

# NOTABLES 2002

## JANUARY, 2003

**19 VARIETIES OF GAZELLE: POEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST.** Naomi Shihab Nye. Greenwillow. \$17.00. Following the horrible events of September 11, 2001, Naomi Shihab Nye explores the culture of the Middle East and the essence of being Arab American. The poems might serve as thoughtful discussion starters as ways to bridge understanding in a world that defies understanding.

**911: THE BOOK OF HELP.** Michael Cart, Marc Aronson, Marianne Carus, eds. Illus. by Chris Raschka. Cricket.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN.** Amy L. Cohn & Suzy Schmidt. Illus. by David A. Johnson. Scholastic. \$17.00. Evoking the man himself, this tall, thin picture book biography brings the essence of Abraham Lincoln to the young reader. The prose, while folksy, is succinct and ideal for a classroom read aloud. Stylized watercolors expand the margins in this very appealing book.

**ACROSS A DARK AND WILD SEA.** Don Brown. Illus. By the author. Roaring Brook Press/Millbrook. \$16.00. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Irish monk and scribe, Columelle, loved books and the written word. He secretly copied a Roman book of psalms and when the book's owner demanded the copy, a battle with many lives lost ensued. Feeling remorse, Columelle left Ireland and began a monastery on the Scottish island of Iona. Columelle left a legacy of learning and a love of books to Celtic history that is cherished today. One wonders if this was the first disputed case of copyright infringement! **Open Court: Risks & Consequences**

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the animals as seen by the photographer. Text size and an abundance of color photos will make this book appealing to the intermediate reader. Includes *Chronology of Animal Discoveries New to Science* and Index. **Open Court: Ecology.**

**APPLE PIE FOURTH OF JULY.** Janet Wong. Illus. by Margaret Chodos-Irvine. Harcourt. \$16.00.

**ATLANTIC.** G. Brian Karas. Illus. by the author. G.P. G.P. G.P. Putnam's Sons's Sons's Sons. \$16.00. In this large picture book, the Atlantic Ocean is personified and describes what it is, how big it is and other important characteristics. Illustrated using gouache, acrylic and pencil, the illustrations evoke, in a childlike way, the massiveness of the Atlantic Ocean. Includes *Some Things About Me* at the end. **Open Court: By the Sea.**

**AUSCHWITZ; THE STORY OF A NAZI DEATH CAMP.** Clive A. Lawton. Candlewick. \$18.00. A graphic photo essay of the Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland. Includes *Who's Who*, Glossary, Timeline and Index.

**B. FRANKLIN, PRINTER.** David Adler. Holiday House. Illus. with archival prints. \$20.00. This

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**BIG MOUTH & UGLY GIRL.** Joyce Carol Oates. HarperCollins. \$17.00. When 16-year-old Matt Donaghy is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**BIRDBRAIN AMOS.** Michael Delney. Illus. by the author. Philomel. \$15.00. When Amos the hippopotamus advertises for a bird to help him with his pesky bug problem, the tick bird who answers his ad creates new problems by building a nest on Amos's head. Not only is Amos laughed at by the other hippos, the smallest baby bird thinks Amos is its father. A delightful beginning novel or a fun read aloud.

**THE BIRDWATCHERS.** James, Simon. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Little Jess decides to go birdwatching with her grandfather and discovers her own way to see the wildlife.

**BLIND SIGHTED.** Peter Moore. Viking. \$17.00. Kirk, is a creative misfit is bored with his classes in high school and always in trouble because of it. He is trying to learn to deal with his alcoholic mother, his new rock and roller friend, a possible girlfriend and the older blind woman to whom he reads. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**BLUE EYES BETTER.** Ruth Wallace-Brodeur. Dutton. \$16.00. When her older brother is killed in a drunk-driving accident, 11-year-old Tessa feels that she has not only lost her brother but her grieving mother, as well.

**BOB.** Tracey Campbell Pearson. Illus. by the author. FSG. \$16.00. Bob, the rooster, lives with a barnyard full of chickens and communicates by clucking with them. Henrietta the cat tells Bob he is supposed to crow and Bob sets out to find someone in the barnyard who will teach him to crow. His multilingual talents later save the day and the chickens! **Open Court: Animals.**

**BODY ECLECTIC: AN ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS.** Edited by Patrice Vecchione. Holt. \$17.00.

**BRAVO! BRAVA! A NIGHT AT THE OPERA: BEHIND THE SCENES WITH COMPOSERS, CAST, AND CREW.** Anne Siberell. Oxford Press.

**CAN YOU GUESS MY NAME: TRADITIONAL TALES AROUND THE WORLD.** Selected and retold by Judy Sierra. Illus. by Stefano Vitale. Clarion. \$20.00. This colorful book is a collection of 15 folktales from all over the world, including stories that resemble "The Three Pigs," "The Bremen Town Musicians," and "Rumpelstiltskin." Useful as read alouds for all ages, these stories can be used as comparisons of cultural tales from the world over. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

**CAN YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?: PICTURE PUZZLES TO SEARCH AND SOLVE.** Walter Wick. Photos by the author. Scholastic. \$14.00. Based on the popular *I Spy* series, the reader is asked to find certain objects on each page. Each page contains a rhyme that ends with the beginning of a new puzzle that the reader finds on each following page.

**CHICKEN SOUP BY HEART.** Esther Hershenhorn. Illus. by Rosanne Litzinger. \$17.00. California illustrator. When Rudie hears that his sitter has the flu, Rudie cooks a batch of chicken soup

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that has a secret ingredient – memories of their friendship! Naturally, this special soup makes Mrs. Gittel feel much better. **Open Court: Friendship.**

**CHILL WIND.** Janet McDonald. Frances Foster Books/FSG. \$16.00. Afraid that she will have to go to work when her welfare checks are stopped, 19-year-old high school dropout Aisha tries to figure out how she can support herself and her two babies in New York City. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY.** Cynthia Rylant . Illus. by Diane Goode. Blue Sky Press/Scholastic. \$16.00. A little girl tells about living with her grandparents and the anticipation of the Christmas holiday and the annual preparations.

**CINDERELLA.** Ruth Sanderson. Little, Brown. \$16.00.

**CLOSE YOUR EYES.** Kate Banks. Illus. by Georg Hallensleben. Frances Foster Books/FSG. \$16.00. Little Tiger does not want to go to sleep but then his mother entices her child to sleep by telling of all that can be seen with one's eyes closed.

**THE COFFEE CAN KID.** Jan M. Czech. Illus. by Maurie J. Manning. Child & Family.

**COMFORT.** Carolee Dean. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Fourteen-year-old Kenny Roy Willson wants to escape from his hometown of Comfort, Texas, after his alcoholic father is released from prison. The reader will find much sympathy for Kenny's character and little sympathy for his dysfunctional parents. Kenny is constantly bullied by his mother but in spite of his parents he discovers how words can truly set you free from a constant reality. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**COMIC ADVENTURES OF BOOTS.** Satoshi Kitamura. Illus. by the author. FSG. \$16.00. Presented in comic strip format, Boots the cat is featured in three short vignettes: Operation Fish Biscuit, Pleased to Meet You, Madam Quark, and Let's Play a Guessing Game.

**CONFUCIUS: THE GOLDEN RULE.** Russell Freeman. Illus. by Frederic Clement. Arthur A.

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**CORN-FED.** Poems by James Stevenson. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Like fresh corn these short poems are tender, sweet and fresh. So much to “chew on” with each of these succinct little verses and the illustrations are an integral part of the poem package. The poet has written other “corn” books – “Sweet Corn,” “Popcorn,” “Cornflakes,” “Candy Corn,” and “Just Around the CORNER.”

**A CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE.** Ann M. Martin. Scholastic. \$16.00. Hattie Owen lives happily in her family’s boarding house in a small town. The summer she is twelve her world changes drastically when her mentally disabled young uncle comes to live with them. From the events of that summer Hattie will think of her life as Before Adam and After Adam.

**COW.** Malachy Doyle. Illus. by Angelo Rinaldi. Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. What is it like to be a dairy cow? Succinct and descriptive text and wonderful realistic illustrations allow the reader to see a day in the life of a cow. **Open Court: Animals.**

**THE CRISPIN: CROSS OF LEAD.** Avi. Hyperion.

**CROSSING MONTANA.** Laura Torres. Holiday. \$16.00. Teenager Callie Gray has a lot of problems. Her father died mysteriously some years ago, her mother is uncommunicative, and the care of her little brother has been delegated to Callie. When her grandfather disappears, Callie leaves home to find him – forgetting that there are those at home who really need her. California author. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**DAHLIA.** Barbara McClintock. Illus. by the author. Frances Foster Books/FSG. \$16.00. Charlotte does not like to play nicely with dolls. When Aunt Edme sends her a lovely doll Charlotte decides to take the doll dirt digging with her beloved toy bear. The doll becomes mud spattered and tattered and Charlotte is in for a huge surprise when Aunt Edme comes to visit. The illustrations evoke Randolph Caldecott books of an earlier era.

**DAISY COMES HOME.** Jan Brett. Illus. by the author. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. \$17.00. Set in China, this exquisitely illustrated book tells the story of Daisy, a little hen that falls asleep in a basket and finds herself floating down the Li River. Daisy has many opportunities to be brave as she meets life along and in the river. How she is returned to her mistress Mei Mei and the other hens makes for a good story. There is so much to discover in Jan Brett’s illustrations that this is a lap-sitting book to be savored by all ages. **Open Court: Courage.**

**DAUGHTER OF MADRUGADA.** Frances M. Wood. Delacorte. \$16.00. Thirteen-year-old Cesa de Haro lives a privileged life on a California rancho in the 1840s. When Mexico loses the 1846 war with the United States, Cesa and her family must learn to adapt to changes that are difficult and heartbreaking. This story offers the viewpoint of those Californios who lost their ways of life during the turbulent times of California’s early history. Excellent enrichment for California history units. California author. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

**DAUGHTER OF VENICE.**

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### **DOUBLE DUTCH: A CELEBRATION OF JUMP ROPE, RHYME, AND SISTERHOOD.**

Veronica Chambers. Illus. with photos. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion. \$17.00.

**DOWN A SUNNY DIRT ROAD: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY.** Jan & Stan Berenstain. Illustrated by the authors with photos, prints, and drawings. Random. \$20.00. In alternating chapters Stan and Jan Berenstain, creators of the Berenstain Bears, tell their own stories from early childhood until their marriage, and continue the tale together to the present day. Includes Bibliography, Chronology, Index.

**DUCK ON A BIKE.** David Shannon. Illus. by the author. Blue Sky/Scholastic. \$16.00. Duck is up for a new adventure and when he finds a bike parked in the barnyard he jumps on and rides around showing all the animals. They are not impressed – until they find bikes themselves – and away they go! The illustrations will have everyone chuckling with this delightful read aloud. Let's hope that Duck, like David, will come back with more stories! California animals. **Open Court: Animals.**

**DUNK.** David Lubar. Clarion. \$15.00. While hoping to work as a clown in an amusement park dunk tank the summer before his junior year in high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, problems with the police and the almost loss of a special girl. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**EARTHBORN.** Sylvia Waugh. Delacorte. \$16.00. Upon learning that her parents are researchers from the planet Ormingat and they must leave in seven days or risk discovery, 12-year-old Nesta decides to stay in their York, England, home, whether or not her parents go. This novel is a companion piece to *Space Race*.

**EBB & FLO AND THE BABY SEAL.** Jane Simmons. Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. In this third story about Ebb & Flo, it's raining and Eb wants someone to play with. As he looks out the window he see a little seal playing on the beach. They spend the day playing in the surf but when day is over, the little seal is far away from home. Ebb & Flo and Mom fetch a boat and set off to take the baby seal to her mother. **Open Court: Animals.**

**ELLA FITZGERALD: THE TALE OF A VOCAL VIRTUOSA.** Andreas Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Brian Pinknew. Hyperion. \$17.00

**EMILY DICKINSON'S LETTERS TO THE WORLD.** Story and pictures by Jeanette Winter. Frances Foster Books/FSG. \$16.00. This charming small biography includes just a brief description of the life of Emily Dickinson and a selection of her poems. The illustrations serve as colorful background for each little poem to wind across a page.

### **THE EMPEROR'S SILENT ARMY: TERRACOTTA WARRIORS OF ANCIENT CHINA.**

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**ENCANTADO: PINK DOLPHIN OF THE AMAZON.** Sy Montgomery. Photos by Dianne Taylor-Snow. Houghton Mifflin. \$18.00. This photo essay introduces the world of the freshwater dolphins, called Encantados, or Enchanted, by the people who live near them in the region of the Amazon and Orinoco rivers in South America. Maps. Includes *How This Book Was Researched*, an Amazon statistical index, Bibliography, Index.

**EPOSSUMONDAS.** Coleen Salley. Illus. by Janet Stevens. Harcourt.

**EVERY GIRL TELLS A STORY: A CELEBRATION OF GIRLS SPEAKING THEIR MINDS.**



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photos, examines the Civil War from its origins to Reconstruction. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, Civil War Sites on the Web, and Index.

**FIREBOAT: THE HEROIC ADVENTURES OF THE JOHN J. HARVEY.** Maira Kalman. Illus. by the author. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$17.00. This story is a testimony to the adage that old heroes never die. This is a picture book history of one of New York City's fireboats tells of its was launching in 1931 and service until retirement in 1995. When a group of friends bought the fireboat and restored it. On September 11, 2001, the John J. Harvey was put back into service when the World Trade Centers were destroyed. For the efforts of that day, the fireboat was awarded the National Preservation Award. **Open Court: Courage.**

**FOLLOW THE MONEY!** Loreen Leedy. Holiday House. \$17.00. Georgie, a newly minted quarter on his way to the bank, describes his day as he is traded, spent, lost, found, donated, dropped into a vending machine, washed in a washing machine and finally makes it back to the bank. Includes *More About Money* and *Money Words*. **Open Court: Money.**

**A FOREIGN FIELD.** Gillian Chan. Kids Can Press. \$17.00. Set in Ontario, Canada, during World War II, 14-year-old Ellen Logan is having a difficult time – her brothers are serving in the military and her parents are busy supporting the war effort and so she must assume more family responsibilities. She meets Stephen Dearborn, a young British pilot in training at the local airfield, and their friendship deepens over the months. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**FOSSIL FISH FOUND ALIVE: DISCOVERING THE COELACANTH.** Sally M. Walker. Carolrhoda.

**FRESH GIRL.** Jaira Placide. Wendy Lamb Books/Random House. \$16.00. Fourteen-year-old Mardi returns to Brooklyn to live with her parents after a political coup in Haiti. As a young child Mardi was sent to Haiti it live with her grandmother while her stayed in America to work. Her home is Haiti and she misses friends and good memories. Adjusting to school and a new neighborhood is not easy. Readers who have experienced immigration will identify with Mardi's difficulties as well as her courage. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**THE FROGS WORE RED SUSPENDERS.** Jack Prelutsky. Pictures by Petra Mathers. Greenwillow. \$17.00. An amusing collection of verse about animals, places and things. Travel to Winnemucca, Indianapolis, Minot, North Dakota and down the Grand Canyon (among other places). You'll want to have a large map of the United States when reading these poems! Great for geography and places!

**GAUCHADA.** C.Drew Lamm. Illus. by Fabian Negrin. Knopf. \$16.00. A necklace is lovingly passed from one person to another, traveling much farther than the Argentine gaucho who made it will ever go. The message of this story – love is meant to be given.

**GET READY FOR SECOND GRADE, AMBER BROWN.** Paula Danziger. Illus. by Tony Ross. G.P. Putnam's Sons. Amber is nervous about starting second grade with a new teacher, but despite being in the same class as mean Hannah Burton, things turn out just fine. One of a series about Amber



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**GOOSE'S STORY.** Carl Best. Illus. by Holly Meade. Melanie Kroupa Books/FSG. \$16.00. When a gaggle of wild geese come to the lake, a little girl notices that one goose does not fly with the others and discovers that it is missing a foot. After nursing the goose over the summer and fall she notices one day that the goose with one foot is gone – only to return with a partner in the spring. **Open Court: Animals.**

**THE GREAT BLUE YONDER.** Alex Shearer. Clarion. \$15.00. Harry, a boy who has died, has gone to the Other Side – a strange place where the sun is always setting but never quite disappears, and people wander about, waiting to move on to the Great Blue Yonder. But Harry needs to back to life one more time before moving on to the Great Blue Yonder.

**HAIRDO! WHAT WE DO AND DID TO OUR HAIR.** Ruth Freeman Swain. Illus. by Cat Bowman Smith. Holiday House. \$17.00. This charming book details the history of hair styles through the ages and in different cultures. Beginning with the ancient Egyptians and ending with contemporary styles, this is a fascinating look at how hairstyles reflect cultures and times. Whimsical gouache paintings make this book particularly appealing. Includes bibliographic references.

**HANGING ON TO MAX.** Margaret Bechard. Roaring Brook Press/Millbrook. \$23.00. Sam is a high school senior and the single father of baby Max. Determined to raise Max and finish high school, Sam has little time to see old friends or enjoy high school pleasures. It is when he realizes that he can't give Max all that he needs and that he'd like to go to college that Sam makes a brave decision. This is a poignant story about teen parenting, responsibilities and living with choices made. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**HANNAH, DIVIDED.** Adele Griffin. Hyperion. \$16.00.

**HELLO BENNY! WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BABY.** Robie Harris. Illus. by Micahel Emberley. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. A large format picture book that shows and tells facts and feelings of babies during their first year of life. This is a must book for children who welcome a new baby into the family.

**HENRY BUILDS A CABIN.** D.B. Johnson. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. Young Henry Thoreau (a bear in this case) sets about building a cabin that his friends Emerson, Alcott and Miss Lydia think is much too small. Based on an actual incident in the life of Henry David Thoreau who did build a house that was 10' X 15' and cost only \$28.00. **Open Court: Homes.**

**HERO'S TRAIL: A GUIDE FOR HEROIC LIFE.** T.A. Barron. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$15.00. This little book asserts that we all need real heroes – not just celebrities, but people who have the

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time in prison, went to college and then became a successful and popular author. Two of his memorable book characters are Rotten Ralph and Joey Pigza.

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**I GET WET.** Vicki Cobb. Illus. by Julia Gorton. HarperCollins. \$18.00. What a great starter research book for the youngest children. Questions are posed (“What shape is water?”) and then a simple experiment that parent and child, or teacher and students, can do together is presented.

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE.** Written by Francis Bellamy. Commentary by Bill Martin & Michael Samson. Illus. by Chris Raschka. Candlewick. \$16.00. The meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance is succinctly explained for the young child. The soft, whimsical illustrations help to bring the words to the level of the primary student. **Open Court: Red, White, and Blue.**

**I SEE MYSELF.** Vicki Cobb. Illus. by Julia Gorton. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A book for the primary child about reflections, light, and mirrors. “Look in the mirror, who do you see? You very own self, that’s who! Now suppose there were no mirrors in the world. What could you do to see yourself?” The primary child learns that you must have something shiny and you must have light to see a reflection of yourself! Simple science activities will make every young reader a science experimenter.

**I STINK!** Kate McMullan. Illus. by Jim McMullan. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Who gathers moldy meatballs, nasty neckties and rotten radishes? Who works all night? Whooooo-Whee! Who smells worse than any skunk ever did? Read this aloud to the younger set and this story will be the new favorite in the library! A fun way to reinforce the alphabet and practice some alliteration! **Open Court: Things That Go.**

**IF THE SHOE FITS.** Gary Soto. Illus. by Terry Widener. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. \$16.00. Rigo is part of a large family and does not mind all the noise or the house being crowded; what he really minds is the hand-me-down clothes. For his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday Rigo receives a new pair of loafers but the joy is taken away by a teasing bully. It is only after the shoes no longer fit that Rigo learns the true value of sharing. California author.

**IF THE WORLD WERE A VILLAGE: A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD’S PEOPLE.** David J. Smith. Illus. by Shelagh Armstrong. Kids Can Press. \$16.00. This fact-filled book tells us who we are, where we live, how fast we are growing, what languages we speak, what religions we practice and more. Each page in this colorfully illustrated book covers one subject about our global village we call the world.

**IN MY WORLD.** Lois Ehlert. Harcourt. \$15.00.

**ISLAND BOYZ: SHORT STORIES.** Graham Salisbury. Wendy Lamb Books/Random House. \$17.00. Eleven short stories all set in Hawaii – about prep school, sharks, jumping off a cliff into the water below, living through a Hawaiian hurricane and even about first love.

**JETHRO BYRD, FAIRY CHILD.** Bob Graham. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. While playing, Annabelle finds a family of fairies in the weeds and cement. She quickly becomes friends with Jethro and his fairy family and invites them to tea with Mommy and Daddy. But, why is it that only Annabelle and her baby brother, Sam, are the only ones to see the fairies? Perhaps we all need to see the world through the eyes of imaginative children!

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**JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA.** Eva Ibbotson. Illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Dutton. \$18.00. Sent with her governess to live with dreadful cousins in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.

**KATIE'S WISH,** Barbara Shook Hazen. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. Dial. \$16.00. Katie's wish is that the tiresome potatoes they must eat every day would go away. Shortly thereafter, the great potato famine hits Ireland and she feels responsible for all the hardships which follow. It is only after death and disease becomes widespread that Grand Da agrees to allow Katie to join her Da in America. It is Da who teaches her that only wishes that truly come from the heart, matter. The watercolor illustrations evoke both the beauty and the desperate times of 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

**KEEPER OF THE DOVES.** Betsy Byars. Viking. \$15.00. Sisters Amen, Abigail, Augusta, Arabella, and Annabella live a quiet life in 1899 Kentucky. Mama is busy having babies, Papa leaves for work every day, Aunt Pauline runs the household and the mysterious Mr. Tominski is the keeper of the doves. The children conjure up all sorts of reasons to be afraid of this strange man with whom their father has an intense loyalty. It is only after Mr. Tominski's death that the truth about the man is revealed. Amen, the narrator of the story is also the poet of the family and the mood of this little chapter book is enhanced by her poetry.

**KEEPERS OF THE FLAME.** Jennifer Armstrong & Nancy Butcher. HarperCollins. \$16.00. This novel is the second in a trilogy that begins with "The Kindling" (see below). It is 5 years after the deadly plague that destroyed most of the world's adult population. The children are delighted when they discover a colony of adult survivors in a Florida shopping mall, but they soon discover that they are not as friendly as it might at first appear. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**THE KINDLING.** Jennifer Armstrong and Nancy Butcher. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Seven children are the only survivors when the world is wiped out by a deadly plague. The children don't remember anything from the Before Time and become a family unto themselves with new names. One day, a new boy shows up and changes everything in their existence. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**KITE FLYING.** Grace, Lin. Illus. by the author. Knopf. \$15.00. "The wind is blowing. It is a good day for kites." So begins this picture book about a Chinese family who together build and fly a kite. The pictures are large and vivid with primary colors. At the end is a short history of kites and kite flying. California author. **Open Court: Wind.**

**THE KITE RIDER.** Geraldine McCaughrean. HarperCollins. \$16.00. In 13<sup>th</sup> century China, twelve-year-old Haoyou supports his widowed mother by working as a kite rider for the Jade Circus. His job is to be strapped onto a beautiful kite and go into the sky to soar among the clouds and entertain the crowds below. This novel is filled with intrigue and action and gives a good look at the culture of a long-ago China.

**LET THERE BE LIGHT: POEMS AND PRAYERS FOR REPAIRING THE WORLD.** Ed. By Jane Breskin Zalben. Dutton. \$17.00.

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**LET'S GO HOME: THE WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT A HOUSE.** Cynthia Rylant. Illus. by Wendy Anderson Halperin. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. All the various rooms that make up a house are described - as well as the many activities that traditionally happen in those rooms. The oversized pages of this picture book are filled with tiny details that will delight the young reader. **Open Court: Homes.**

**LIBERTY.** Allan Drummond. Illus. by the author. Frances Foster Books/FSG. \$17.00. A picture book history of the unveiling of the Statue of Liberty on October 28, 1886. While part fiction, this little book gives a great overview of the history and meaning of this important American symbol of freedom. **Open Court: Red, White, and Blue.**

**THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ADOLF HITLER.** James Cross Giblin. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Clarion. \$21.00. Adolf Hitler, Germany's leader from 1933-1945 is possibly one of the most hated figures in the history of the world. The impact of this disturbed man's leadership was enormous for millions of innocent people and even continues today. In this non-sensational biography, Giblin writes of Hitler from childhood in Austria to his suicide in 1945. Includes Source Notes and Bibliography. Index.

**LIFE ON EARTH: THE STORY OF EVOLUTION.** Steve Jenkins. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. This book explores the history of life on earth, the story of evolution, and Charles Darwin's contribution to modern science. Torn and cut paper collages bring a three-dimensional beauty to the pages - students will want to study the art work as well as the information in this book! **Open Court: Fossils.**

**THE LIGHTKEEPER'S DAUGHTER.** Iain Lawrence. Delacorte. \$17.00. When, after a four-year absence, 17-year-old Squid and her young daughter return to her childhood home on a remote

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travels to Puerto Rico, where they use the world's largest radio telescope to examine nearby stars and listen for radio signals that would document intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. California author. **Open Court: Astronomy.**

**LOVE TO LANGSTON.** Tony Medina. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Lee & Low.

**MADLENKA'S DOG.**



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**MOTORCYCLE SONG.** Diane Siebert. Illus., by Leonard Jenkins. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Rhyming text and exuberant paintings scream for this book to be read aloud! Riders of all kinds share the joy of the open road. **Open Court: Things That Go.**

**MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!** Candace Fleming. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Anne Schwartz/Atheneum Books. \$16.00. After planting the garden he has dreamed of for years, Mr. McGreely tries to find a way to keep some pesky rabbits from munching all his vegetables. But oh, those rabbits are persistent! **Open Court: Keep Trying.**

**MY BIG BROTHER.** Valorie Fisher. Photos by the author. Anne Schwartz/Atheneum. \$15.00. Photographs and simple text depict a big brother from the point of view of his baby sibling.

**MY CHINATOWN: ONE YEAR IN POEMS.** Kam Mak. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. \$17.00. A little boy from Hong Kong adjusts to city life in his new home in an American city. The reader is treated to lush pictures and poetic text as each season in his new Chinatown is addressed. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

**MY HEARTBEAT.** Garret Freymann-Weyr. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, 14-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**MY PERFECT LIFE.** Dyan Sheldon. Candlewick. \$17.00. Ella has no interest in running for class president at her suburban high school, but her friend, Lola, tricks her into challenging the rich and overbearing Carla Santini in a less-than-friendly race. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**A NATION CHALLENGED: A VISUAL HISTORY OF 9/11 AND ITS AFTERMATH: YOUNG READER'S EDITION.** Text edited by Mitchel Levitas. The New York Times/Callaway and Scholastic. \$19.00. This photo essay combines photos and excerpts from the New York Times's coverage of this tragic day in American history. Included are the terrorist attacks, rescue and recovery efforts, the heightened security measures, U.S. military action, the downfall of the Taliban and U.S. relief efforts.

## **NOTABLES 2002 JANUARY, 2003**

**OLD MacDONALD HAD A WOODSHOP.** Lisa Shulman. Illus. by Ashley Wolff. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$17.00. "Ewe" will be surprised to see that Old MacDonald is a sheep in this rollicking version of an favorite! With the help of the other farm animals – Old MacDonald works in her shop and soon Old MacDonald has a farm! The names and functions of woodworking tools are introduced and kids will love chiming in with all the noises the tools make. California author. California illustrator. **Open Court: Teamwork.**

**OLIVER FINDS HIS WAY.** Phyllis Root. Illus. by Christopher Denise. Candlewick. \$15.00. Oliver the little bear becomes lost when he chases a big yellow leaf to the edge of the forest. Crying for his mama and papa does not help. Wait, some good thinking gets better results and he hurries home to Mama and Papa's tumble-down hugs!

**OLIVIA'S OPPOSITES.** Ian Falconer. Illus. by the author. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster. \$7.00. This little board book presents everyone's favorite little pig demonstrating opposites through word and pictures.

**ON MORNING WINGS.** Reeve Lindbergh. Illus. by Holly Meade. Candlewick. \$16.00. This adaptation of Psalm 139, retells a psalm of God's knowledge of and love for each of us.

**PARVANA'S JOURNEY.** Deborah Ellis. Groundwood. \$16.00. Includes maps and glossary.

**PEACOCK AND OTHER POEMS.** Valerie Worth. Illus. by Natalie Babbitt. FSG. \$15.00. Twenty-six succinct and descriptive poems are included in this little volume. Soft pencil drawings accompany each little poem.

**PERFECT HARMONY: A MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH THE BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM.** Charles R. Smith, Jr. Photos by author. Hyperion. \$16.00.

**PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS.**

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**PIZZA KITTENS.**

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**THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: STORIES OF DISCOVERY BY WOMEN AND GIRLS.** Catherine Thimmesh. Illus. by Melissa Sweet. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. Brief accounts of the work of a variety of women and girl discoverers in such fields as astronomy, biology, anthropology, and medicine. Includes Bibliographical references, Timeline, and Index.

**SLIM AND JIM.** Richard Egielski. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Slim the rat and his new friend Jim the mouse find that their yo-yo tricks come in handy when they are threatened by a tough, old, one-eyed cat. **Open Court: Friendship.**

**“SLOWLY, SLOWLY, SLOWLY,” SAID THE SLOTH.** Eric Carle. Illus. by the author. Foreword by Jane Goodall. Philomel. \$17.00. Challenged by the other jungle animals for its seemingly lazy ways, a sloth living in a tree explains the many advantages of his slow and peaceful existence. **Open Court: Animals.**

**SNOW.** Manya Stojic. Illus. by the author. Borzoi/Knopf. \$18.00. Following in the pattern of her first book “Rain,” Stojic brings the concept of snow to the youngest readers. Owl predicts it, the fox, geese, bear, bunnies and moose anticipate it. We learn how each animal responds to the snow and at the end, owl remarks, “I know snow ... but I sing spring.” **Open Court: Animals.**

**SOMETIMES I'M BOMBALOO.** Rachel Vail. Illus. by Yumi Heo. Scholastic. \$16.00. Have you ever been Bombaloo? Sometimes, Katie loses her temper and uses her feet and her fists instead of words and this is called being Bombaloo. All it takes is some time-out and some love and the Bombaloo is calmed. A nice resource for anger management for primary children.

**SONG OF NIGHT: IT'S TIME TO GO TO BED.** Katherine Riley Nakamura. Illus. by Linnea Riley. Blue Sky Press/Scholastic. \$16.00. All the animals get ready for bed – duck takes a bath, mice brush their teeth and baby skunk gets a back rub. A comforting book for the very small child who resists bedtime.

**SONNY'S WAR** Valerie Hobbs. Frances Foster Books/FSG. \$16.00. When 14-year-old Cory's father suddenly dies and her brother is drafted to fight in Viet Nam, her world is turned upside-down. Lawrence, the new history teacher and consciensious-objector comes to the school and soon Cory's feelings about war are tested. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**SPARKS.** Graham McNamee. Wendy Lamb Books/Random House. \$16.00. Todd is both happy and anxious about trying to keep up with the regular fifth grade work after being in the Special Needs class for a year. He's also torn between his loyalty and friendships with his Special Needs class and spending all of his time with the fifth graders. **Open Court: Friendship.**

**THE SPIDER AND THE FLY.** Based on the cautionary poem by Mary Howitt. Illus. by Tony DiTerlizzi. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. This cautionary poem was written in 1829 and the wisdom of the words are still appropriate today. The black and white artwork evokes the danger the fly finds herself in, the art deco flavor casts a glamorous elegance to the story.

**STELLA, FAIRY OF THE FOREST.** Marie-Louise Gay. Illus. by author. Groundwood.

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**A STONE IN MY HAND.** Cathryn Clinton. Candlewick. \$16.00. The year is 1988 and the setting is the Middle East, but the story is as true today. Eleven-year-old Malaak and her family are touched by the violence in Gaza between Jews and Palestinians when first her father disappears and then her older brother is drawn to a radical group.

**STONER AND SPAZ.** Ron Koertge. Candlewick. \$16.00. Sixteen-year-old Ben Bancroft has cerebral palsy, no parents, and an overprotective grandmother. He learns self-acceptance with the help of Colleen, a drug-addicted teen. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**SUMMERLAND.** Michael Chabon. Hyperion.

**SUMMERSAULTS.** Poems and paintings by Douglas Florian. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Concrete and other poems describe the joys and good times of summer in this delightful book for the primary student. Each poem is illustrated with a soft watercolor and pencil illustration.

“Quick! Before the summer’s gone – Pack a rosy-fingered dawn. Pack a pond Or ocean spray. Pack them for a snow-packed day.”

**SUPERCROC: AND THE ORIGIN OF CROCODILES.** Christopher Sloan. National Geographic.

**SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES.** Stephanie Tolan. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family’s Creative Academy. It doesn’t take long before he discovers new talents, interests, and endearing friendships.

**TALKIN’ ABOUT BESSIE: THE STORY OF AVIATOR ELIZABETH COLMAN.** Nikki Grimes. Illus. by E.B. Lewis. Orchard/Scholastic. \$17.00. An imagined monologue on each page tells about the life of Bessie Colman by those who knew her best. Eleven-years-old when the Wright brothers took their historic first flight, Bessie was determined that she would be the first African American female pilot. This picture book biography for older readers is filled with not only the facts about a brave woman; it enables the young reader to understand the spirit of Bessie Colman.

**THE TEDDY BEAR.** David McPhail. Holt. \$16.00.

**TELL ALL THE CHILDREN OUR STORY: MEMORIES AND MEMENTOS OF BEING YOUNG AND BLACK IN AMERICA.** Tonya Bolden. Abrams.

**TEN KINGS AND THE WORLDS THEY RULED.** Milton Meltzer. Illus. by Bethanne Andersen. Orchard/Scholastic. \$22.00. This book begins with an introduction that defines power and especially power in the hands of kings. Short biographies of the following kings are included: Hammurabi, David, Alexander the Great, Attila, Charlemagne, Kubl

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pertaining to tenements, and the occupations of those who lived in the tenements. Includes Bibliography. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

**THAT PESKY RAT.** Lauren Child. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Collages and whimsical drawings help to tell the story of that pesky rat – he’s homeless, has a pointy nose, beady eyes and longs to be someone’s pet. It’s only after a nearsighted customer sees his notice and “sees” him, that the pesky rat is taken home to be the pet “kitty” with the new name of Tiddles.

**THAT SUMMER.** Tony Johnston. Illus. by Barry Moser. Harcourt. \$16.00.

**THE THIEF LORD.** Cornelia Funke. Translated from German by Oliver Latsch. Illus. by the author. The Chicken House and Scholastic. \$17.00. Orphaned brothers, Prosper and Bo, escape from their cruel aunt and uncle and join a band of street children in Venice and led a 13-year-old boy who calls himself the Thief Lord.

**THE THEIVES OF OSTIA: A ROMAN MYSTERY.** Caroline Lawrence. Roaring Book Press/Millbrook. \$16.00. The setting is Rome in the year A.D. 79. Three friends, Flavia, Jonathan, Nubia and Lupus seek to find out who beheaded a pet dog – and why. This is a fast moving chapter book that puts the reader right in the middle of the Roman Empire! **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

**THINGS NOT SEEN.** Andrew Clements. Philomel. \$16.00. When 15-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he can only tell his parents about it – hoping they can figure out a way to help him. This means no school, no friends, no life, no choice. Then he meets Alicia at the library. She’s blind and can’t see him anyway. Alicia and Bobby’s parents try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

**THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.** Simms Taback. Illus. by the author. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. \$16.00. This is a colorful, zany rendition of the popular nursery rhyme that was first published in 1755 and probably derived from an ancient Hebrew chant. There are boundless tidbits to discover on each page and even a self portrait of the author/illustrator and the story rhyme comes to a cumulative conclusion. **Open Court: Homes.**

**THIS LAND WAS MADE FOR YOU AND ME: THE LIFE AND SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE.** Elizabeth Partridge. Includes archival photos and prints. Viking Press. This well researched biography of Woody Guthrie, the troubadour of the Great Depression, chronicles the life of a 20<sup>th</sup> century icon of the folk music movement. The book is filled with photos, a readable text and neither glosses over Guthrie’s faults and illnesses nor makes him an unblemished hero for the downtrodden. Includes Resources, Source Notes, Bibliography, and Index. California author. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**THIS LITTLE CHICK.** John Lawrence. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Vinyl engravings, watercolor washes, and printed wood textures create a large colorful background for the succinct text of read-along read aloud. Primary children will quickly engage themselves in the story line by predicting all the sounds the farmyard animals make. **Open Court: Animals.**



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**A THOUSAND PEAKS: POEMS FROM CHINA.** Siyu Liu & Orel Protopopescu. Illus. by Siyu Liu. Pacific View.

**THREE CHEERS FOR POOH: THE BEST BEAR IN ALL THE WORLD.** Brian Sibley. Illus. with archival photos and sketches, and prints. Dutton. \$23.00. This book is a charming biography of A.A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh, and Christopher Robin Milne. Created to celebrate Pooh's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, this book is for all fans of the original British Winnie the Pooh.

**THE THREE SILLY GIRLS GRUBB.** John Hassett & Ann Hassett. Illus. by the authors. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. In this silly version of "The Three Billy Goats' Gruff," three little girls set off for school only to be confronted by Ugly-Boy Bobby as each crosses the bridge. The little girls outwit the bully, send him off to school where he becomes Robert, a nice little boy. "Spink! Spank! Spinach! This story is finished." A fun read aloud for the primary set!

**THURSDAY'S CHILD.** Sonya Hartnett. Candlewick. \$16.00. Harper Flute, looking back on her Australian childhood, recounts her family's poverty, her father's cowardice, and her younger brother's obsession for digging tunnels and living underground. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**TIGER, TIGER.** Dee Lillegard. Illus. by Susan Guevara. Putnam. \$17.00. Pocu is bored and so he uses a magic feather to form a tiger, and then must use the feather to save his village from the tiger. California author. California illustrator. **Open Court: Shadows.**

**TIME STOPS FOR NO MOUSE.** Michael Hoeye. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$15.00. "A Hermux Tantamoq adventure." Linka Perflinger, a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into Hermux Tantamoq's shop to be repaired and not only steals his heart but mysteriously disappears. Tantamoq is caught up in a world of dangerous intrigue as he seeks to find Ms. Perflinger.

**TO FLY: THE STORY OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS.** Wendie Old. Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Clarion. \$16.00. Neither Wilbur nor Orville Wright graduated from high school and yet they invented, built, and, in 1903, flew the first airplane. This picture book biography is a wonderful introduction to inventions and inventors and a super example of collaboration at its finest! Includes A Flight Timeline, For Further Reading, Notes and Index. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

**TOGO.** Robert J. Blake. Illus. by the author. Philomel. \$17.00. In 1925, Togo, a Siberian husky who loves being a sled dog, leads a team that rushes to bring diphtheria antitoxin from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. Togo led his team over 350 miles on his part of the serum run; however, most of the honors for the serum run have gone to Balto – the dog that carried the serum the last 50 miles. **Open Court: Courage.**

**TURK AND RUNT: A THANKSGIVING COMEDY.** Lisa Wheeler. Pictures by Frank Ansley. Richard Jackson Book/Atheneum. \$16.00. Turk's family is proud of him, the biggest, strongest, most graceful turkey at Wishbone Farm. However, his little brother, Runt, knows this is not a good thing for turkey longevity and sets out to save the turkey family from a roasting on Thanksgiving Day – or any day of feasting! California illustrator.

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Mermaid Song, The Sea-King's Son, Sea Serpent, Water Horse, Kraken, and A pool in the Desert.  
**YOUNG ADULT.**

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**WHEN PIRATES CAME TO BROOKLYN.** Phyllis Shalant. Dutton. \$17.00. The setting for this novel is Brooklyn, 1960. Lee Bloom and Polly Burke are two 6<sup>th</sup> graders who become best friends after Lee moves to the neighborhood. They thrive on their imaginative times together but it isn't long before their mothers' bigotry threatens to destroy their special friendship.

**WHERE, WHERE IS SWAMP BEAR?** Kathi Appelt. Pictures by Megan Halsey. HarperCollins. While fishing with Granpere in the swamp, little Pierre asks all kinds of questions about a very special bear. The youngreader will learn much about the ecology of the southern swamps in this charming story. The story is told in play format and makes it a natural for either reader's theatre or a short play.  
**Open Court: Country Life.**

**WINGWALKER.** Rosemary Wells. Illus. by Brian Selznick. Hyperion. \$16.00.

**THE WINTER PEOPLE.** Joseph Bruchac. Dial. \$17.00. As the French and Indian War rages in 1759, Saxso, a 14-year-old Abenaki boy, pursues the English rangers who have attacked his village and taken his mother and sisters hostage.

**WITH THEIR EYES.** Ed. By Annie Thomas. HarperCollins. \$18.00.

**THE WOLF WHO CRIED BOY.** Bob Hartman. Pictures. by Tim Raglin. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. Little Wolf is tired of eating hamburgers and sloppy does, and wants a good taste of Boy, for a change. When he tricks his parents into thinking there is a boy in the woods, they decide that because he fooled them, he can't be believed. Well, as a result, the Wolf family misses a real feast right in their living room!

**A WORLD OF WONDERS: GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELS IN VERSE AND RHYME.** J. Patrick Lewis. Pictures by Alison Joy. Dial..\$17.00. Two dozen poems that focus on countries, continents, places and geographic features are included in this delightful book.

**THE YEAR OF THE HANGMAN.** Gary Blackwood. Dutton. \$17.00. In this "alternate historical novel," set during the Revolutionary War, Seventeen-year-old Creighton Brown, is abducted in England and shipped off to America during the War. Creighton finds himself in the center of many skirmishes in a fast-paced story of what *might* have happened if any of the events of the Revolutionary War had ended differently. This book would be a terrific selection for a middle school book discussion club – where might we be if the British had defeated the Americans?