

## Notable Children's Books 2005

**Notables 2005** (Titles from 2004 are indicated)

*10 Little Rubber Ducks*. Eric Carle. HarperCollins. \$20.00 Grades PreK – 2

When a storm strikes a cargo ship, ten rubber ducks are tossed overboard and swept off in ten different directions. This counting-book format story has a rubber duck's squeak reproduced at the end. Illustrated with Carle's trademark cut paper collages rendered in bright colors. Based on a 1992 news story. **OPEN COURT: Let's Read**

*The 1918 Influenza Pandemic*

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*Always Remember Me: How one Family Survived World War II.* Marisabina Russo. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 4

Opening with end pages of family photos, this is the true story of a Jewish family's survival during the Holocaust of World War II. Oma and her granddaughter, Rachel, go through two family picture albums at a family gathering, one showing Oma's "first life" before the war, the other her "second life" after the war. The harsh reality of what this family faced during the years of World War II is presented through gouache illustrations in a folk art style that show documents, and the events of the war as Rachel imagines what they must have been like. **OPEN COURT:** Courage, Survival, Heritage, Perseverance

*A-maze Me: Poems for Girls.* Naomi S. Nye. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 5+

This thoughtful and inspiring collection of poems is aimed at girls who might be struggling with adolescence. At age twelve, the author began a lifelong habit of journal writing and these free-verse poems are a reflection of her thoughts for girls from about age twelve to seventeen. The poems range from ones about feelings to humorous ones.

## **Notable Children's Books 2005**

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*Bears.* Ruth Krauss. HarperCollins. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

This is a re-issue of Krauss' story first published in 1948 with new illustrations by Maurice Sendak. Sendak creates a visual story showing a young boy in a wolf suit, tucked into bed, and roused when his jealous dog snags his stuffed bear takes off. A chase through a world of adult-sized ensues. Sendak's illustrations carry the story to a satisfying conclusion.

*Black and White.* Paul Volponi. Viking. \$16.00 YA

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice



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*The Children Who Smelled a Rat.* Allan Ahlberg. Candlewick \$17.00 Grades K – 3

All the Gaskitts have a bad day when the baby rolls away in a shopping cart, the twins' teacher acts peculiar, and a lost bird tries to hypnotize the cat. Sixteen short chapters are interspersed with hilarious comments and commercials. The whimsical watercolor-and-crayon illustrations and clever designs add to the hilarity. A rare treat for new readers.

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*Criss Cross*

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*Defiance.* Valerie Hobbs. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

While vacationing in the country, eleven-year-old Toby, a cancer patient, discovers a lump on his side and hides it from his parents. He strikes up a friendship with an old, almost blind woman, and her cow. He helps with chores and reads poetry to her, and the two care for the failing cow whose inevitable death becomes a metaphor for what must be accepted and for what it is not yet time. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*The Diary of Pelly D.* L.J. Adlington. Greenwillow. \$17.00 YA

A disturbing account from a futuristic society that tells of a young laborer who finds the diary of a teen girl who had it all before the war, but whose life has been turned upside-down by holocaust-like events. He defies regulations by keeping the diary, rather than giving it up to the authorities. The two narratives are interwoven, and through the events, readers will easily detect echoes of 1930s Europe.

*Dickens: His Work and His World.* Michael Rosen. Candlewick. \$20.00 YA

Introduces the life and times of Charles Dickens, and explores the likely inspiration for his writing style, stories and characters through an examination of four of his most popular works. Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. His handsome paintings range from lavish two-page spreads to spot art decorating the oversize format.

*Double Crossing: a Jewish Immigration Story.* Eve Tal. Cinco Puntos. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

In 1905, as life becomes increasingly difficult for Jews in Ukraine, eleven-year-old



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*Earth Mother.* Ellen Jackson. Walker. \$18.00 Grades K – 3

Portrays a day in the life of Earth Mother who, as she tends plants and animals around the world, meets three of her creations with advice on how to make the world more perfect. The magnificent illustrations are classic Leo and Diane Dillon.

*Edward Lear's A Was Once an Apple Pie.* Suse MacDonald. Orchard Books. \$13.00 Grades PreK – 1

Edward Lear's zany alphabet nonsense rhymes are treated well in this adaptation. Hilarious rhymes beg to be read aloud and repeated by children. Each silly rhyme is illustrated with bright collage artwork that provides visual links from one to the other.  
**OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Ella Takes the Cake.* Carmela and Steven D'Amico. Arthur A. Levine Books. \$17.00 Gr K – 3

This is a second adventure of Ella the Elephant. In this story, Ella wants to help in her mother's bakery but she is frustrated by her inability to help because she is too small to pull the hot pastry out of the oven, or handle pie knives. Her mother thinks she is too little to do anything but sweep. Finally, she is successful in delivering a cake in her little wagon, proving that she can be responsible. The illustrations are reminiscent of H. A. Rey.

*Elsewhere.* Gabrielle Zevin. Farrar. \$16.00 YA

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust. She discovers that as Lizzie will never age because in this new place everyone ages backward from the day they die. When they are a few days old, they

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*First Snow.* Bernette Ford. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

A family of young rabbits goes into a meadow at night to explore and play in winter's first snow. Poetic rhythm emphasizes the senses as the rabbits explore their world in winter. The full color illustrations are detailed and enhance the poetic text. The book works well as a read aloud and as a story that beginning readers will be able to tackle independently. **OPEN COURT:** Weather.

*Food for Thought.* Saxton Freymann. Scholastic. \$15.00 Grades PreK – K

Uses bright photographs of fruit and vegetables shaped like animals and simple labels to teach toddlers shapes, colors, numbers, letters, and opposites. The illustrations bring a whole new meaning to playing with your food.

*The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students.* Suzanne Jurmain. Houghton Mifflin \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

In 1833, Prudence Crandall made the bold decision to admit African-American girls to her exclusive girls' academy in Canterbury, Conn. In doing so, she made a conscious decision to change her life forever. When the white in the town refused to send their children to the school, she changed the school to a boarding school for middle-class black girls. In less than two years, it was closed altogether. The primary sources and engaging narrative makes this a fast paced read. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*The Game of Silence.* Louise Erdrich. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Nine-year-old Omakayas, of the Ojibwa tribe, and her family are forced to leave their island on Lake Superior in 1850 when white settlers move into the territory, and realizes that the things that are the most important to her is her home and way of life. This is a satisfying sequel to Erdrich's *The Birchbark House*. **OPEN COURT:** Going West

*Genius: a Photobiography of Albert Einstein*

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all the elements of a story that will hook young readers... a nightmarish swamp, bewitching creatures, tragic sweethearts, and an enchanted locket. **OPEN COURT: Going West (Tall Tales)**

*Goha, the Wise Fool*. Denys Daviesi-Johnson. Philomel. \$15.00 Grades 2 – 4

A collection of fourteen tales about the folk hero known as Goha, a Middle Eastern trickster-fool who is a man with a reputation for being able to answer difficult questions in a clever way. The tales are illustrated by a team of Cairo tent makers in the form of traditional tapestries, with bits of bright, solid-colored fabric stitched to roughly woven, oatmeal-toned backgrounds. **OPEN COURT: Storytelling**

*Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth*. James C. Giblin. Clarion. \$22.00 Grades 5 – 8

Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his actor brother John Wilkes Booth, describing the differences between the two men, chronicling John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and examining the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward. Includes archival photographs and reproductions of posters, playbills, paintings and engravings that complement the text.

*Good Dog*. Maya Gottfried. Knopf. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Free verse poems are presented with full-page portraits of a variety of dogs. The poems perfectly capture the characteristics of each breed of dog, and bring them to a very personal level. Each portrait is accompanied by several pencil sketches of the dog. **OPEN COURT: Friendship**

*Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes*. Pamela S. Turner. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4 – 8

This is an engaging narrative with many full-color-photographs that examines the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda, describes the effects of human exposure on the gorillas, and tells how emergency medical care is provided to them in the wild. It also presents ways to protect their species from poachers and common human diseases. **OPEN COURT: Ecology**

*Granite Baby*. Lynne Bertrand. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 4

Five giant New Hampshire sisters, who each have a larger than life talent, try to sooth a tiny baby that one has carved out of granite, but nothing they can do will quiet him. It takes the experience of a normal sized girl with lots of experience caring for siblings to quiet him down and to teach the sisters that their giant sized talents must be scaled down. The exaggerations in this tall tale are well partnered with Hawke's lush paintings in the style of *Swamp Angel*. **OPEN COURT: Going West**

*The Great Blue House*. Kate Banks. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

When its owners leave, a summerhouse comes alive with the sounds of a mouse nibbling

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*The Great Fuzz Frenzy.* Janet Stevens. Harcourt. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Violet the dog drops a tennis ball down the hole of a prairie dog town. The prairie dogs find that their newfound frenzy for fuzz creates a fiasco. The energetic artwork and the layout that includes both horizontal and vertical spreads are the real standout in this funny story.

*The Great Graph Contest.* Loreen Leedy. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 3

Gonk and Beezy, two amphibian friends, hold a contest to see who can make better graphs. The lively text, contained in dialogue and thought balloons, is well supported by the vivid, cartoon illustrations. The story is informative and instruction is provided at the end of the book where each graph's data collection and construction is carefully explained, with a page reference provided.

*Gruesome Guide to World Monsters.* Judy Sierra. Candlewick. \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

Provides illustrations and brief descriptions of dozens of monsters found in world folklore, including the Australian Bunyip, Bloody Mary, who pulls children into mirrors throughout North America, and the blood-sucking, water-dwelling Kappas of Japan. The mixed-media illustrations look like doodles after nightmares, and suggest terrified glimpses of these 60-odd ghouls. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine.* Leslie Dendy. Holt. \$19.00 Grades 5 – 8

Recounts the true stories of ten scientists and medical researchers that have served as subjects in their own experiments in order to test new discoveries and inventions in the fields of medicine and science. The accounts are a bit gruesome yet provide fascinating insights into the research of deadly diseases, extreme temperatures, gas inhalation, and radiation. Black-and-white sketches and old photographs give the accounts a sense of realism. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys.* Jon Scieszka. Viking. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 9

Contains a collection of short stories, drawings, poems, and memoirs from well-known writers of "guy" fiction, written by boys, for boys. Includes pieces by Dan Gutman, Daniel Pinkwater, Will Hobbs, Stephen King, and Gary Paulsen, among others. Scieszka includes a wide variety of subjects and includes illustrators and sports columnists as well as a few educationalists particularly concerned with male literacy. These are excellent essays for reading aloud and as models for writing.

*Heavy Metal and You.* Christopher Krovatin. Push. \$17.00 YA

High schooler Sam begins losing himself when he falls for a preppy girl who wants him to give up getting wasted with his best friends and even his passion for heavy metal music in order to become a better person. Contains mature language and themes.

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*The Hello, Goodbye Window.* Norton Juster. Hyperion. 14.00 Grades PreK – 1

A little girl tells about the special kitchen window at her beloved Nanny and Poppy's house from which a person can see anyone or anything coming and going. The mixed media paintings by Chris Raschka are executed in paint box colors and highlight the wiggly energy of the little girl.

*The Hero and the Minotaur: The Fantastic Adventures of Theseus.* Robert Byrd. Dutton. \$18.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a tale featuring the legends of Aegeus, Heracles, the Minotaur, Ariadne, and Icarus melded with the story of Theseus. In the tale, Theseus performs many heroic deeds and then attempts to defeat a terrible beast known as the Minotaur. The lush watercolor illustrations bring the story to life. **OPEN COURT:** Ancient Civilizations

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.* Dial. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Families, communities, and forces of nature are celebrated with lively images and

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her. They talk about winter plans, and the butterfly is off. When she returns in the spring, she lays her eggs and then rests her wings for a while... "for a while becomes forever." The story is illustrated with bright watercolors in an impressionistic style and includes some realistic sketches of the monarchs and caterpillars. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*I Ain't Gonna Paint no More.* Karen Beaumont. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 3

In the rhythm of the folk song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," a child who loves to paint the walls and everything else he sees cannot resist adding one more dab of paint to some surprising places. Illustrated with technicolor artwork that will keep kids giggling. Sing it as you read aloud and the kids will beg for more. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination, Fine Art

*I Am the Messenger.* Markus Zusak. Knopf. \$17.00 YA

Nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy has little to be proud of, spending his time driving a taxi, and hanging out with his friends and his dog. But, when he foils a bungled bank robbery and captures the robber, he begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help. In the alternating dark and humorous situations in which he becomes involved, he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

*I am the Wallpaper.* Mark P. Hughes. Delacorte. \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

Thirteen-year-old Floey Packer, jealous of her attractive and popular older sister, shares her home with two younger cousins and experiences a summer vacation filled with embarrassing events, with herself as the star, such as when her diary is posted on the Internet by her bratty cousins. Humorous incidents abound as the story progresses.

*I Could do That! Ester Morris Gets the Women the Vote.* Linda Arms White. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 2 – 5

In 1869, a woman whose "can-do" attitude had shaped her life was instrumental in making Wyoming the first state to allow women to vote, then became the first woman to hold public office in the United States. An author's note explains the facts known about Morris and resources for further exploration. **OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*I, Coriander.* Sally Gardner. Dial \$15.00 Grades 5 – 8

In 17th century London, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic from her mother, must find a way to use this magic in order to save both herself and an inhabitant of the fairy world where her mother was born. She begins her life story by introducing the artifacts she holds dear and proceeds to explain how she acquired these objects, the secrets they hold and her journey into a fairy world, where she learns startling information about her heritage.

*If You Decide to go to the Moon.* Faith McNulty. Scholastic \$18.00 Grades K-4

This adventure takes readers from a blastoff into space to touchdown on the Moon and back again. The text is a lovely union of science and lyricism, evoking both the emotions and experiences of the solitary reader-astronaut and the hard facts of space. The illustrations show space and moonscapes using watercolors that make the most of the stark grays and whites of space. **OPEN COURT:** Risks and Consequences

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*Inkspell*. Cornelia Funke. Scholastic \$20.00 Grades 4 – 8

In this sequel to *Inkheart*, Dustfinger finds a crooked storyteller who can read him back to Inkscape, and in doing so, he leaves his apprentice Farid behind. But Farid seeks out Meggie and the two follow him back into the enchanted book.

*Inside, Inside, Inside*. Holly Meade. M.Cavendish. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Noah and his sister Jenny invent a game where one thing is put into another, then another, and another until they place it all in the shower. When they finish that game, they imagine and draw the shower inside the house, inside the neighborhood, and all the way to the solar system. The story is illustrated with bright paintings that support the story.

**OPEN COURT:** Imagination, Fine Art

*Invisible*. Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 7 up

Doug and Andy are unlikely best friends who grew up together and share a mysterious bond. Doug is a disturbed loner, obsessed by his model trains, who is overly reliant on his friend Andy, a popular student involved in football and theater. This is a compelling book on mental illness.

*Invisible Allies: Microbes that Shape our Lives*. Jeanette Farrell. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

The author examines some of the microbes that can be harmful to humans and others that are essential to preserving foods in a very readable format. She discusses the helpful role of microbes in the production of bread, cheese, and chocolate as well as their vital role in the gut, where they break down certain foods and kill harmful microbes. It is illustrated with effective images, from microphotos to old advertisements. It is engaging enough for readers to appreciate microbes.

*Invisible Enemies: Stories of Infectious Diseases*, 2nd edit. Jeanette Farrell. Farrar. \$18.00 Grades 5 – 8

This revised edition from 1998 includes the story of man's fight against seven major dangerous diseases including smallpox, leprosy, plague, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, and AIDS. A new section on smallpox offers a discussion of the Russian biological weapons development program plus the controversial smallpox vaccination plans following September 11, 2001. **OPEN COURT:** From Mystery to Medicine

*In God's Hands*. Lawrence Kushner and Gary Schmidt. Jewish Lights Pub. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 4

While contemplating their problems in a synagogue, Jacob and David, one man rich, the other poor and worried about feeding his family, unknowingly cross paths and come to realize their role in making miracles happen. Inspired by an ancient legend. Illustrated with folk-style paintings. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*Ish*. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick. \$14.00 2004 Grades K – 3

Ramon loses confidence in his ability to draw, but his sister gives him a new perspective on things by telling him a house can be "house-ish" or a fish "fish-ish". Thinking "ish-ly" re-inspires him to let his artwork flow. Illustrated with simple black-line artwork





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*Leaf Man*. Lois Ehlert. Harcourt. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

A man made of leaves blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him in this poetic and well designed book. The pages are die-cut into the shape of leaves and designed using brilliant fall colors. Use as an introduction to fall when talking about seasons, or to explore the imagination of young children. The author/illustrator explains in a concluding note how she created the illustrations from color copies of the leaves she collected. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*Leonardo da Vinci*. (Giants of Science) Kathleen Krull. Viking \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

A biography of Leonardo da Vinci focusing on his scientific rather than his artistic work. This lively biography is the first in a new series *Giants of Science*. Krull has a great gift of engaging readers with her lively text. Illustrated with occasional pen-and-ink drawings.

*Leonardo, the Terrible Monster*. Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Regardless of all his efforts, Leonardo the monster simply cannot seem to frighten anyone, until he meets the perfect nervous little boy. The monster act makes Sam cry, but not, Sam says, because he's scared. Sam reveals he's having a very bad day. Leonardo decides that "instead of being a terrible monster, he would become a wonderful friend." Illustrated with spare uncluttered illustrations. **OPEN COURT:** Courage, Friendship

*Let it Begin Here! Lexington & Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution*. Dennis F. Fradin. Walker. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

Presents a short history of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and describes how the rebel leaders were warned of the approaching British and the standoff between seventy Lexington militiamen and two hundred fifty British regulars. Fradin uses active verbs and present tense to create a vivid you-are-there account. The appealing format and double page illustrations make it a good read aloud choice. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*Let me Play: the Story of Title IX: the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America*. Karen Blumenthal. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Examines Title IX, the 1972 legislation that mandated that schools receiving federal funds could not discriminate on the basis of gender and focuses on its effects in schools, politics, sports and the culture as a whole. Human-interest stories personalize the issues, and photographs illustrate the challenges of the battle. **OPEN COURT:** Cooperation and Competition

*Let's Talk About Race*. Julius Lester. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 5

This book introduces the aspect of race as just one part of an individual's life story. He asks questions of his young readers and encourages them to explore who they are and to tell their own stories. The illustrations are bold and bright, blending and enhancing the text. This is an excellent vehicle to open up discussions about families and race. **OPEN COURT:** Heritage



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decides to use the sock for a cap. Unsuccessful in locating the mate, Lizette's mother helps out by knitting a matching sock. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*Long-Long's New Year: a Story about the Chinese Spring Festival.* Catherine Gower. Tuttle. \$15.00 Grades K – 3

Long-Long helps his Grandfather sell vegetables at the market so his family can make money for the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) celebration. When he and Grandpa run into trouble, Long-Long wonders if they will sell enough to make do. The story is accompanied by detailed drawings that are brightened with colorful washes. Most stories about the Chinese New Year focus on a Chinese-American child's experience. This title will be a useful addition since it is set in China. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and its People (Holidays from other cultures).

*Looking for Alaska: A Novel.* Green, John. Dutton. \$16.00 YA

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks. The Alaska of the title is a fascinating and vivid girl that is seen through Miles' eyes. His experience at the prep school is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash that takes Alaska's life.

*Looking for Jaguar and Other Rain Forest Poems.* Katz, Susan. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

This is a collection of 19 poems about the plants and animals of the rain forest. The poems are accompanied by a section with facts and a two-page essay on rain forests and their significance. The illustrations are lush, and softly detailed paintings that show the habitat as a shadowy and misty atmosphere. **OPEN COURT:** Ecology

*Looking for Lucy Buick.* Rita Murphy. Delacorte \$16.00 YA

Following the death of her favorite adoptive aunt, Lucy goes searching for her biological family who abandoned her in an old Buick eighteen years before.

*Love, Cajun Style.* Diane Les Becuets. Bloomsbury. \$17.00 YA

Teenage Lucy learns about life and love with the help of her friends over the course of one hot Louisiana summer before her senior year of high school. This is a quick-moving story focusing how the girls cope with the tensions of sexuality in their small Louisiana town. Not all characters make good decisions, but the love of the three friends for each other heals wounds.

*Magic or Madness.* Larbalestier, Justine. Penguin. \$17.00 Grades 8 – 11

From the Sydney, Australia, home of a grandmother she believes is a witch, fifteen-year-old Reason Cansino is magically transported to New York City, where she discovers that friends and foes can be hard to distinguish. This is a compelling mystery that is the first of a proposed trilogy.

*Mahjong all Day Long.* Ginnie Lo. Walker. \$17.00 Grades K – 2

Describes the role of the game mahjong in keeping love, togetherness, and tradition alive in a Chinese American family. Includes terms related to mahjong, presented in Chinese characters and English translations. The artwork reflects the stylized engravings on

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*Mimus*. Lilli Thal. Annick. \$20.00 Grades 8 – 10

Twelve-year old Prince Florin encounters a devastating betrayal that separates him from his father and loyal followers, placing him as a lowly apprentice to the spiteful and wily court jester, Mimus. This is a sophisticated and engrossing historical tale by a writer who brings exceptional attention to detail, character development, and theme.

*The Misadventures of Maude March, or, Trouble Rides a Fast Horse*. Audrey Coulombis. Random House. \$20.00 Grades 5 – 8

Sallie March, 11, devotee of dime novels, narrates this rollicking Wild West adventure. When she and her sister, Maude, are orphaned for the *second*

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At the neighborhood pool, six-year-old Lily has a best friend all picked out, seven-year-old Tamika. But unfortunately the difference of just one year is sometimes very large. In the end Lily gives up on wanting a friend who doesn't want her and finds someone even better with whom to share her summer. Illustrated with luscious watercolor paintings that capture the summer setting. **OPEN COURT:** Finding Friends

*My Big Brother.* Miriam Cohen. Star Bright. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

When his big brother leaves to become a soldier, a boy does what he can to take his place in the family. He helps his younger brother shoot baskets, compliments Mama on Sundays, and tries to fill the huge void left by his older brother's absence. Illustrated with soft watercolor artwork that complements this poignant story. **OPEN COURT:** Kindness

*My Daddy is a Giant.* Carl Norac. Clarion. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 1

To a little boy his daddy seems so large that he needs a ladder to cuddle him, so tall that birds nest in his hair, and so strong he can kick a soccer ball to the moon. "But I'm not scared of anything when I'm in my daddy's arms." This line captures the essence of this quiet offering and will certainly speak to all children.

*My Mom's Having a Bab*

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*The Neat Line: Scribbling Through Mother Goose.* Pamela D. Edwards. HarperCollins. \$17.00  
Grades PreK – 3

A young scribble matures into a neat line, and then wriggles into a book of nursery rhymes where he transforms himself into different objects to assist the characters he meets there. For Little Boy Blue, he becomes a horn to call the sheep back, for little Miss Muffet, a bird to frighten the spider away. This is a unique look at nursery rhymes, and will bring them to a whole new audience of children and will provide children with inspiration to create new rescues for other nursery rhyme characters. Illustrated with large cartoon paintings that are outlined with thick, bold lines and framed by book pages on either side. **OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories

*Nora's Ark.* Natalie Kinsey-Warnock. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 2 – 5

This story takes place during the Vermont flood of 1927 that left many areas under water and many people and animals dead. Grandpa is building a new house on a hill, and when rain pours down, Grandpa sets out to help a neighbors round up his animals while Nora and Grandma head for the new house on the hill. They are soon joined by many neighbors and animals whose homes and livestock are lost to wait out the storm. The story is illustrated with paintings that reflect the warmth of family life. **OPEN COURT:** **Survival**, Courage

*Not the End of the World.* Geraldine McCaughrean. Harper Tempest. \$18.00 YA

Noah's daughter, daughters-in-law, sons, wife, and the animals describe what it was like to be aboard the ark while they watched everyone around them drown. The author is able to accurately show what life onboard might really have been like for Noah and family.

*Oh, No! Where are my Pants? and Other Disasters: Poems.* Lee B. Hopkins. HarperCollins. 17.00  
Grades 2 – 5

This is a collection of poems that shows those little moments of being human that we would just as soon forget; how it feels when a friend moves, or a beloved pet dies, the embarrassment of swinging and missing the ball in a game.



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*The Orpheus Obsession.* Dakota Lane. HarperCollins. \$15.00 YA

Sixteen-year-old Anooshka Stargirl, whose home life is less than rosy, meets a rock singer named Orpheus and finds her obsession with him drawing her into his world. This lyrical, angst-filled story will appeal to teens looking for an edgy love story.

*Oscar's Half Birthday.* Bob Graham. Candlewick. \$17.00 PreS – K

To celebrate his half birthday, Oscar and his mixed race family go out for a picnic. This multicultural story is full of the joy of childhood, family, and community as the whole hillside joins in singing happy birthday to Oscar. The sounds heard at the park, such as the "tickety-clack, tickety-clack" of the train on the overhead tracks, make this book an especially good read aloud choice. **OPEN COURT:** Our Country and its People.

*Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk About AIDS.* Deborah Ellis. Fitzhenry & Whiteside \$19.00 Grades 5 – 8

Deborah Ellis traveled to Malawi and Zambia in 2003 to meet with children affected by the AIDS crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. This book is a record of her interviews with children living in a variety of different situations, from prisons and the street to hospitals and relatives' houses. Although their stories are sad, there are also touching and hopeful moments in this book, particularly when the children talk about their dreams for the future.

*The Pea Blossom.* Amy L. Poole. Holiday. \$17.00 Grades 1 – 3

In a retelling of a Hans Christian Anderson story, and set in Beijing, China, five little peas wait inside their pod to see what life will bring. Four have lofty aspirations, and the fifth simply says, "I shall go wherever it is that I am meant to." A young boy finds the peas and blows them from his peashooter. The first four meet an untimely end, but the fifth finds a place to grow on the windowsill of a very sick little girl. As the pea begins to grow, the little girl becomes healthier and healthier. Illustrated with delicate and lovely watercolors. **OPEN COURT:** Storytelling

*Pearl's New Skates.* Holly Keller. Greenwillow. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

Pearl is delighted with her birthday skates and imagines herself skating like "a ballerina on the ice." Because they have a single blade, learning to use them is harder than she expects, and she gives up on her first try. Encouraged by her uncle who takes Pearl to the pond early in the morning before anyone else is there, she learns to start slowly, stay upright, and enjoy herself. Illustrated with attractive pastel and watercolor art. This provides children with a good example of someone accepting the failures and frustrations that come with learning something new. **OPEN COURT:** Keep Trying

*Peeps: a Novel.* Scott Westerfield. Penguin \$18.00 YA

Cal Thompson is a carrier of a parasite that causes vampirism, and must hunt down all of the girlfriends he has unknowingly infected. Both medical thriller and science fiction, this is a fast-paced, captivating modern vampire story that is enriched with biology and history.

*The Penderwicks: a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.* Jeanne Birdsall. Knopf. \$18.00 Grades 4 – 6

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While vacationing with their widowed father in a cottage on an estate in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Throughout the book problems are solved and lessons learned in this wonderful, humorous book.

*The Perfect Shot.* Elaine Marie Alphin. Carolrhoda. \$17.00 YA

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were murdered; however, the upcoming trial and a high school history assignment forces him to face the past. Adding to the suspense, early in the story readers learn that Brian has been shot, and appears to be dying. The story is then told in flashbacks, as his life passes before him.

*Photo by Brady: A Picture of the Civil War.* Jennifer Armstrong. Atheneum. \$19.00 Grades 5 – 8

Armstrong presents a story like narrative of the Civil War using photographs taken under the direction of Mathew B. Brady that is full of fascinating details, many drawn from soldiers' diaries and letters. These images were either posed or were of still objects since it took up to 10 seconds to take a picture in the 1860s. It presents the first visual images of war for Americans, images that are far different from those of war today.

*A Play's the Thing.* Alike. HarperCollins. \$18.00 Grades K – 3

José is reluctant to take part in a production of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, but the confidence of his teacher, the team spirit of his classmates, and the response of the audience, including his proud mother, change his attitude. The story is told mostly through speech bubbles and tidy panel watercolor illustrations.

*The Game of Silence.* Louise Erdrich. HarperCollins. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Nine-year-old Omakayas, of the Ojibwa tribe, and her family are forced to leave their island on Lake Superior in 1850 when white settlers move into the territory, and realizes that the things that are the most important to her is her home and way of life. This is a satisfying sequel to Erdrich's *The Birchbark House*. **OPEN COURT:** Going West

*Genius: a Photobiography of Albert Einstein.* Marfe F. Delano. National Geographic. \$18.00 Grades 4 – 8

The life of Albert Einstein is told through a myriad of pictures and a strong narrative with wonderfully simple explanations of many of his theories. The black-and-white and sepia photographs throughout the book follow Einstein from boyhood to old age and show him in a variety of settings. The overall effect will bring Einstein to life for young readers.

**OPEN COURT:** Taking a Stand

*The Prairie Builders: Reconstructing America's Lost Grasslands.* Sneed B. Collard, III. Houghton. \$17.00 Grades 4 – 8

Collard documents the efforts of volunteers, community activists and dozens of field scientists in reconstructing a tallgrass prairie from 2,500 acres of farmland to serve as a wildlife preserve and teaching center known as the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa. Striking full-color photographs capture the beauty of the prairie, as well as the efforts to rebuild a prairie habitat. **OPEN COURT:** Ecology

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*Precious and the Boo Hag*. Patricia Kissack. Atheneum. \$17.00 Grades K – 3

This is a lively tale that feels like a folktale, about choosing right when faced with temptation. Precious stays home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields. Her brother has warned her about the horrifying Boo Hag who will try to get her to disobey her mama. When the boo hag shows up in a disguise, Precious isn't fooled, and proves herself to be smart, and sings a defiant song to keep her out. **OPEN COURT:**  
Courage

*Prehistoric Actual Size*. Steve Jenkins. Houghton \$16.00 Grades K – 4

This is an exploration of the size of various dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals from the beginning of life to about 3 million years ago. The book is designed in the same style as Jenkins' 2004 *Actual Size*, a presentation of relative si

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nurse and his mother the carpenter. Presented in Spanish and English.

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unaware that they are focusing on a key reading skill: phonemic awareness. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*The Sacrifice*. Kathleen Benner Duple. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00 Grades 5 – 8

Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom.

*Saint Francis and the Wolf*. Richard Egielski. Laura Geringer Books. \$17.00 Grades 3 – 6

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with the family going into hiding in Amsterdam. The middle section is an invented diary of Margot Frank, Anne's older sister, and the third section returns to the nonfiction format and provides details of the horrors of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen where the lives of Anne, Margot, and their mother ends, as well as the efforts of Otto Frank to find his daughters after the war. **OPEN COURT: Survival, Perseverance**

*Sholom's Treasure: How Sholom Aleichem Became a Writer.* Erica Silverman. Farrar. \$16.00  
Grades 1 – 4

This is the story of the Yiddish comic writer, Sholom Aleichem, who as a young boy, grew up in a family of 12 children in a Russian shtetl. The story is constructed in a series of episodes, painting a difficult life, but one in which the young boy could always find humor. He grew up to be a beloved storyteller, using familiar people and places to paint a picture of Jewish life in th

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the elimination of the disease, and its potential use as a terrorist weapon. It brings forth the impact of the epidemic on Western history and society. Illustrated with archival materials and reproduced paintings. Pair with *Fever 1773* and *An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*So Happy!* Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

A thirsty seed, a young boy, and a little rabbit all experience changes when a long awaited rain finally arrives to the desert. The circular tale has a southwest flavor, and is enhanced by Anita Lobel's watercolor and gouache illustrations in a style reminiscent of Van Gogh. **OPEN COURT:** Sharing Stories

*So, What's It Like to Be a Cat?* Karla Kuskin. Atheneum. \$14.00 Grades PreK – 2

A cat answers a young child's questions about such things as how much and where it sleeps, and whether or not it likes living with people. The watercolor cartoons perfectly capture the range of expressions, postures, and mischievous ways of cats and are set against crisp white backgrounds. The rhyming text makes it a good read aloud choice. **OPEN COURT:** Let's Read

*Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems.* Joyce Sidman. Houghton. \$16.00  
Grades K – 3

Seasons set the stage for a celebration of the diverse life of ponds in this collection of poems that provides a look at some of the animals, insects, and plants that are found in ponds. The poems are accompanied with information about each subject. A variety of poetic forms are presented, such as haiku and rhymed and unrhymed verse. The plants and animals of the pond come alive in the bold woodcut prints, which are hand-colored in a palette of cool colors. **OPEN COURT:** Animals, Ecology

*A Splendid Friend, Indeed.* Suzanne Bloom. Boyds Mills. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 2

An inquisitive goose endears himself to a studious polar bear who is trying to practice quiet activities such as reading, writing and thinking. When Goose presents Bear with a note that proclaims Polar Bear as his splendid friend, he responds with a big bear hug. The oversized text makes this an accessible story for beginning readers as well as a good choice for story time about friendship and sharing. **OPEN COURT:** Finding Friends

*Stars Beneath your Bed: the Surprising Story of Dust.* April P. Sayre. Greenwillow. \$17.00  
Grades PreK – 3

In simple yet poetic free verse text, the different kinds of dust such as pollen, house dust, dirt from the farmer's plow, dust storms, fires, and ash from volcanoes is discussed and shown in full-page elegant paintings. This is a book that will be useful in classrooms, as it is both straightforward for young children as well as quite interesting for older elementary children.

*Ste-e-e-eamboat a-comin'!* Jill Esbaum. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades K – 5

This poetic narrative was inspired by a passage from Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*. The author eloquently captures the bustle and commotion attending a steam packet's arrival in a small river town in 1867. She introduces a variety of words the poetic



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telling that help to paint a picture of life on the river, and the story is accompanied by fully detailed paintings in the style of Normal Rockwell. These well-drawn details make this an excellent resource for historical study. **OPEN COURT:** Things That Go, Country Life

*Stinky Stern Forever.* Michelle Edwards. Harcourt \$15.00 Grades 1 – 3

Pa Lia doesn't like Stinky Stern, the bully of her class. Stinky is hit by a van in front of her and later dies. When the students take turns remembering him, Pa Lia is unsure of what to say. The children acknowledge the truth about their relationship with Stinky, but also express their sadness and confusion about his death. The author handles the topic with skill and sensitivity, a significant accomplishment given the vocabulary and structural constraints of the easy-to-read chapter-book format. **COURT:** Friendship

*The Story Goes On.* Aileen Fisher. Roaring Brook. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 3

An illustrated poem about the cycle of life – bug eats plant, frog eats bug, snake eats frog, hawk eats snake, and so on. This is a circular tale highlighting the interdependence of life by addressing the question as to what happens to dead animals in a matter-of-fact way. It is illustrated with bright colors and collage artwork. **OPEN COURT:** Animals

*The Subway Mouse.* Barbara Reid. Scholastic. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Remembering childhood stories of a beautiful but dangerous place called Tunnel's End, a mouse named Nib leaves his dirty, crowded home under a busy subway station and sets out on a long journey, joined by Lola, a mouse he meets along the way. When they finally crawl out of the tunnel and into a starlit night, they discover a world that is more dangerous than they expected, but also more beautiful, and make a home together. The illustrations were created using plasticine and found objects to create images that are both realistic and clever and have an inviting, three-dimensional appearance, **OPEN COURT:** Journeys

*Summer's End.* Audrey Coulombis. Putnam. \$17.00 Grades 6 – 9

13-year-old Grace's brother, Collin, burns his draft card and his stepfather throws him out of the house and he heads to Canada. Grace's mother, whose first husband died in the Korean War, supports her son's decisions. Grace is confused about who is right and where her allegiance lies and is firmly stuck in the middle. The extended family gathers at Grandma's farm and several of Grace's cousins also have older brothers who are impacted by the war. Told in the first person, this is a moving and engaging portrait of a difficult time in American history.

*Summertime Waltz.* Nina Payne. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades 1 – 3

A lyrical poem painting images of a lazy summer evening is the basis for this unique picture book. The accompanying artwork reflects the mood of the poem. **OPEN COURT:** Summer

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assimilate into white culture and one of them is falsely accused of stealing. Their struggle to survive amid intolerance and cruelty brings about a bittersweet ending. This satisfying read will awaken young readers to a situation often ignored in our history. **OPEN**

**COURT:** Survival, **Heritage**

*Swimming in the Monsoon Sea.* Shyam Selvadurai. Tundra. \$19.00 YA

In 1980 Sri Lanka, fourteen-year-old Amrith's uneventful summer, filled with typing lessons and hopes of a part in his school's production of *Othello*, is turned upside down when he falls in love with a boy.

*Tadpole's Promise.* Willis Jeanne. Atheneum. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 3

When a caterpillar meets her perfect love, a tadpole, she begs him never to change, but their relationship is doomed. As the tadpole begins to change into a frog, the caterpillar becomes more and more heartbroken. In the end, both have changed and neither recognizes the other, and the romance concludes in a fatal ending. Illustrated with pen and ink drawings, using the gutter as the boundary between their two habitats and with the pages opening sideways. **OPEN COURT:** Animals

*Taking Wing.* Nancy Price. Graff. Clarion. \$15.00 Grades 5 – 8

Thirteen-year-old Gus, sent to live with his grandparents in Vermont while his mother recovers from tuberculosis and his father serves in the Army Air Corps during World War II, learns lessons about life, responsibility, and friendship while hatching and raising a brood of orphaned ducks, and getting to know and understand his neighbor Louise Lavictoire, an impoverished French-Canadian girl he befriends.

*That New Animal.* Emily Jenkins. Farrar. \$16.00 Grades PreK – 1

Two dogs are not happy with the new animal, a baby that comes into their house. Their people suddenly stop playing with them, and the dogs begin to think of what to do to the new animal. As the baby grows, the animals begin liking it, “just a bit”. Told from the dogs’ point of view, this reflects what often happens with older brothers and sisters when a new baby arrives. Illustrated with simple, colorful paintings.

*A Thief in the House of Memory.* Tim Wynne-Jones. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 7-10

The death of an apparent stranger in the Steeple family's old home triggers troubling questions for sixteen-year-old Declan as he tries to make sense of his fragmented dreams, random memories, and unexplained coincidences, hoping to learn the truth about the mother who suddenly left when he was ten.

*The Three Bear's Christmas.* Kathy Duval. Holiday House. \$17.00 Grades PreK-K

Who's been eating the three bears' cookies? Who's been sitting in their chairs and sleeping in their beds? The culprit left clues: a woolly mitten, a black boot, a red coat, and presents under the tree. Children will enjoy catching the intruder as he gets away in his sleigh in just his long johns. It is illustrated with artwork that is utterly childlike, with sturdy, stocky bear figures unambiguously investigating the whereabouts of their visitor.

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*Toulouse-Lautrec: the Moulin Rouge and the City of Light.* Robert Burleigh. Abrams. \$18.00  
Grades 3 – 6

Presents information on the life and times of the famous French artist, including depictions of some of his best-known paintings, drawings, and posters, to show how his art reflected the places and characters of nineteenth century Paris. It is illustrated with period photos and paintings of Paris by artists such as Pissarro and Renoir, which are mingled with reproductions of Toulouse-Lautrec's drawings, paintings, and lithographs, many in color. **OPEN COURT:** Fine Art

*Three French Hens: a Holiday Tale.* Margie Palatini. Hyperion. \$15.00 Grades PreK – 3

Three French hens decide to deliver themselves after they failed to arrive along with the two turtle doves and the partridge in a pear tree; however, they end up at the wrong house, that of a hungry fox down on his luck.

*Traction Man is Here!* Mini Grey. Knopf. \$16.00 Grades K – 3

Traction Man, a boy's courageous action figure, romps through adventures including diving into dishwater looking for the Lost Wreck of the Sieve, and in doing so, finds a pet, a brave little Scrubbing Brush. When Traction Man receives a hand knitted jumpsuit with a matching bonnet from his boy's grandmother, he is humiliated, but continues to perform brave deeds. This humorous story is well matched with bright artwork that celebrates a child's imagination. **OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*The Transcontinental Railroad.* Linda Thompson. Rourke. \$30.00 Grades 3 – 6

Presents the history and development of the transcontinental railroad linking the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and follows the construction of the Central Pacific from Sacramento and the Union Pacific from Omaha, Nebraska. The author effectively presents the idealistic motivation of linking the east and west along with a comprehensible story of the politics and greed that were part of the project. **OPEN COURT:** A Changing America

*Travels of Benjamin of Tudela: Through Three Continents in the Twelfth Century.* Uri Shulevitz. Farrar. \$17.00 Grades 4 – 7

A fictionalized account of the travels of Benjamin, a Jewish man from Tudela, Spain, who, in 1159, sets out on a fourteen-year-long journey that takes him from his home in Spain to historic cities of the ancient world: Rome, Babylon, Baghdad, and Jerusalem, among others. All manner of difficulties plague him on his journeys. Told in an expansive first-person narrative is full of details of the ancient world and illustrated with rich paintings highlighted with collage. **OPEN COURT:** Ancient Civilizations

*The Treasure of Savage Island.* Leonore Hart. Dutton. \$15.00 Grades 6 – 9

Runaway slave, Rafe, is helped by thirteen-year-old Molly after the ship on which Rafe has stowed away runs aground near the Eastern Shore, and the pair share an adventure involving pirates, spies, and lost treasure. The blend of lively dialogue, distinctive personalities, emotional conflicts, suspense, and resourceful protagonists makes this an exciting, informative, and insightful coming-of-age historical novel.

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*The Truth-Teller's Tale*. Sharon Shinn. Viking. \$17.00 YA

In this medieval tale, mirror twins, Eleda and Adele discover that they are a Truth-Teller and a Safe-Keeper. Truth-Tellers cannot tell lies and can easily recognize when someone is lying. Safe-Keepers cannot reveal what is told to them in confidence. The twins recognize their gifts when they become teens and situations begin to abound with political intrigue and romance.

*The Turning*. Gillian Chan. KidsCanPress. \$17.00 Grades 6 – 9

After his mother's death, sixteen-year-old Ben Larsson and his long-absent father move to England in search of a new start, but a series of unexplained events leads Ben to a meeting with Wyliff, a Green Man living in the nearby woods who needs Ben to help him settle an escalating dispute in fairy world.

*Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Boy King*. Zahi Hawass. National Geographic \$28.00  
Grades 3 – 7

Hawass is the director of excavations at the Giza pyramids and head of Egypt's archaeological council. This is a unique biography of Tutankhamun, in which the author surmises how Tut and his young wife might have felt at various times in their lives.

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rest of the world. The book goes up to July 2004 when Israel was proposing to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. **OPEN COURT:**

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prejudices before they can help each other in the present. **OPEN COURT:** Making a New Nation

*White Girl.* Sylvia Olsen. Sono Nis, paper. \$9.00 YA

When the mother of a Canadian teen marries a "real pony-tail Indian" the family moves to his home on the reservation. Suddenly Josie is "Blondie," alone, and a stranger, taunted by bullies and longing for her friends back at the mall. She eventually finds a friend who shows her around, and later, a boyfriend; but it is the complex story of her family that is the heart of the novel.

*Whittington.* Alan Armstrong. Random House. \$15.00 Grades 3 – 6

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story. The tale works both as historical fiction about medieval street life as well as a witty, engaging tale of barnyard friendship and survival. **OPEN COURT:** Storytelling

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this tale. Illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings that bring the free verse poetry to life.  
**OPEN COURT:** Imagination

*A Wreath for Emmett Till.* Marilyn Nelson. Houghton. \$17.00 YA

This is a collection of poems honoring the young Emmett Till who was brutally murdered by white racists in 1955. The poems form a heroic crown of sonnets – a sequence in which the last line of one poem becomes the first line of the next. Illustrated with bold artwork in shades of blood red, earth-brown, and sunny yellow.

*The Xanadu Adventure.* Alexander, Lloyd. Dutton. \$17.00 Grades 5 – 8

Vesper Holly, a young adventurer, travels with her guardians and their friends to Asia Minor in search of the ancient city of Troy, searching for a Trojan Rosetta Stone. They find themselves captured by Vesper's archenemy, Dr. Helvitus. They encounter a variety of adventures and plot twists that finally end when the travelers are able to save both themselves and the world. This is one in a series of adventure novels starring Vesper Holly.

*You and You and You.* Per Nilsson. Front Street. \$17.00 YA