

Notable Books for Children 2006

10,000 Days of Thunder: a History of the Vietnam War. Philip Caputo. Atheneum. 2005. \$23.00
Grades 5 and up

Beginning with the rise of Communism in the Soviet Union, this narrative by a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist paints an historical picture of the events leading up to the Vietnamese War and shows through full-page photos and engaging narrative the conflict both on the front and at home.

5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery. Judith Bloom Fradin. Nat Geog. \$20.00 Grades 4-8

An engaging narrative that brings the history of slavery and the inherent difficulties to life through the experiences of William and Ellen Craft, slaves who were able to escape to freedom using their wits. The text is illustrated with black and white photos, illustrations and reproductions that enhance the text that relies upon primary sources, including letters, diaries, and newspapers. **Open Court 4: Risks and Consequences**

Across the Blue Pacific: a World War II Story. Louise Borden. Houghton. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. \$17.00 Grades 3-5.

A moving story that brings the reminiscence of a young girl's experiences during World War II. Told through free verse, a young, much admired neighbor heads off to war and ultimately is lost at sea. Life goes on as details of the era and life at home continue through the sadness of loss. Illustrated with loose-lined ink and watercolor artwork that captures the time and place. **Open Court 5: Heritage**

Adèle & Simon. Barbara McClintock. Farrar. &16.00 Grades K-3

Simon and his sister, Adele, are on their way home from school and travel through scenes of 20th Century Paris. Along their leisurely trip home, they make stops at places including the grocery, museum, a puppet show, and bakery. At each stop Simon loses something, a picture, books, or scarf. Readers can hunt for the item that is hidden on the detailed pen-and-ink and watercolor two-page spread. When they arrive home, helpful neighbors and friends come to return Simon's lost items. Readers will enjoy the visual game of hide-and-seek because the more they look, the more they can find.

@The Adventures of Polo. Regis Faller. Roaring Brook. \$18.00 PreK-2

Polo the dog sets out from his home and enjoys many adventures, including sailing his boat on top of a whale, roasting hot dogs over a volcano, and taking a ride in a spaceship built from a mushroom.

Aliens are Coming!/: The True Account of the 1938 War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast. Meghan McCarthy. Knopf. \$17.00 Grades K-4.

A picture book account of Orson Well's famous Mercury Theatre broadcast of the *War of the Worlds* the night before Halloween 1938 and the mayhem that occurred as listeners

believed Martians had really landed. Beginning with black-and-white artwork, more and more color is added as the story progresses and engages readers in the heyday of radio. An extensive author's note provides extensive background for curious readers. **Open Court 3: Storytelling**

@ *Almost Gone: The World's Rarest Animals*. Steve Jenkins. HarperCollins \$17.00 Grades K-3
Profiles animal species around the world that have gone extinct within human history, or that are at risk for extinction. Maps on endpapers.

American Story: 100 True Tales from American History. Jennifer Armstrong. Knopf. \$35.00
Grades 4-7

Contains 100 short stories about real people and events in American history, arranged chronologically from 1565 to 2000, including the lost colony of Roanoke, Pocahontas, the Chicago fire, and the 2000 presidential election.

@ *Baby Shoes*, Dashka Slater. Bloomsbury. \$16.00 Grades PreK-1

After taking a walk with his mother, Baby's new white shoes with the blue stripe are covered with a variety of colors.

Bebé Goes Shopping. Susan Middleton Elya. Illustrated by Steven Salerno. Harcourt. \$16.00
Grades PreK-3

An ordinary shopping trip becomes an exciting outing as Mamá tries to keep Bebé entertained and contained. The rhyming text is sprinkled with Spanish words that are well integrated into the story for complete understanding. Bright watercolor illustrations in a somewhat retro style bring this charming story to life. Highly recommended as a read-aloud for young children.

Behind the Curtain: an Echo Falls Mystery. Peter Abrahams. Laura Geringer Books. \$16.00
Grades 5-8

An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill is kidnapped while investigating mysterious happenings in her home town. This is a fast paced mystery with well-defined characters and a plausible plotline and ending.

Bella at Midnight. Diane Stanley. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. HarperCollins. \$17.00
Grades 5-8

Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight and finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and kingdom forever. A subtly twisted Cinderella story that will keep readers engaged, Diane Stanley doesn't disappoint in her absorbing narrative style.

@ *Benny & Beautiful Baby Delilah*. Jean Van Leeuwen. Dial. \$17.00 PreK-K

Benny is not pleased when his new baby sister, Delilah, arrives at his house. The illustrations give the story the energy and emotions that make it a success. The characterizations, created with a heavy ink line, are expressive, jaunty, and lively.

Bess and Bella. Irene Haas. McElderry \$15.00 Grades PreK-2.

Bess is feeling terribly lonely when out of the sky tumbles a bird named Bella, her tiny suitcases packed with all manner of wonderful things. Thus begins a wonderful

friendship full of surprises, a tender story encased in a small jewel of a book. Bella stays with Bess throughout the winter as she departs, as all birds do, Bess spots a new human friend. **Open Court 3: Friendship**

Best Best Friends. Margaret Chodos-Irvine. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK-K.

Clare and Mary are best friends in preschool. But when Mary's birthday comes and she gets special treatment from everyone, Clare is quite put out but eventually make up to be best best friends. The artwork looks deceptively simple, but it is full of pattern, color, shape and form. Captures the ups and downs of early childhood friendship. **Open Court K: Finding Friends**

Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607. Elisa Carbone. Viking. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe. A strong example of historical fiction showing the hardship and peril settlers faced, as well as the brutal realities of colonial conquest. Includes an author's note and sources. **Open Court 4: A Changing America**

Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii. James M.Deem. Houghton Mifflin. 2005. \$16.00 Grades 5-8.

Accessible text brings the story of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79 to life, an eruption that buried the cities and people of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Handsome photographs of the bones and artifacts that have been unearthed through the years combined with period artwork help to tell the tale. **Open Court 6: Ancient Civilizations**

Boo and Baa Have Company. Lena and Olaf Landstrom. R & S Books. \$15.00 Grades K-3

While raking leaves, Boo and Baa, two noodle-headed sheep, see a cat in the tree, try to get it down, and wind up with Boo up there instead. A series of comic situations follow that will delight young readers. Translated from the Swedish, the story is accompanied by comic line drawings using bright colors.

Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!. Kathleen Kudlinski. Dutton. \$16.00 Grades 2-4

With a light hearted tone, the misconceptions and corrections regarding dinosaurs are presented as well as the evolving research about dinosaurs. The illustrations are detailed bring these ideas to life as 'old' and 'new' dinosaurs are placed side by side for comparison. Presents an excellent jumping-off point to discuss the scientific method. **Open Court 2: Fossils**

The Boy Who Cried Wolf. B.G.Hennessy. S&S. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A fresh new version of the old tale that tells the story of a bored shepherd and how he tries to drum up excitement by yelling "Wolf!" and bringing the whole town out to the field to help the young shepherd. Then the day comes when a wolf is really a danger, and all the townspeople ignore his cries. Humorous embellishments bring the story to life as does the detailed watercolor artwork.

The Boy Who Loved Words. Roni Schotter. Illustrated by Giselle Potter. Random. \$17.00 Grades K-4

Selig is a boy who loves the sound of words, their taste, and the way they “move his

Castaway Cats. Lisa Wheeler. Atheneum. \$17.00 PreK-2

Fifteen soggy cats and kittens are marooned on an island and are not quite sure what to do. They must overcome their differences to build a raft so they can get back home. In the end, they have come together to build a beautiful raft but decide that they are like a family and are much too happy on the island to ever leave. Illustrated with detailed acrylic and ink artwork.

The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin. Susan Goldman Rubin. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades 3-6

The true and poignant story of a young girl sent to the model camp for Jews in Terezin during World War II. Describes how she survived and at times flourished thanks to the loving care of others in the compound. Illustrated with photos and children's artwork done at the camp. The true events are filled with trauma, friendship, and hope. **Open Court 4: Survival**

Cause: Reconstruction in America, 1863-1877. Tonya Bolden. Knopf. \$20.00 Grades 6-9

Told in the voice of a storyteller, this thorough history of America during Reconstruction covers Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the troubles of freed slaves, the expansion of the nation and the plight of Native Americans, the 15th Amendment, and the women's suffrage movement. Richly illustrated with all primary source material: photographs, maps, and documents.

Changing Woman and her Sisters: Stories of Goddesses from Around the World. Retold by Katrin Hyman Tchana. Holiday. \$17.00 Grades 4+

An illustrated collection of traditional tales which feature goddesses from different cultures, including Navajo, Mayan, and Fon. Notes explain each goddess's place in her culture, the reason for the book, and how the illustrations were developed.

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Chowder. Peter Brown. Little Brown. \$16.00 Grades K-3

Chowder the bulldog has never fit in with the other neighborhood canines, but he sees a chance to make friends with the animals at the local petting zoo. Illustrated with bright artwork. A good choice when talking about acceptance and tolerance.

@ *Clip-Clop*. Nicola Smee. Sterling. \$13.00 Grades K-3

Cat, Dog, Pig, and Duck all take Mr. Horse up on his offer of a ride and encourage him to run faster and faster until they are in danger of falling off.

Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen. M. T. Anderson. Harcourt. \$15.00 Grades 5-8

Katie, Lily, and Jasper attach their flying Gyroscopic Sky Suite to the Moose Tongue Lodge and Resort, where they mingle with other child heroes found in books, and where they become embroiled in a mystery involving lederhosen-clothed quintuplets and a screaming ventriloquist.

@ *Coming to Canada: Building a Life in a New Land*. Susan Hughes. Maple Tree. \$27.00
Grades 6-9

Chronicles the history of immigration to Canada, from the founding of the first permanent French colony at Quebec in 1608 to the adoption of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act in 2001.

Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons. Amy Rosenthal Krouse. HarperCollins. \$13.00 Grades PreK-2

Simple text and illustrations describe lessons in life as a young girl bakes cookies and learns cooperation, patience, pride, compassion, trust, and more. Lovely pastel watercolor illustrations show appealing children and anthropomorphic animals interacting with one another and the treats. **Open Court 1: Let's Read**

Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters. Leskley M. M. Blume. Random.

@ *Crispin: at the Edge of the World*. Avi. Hyperion. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Sequel to: *Crispin*, the cross of lead. Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl.

@ *Crossing Bok Chitto: a Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom*. Tim Tingle. Cinco Puntos. \$18.00. Grades 3-6

In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.

@ *Curse of the Bane (Last Apprentice Book 2)*. Joseph Delaney. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Now thirteen years old, Tom Ward continues his apprenticeship with the Spook as they confront a dangerous bane who can control people's thoughts.

@ *Dark Water Rising*. Marian Hale. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 6+

While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could, but he still must face his father man-to-man.

Dear Max. D. J. Lucas. McElderry. \$15.00 Grades 2-4

As nearly ten-year-old Max and his favorite au

The Dog Who Cried Wolf. Keiko Kasza. Putnam. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2.

Tired of being a house pet, Moka the dog moves to the mountains to become a wolf. Unsuccessful in hunting for food and confronted with real wolves when he tries to howl, he runs back to the comforts of home and the love of his owner. Illustrated with colorful paintings with lots of humor.

@*Don't Let The Pigeon Stay Up Late!*. Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$13.00 PreK-2

A pigeon fights yawns while coming up with many reasons why it should be allowed to stay up late.

Drita My Homegirl. Jenny Lombard. Putnam. \$16.00 Grades 4-6

Two girls come together in this story of immigration and multicultural friendship. Ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York. Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room. Donna M.Jackson. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4-8

Bright, colorful design and full color photos enhance this description of the workings of a veterinary emergency room from behind the scenes. Includes profiles of the doctors, vet techs, and grief counselors, a variety of case studies of stricken animals, a history of veterinary medicine, and commonsense tips on pet health. Short chapters keep the pace moving; sidebars offer tidbits of additional information. Includes a reading list, Web sites, and glossary.

Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini. Sid Fleischman. Greenwillow. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

A fascinating biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Fleischman, an amateur magician, looks at Houdini's life through his own magician's eyes. An engaging book that is highlighted with well chosen photographs of Houdini.

@*Exploring the Solar System: a History with 22 Activities.* Mary Kay Carson. Chicago Review. \$18.00 Grades 5 Up

A collection of twenty-two activities that describes the solar system and how it has been explored by using telescopes, satellites, landers, and human missions.

Extraordinary Ordinary People. Alan Govenar. Candlewick. \$23.00 Grades 6+

Through interviews and photographs Govenar presents the art and life stories of five American masters of the traditional arts. The artists all live in the United States but come from a variety of cultural backgrounds. The art forms they practice include singing with the Beijing Opera, boat building, wax-flower making, weaving, and performing at Mardi Gras.

@*Fairest.* Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent, meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.

Fly by Night. Frances Hardinge. Harper Collins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

A twelve-year-old orphan, Mosca Mye, and her homicidal goose, Saracen, travel to the city of Mandelion on the heels of smooth-talking con-man Eponymous Clent, driven by her love of language to find a better life. Some readers may struggle to keep track of the complex politics, history, and religion, but those who appreciate the inventive plots of Cornelia Funke and Jonathan Stroud or Lloyd Alexander will enjoy this adventure.

For You Are A Kenyan Child. Kelly Cunnane. Illustrated by Ana Juan. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades PreK-1

From rooster crow to bedtime, a Kenyan boy plays and visits neighbors all through his village, even though he is supposed to be watching his grandfather's cows. Short Swahili sentences are scattered throughout the story and provide a sense of the setting.

Accompanying color-saturated, slightly stylized paintings bring the lush landscape and friendly community to life.

@*Foundling.* D.M. Cornish. Putnam. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

Having grown up in a home for foundlings and possessing a girl's name, Rossamund sets out to report to his new job as a lamplighter and has several adventures along the way as he meets people and monsters who are more complicated than he previously thought.

Includes glossaries and maps. (*Monster Blood Tattoo, Book 1*)

@*Framed.* Frank Cottrell Boyce. Harper Collins. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town of Manod, Wales with valuable paintings, and their father disappears, that they consider turning to crime.

Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich: and Other Stories You're Sure to Like, Because They're All About Monsters, and Some of Them are Also About Food, You Like Food, Don't You? Well, All Right Then. Adam Rex. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K-3

A collection of twenty hilarious poems about the bad habits, anxieties, and other fears subject's voice. Rex uses an impressive variety of techniques and media in the artwork while paying homage to famed illustrators.

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on The Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement. Ann Bausum. National Geog. \$19.00 Grades 5-9

The story of the Freedom Riders is the story of courage and determination of young people, black, white, male and female, who risked great personal danger and even death as they participated in the freedom rides en.

captioned black-and-white photographs enhance the impact of the events and bring them to life. **Open Court 6: Taking a Stand.**

George Did It. Suzanne Tripp Jurmain. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 3-5

Presents a humorous account of how George Washington tried to avoid taking on the role of President after serving in the U.S. military during the revolution. Dramatic black-and-white photographs, accompanied by clear, engaging captions, support the text. The story conveys the idea that even when George Washington doubted his own abilities, he nevertheless accomplished many important goals. **Open Court 5: Making a New Nation**

Gideon the Cutpurse: Being the First Part of the Gideon Trilogy. Linda Buckley-Archer. Simon & Schuster. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Ignored by his father and sent to Derbyshire forging 2Peek

@*Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy*. Judilth Bloom Fradin. Clarion. \$21.00 Grades 5-8

A well designed biography of Jane Addams, including excellent archival photographs and good source notes. **Open Court 6: Taking a Stand**

@*John, Paul, George & Ben*. Lane Smith. Hyperion. \$16.00 Grades 2-5

A humorous look at the early lives of five founding fathers of the United States, including George Washington, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Each man is described in turn as either bold, noisy, honest, clever, or independent, and taking many liberties with the truth. Illustrated with pen-and-ink cartoon style illustrations. **Open Court 5: Making a New Nation**

Keep Climbing, Girls. Beah E. Richards. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. S&S. \$16.00 Grades K-3

Presents the poem "Keep Climbing, Girls" by noted African-American actor, poet, and playwright Beah E. Richards, that encourages all human beings, young and old, male and female, to reach far beyond the expectations that society might have for them. Illustrated with bold and bright gouache paintings. The poetic verse would be appropriate to read and discuss with older groups. **Open Court K: Stick to It**

@*Kids Weaving*. Sarah Swett. Stewart, Tabori & Chang. \$19.00 Grades 3-6

Introduces children to the art of weaving, with instructions for creating fifteen inexpensive, colorful projects, including note cards, friendship bracelets, magic carpets, shoelaces, and blankets. The projects show

area. Lee paints an engaging story of his experiences and explains the notion of 'paper sons.' Illustrated with full-page oil paintings this story is drawn from the experiences of her father-in-law and concludes with historical notes. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

@*Langston Hughes*. Langston Hughes, Arnold Rampersad & David Roessel, ed. Sterling. \$15.00
Grades 4+

An illustrated collection of twenty-six poems by noted African-American poet Langston Hughes, and contains a detailed introduction and biography, as well as brief notes accompanying each poem.

@*Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White Spiders!, or, To Saturn's Rings and Back! : a Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space*. Phillip Reeve. Bloomsbury. \$17.00
Grades 5-8

In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system. Includes full-page pen-and-inks and spot illustrations that enhance the sense of the story.

The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West. Gary Paulsen. Wendy Lamb. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

The story of Bass Reeves who w Tw u06 Tc -0.00Ts0.0003 Tllus

pouring cream on pudding and other little things. A poignant story that is highlighted with south-of-the-border bright paintings. Includes some Spanish words. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

The Little Red Hen. Jerry Pinkney. Dial. \$17.00 Grades PreK-2

A newly illustrated edition of the classic fable of the hen who is forced to do all the work of baking bread and of the animals who learn a bitter lesson from it. The story is expanded and includes a bevy of chicks and four lazy animals. Lush and detailed illustrations create a wonderful atmosphere for this title. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

@Living As a Refugee in America: Mohammed's Story. Helen Howard. World Almanac. \$23.00
Grades 5-8

watercolor artwork on every other page create a strong visual personality for Moses as he ages from confident prince to elderly prophet.

The Most Perfect Spot. Diane Goode. HarperCollins. \$17.00 PreK-2

Jack tries to have a perfect picnic with his mother, but things do not turn out as they

Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People. Albert Marrin. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 4-6

Describes rat behavior and survival skills and aspects of their relationship with humans, including disease, rats as food, rats as pests, and the training of rats as rescuers.

Handsome scratchboard illustrations in black and white and highlighted with red.

Once Upon a Time, the End (Asleep In 60 Seconds).

@Ptolemy's Gate. Jonathan Stroud. Hyperion. \$18.00 Grades 6-9

Bartimaeus, Nathaniel, and Kitty face treacherous magicians and an enemy from "The Other Place" that threatens London and the world. (Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book 3)

Punished!. David Lubar. Darby Creek. \$16.00 Grades 3-5

Logan and his friend Benedict are playing tag in the library. Logan gets caught when he runs into a mysterious man. When Logan doesn't apologize sincerely, the mysterious gentleman punishes him by causing him to speak in puns. Only finding seven examples each of oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes within the time limits will return Logan to normal.

The Remarkable Benjamin Franklin. Cheryl Harness. National Geog. \$18.00 Grades 2-5

An illustrated biography of founding father and American patriot Benjamin Franklin, discussing his childhood, achievements, and participation in the American colonies' bid for independence. Vivid illustrations bring these events to life for students. **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories, Open Court 5: Making a New Nation**

@The Relocation of the North American Indian. John M. Dunn. Lucent. \$27.00 Grades 5-8

Presents a history of the forced relocation of Native Americans, and describes their first encounter with Europeans, colonial struggles for control, Manifest Destiny and American expansion, Indian wars, and removal to government reservations.

Rescues! . Sandra Markle. Millbrook. \$25.00 Grades -tions.AETEMC /P A/CID 9 10d(founding father and A)8(5

@Salad People and More Real Recipes: A New Cookbook for Preschoolers and Up. Mollie Katzen. Tricycle. \$18.00 Grades PreK-3

Presents a cookbook for preschoolers that includes twenty recipes and lessons on

Sister Tricksters: Rollicking Tales of Clever Females. Robert D. San Souci. August House. \$20.00 Grades 3-6

A collection of trickster tales from the American South, featuring such female animal characters as Molly Cottontail and Miz Goose. Tales include a story about Mistah Fox, who pretends to be dead; a humorous *pourquoi* tale that explains why roosters and toads eat grasshoppers; and a tale about Mistah Bear, who sits on a pile of pumpkins because Miz Goose convinces him that they are eggs that will hatch the family he so dearly wants. Told in dialect and expressions that convey a rural Southern flavor, yet the text is never hard to read or understand.

The Six Fools. Zora Neale Hurston, comp. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades K-4

Adapted from a story from Zora Neal Hurston's 1930 folklore collection, this tells about a young man who searches for three people more foolish than his fiancé and her parents. Oil monoprints in a folk art style are vibrant in color. Concludes with an explanation of the unusual ending phrase, "By that time I had left" which is a Caribbean phrase meaning "The End". **Open Court 2: Sharing Stories**

Small Steps. Louis Sachar. Delacorte. \$19.00 Grades 5-8

Sequel to *Holes*. Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

Snow is my Favorite and My Best. Lauren Child. Dial. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Charlie and little sister, Lola, play in the snow and consider what it would be like if it snowed everyday. It's up to Charlie to convince her that moderation is important in all things, even snow, and a quick trip to the earth's colder regions seems to do the trick. Illustrated in Child's signature collage style artwork. **Open Court 1: Weather**

So Sleepy Story. Uri Shulevitz. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades PreK-1

In the quiet of the night, a sleepy, sleepy boy awakens to music and finds the dishes, chairs, and clocks enjoying themselves. As the music fades away, the room settles back into quiet dreamtime. Illustrated with ink and watercolor.

Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium. Carla K. McClafferty . Farrar. \$18.00 Grades 5-8

Chronicles the life of Marie Curie, discussing her childhood in Poland, schooling in France, discovery of the element radium, efforts to create mobile X-ray units during World War I, and eventual death from radium poisoning. Archival photos enhance the text.

@Spring is Here/Llego la primavera. Taro Gomi. Chronicle. \$18.00 Grades PreK-2

Follows the four seasons, from snow melting into spring, through the quiet harvest and the fall of snow, and then to spring again. Told in English and Spanish. Illustrated with bold, single color backgrounds and clear, primitive figures.

Troll Mill. Katherine Langrish. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

When fifteen-year-old Peer Ulfsson witnesses the disappearance of his neighbor's wife, rumored to be a seal-woman, he must help protect the baby she leaves behind from trolls, a witch, and other creatures. The narrative is more intense than *Troll Fell* (for which this is a sequel) and despite the presence of selkies, household fairies, and uncanny babies, the drama is centered around human struggles.

The True Story of Stellina. Matteo Pericoli. Knopf. \$18.00 Grades PreK-3

A poignant and true story of how Matteo and Holly Pericoli rescued a small finch that fell out of a nest in New York City. The bird flew and sang, lived in an apartment, and traveled to the studio where Holly was a Spanish dancer. The couple cared for Stellina for eight years until she finally died. Illustrated with gentle watercolor artwork that is minimalist and perfectly captures the highlights of this tender story. **Open Court 3: City Wildlife**

Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing April Jones Prince. Houghton. \$16.00 Grades 1-5

Upon completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, P.T. Barnum and his twenty-one elephants parade across to prove to everyone that the bridge is safe. An excellent read-aloud due to the sparse, yet powerful text that contains both alliteration and occasional rhyme, making it a pleasure for readers and listeners alike. Enhanced by lush illustrations.

Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding. Lenore Look. Illustrated by Yumi Heo. S&S. \$17.00 Grades K-3

Jenny narrates this story of her uncle's wedding that is filled with Chinese tradition and yet, sadness seeps in between the lines. She'll miss her best buddy. In the end, the busy day has a sweet ending as the new bride chooses Jenny to release a box full of butterflies and thanks her for sharing her uncle. Bright artwork shows the details that heighten Jenny's feelings and show the wedding traditions. **Open Court 2: Our Country and Its People**

Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America. Deborah Hopkinson. Scholastic. \$19.00 Grades 4-8

Making excellent use of primary sources and black-and-white photos and period reproductions, this book provides a detailed account of the effect of cotton production on the social structure of the United States from colonial days to the last days of the mill workers in the 1930s. The voices of the children make this a vivid and personal account.

@ Victory. Susan Cooper. McElderry. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Molly, upset by her family's move from London to the U.S., is strangely drawn to an old book about the life of Admiral Lord Nelson, and soon finds her life intertwined with that of Sam, a boy her age who served with Nelson aboard the HMS "Victory" a century earlier.

Vile Verses. Roald Dahl. Illustrated by various artists. Viking. \$25.00 Grades 2-6

A rich collection of poems from Roald Dahl's works including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches*, *James and the Giant Peach* and many more. The selections are illustrated by a bevy of talented illustrators including Chris Wormell, Chris Riddell, Babette Cole, and Tony Ross. This collection will appeal to a broad range of ages.

Wabi: A Hero's Tale. Joseph Bruchac. Dial. \$17.00 Grades 5-8

Narrated by a great horned owl named Wabi who becomes fascinated in a tribe of Native Americans and fall in love with a young woman. From his great-grandmother Wabi learns that he can change shape and he changes into a young man to win the love of an Abenaki girl. Trials and adventures follow. The story is blended with suspense, humor and romance. An engaging read.

Walk On!: A Guide For Babies of All Ages. Marla Frazee. Illustrated by Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK-2

Provides suggestions for walking (or succeeding in other pursuits) such as "Get a grip. Pull yourself up." The reader learns that it's common to fall on the first try and is encouraged to cry "if it helps." In the end, the child is walking, albeit a little wobbly. This story speaks to the very young as well as preschoolers who enjoy stories about what they were like when they were "little," and older children and adults who will appreciate the wry humor. Illustrated with creamy artwork in a retro style from the 1940's. **Open Court K: Stick to It**

The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy. Leonard S. Marcus, comp. Candlewick. \$20.00 Grades 5+

A collection of interviews in which thirteen fantasy writers discuss their craft, influential life experiences, literary inspirations, work routines, and beliefs.

@ Water Street. Patricia Reilly Giff. Random. \$16.00 Grades 5-8

In the shadow of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, eighth-graders and new

What Stinks? Jill Wolfson. Holt. \$17.00 Grades 4-6

Illustrated text and photographs describe a number of smelly plants and animals including

well written narrative. Illustrated with black-and-white artwork, photographs, and

