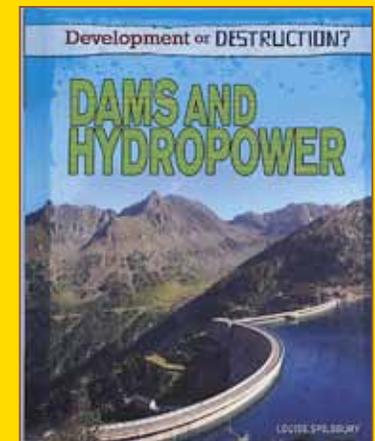
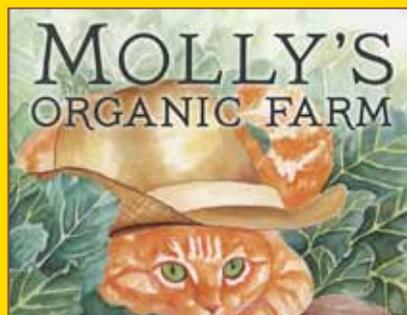
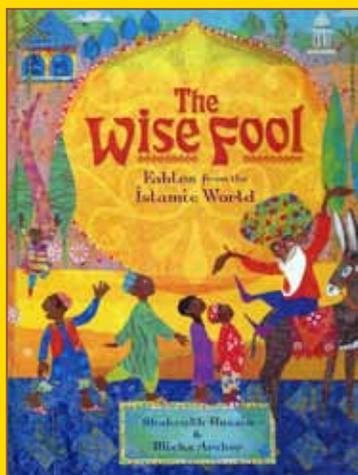
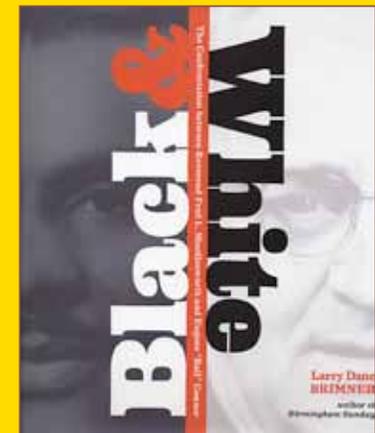
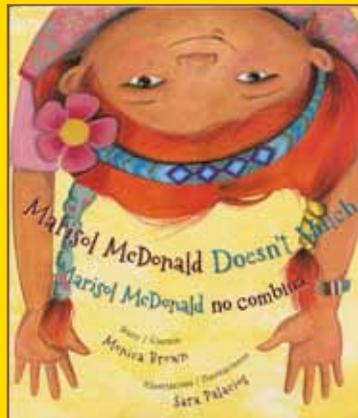
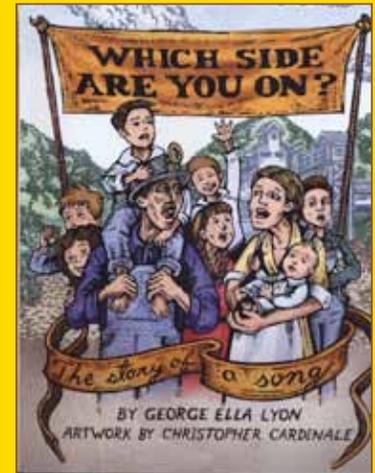
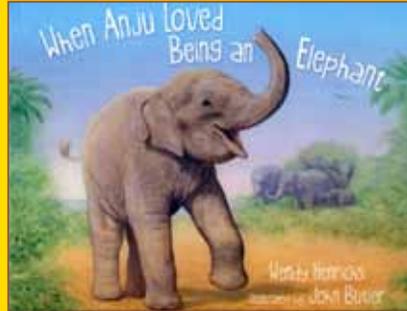
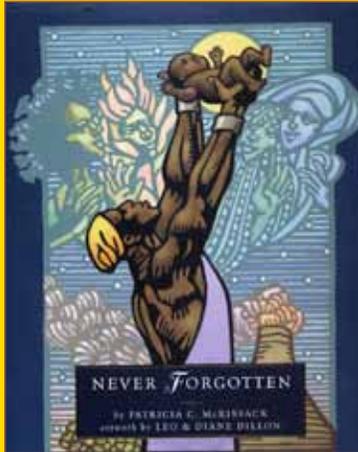


Skipping Stones

An Award-Winning Multicultural Literary Magazine



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Multicultural & International Books

A Stranger at Home by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, illustr. Liz Amini-Holmes (*Annick*). Grades 3-7. ISBN: 978-1-55451-361-1

Olemaun, now ten years old, is returning by boat to her family. She has not seen them for the two long years she was at boarding school. She had left to learn English and the ways of the outsiders when she was only eight, still short and plump. Now, she is nearly the same height as her mother, and she can read, write, and speak English well. She longs for her mother to embrace her and welcome her home. But her mother does not recognize her. In that moment, Olemaun realizes she can no longer respond to her mother in their native language, Inuvialuktun. It is as though she has lost her true identity.

This is a beautiful, true story told by the author who attended a Catholic boarding school in the Canadian north. It is about how the people learned to accept change in ways that did not strip them of their culture, language, and the very essence of who they were. The text is filled with a combination of colorful paintings and photographs of the family and community. A few of the photographs are in black and white. This would be a wonderful addition to any library.

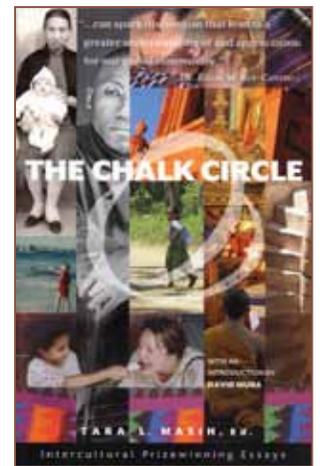
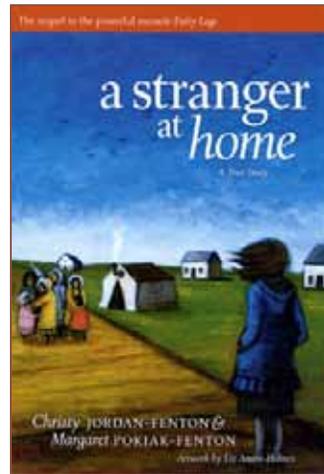
—Paulette Ansari, retired librarian.

Black and White by Larry Dane Brimner (*Boyd's Mills Press*). Grades 6-12. ISBN: 978-1-59078-766-3

Bull Conner's actions in 1963—ordering police officers and firemen to use dogs and high-pressure water hoses against demonstrators—served as one of the catalysts for major social and legal change in the United States and helped in large measure to assure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Reverend Fred L. Shuttleworth, Birmingham's civil rights leader, knew that Conner's predictable opinions and temperament could be used to advance freedom for African Americans. In the end, Conner did not disappoint.

Black and White tells the story of two powerful men in Birmingham, Alabama—one leader passionately pushing for change and the other vehemently holding onto the past. The book describes their early lives, then continues with the later political and social work that



keeps the two men entangled in the struggles that the world watched.

The story of the two men of Birmingham is fascinating. The reader is treated to many historical photographs. Shuttleworth's strategies, courage, and patience present valuable lessons for how to set up people who are building hierarchies—how to use their weaknesses to your own advantage. Shuttleworth shows us how to call attention to offensive top-of-the-hierarchy behaviors to the widest possible audience.

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon

Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina by Monica Brown, illustr. Sara Palacios (*Children's Books Press*). Bilingual picture book. Grades 1-4. ISBN: 978-0-89239-235-3

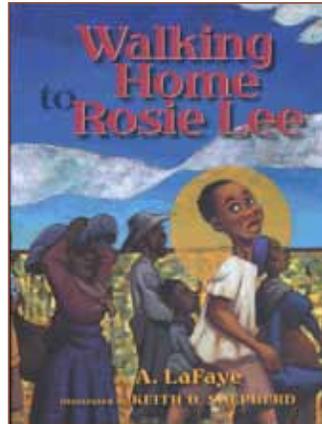
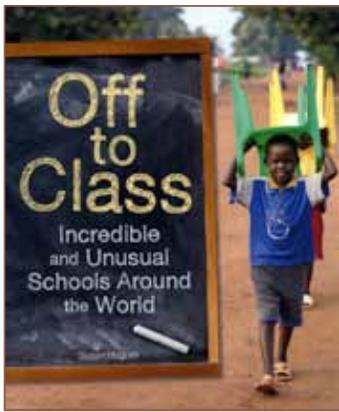
Young readers will enjoy this book. The illustrations are quirky, colorful and full of familiar images to this group.

The story challenges the reader to notice how people can look different from each other and/or from the majority. People do things in their unique ways, and still have the same feelings as everyone else, and feel hurt when others won't accept them just as they are.

The reader can decide if she/he will accept Marisol as she is or if she should change and become exactly like everyone else. Is this even possible? Aren't we all a little different? Even when we look the same?

This is a fun book with a lot to observe and learn from; especially with some parental guidance. Enjoy!

Este es un libro atractivo para jóvenes lectores. Las ilustraciones son simpáticas, coloridas y con muchas imágenes familiares para este grupo.



La narración reta al lector a observar como uno puede verse diferente a todos ó a la mayoría. Como uno puede hacer cosas de una manera única. Y sin embargo tener los mismos sentimientos que los demás. Y uno se siente herido cuando los otros no nos aceptan tal como somos.

El lector puede decidir aceptar a Marisol tal como es. O si ella debe de cambiar y ser igual a todos. Es esto posible? No somos todos un poco distintos de los demás, aun cuando parecidos? Y todos queremos aceptación, si?

Este libro es divertido, tiene mucho que observar y aprender; especialmente con un poco de guía adulta.

Que disfruten!

—*Esther Celis, board member, Oregon*

Never Forgotten by Patricia C. McKissack, illustr. Leo and Diane Dillon (*Random House*). A picture book for grades 4-8. ISBN: 978-0-375-84384-6

A powerful story about family, love, loss, but never being forgotten. This story begins in the 1700s in Africa. Dinga is a master blacksmith. When his wife dies giving birth, he refuses to give his son away to any woman or family in the village. Without shame, he ties the baby on his back and heads for his forge.

Dinga introduces his son to the four mother elements: Earth, Fire, Water and Wind. He gives them praise and invites them to help raise his son. Together they name him Musafa. Musafa grows into a handsome, strong, happy, intelligent boy who loves the elements as they love him. Musafa works as his father's apprentice, but no matter how hard he tries, his work is never straight or perfectly balanced like his father's.

Then one day, the drums brings news of war, foreigners and treachery in the land. Dinga thinks the problems are far away, so he and his son are not careful. One morning Musafa goes into the bush to get firewood. He is abducted. Dinga and the villagers search for Musafa but they are unable to find him. All the elements search for him everywhere, only to return and tell to Dinga what they had learned.

You can almost hear the drum beat in the words. Every page is illustrated in bright swirling colors. The children who were abducted were never forgotten. This message is brought home in this poetic, beautiful book.

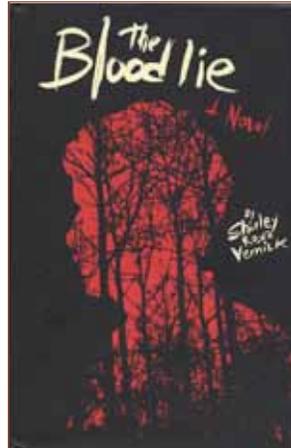
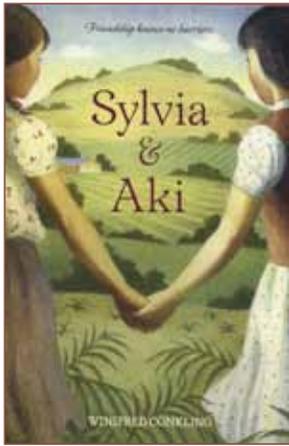
—*Paulette Ansari, retired librarian.*

Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools Around the World by Susan Hughes (*Owlkids Books*). Grades 3-8. ISBN: 978-1-926818-86-3

This is an outstanding look at schools all around the world, schools that adapt to the environment and the culture. For example, on January 12, 2010 an earthquake destroyed more than 1,400 schools in Haiti. More than 200,000 people died that day. How do you get kids back to school when their entire world is in chaos? UNICEF, Save the Children and Plan International helped the communities set up temporary tent schools. When it rained, the tent schools flooded and everyone had to go home. But on good days the schools were full.

In Bangladesh during the monsoon season, children would miss months of school. However an architect named Mohammed Rezwan decided he would not allow floods to stop children from getting to school. He raised enough money to open the first **Boat School** in 2002. Today there are ninety boats travelling up and down the rivers and streams providing transportation and education for hundreds of Bangladeshi children six days a week, three hours each day. The floating schools hold about 35 students and three different groups are taught each day. These floating schools have enough electricity to run up to four computers, a printer, a DVD player and a CD player. Solar panels on the roofs provide the needed power.

Every page is covered with colorful, up-close photographs of the children in and outside of their class-



rooms. In some situations, we are shown how the school was built and told why it was built that way. There is a world map showing places where each school is located in the world. Twenty-three different schools are covered in this book. There is also a page of resources at the end of the book.

—Paulette Ansari, retired librarian.

Sylvia and Aki by Winifred Conkling (*Random House*). Grades 4–8. ISBN: 978-1-58246-337-7

Sylvia & Aki is an inspiring and educational story based on the real experiences of Sylvia Mendez and Aki Munemitsu. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II, Aki’s family is relocated from their farm in California to a Japanese Internment Camp in the Arizona desert. Meanwhile Sylvia’s family rents their farm and moves in. Both young girls face racial and ethnic prejudice in their everyday lives; Aki is forced to leave her own home as mistrust and anger towards Japanese increase in the country, while Sylvia, because of her Mexican heritage, is not allowed to enroll in the “white” school in her neighborhood.

The novel describes vividly the confusion and sadness these girls suffered under difficult circumstances—Sylvia feels that she is treated like “second-best people,” while Aki begins to feel ashamed of her Japanese roots. With willpower and the support of their loving families, the girls show how important it is to respect our uniqueness and the common humanity we all share.

Sylvia & Aki is an insightful and entertaining depiction of childhood and an enlightening account of historical events, such as the *Mendez vs. Westminster School* lawsuit, which led to the desegregation of California schools.

Through its two narrators, the novel shows the universality of feelings with hope and integrity that children can hold onto, even in the turmoil of the adult world. One of the chapters sums it well: “To the sun and the seeds and the soil, Mexican or Japanese, Mendez or Munemitsu didn’t matter: the people knew how to make things grow.”

—Iida A. Pollanen, exchange student from Finland.

The Blood Lie by Shirley Reva Vernick (*Cinco Puntos Press*). Grades 4–9. ISBN: 978-1-933693-84-2

What if your entire town accused you of sacrificing a child as part of a religious ritual? This is the blood lie, a long-standing rumor that Jews kidnap and murder non-Jewish children to bake their blood into food eaten on certain holidays.

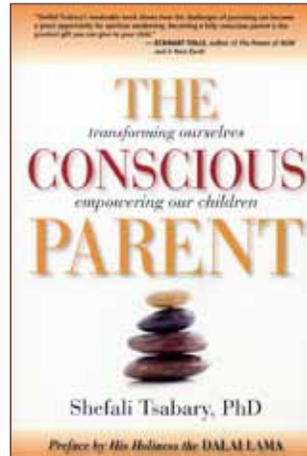
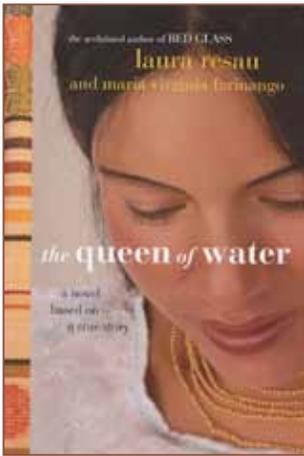
Based on a true story, *The Blood Lie* takes place in the days of Prohibition and licorice whips, where 16-year-old Jack Pool’s thoughts revolve around two things: Gaining admission to a prestigious music school for his cello playing, and earning the requited love of his romantic interest, Emaline. Though he is one of only a handful of Jews in his small town in upstate New York, Jack seldom encounters discrimination from his neighbors... at least, until Emaline’s little sister goes missing in the woods.

Suddenly, the tight-knit community turns against Jack, with once-friendly families accusing him and his parents of killing the girl. A state trooper propels their suspicions, allowing his own prejudice to cloud the case. Jack is terrified of what the future holds for him, his family and his town’s Jewish minority.

The Blood Lie explores how misconceptions can rapidly escalate into a witch hunt, destroying relationships, alienating innocent people, and keeping hate alive in the process. The book’s message echoes loudly beyond its 1920s setting, encouraging readers to identify their own prejudices and fight against injustice. It forces us to ask how far we have really come when we are still surrounded by bullying, violence and hate crimes.

—Katie Kis, journalism student intern, Univ. of Oregon.

The Queen of Water by Laura Resau and María Virginia Farinango (*Random House*). Novel. Grades



7-11. ISBN: 978-0-385-73897-2

Virginia's captivating voice grabs you from the start of her heartbreaking story—she guesses she's about seven years old—when her indigenous parents give her to a Mestizo couple. Locked in their home and bound to household and child care duties, she hates the haughty Mestizos of Ecuador, but longs for their comforts and opportunities.

Amidst abuse, Virginia struggles her way through poverty, abandonment, as well as cultural and ethnic conflicts in the Andes. Those who call her “vivísima,” or lively spirit, intend an insult, but it is this strong will which saves her from danger and despair. Resau's engaging lyrical style brings character development and place into clear view, while flashes of humor and tenderness lighten the struggles.

Resau, an anthropologist and teen author, writes in collaboration with Farinango, a young Quichua woman on whose life experiences the novel is based.

Ultimately uplifting and hopeful, this universal coming-of-age story set in Ecuador will resonate with young adults across the divides of place and circumstance.

—Hope Crandall, retired educator

Walking Home to Rosie Lee by A. LaFaye, illustr. Keith D. Shepherd (*Cinco Puntos Press*). Picture book. Grades 2-5. ISBN: 978-1-933693-97-2

The Civil War is over and Gabe, about age nine, is on the move, like all the former slaves around him. Everyone seems to be looking for someone, and Gabe is determined to find his mother. The master sold her to someone else a while back. Gabe has no idea which

direction she may be. All he can do is move with the hordes of people searching for loved ones. He knows her name, he remembers her beautiful gray eyes, the fact that she always wore a scarf around her neck to hide a terrible scar, and he remembers she always smelled of jasmine. He remembers she was a very fine pie baker.

He walks for months, eating where he can, what he can. He wisely does not stay with anyone long enough to become attached. We feel his heartbreak when he follows two false leads only to discover that he did not find his mother. This is a well-told, realistic story based on historical facts. Every page is fully illustrated in bright, rich colors and portray African Americans as proud and strong people. There is an interesting author's note at the end of the text.

—Paulette Ansari, retired librarian.

Which Side Are You On? The Story of a Song by George Ella Lyon, illustr. Christopher Cardinale (*Cinco Puntos Press*). Grades 3-5. ISBN: 978-1-933693-96-5

Which Side Are You On? is based on a true story, showcasing the bravery and resourcefulness of Kentucky coal miners and their families during the 1930s. In simple yet effective language, this book describes the hardships these people faced and how they were exploited by the large companies they worked for. The minimalist but bold illustrations help convey the miners' reactions to their poor treatment and impoverished lifestyles.

This book also depicts how the families of the miners who went on strike were in danger as well. They fought for the creation of a union that would help guarantee safe working conditions and fair pay for the miners.

In this story, one family played an especially important role in the creation of their local union. A brave miner's wife wrote an inspirational song written during an attack on their family home. The story shows how the power of music can unite a group working towards a common goal. The song gave fire to their cause and inspired the miners to band together even more strongly. It also teaches that one person can have an idea that influences the outcome of an entire movement. Additionally, the background information at the

end of the book added historical context to the story and provided interesting true facts.

Which Side Are You On? will help to educate readers about a rough episode in America's history and will inspire young activists to recognize and question injustices in modern times.

—Charlotte Rheingold, U. of Oregon student intern, Arizona

The Chalk Circle: *Intercultural Prizewinning Essays* edited by Tara L. Masih (*Wyatt-MacKenzie Publishing*). Ages 15–adults. ISBN: 978-1-936214-71-6

This collection of twenty essays, edited by Tara Masih and introduced by author David Mura, offers many different viewpoints as the authors relate their experiences in their own voices. **The Chalk Circle** is interesting, challenging and thought provoking.

Themes of identity, racism, intercultural ethnicity, diversity, immigration, etc. organized into eight parts, provide a cultural kaleidoscope of the United States today. Surely every reader will identify personally with one or more of these essays.

The Chalk Circle is an excellent resource for teachers in multicultural education or current events classes. *Questions for Discussion* at the back of the book stimulate further learning and in-depth exploration.

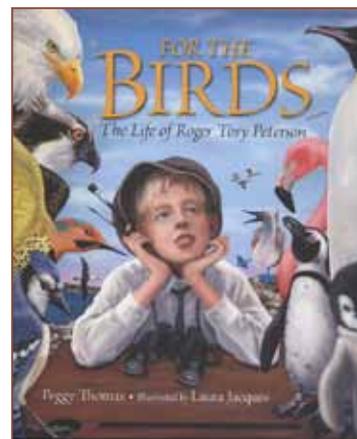
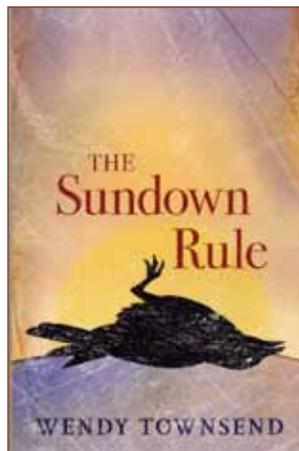
—Yvonne Young, storyteller and retired teacher

The Wise Fool: *Fables from the Islamic World* by Shahrukh Husain, illustr. Micha Archer (*Barefoot Books*). Picture book. All ages. ISBN: 978-1-84686-226-7

Storytellers the world over have long loved stories of Mulla Nasruddin Hodja, the wise fool. This new collection of stories, retold by Shahrukh Husain, and beautifully illustrated by Micha Archer, is an irresistible book. While presenting images of the Islamic world in both words and pictures, the stories impart wisdom, which resonates across cultures. This is a wonderful read-aloud book for classrooms, libraries and families.

As a storyteller, I have read and told Nasruddin stories. In this collection there are some that I have never seen or heard before, which just beg to be told. I highly recommend this delightful collection of stories!

—Yvonne Young, grandmother and retired teacher



Nature and Ecology Books

Curious Critters by David FitzSimmons (*Wild Iris Publishing*). Elem. and middle grades. ISBN: 978-193660769-3

Move in for a larger-than-life, colorful view of some North American critters photographed in stunning detail and displayed on stark white backgrounds. Each full-page spread pairs a photo with a witty text written from the critter's point of view. Meet the jumping spider, "Hey, there? I saw you coming. Eight times. Yep! That's right, I have eight eyes, some on the back of my head." Consider the differences between an American Bullfrog and an American Toad on facing pages, and forget who might get kissed by a princess or give you warts. Their comments also share information about natural history concepts such as predation, vocalization, defense, habitat, diet, locomotion, camouflage, metamorphosis, echolocation, and symbiosis.

Located in the back are further useful facts about each animal as well as a glossary. A two-page spread offers a match-the-silhouette activity which is color coded to identify the major animal groups. *Curious Critters* is a perfect match for curious readers of all ages.

—Hope Crandall, retired teacher, librarian.

For the Birds: *The Life of Roger Tory Peterson* by Peggy Thomas, illustr. Laura Jacques (*Boyd's Mills Press*). Elem. grades. ISBN: 978-1-59078-764-9

For the Birds tells the story of Roger Tory Peterson, a naturalist who greatly influenced the study and identification of birds. Accompanied by vibrant and beautiful illustrations, the book starts with the beginning of Peterson's birding passion and goes on to spin the tale of the birder's life until his story is complete.

Peggy Thomas' storytelling is as vibrant as the illustrations that accompany it. The inside cover of the book shows a diagram of the "topography of a birder," and this comparison of Peterson to the birds he so actively studied becomes a theme. The naturalist-artist is described almost as a bird himself at times, and these colorful descriptions make him all the more real. His passion is brightly painted and engagingly told.

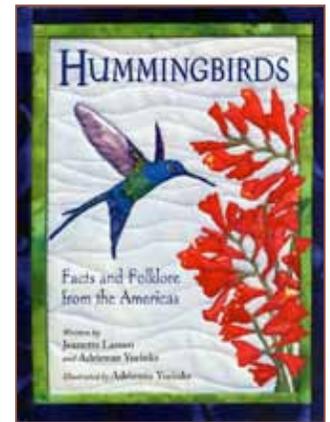
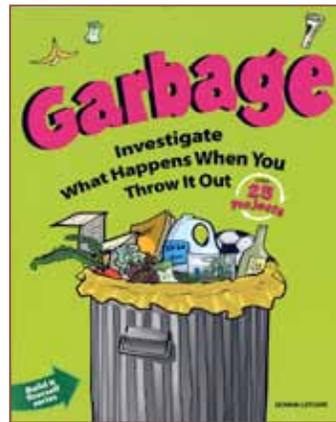
Peterson's life was an inspiring one. He was in love with art and birds from his youth and pursued these passions unfalteringly, and eventually, successfully. This kind of steadfast dream-chasing sends an important message: it is possible to make dreams come true and in doing so, make a positive impact on the world. Peterson lived during hard times, like the Great Depression and the Second World War, but despite this he was able to make an enormous and positive impact. With the increasing number of challenges that face the world today, the message that this book brings is an important one.

—Tate James, High school student intern, Oregon.

Garbage: *Investigate What Happens When You Throw It Out* by Donna Latham (Nomad Press). Elem. grades. ISBN: 978-1-936313-46-4

Our world is riddled with the ugly scars of human existence. In America alone, enough trash is thrown out each year to cover the state of Texas—twice. Such statistics are staggering, and they raise some important questions. What can we do to lighten our impact on the environment and reduce the amount of trash we throw away each year? Donna Latham explains how to do this and more in her interactive book, *Garbage*.

Filled with vibrant drawings and twenty-five "do it yourself" projects, the book explains how trash impacts our world and describes what the average person can do to help. Using the philosophy of the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), *Garbage* takes it one step further by adding "Rethink" to the mix. Latham takes the reader on a journey, starting out by explaining how waste management has evolved over the eons, how it exists today, and how to help make the world healthier while having fun.



Garbage is a well-written book that is not only an engaging lesson for the experienced reader, but is also wonderful for a younger audience. Projects show readers how to make their own safe and effective cleaning fluid, collect air pollution particles, create a spicy air-freshener, bake an edible landfill, and lots more! *Garbage* will develop a love of learning in young children, while helping them understand how they can make a difference in the world around them. Donna Latham has developed a true gem of a book, one that I highly recommend for everyone interested in helping the one place that we can all call home.

—Julian Mullins, grade 10, student intern, Oregon.

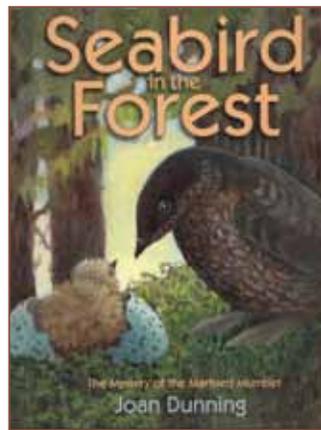
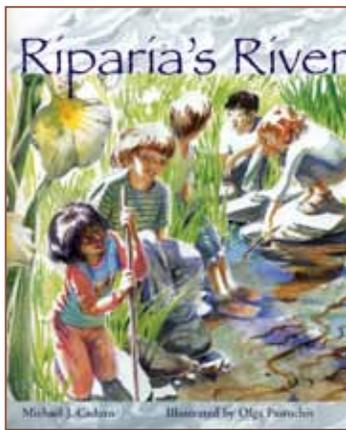
Hummingbirds: *Facts and Folklore from the Americas* by Jeanette Larson and Adrienne Yorinks, illustr. A. Yorinks. (Charlesbridge). All ages. ISBN:978-1-58089-332-9

Hummingbirds are magical. What's so special about this book is that we get to experience their timeless ability to fascinate, inspire, and instruct humans while learning the facts about these amazing birds.

Larson and Yorinks combine what scientists and bird-watchers have discovered about hummingbirds with what peoples of the Americas have told us from stories, tales, and legends. The illustrations are beautiful, detailed quilted art.

This holistic approach to nature is exactly what is needed to make science accessible to students. *Hummingbirds* is one of the most exemplary examples of big-picture science I have seen in my career and holds something of interest for everyone, regardless of his/her background in science.

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon



Molly's Organic Farm by Carol L. Malnor and Trina L. Hunner, illustr. Trina L. Hunner (*Dawn Publications*). Grades 1-4. ISBN: 978-1-58469-166-2

There are so many homeless cats around. Some of them get lucky enough to find a garden to spend their days. Hopefully, they also find some good food there.

Having rescued many cats and as an avid gardener, I can testify that cats do enjoy spending time in a garden as much as Molly the cat does. Molly is curious and playful, especially because she feels safe and satisfied in the organic garden where she hangs out. Young readers will enjoy Molly's adventures in the garden as they learn about cats, vegetables, seasons, composting, insects and much more.

The wonderful, realistic illustrations speak for themselves; young readers can follow the storyline easily. The 4-page long "Ready, Set, Grow" section has a basketful of information about what makes a healthy, organic garden and its intricate interconnections.

As you read *Molly's Organic Garden*, perhaps you and your little ones will get inspired to rescue a homeless cat. And learn also about a real Molly. *Meow!*

—*Esther Celis and her cats enjoy their backyard garden.*

Riparia's River by Michael J. Caduto, illustr. Olga Pastuchiv (*Tilbury House*). Ages 6-10. ISBN: 978-0-88448-327-4

Riparia's River is part summertime adventure and part ecological interplay. Four children who love to play in the river one day notice that their swimming hole has suddenly become disgusting, slimy and smelly. They are confused and wonder what could have happened to the beautiful river. A wise old woman named

Riparia emerges from the woods and offers to help the children figure out what happened to their swimming hole, suggesting ways to reverse the damage. The children take Riparia's advice to heart and immediately begin working to fix the problem. With time and the help of the community, they are able to restore the river to its pristine state.

Riparia's River does an excellent job of describing the complex scientific concepts of ecological changes that affect rivers in an easy to understand manner. It helps young readers see the chain of causes and effects on their own, enabling them to apply these ideas to their own environments. This story also teaches that the environment is everyone's responsibility and that we all need to work to protect it.

In addition to being visually lush, the illustrations provide another learning opportunity. The back section lists all the animal and insect species that are featured in the illustrations. Readers are challenged to look through the pictures to see if they can find these animals hidden in the pages. This is a fun and interactive way to teach readers about the wildlife that depends on the river.

—*Charlotte Rheingold, U. O. student intern, Arizona*

Seabird in the Forest: The Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet by Joan Dunning (*Boyd's Mills Press*). Picture book. Ages 5-9. ISBN: 978-1-59078-715-1

This delightful, fascinating book is the story of the marbled murrelet, whose nesting place was the last of any bird in North America to be discovered. In 1974, a downy murrelet chick was found high in a Douglas-fir tree in Big Basin Redwoods State Park south of San Francisco. This enabled scientists to discover that marbled murrelets, who are seabirds, fly miles inland to build their nests, and fly back and forth from forest to sea to bring food to nurture their chicks.

Joan Dunning's lovely paintings and poetic use of language draw us into the life cycle and habitat of these interesting birds, and underscore the importance of the preservation of old growth (ancient) forests. I especially appreciated the informational, two-page tall Redwoods illustration on the front and the back spreads.

—*Yvonne Young, storyteller and retired teacher.*

Sheila Says We're Weird by Ruth Ann Smalley, illustr. Jennifer Emery (*Tilbury House*). Grades 1-4. ISBN: 978-0-88448-326-7

There's a weird family next door, according to Sheila. Sheila's favorite question is: "Why don't you..."

—drop clothes in the dryer? [*This is our solar dryer.*]

—have a regular yard? [*We like growing flowers and food.*]

—turn on the air conditioner? [*The ceiling fan keeps us cool.*]

—put leaves in a bag on the curb? [*We like to make mulch.*]

Sheila says that her neighbors are weird, but she loves to take home their flowers and make popcorn on the wood stove.

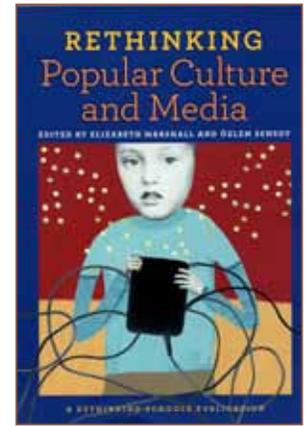
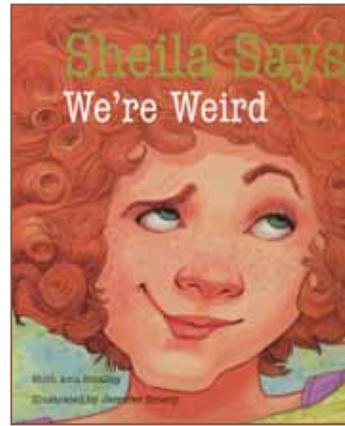
This book uses a light-hearted story to showcase some actions that all of us can do to make the world a better place. Most of us would like to simplify our lives and help the planet, and we can get ideas and inspiration from this book. And I found myself thinking that some of my neighbors have thought I'm weird for the same reasons!

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon.

The Sundown Rule by Wendy Townsend (*Namelos*). Novel. Grades 5-9. ISBN: 978-1-60898-100-7

Louise loves nature, enough to bravely rescue and animals and do things like selflessly stitch up a wounded heron's leg with a sewing needle. Raised by her father in a remote area of Michigan, complete with a quaint cottage and a compost bin, she has only one major rule to abide by: Every creature brought in from the outdoors must be returned to where it was found by sundown. But when her dad relocates to Brazil for a summer, Louise is forced to live in a busy, bustling suburb with her aunt and uncle. Though out of her element and surrounded by concrete, she continues to connect with the earth, rescuing baby raccoons and fearlessly studying snakes and spiders. During her stay she learns about the darker realities of the cycle of life, coming to appreciate and embrace her relationships with her family and friends.

The Sundown Rule, told through the steady, honest



voice of Louise, is at times dark, though always optimistic and tender. I recommend this book to anyone who seeks solace in nature, who is fascinated by the earth's creatures, or who simply wants a realistic, insightful read.

—Katie Kis, journalism student intern, Univ. of Oregon.

When Anju Loved Being an Elephant by Wendy Henrichs, illustr. John Butler (*Sleeping Bear*). Grades 1-4. ISBN: 978-1-58536-533-3

Anju's story has a happy beginning and ending. Anju, an elephant, was born under the star-embazoned night sky of Sumatra, Indonesia and spent her childhood with her family and the rest of the herd. But, when she was only five years old, she went to America where she was bought and sold as a circus elephant.

For fifty years, she traveled and performed constantly with trainers who sometimes were kind and who sometimes used the bull-hook. Anju constantly searched for a new family, but every time she made a new elephant friend, they were sold to another circus and she would again stand alone, just as she did at the port of Sumatra all those years ago.

Yet again, Anju gets on a semi-truck, but this time lands in an elephant sanctuary, where there are other elephants to befriend. She's finally free. She can again love being an elephant.

This story is special because it gently increases awareness about the plight of animals who are caught and sold into unnatural, lonely, abusive environments. The story—beautifully illustrated—is appropriate for all ages because the story begins with compassion for Anju by her last trainer, and ends with the care and freedom of the sanctuary.

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon

Teaching and Parenting Resources

Development or Destruction, a series of four books (*Deforestation, The Oil Industry, Travel and Tourism, and Dams and Hydropower*) by Louise Spilsbury (Rosen Publishing). Grades 5–8.

The four books in this series each explain a different industry that can be both beneficial and detrimental to humans. Each book begins by giving the reader basic background information and historical context. These introductions are factual and explain some of the scientific concepts behind each industry. Then, the books delve into real-life examples of these industries at work, with case studies from around the globe. Readers gain a wide range of perspectives by looking at the same industry from points of view of people from diverse geographical regions and cultures.

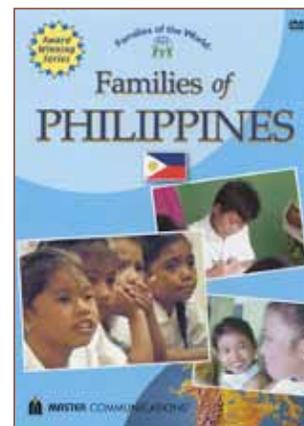
Every page in all four books is bursting with information, and it is arranged in a fun and easy-to-read layout. There are many bubbles with extra thoughts or facts that help the reader think and question beyond the words on the page. The combination of photographs and diagrams gives each page visual variety. The diagrams help to break down some of the more complex scientific concepts while the photographs add real-life experiences to the explanations. There are also quotes from involved and affected people who add their ideas and opinions, which further helps to connect the reader to the people dealing with these industries head-on.

This series makes sure to examine each industry critically and discuss the positive and negative effects of all. It lays out the historical and scientific facts of each industry and leaves an opportunity for the reader to decide for themselves. At the end of each book, the reader must ask themselves whether they think the industry at hand is helpful to the development of human progress or if it too harmful to people and the environment to justify its continuation. Hopefully, this series will not only inform readers, but it will inspire them to think about their relationship to the environment and other human beings and what they can do to improve these relations.

—Charlotte Rheingold, U. of Oregon student intern, Arizona

Families of Philippines (Master Communications). A 30 min. DVD. Grades 3–6. ISBN: 978-1-60480-112-5

The Families of The World series' *Families of Philippines* is an excellent short film on life in the Philippines. The video follows 13-year-old Khim and 7-year-old Shahani through one day each, and in doing so, manages to clearly showcase both ordinary Filipino rural and city life.



Families of Philippines is a wonderful educational tool. Because of the way it follows the children through even the small details of their days, it does a wonderful job of demonstrating what life is like in the Philippines. Not only that, but because of its dual focus on Shahani's city of Manila and Khim's small island of Cebu, more than one kind of lifestyle is shown. This helps to foster the creation of a more well-rounded view of what life is really like in the country. The Philippines are made up of over 7000 islands, making it important that different lifestyles are shown. While *Families of Philippines* only shows two of these, it effectively displays the differences and commonalities of Filipino life in different areas.

Not only does the film effectively illustrate the differences and similarities in different areas, through its chronicling of Shahani's and Khim's daily lives, it also manages to present to its viewers what they have—and don't have—in common with people who live in the Philippines. A number of simple similarities are immediately apparent—like shopping in the market and raising animals for food—but there are differences present even in these similarities. *Families of Philippines* shows these differences clearly and simply.

With this film, the viewer can watch Khim live on the beautiful island of Cebu, as he cares for his animals at home and learns about science at school, as well as see Shahani get ready for school in the morning and go to dance class in the afternoon. Life everywhere has unique characteristics as well as shared ones, and *Families of Philippines* does an excellent job of showing this.

—Tate James, high school senior, our student intern.

Rethinking Popular Culture and Media edited by Elizabeth Marshall and Özlem Sensoy (*Rethinking Schools*). Grades 1-12. ISBN: 978-0-942961-48-5

Good teachers are the best things that can happen in the lives of students. In today's world, the lives of students are saturated by corporate influences promoting consumption, competition, sexism, homophobia, racism, hierarchy, and contempt for equality. What can an educator do? Read the collection of articles written by teachers, scholars, and activists, and edited by an experienced team of two classroom teachers and teacher educators. Most of the articles were published over the years in the well-respected teaching resource, *Rethinking Schools*.

Rethinking Popular Culture and Media is for all educators. There is something for everyone—parents, teachers and educators—at all levels, from Pre-K to 12th grades. In many ways, popular culture is like a Facebook “wall” that documents our lives in the social world. Students navigate within a wide range of popular culture and media and teachers/educators need to be aware of, and fluent with, the diversity of the materials young people consume.

A key to understanding the relationships between popular cultures and media is learning and/or teaching media literacy that goes beyond analysis and includes a critical examination of the root causes. Since it is increasingly difficult to protect children and youth from commercial messages and popular culture, teachers and educators can train them to become capable critics and revisers of culture who do not always need to be protected from it.

The book is organized into six parts: Part 1 studies the relationships among corporations, youth and schools; Part 2 critiques how popular culture and media frame historical events and actors. Part 3 examines how culture produced for mass consumption creates stereotypes and representations. Part 4 brings to our attention the political nature of schooling as a place of ideological struggle. Part 5 shows how teachers and students can take actions for a just society. And, finally, Part 6 examines how popular culture and media can be used to transgress, to challenge the status quo.

This is an excellent collection of thoughtful essays by many progressive educators in North America.

Classroom teachers will find it very suitable to ponder over and use throughout the years.

—Arun N. Toké, editor.

The Conscious Parent: Transforming Ourselves, Empowering Our Children by Shefali Tsabary (*Namaste Publishing*). All parents. ISBN: 978-1-897238-45-5

The Conscious Parent is for all adults who are planning on or are already parenting child(ren) of any and all ages. The book underscores the challenges that are a natural part of parenting. The objective of the book is to illumine how parents might identify and capitalize on the emotional and spiritual lessons inherent in the parenting process, so that we can use them for our own development, which in turn will result in the ability to parent more effectively.

The book does not take a cookie cutter approach. Rather it advises us to take many insightful approaches in our parenting tasks. Many of them will apply to our own lives equally well. For example, “Focus on the process, not the outcome”; “Allow room for stillness in your child’s schedule”; “Why it’s important to resist the temptation to control” and “Why expressing gratitude to your child is a powerful parenting tool” are just a few of the many jewels we can use to adapt.

There are areas in which we can set the bar for our children, for example: speaking with their authentic voice, being kind to themselves and others, and engaging in daily dialogue with you. We can expect good listening skills but not high achievement, respect but not obedience, and we can hope that they will create their own vision rather than following ours.

Dr. Tsabary, who blends Eastern mindfulness with Western psychology in her work, has planted many bits of wisdom in the pages, like praising children with the right kind of words... (e.g.: *you inspire me with... or I am in awe of who you are, or you have so much to teach me*).

When I think about the millions of dysfunctional families I cannot help but wonder what would happen if parents and would be parents had access to the wealth of wisdom presented in this book as they navigate the turbulent waters of parenting in today’s world.

—Arun N. Toké, editor..

For more information about the Awards or subscriptions (\$35, Instt.; \$25, families) contact: editor@skippingstones.org.