about herself, her mom, and the isolated life they have been living. *There Will Be Lies* is a mix between realistic thriller and a fantasy dream world. Rife with Native American mythology, the dream world serves to guide Shelby through the now foreign landscape of her life as revelations about her past are made. Engrossing and well-crafted, this title explores the human psyche and one's ability to adjust to trauma and continue moving forward.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda

By: Becky Albertalli
Balzer + Bray, 2015
ISBN: 9780062348678

Curriculum: GLBT; High school; Friendship; Blackmail



Simon has set up a secret email account where he can email with his very private friend Blue. One day Simon forgets to log out of his account and the person who sits down at the computer after him opens his emails. Now Simon is being blackmailed. This book is a strong support for gay high school students. It is also a well-written book for any reader of high school age. The entire story is treated with both humor and sensitivity.

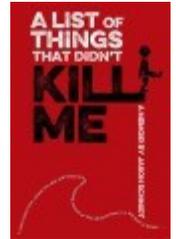
Reviewed by: Chris Coble
CEC Early College



High School Nonfiction

A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me

By: Jason Schmidt
Farrar Straus Giroux,
2015
ISBN:
9780374380137



Curriculum: Dysfunctional families; Drug abuse; HIV/AIDS; Overcoming odds

Jason's first memories are from when he was about three years old and the police came to the house to arrest his dad. The process of his growing up involves several house fires, homelessness, drug abuse, HIV and extreme poverty. Not to mention his hatred of school and inability to make friends. He is finally able to distance himself from his father who is dying of AIDS with the help of a strong mentor. All this is told through a lens of humor. This is an excellent memoir.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
CEC Early College



Wild Swans at Coole
William Butler Yeats

THE trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty Swans.
The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.
I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.
Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.
But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

Fall

By Jack Prelutsky

The leaves are yellow, red and brown,
A shower sprinkles softly down
And the air is fragrant, crisp and cool,
And once again, I'm stuck in school.



Summer's End

By Judith Viorst

One by one the petals drop
There's nothing that can make them stop.
You cannot beg a rose to stay.
Why does it have to be that way?

The butterflies I used to chase
Have gone off to some other place.
I don't know where. I only know
I wish they didn't have to go.

And all the shiny afternoons
So full of birds and big balloons
And ice cream melting in the sun
Are done.
I do not want them done.

Review Crew Staff

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