



The Review Crew

What's New and Great for Our Youngest Readers?

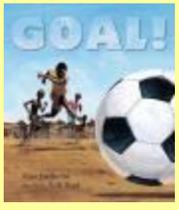
Brought to you by the Denver Public Schools Book Review Committee.

Volume 7 Number 1
September 2010

Fiction

Goal!

By: Mina Javakerbin
Illus. by: A. G. Ford
Candlewick Press, 2010
ISBN: 9780763645717
Curriculum: Soccer, Africa



The story follows a young boy, who has earned a new football, as the result of being the best reader in his class. "When we play; we forget to worry. When we run, we are not afraid." The boys select a person to be the look-out for bullies. They know that even while playing football, they have to be on their guard, because the streets are not a safe place.

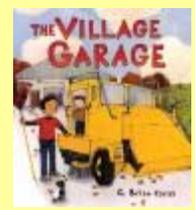
Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.

sythia likes to shake her yellow bells; while sunflower has a big, happy face", and many more. All the flowers are creatively and snappily dressed while the bugs are helpful, musical, bookish and fun loving. The stories are told in rhyme for each flower has its own tale to tell: "Hellebore will play alone out on the snowy ground. (while) Poppy's dress is pretty, but she doesn't stick around."

Reviewed by: Irene Bell
Alumni

Village Garage

Written and illus by: G. Brian Karas
Christy Ottaviano Books, 2010
ISBN:9780805087161



Curriculum: Garages; Seasons; City and town life

The workers at the Village Garage stay busy all year round. In the spring they clean the streets, in the summer they fix the roads, in the fall they use the elephant truck to pick up all the leaves, and in the winter they sand and salt the streets. This book will work well with the curriculum for community workers.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.

My Friends the Flowers

By: William Lach
Illus. by: Doug Kennedy
Abrams Books, 2010
ISBN: 0810983977



Curriculum: Stories in rhyme; Flowers; Bees

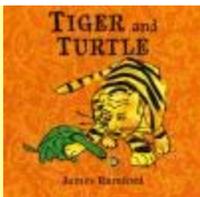
With comedy and quips, a bee introduces his flower friends one by one. He tells the reader a favorite characteristic or temperament of each: "rose is pretty and prickly; camellia is gorgeous but without a scent; for-

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.)

Tiger and Turtle

Written and illus
by: James Rumford
Roaring Book Press,
2010



ISBN:9781596434165

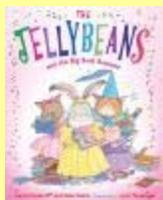
Curriculum: *Tigers; Turtles; Friend-
ship*

Tiger and Turtle happily share their part of the forest until the day they quarrel over who saw a tiny flower first. A book filled with glorious illustrations to be read aloud to all ages of children. As the students identify the morsels of wisdom contained within, they will discover they have created a summary of the story.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.

The Jellybeans and the Big Book Bonanza

By: Laura Numeroff
Illus. by: Lynn
Munsinger



Abrams Books for
Young Readers, 2010
ISBN: 9780810984127

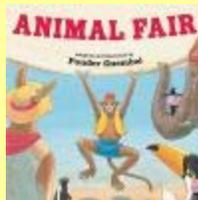
Curriculum: *Reading; Libraries;
Friendship*

When their class has a Book Bonanza, book-loving Anna is excited, but her friends' expressions suggest they would rather be doing other things. Luckily, the librarian helps each Jellybean find the perfect book. And when Anna gets stage fright reading her report to the class, her friends give her support. The cheerful watercolor illustrations have a soft palette. The characters sweetly express friendship dynamics in a group setting.

Reviewed by: Megan McQuinn
Howell ECE-8

Animal Fair

By: Ponder Goembel
Marshall Cavendis,
2010



ISBN:
9780761456421

Curriculum: *Folk
songs; nursery rhymes; animals*

Throughout the day at the animal fair the "monk" is behind a series of pranks played upon the other animals. It is no wonder then that once the elephant sneezes, that is "the end of the monk, the monk, the monk". A modern version of the traditional song/nursery rhyme about the animal fair is brought back to the forefront by author and illustrator Ponder Goembel. Ink and acrylic wash illustrations create an almost nostalgic feel but with a modern flare. Excellent choice for circus displays in your library or classroom

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

The Yellow Butterfly

By: Merhrnaz S. Gill
Illus. by: Lindsay Ward
Bright Sky Press, 2009
ISBN: 9781933979717



Curriculum: *Butter-
flies; Wishes; Magic; Grandfathers*

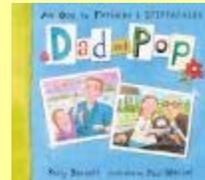
While Susi and her brother Bobby are playing hide-and-seek they spy a yellow butterfly. "A butterfly that sings? How can that be?" Their grandfather tells them a legend about the Sun King who collected

yellow butterflies that grant wishes "from the heart." When they catch the butterfly, it struggles and Susi wishes for it to fly free. "You wished from your heart for my freedom, Susi. Now I will grant you both a wish." What did they wish for? What would you wish for?

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Stedman Elem.

Dad and Pop: An Ode to Fathers and Stepfathers

By: Kelly Bennett
Illus. by: Paul
Meisel



Candlewick Press, 2010
ISBN: 9780763633790

Curriculum: *Fathers; Stepfathers*

"I have two fathers." announces The young narrator of this tender tale. She tells how different they are, "Pop is bald. Dad is not." She also divulges their similarities, "Dad loves music. So does Pop." And in a confident and heartening voice she claims, "in the most important way they are exactly the same - they both love me!"

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Stedman Elem.

**Libraries: The
medicine chest of
the soul. ~Library
at Thebes, in-
scription over the
door**

The Best for Upper Elementary Readers! Many of these books will work in middle school, too.!

Fiction

Bag in the Wind

By: Ted Kooser

Illustrated by:
Barry Root

Candlewick Press, 2010

ISBN: 9780763630010

Curriculum: Bags; Recycling; Sanitary landfills

When a plastic bag is unearthed by the landfill bulldozer, a gust of wind sends it on an adventure while the narrative dispenses information on recycling, pollution, ecology and the cyclic nature of life. Former Poet Laureate Ted Kooser takes a personal look at the problem of waste and individual responsibility- a great introduction and discussion starter for this essential subject.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8



Lone Wolf

By: Kathryn Lasky

Illus. by: Richard Cowdrey

Scholastic Press, 2010

ISBN: 0545093101

Curriculum: Wolves; Friendship; Fantasy

The author of the acclaimed *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* series, has begun a new series about wolves with a spin off from the old. Faolan is taken from his Mother when only a few days old because of his twisted paw. The rules of the pack do not allow



for weakness in new born pups and he is abandoned on an icy riverbank -- condemned to die. But die he does not for he is adopted by a grizzly sow who has just lost her nursing cub. Throughout the year they are together, she teaches him many tactics of survival thus allowing him to become stronger than the average wolf.

Reviewed by: Irene Bell
Alumni

Twenty Gold Falcons

By: Amy Gordon

Holiday House, 2010

ISBN: 9780823422524

Curriculum: Moving, City life; Friendship; Treasure

Aiden misses her farm. After her father's death her mother moves them to the city of Gloria. Aiden hears a rumor about an eccentric pair of citizens who hid 20 gold falcons in the Ingle building. Aiden makes a couple of unlikely friends and together they follow the clues that will hopefully lead to the coins so she can save the farm.

Reviewed by Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.



Nonfiction

Pirates

By: Brian Williams

Ticktock, 2010



ISBN: 9781846962110

Curriculum: Pirates; Jolly Roger; Treasure

Famous pirates, life aboard a pirate ship, and treasure are among the highlighted sections in this entertaining look at these feared seamen. Featured are Edward Teach (Blackbeard) and Anne Bonny. Pirate jargon, equipment and rules are also explained. The pirate's life is glamorized in this title which includes many photos from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies. Modern pirates are not mentioned. Students in search of background information will find it here but will need additional materials for a deeper exploration of the topic.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

Extinct and Endangered Animals You Can Draw

By: Nicole Brecke

Millbrook Press, 2010

ISBN: 9780761341659

Curriculum: Extinct animals; Endangered species; Drawing techniques

Simple instructions and helpful hints on how to draw eight extinct or endangered animals are enhanced by a fact-filled paragraph about each one. Colorful inserts, numbered steps and a color photo background of the completed drawing in the animal's natural habitat add to the visual appeal. Eleven other titles in this *Ready, Set, Draw!* series from Millbrook Press cover everything from airplanes and ships to spaceships, aliens and robots.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8



Weird but true!
300 outrageous facts

By: National Geographic Books

National Geographic Society, 2010

ISBN: 9781426305948

Curriculum: Curiosities and wonders

Did you know that a tiger's skin is striped, just like its fur? Or that the next full moon on Halloween will be in 2020? These facts and nearly 300 more fill this colorful, eye-catching book. Readers will be drawn back to these intriguing items again and again. It may even spur further reading and research by the most reluctant readers. Did you know that it's impossible to breathe and swallow at the same time? Now you do!

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elem.



Can You Find It?
America

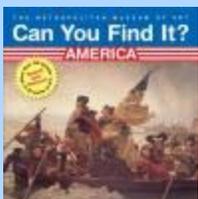
By: Linda Falken
Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2010

ISBN:
9781588393340

Curriculum: Art appreciation

Readers will delight in playing the 'Can you find it?' game with the third volume of this series using prints, textiles, and paintings from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Large, crisp reproductions of twenty pieces encourage readers to focus on the details artists use to make their work stand out. This twist on the 'I Spy' idea allows for fun yet also an appreciation of a variety of classic artwork.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elem.



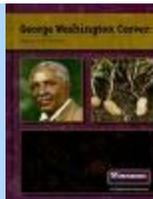
George Washington Carver

By: Stephanie Macceca
Compass Point Books, 2010
ISBN: 9780756543051

Curriculum: Science; Agriculture; Inventions; George Washington Carver

The series, *Mission: Science*, highlights the life and accomplishments of many well known scientists. In this book 'George Washington Carver' we learn he was born a slave, but he became an important scientist and teacher. He experimented with soil and used peanuts and other plants to make new products. The use of actual black and white photos, with inserts of today's uses of Carver's discoveries, help to make connections between long ago and today. The text size and the graphics make this series a great resource.

Reviewed by: Megan McQuinn
Howell ECE-8



The richest person in the world - in fact all the riches in the world - couldn't provide you with anything like the endless, incredible loot available at your local library.

~Malcolm Forbes

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



Sword of Doom

By: James Jennewein and Tom S. Parker
Harper, 2010
ISBN: 9780061449390

Curriculum: Adventure; Vikings; Quests; Loyalty



Dane must take his father's place as leader of his village. He finds that leadership is harder than it looks. He is summoned to King Eldred's fortress to receive his father's legacy. He is given a mysterious broken sword with strange runes on it. When evil Godrick steals the sword and kidnaps his mother, he and his band of loyal friends set out to find them. Tagging along, uninvited, is the very spoiled daughter of King Eldred. So they must find Godrick, recover the sword along with its broken help, save his mother and keep the princess from getting killed. A wonderful adventure with trolls and frost giants that will keep the reader going.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

Hawksmaid: The Untold Story of Robin Hood and Maid Marian



By: Kathryn Lasky
Harper, 2010
ISBN: 9780060000714

Curriculum: Falconry; Robin Hood; Maid Marion; Legends; Friendship; Tyranny; Middle Ages

Matty's father is a falconer. As he grows older he teaches Matty more and more about the birds. She has a natural talent as a falconer and her birds will do anything to protect her. Matty's best friend is Fynn. Fynn and his friends are tired of living under the tyrant Prince John and do everything they can to foil his plans to become the King of England.

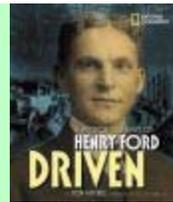
Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

Nonfiction

Driven: a Photo-biography of Henry Ford

By: Don Mitchell

National Geographic, 2010
ISBN: 9781426301551
Curriculum: Henry Ford, Cars



Henry Ford was an eccentric genius and Don Mitchell captures the complicated and contradictory man beautifully through his black and white images. The story follows Henry Ford from his early years, as the youngest brother in a large family through to his death. The author includes many little-known facts and one of the most endearing aspects are the quotes from Henry Ford himself.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.

National Government

By: Ernestine Giesecke
Heinemann Library, 2010
ISBN: 9781432927080



Curriculum: United States Government; Politics

Committee chair, Speaker of the House, The President, the capital and Congress... so many terms, places and people form our national government. *National Government* offers clear discussion about each of the three branches, our political history and critical documents through the use of strong vocabulary and visual representations. Snippets of current facts are scattered throughout the text to add a little extra interest. Photos, graphs and charts help to solidify the concepts of various areas of our nation's government.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.

~Jorge Luis Borges

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Young Adults Deserve the Best!

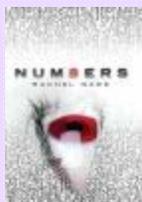
Fiction

Num8ers

By: Rachel Ward

Chicken House, 2010

ISBN: 9780545142991



Curriculum: Psychic ability; Foster care; Runaways; Death

When Jem, 15, looks at anyone's eyes, she sees the date that they will die. Because of this, she successfully avoids close relationships... at least until she meets a fellow misfit named Spider and a tragic turn of events alters their lives forever. The concepts of fate, destiny, and free will are explored in this edgy YA novel. Some language and a non-explicit sex scene and its consequences make this most appropriate for mature readers. Super creepy with a chilling ending!

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

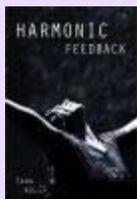
JFK H.S.

Harmonic Feedback

By: Tara Kelly

Henry Holt, 2010

ISBN: 9780805090109



Curriculum: Asperger's syndrome; Drug abuse; Self-perception

Drea had never lived in one place for very long because her mother moves in and out of relationships. She and her mother end up living with her grandmother who is very stern. Moving in with her grandmother is difficult enough but Drea also suffers from a mild form of Asperger's causing her to have difficulty socially connecting with people. The day she moves in with her grandmother Drea makes her first friend, Naomi, an impulsive girl who battles with drugs.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

Compromised

By: Heidi Ayarbe

HarperTeen, 2010

ISBN: 978-0-06-172849-5

Curriculum: Science; Tourette syndrome; Foster home care; Runaways



Maya is fifteen years old. Her mother committed suicide several years ago and her father is a con-man. When her father is arrested and put in jail he signs over his guardianship of Maya to the state of Nevada and she is placed in a group home. Maya decides to run away and look for an aunt she has never met. The only clue she has to her aunt's whereabouts is a faded paycheck. On her journey she is joined by Nicole, another resident of the group home who has tried to commit suicide a number of times, and Klon, another runaway with Tourette's. Along the way the trio experience the harsh realities of homelessness, mental illness, hunger, sexual exploitation, and drug abuse.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

New Series

Mystery Pups by Jodie Mellar - Level 3 - 5 Fiction



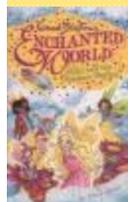
Three girls and their dogs use magic to solve crimes.

Witch Baby by Debi Glori - Level 3 - 5 Fiction



Lily is the only one who realizes that her baby sister, Daisy, is really a witch baby.

Enid Blyton's Enchanted World by Elise Allen - Level 3 - 5 Fiction



Five Fairy friends with special talents set out to recover the artifacts that will save their world

Beastly! By Andy Baxter - Level 3 - 5 Fiction



Max changes into a variety of animals while his sister covers for him in school and at home.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins— Level 7 and up Fiction



Follow Katniss, Peeta and Gale through this provocative, well-written drama.

