

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 1

September 2011

Fiction

Molly and the Night Monster

Written and illus. by: Chris Wormell

Red Fox, 2008

ISBN: 9781862301856

Curriculum: Bedtime; Monsters; Comfort

When Molly wakes up in the night and hears someone, or something, coming up the stairs her imagination runs wild. The illustrations of imaginative creatures lurking up the stairs is the real draw of this book, but is also a sweet bedtime story with a reassuring hug in the end.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds

Alumni



Don't Do That!

Written and illus. by: Tony Ross

Andersen Press, 2010

ISBN: 9781842709368

Curriculum: Noses; Bad Habits; Cautionary Tales

Nellie is a little girl with a very pretty nose, but as soon as she sticks her finger up there it becomes stuck, and no one can get it unstuck, despite their many and humorous at-



tempts. It's her brother Henry that manages to help in the end, but Nellie's nose will never be the same again.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds

Alumni

Spanish!

La Gallina Cocorina

By: Mar Pavón

Illus. By: Mónica Carretero

Cuento de Luz, 2010

ISBN: 9788493781460

Curriculum: Hens; Friendship; Rumors

Cocorina is far from the perfect mom, but hardly deserves the rumors of neglect that sweep the farmyard and beyond. Her children love her "for good and for bad," and that's what matters most. Rumors and gossip are hurtful no matter where they happen. Cocorina's story will touch readers in a way that they can relate to. The delightful, expressive illustrations add to the endearing qualities she **does** have and help to make this an enjoyable read.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich

CMS Community School



Who are we?

- ☺ We are DPS teacher librarians from elementary, middle and high schools.
- ☺ 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.)

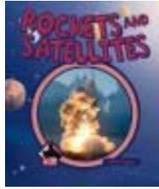
Nonfiction

Rockets and Satellites

By: Marcia Zappa

ABDO, 2011

ISBN: 9781617146916



Curriculum: Rockets; Satellites; Earth

Exploring space requires special tools. This title examines rockets and satellites. How they are launched, what they do, and how they help scientists learn are examined. Also mentioned is their usefulness to daily life through items such as cell phones and GPS units. It is speculated that the Chinese used rockets in the 1200s. Nice photographs and illustrations accompany the 2nd-3rd grade text. A publisher-sponsored website is included for budding astronomers to explore.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.



The Best for Upper Elementary Readers!

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

Fiction

The Fourth Stall

By: Chris Rylander

Walden Pond Press, 2011

ISBN: 9780061994968

Curriculum: Bullies; Friendship; Business enterprises



Mac and Vince have been running an advice business at their school since kindergarten.

Their office is located in a bathroom stall in the school. Now sixth graders, they have come across the most challenging situation yet. Staples is a legend. He is known as a bully that nobody wants to mess with. The strange thing is that nobody knows who Staples is or if he really exists. When a young boy comes to Mac and Vince asking to be protected from Staples, they quickly find out that Staples is indeed a force to be reckoned with.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

The End of the Line

By: Anglea Cerrito

Holiday House, 2011

ISBN: 9780823422876



Curriculum: Reformatories; Emotional problems; Guilt; Uncles; Iraq War, 2003; Family life Ohio

Through present and past narrations, thirteen-year-old Robbie reveals the circumstances that led to his incarceration in a harsh reform school. His journey from being an athletic student to his relationship with a strange new boy, Ryan, whom he reluctantly befriends and ultimately kills, is compelling and heart-breaking. A good high interest, low level pick for reluctant middle school readers.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose

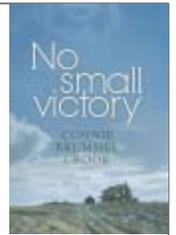
Trevista ECE-8

No Small Victory

By: Connie Brummel Crook

Tizhenry & Whiteside, 2010

ISBN: 9781554551699



Curriculum: Courage; Depressions 1929 Canada; Ontario History

Hard hit by the Depression of the 1930s, Bonnie's family moves to a small farm in Ontario hoping for a fresh start. Though she encounters bullies, an unsympathetic teacher, hardships and tragedy, Bonnie ultimately grows, meets with success and finds her place. Fans of Laura Ingalls Wilder and Lucy Montgomery will appreciate the spunk of the young heroine.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose

Trevista ECE-8

Nonfiction

Gut bugs, Dust Mites, and Other Microorganisms You Can't Live Without

By: Mark Weakland

Capstone, 2011

ISBN: 9781429645386



Curriculum: Science; Microorganisms

Did you know that you have 20 times more microorganisms in your body than you do cells? Did you know between 300 and 1000 different kinds of microorganism live in your gut and they weigh about 3 pounds? Yogurt has the same kind of bacteria that digests your food. You should eat yogurt. These facts and many others are highlighted in this attention-grabbing book about microorganisms. The real attraction is the illustrations, many of which are magnifica-

tions of microorganisms. Even the reader who never wanted to know anything about microorganisms will find something to catch the attention in this book and it can be a useful research book also.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

Spanish!

Tengo Derecho a Ser Niño

By: Alain Serres

Illus. By: Aurélia Fronty

Blume, 2010

ISBN: 9788498014815

Curriculum: Children's rights

Children are due many of the same rights as adults. They have the right to food and shelter, to be educated, to live free from violence and war, to love and be loved, and much more. 192 countries have agreed to these rights, but struggle mightily to afford them to so many of their children. It is hard to know when they will truly be respected. This vividly illustrated presentation of some of the rights declared by the *Rights of a Child* statement brings forth both a sense of hope and urgency quite effectively.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
CMS Community School



The

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Middle School Reader Gold Mine

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

Fiction

Faeman Quest

Written by: Herbie Brennan

Bloomsbury, 2011

ISBN:
9781599904764

Curriculum: Fairies; War; Deception; Plots

Princess Mella is the daughter of faerie royalty. Her father is human, however, and she decides to visit the human world (without her parent's consent.) Her travels set off a chain of events where she finds out a neighboring country is planning an invasion. The evil lord, Hairstreak, is back with a new and improved body. She discovers a twin she didn't know she had. It is helpful to read the *Faerie War Chronicles* to get background on the characters.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy



The Gathering

Written by: Kelley Armstrong

Harper, 2011

ISBN: 9780061797026

Curriculum: Friendship; Secrets; Supernatural; Wolves

Maya lives on Vancouver Island near a medical research community. She and her friends are teenagers, going to school and doing all those things teens do. Maya is adopted and was curious about her parents. On her sixteenth birthday, she feels a little different and is seeing the forest through the eyes of a wolf. She has always had a talent for working with and healing animals. Her friends also have "talents" she didn't notice before. They want answers and will do anything to get them. This is book one in a new trilogy.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy



I Shall Wear Midnight

Written by: Terry Pratchett

Harper, 2010

ISBN: 9780061433047

Curriculum: Fantasy; Witches; Loyalty

Tiffany Aching is a witch. She has been studying and now she has her own township to look after. Tiffany's talent is taking care of others and healing. Whispers are starting up again against witches and magic. The Wee Free Men, little blue men from previous adventures, come back to help Tiffany find the source and help her defeat the evil.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy



Best of the Best

By: Tim Green

Harper, 2011

ISBN: 9780061686238

*Curriculum: Baseball;
Divorce; Little League
World Series*

When the opportunity comes to play in the Little League World Series, 12-year-old baseball phenom Josh LeBlanc finds it hard to concentrate on his game. His parents have told him they are getting a divorce. His dad has moved out and is having an affair with a woman that is less than scrupulous. Even worse than that, Josh has to share a room with her son during the tournament. Josh is determined to bring his parents back together and win the tournament.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley

MSLA



Blood and Flowers

By: Penny Blubaugh

HarperTeen, 2011

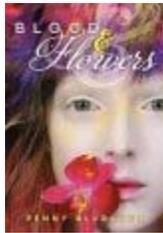
ISBN: 9780061728624

*Curriculum: Theatre;
Faeries; Friendship*

Persia has found a safe home with an underground theatre troop called The Outlaws. The Outlaws are an interesting mix of mortal and fey, actors and puppeteers. An enemy with ill will forces them to flee the mortal world to the world of faerie. Not everything is perfect in faerie however and the troop must make some decisions about what is most important to them. The story moves at a good clip through several different worlds and is peopled with a cast of quirky characters. (If the front flap doesn't sell the story, the cover will.)

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

Kepner M.S.



Darkest Mercy

By: Melissa Marr

Harper, 2011

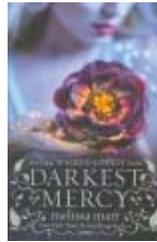
ISBN: 9780061659263

*Curriculum: Faeries; War;
Interpersonal relationships*

Aislinn, Seth, Keenan and Donia are back in the final installment of the *Wicked Lovely* series. The final war is pending. Both Seth and Keenan are "missing". Aislinn and Donia are doing their best to prepare their courts. Readers who love the series will be enamored with this, the finale. While it is not a high reading level the confusing courts, characters and scenarios will lend best to accomplished readers.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

Kepner M.S.



Young Adults Deserve

Fiction

Recovery Road

By: Blake Nelson

Scholastic, 2011

ISBN: 9780545107297

*Curriculum: Conduct of
life; Addiction; Recovery*

Maddie's life intersects with Stewart's at a rehab center. They had each found "...the right person at the worst possible time." Over the years, they drift apart but remain emotionally connected because of their time on *Recovery Road*. This book addresses addiction from both recovering and out-of-control aspects. Most of the novel is spent on healthy healing and behaviors and facing tough challenges, but there are enough drug, alcohol, death, and sex scenes to save this for mature HS students.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.



"So please, oh
PLEASE, we beg,
we pray, Go
throw your TV
set away, And in
its place you can
install, A lovely
bookshelf on the
wall."

**Roald Dahl
Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory**

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