

**Allen, Felicity. *Your Sketchbook, Your Self*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2011. 978-1-85437-969-6. 48p. \$12.95. Gr. 8-Adult.**

This is a great guide to creating and maintaining a personal sketchbook that is both useful and unique to the individual artist or art student. It is a wonderful collection of examples on how artists choose to use their sketchbooks.

Comprehensive notes are included on how to create a unique and personal sketchbook of your own.

**Aliza H., Sandy Run Middle**

#### School

**Aronson, Marc and Marina Budhos. *Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science*. New York: Clarion Books, 2011. 978-0-618-57492-6. 166 p. \$20. Gr. 9+.**

This is not history from the view of kings and conquests but from farming, trade, and people. Aronson and Budhos, a husband-wife team, have done extensive, meticulous research into the impact of sugar on life and economy throughout history. This is the kind of history that makes the relevance of its study obvious to teens as they see the connectedness of the events and lives through time. Great resource. **History/Agriculture**

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Barrow, John D. *Book of Universes*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011. 978-0-393-08121-3. 354p. \$26.95. Gr. 9+.**

I cannot begin to fathom the theoretical physics and mathematics used by Einstein, Newton, Ptolemy and others to imagine our universe, its beginning, size, composition, etc. But every time the subject matter sailed over my head, author Barrow channels Carl Sagan by inserting an interesting personal anecdote about a famous scientist or kicking off a chapter with a pithy quote, to wit: "The universe may be like Los Angeles. One-third substance and two-thirds energy."- Robert Kirshner. Barrow approaches our current understanding of the nature of our universe as one would a history text, beginning with Aristotle and detailing how each subsequent great thinker debunked prior theories or added to our collective knowledge. Even when I was baffled about the science, Barrow's accessible writing kept me fascinated about the lives of the mathematicians and scientists, their passionate dedication to further our understanding of our world, and their processes. This book is a must-read for your math and science prodigies, share it with your teachers and parents also! Contains index and extensive end notes.

**Astronomy/Cosmology/Physics/Science History  
H.S**

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township**

**Barton, Chris. *Can I See Your I.D.?: True Stories of False Identities*. New York: Dial, 2011. 978-0-8037-3310-7. 121p. \$16.99. Gr. 6+.**

A teen who passes himself off as a train conductor to drive the New York City subway, a young woman who poses as a man to serve in the Confederate Army, and John Howard Griffin's racial transformation from white to black are three of Barton's ten well-researched stories of imposters, pretenders, counterfeiterers that will surely interest young adolescents. In short chapters written in second person, Chris Barton tells about each fake and follows up with "What Happened Next." A page of cartoon art by Paul Hoppe introduces each story and gives visual clues about the chapter's phony character. Booktalk this one to reluctant readers.

**Identity, Imposters**

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Beker, Jeanne. *Strutting It! The Grit Behind the Glamour*. New York: Tundra Books, 2011. 978-1-77049-224-0. 78p. \$17.95. Gr. 9-12.**

Beker gives a birds-eye view of the ins and outs of the modeling world. Each chapter discusses what it is like to start in the career of modeling, getting discovered, developing a personal style, and how the world of modeling has changed through the decades. The author also describes how models have also built empires through clothing labels, writing books and making videos and also being other kinds of models. Each chapter contains biographies and highlights of supermodels and black and white photographs.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

**Belge, Kathy and Bieschke, Marke. *Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens*. San Francisco: Zest Books, 2011. 978-0981973340. 208p. \$14.99. Gr. 7-12.**

This book is an excellent resource for all teens especially those struggling with sexual identity. It is written in a humanistic and occasionally humorous manner, providing much needed information on queer identities, self esteem, harassment, rights, coming out, finding allies in the community, safe sex as well as a plethora of current paper and online resources. The authors write from their own experiences in a very genuine, open and honest manner appropriate for adolescents fourteen years and up.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

**Benson, Richard. *F in Exams: The Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 2011. 978-0811878319. 128p. \$9.95. Gr. 7+.**

Hilarious yet true answers from high school students who "realized they had no hope of answering a question correctly and decided to have a little fun instead." Entries are divided by subject. One of those fun books to have around when you want to dip in and read a handful for a quick laugh. But beware, this fun book may suck you in!

**Humor**

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township H.S**

**Berkley, Elizabeth. *Ask Elizabeth: Real Answers to Everything You Secretly Wanted to Ask About Love, Friends, Your Body...and***

***Life in General*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2011. 978-0-399-25448-2. 240 p. \$21.99. Gr. 8 and Up.**

*Ask Elizabeth*, by actress Elizabeth Berkley, provides real-life advice to teen girls struggling with self-esteem, loss, relationships, family, bullies, and friends. Each chapter includes personal narratives by Berkley, stories from teens about the varying issues presented, advice, anecdotes, and questions and answers sent to Berkley through the Ask Elizabeth foundation. Each page is perfectly designed to express the angst of being a teenager, along with the highs and lows felt by all throughout their teenage years. *Ask Elizabeth* presents life lessons to teenage girls through a hip, diary style, that at times, is a bit busy with notes, stories, images, and pictures on a single page, but very reflective of the whirlwind, teen lifestyle.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High**

**School, Ellwood City**

**Biskup, Agnieszka. *Obama: The Historic Election of America's 44th President*. Flushing, NY: Capstone, 2011.**

**978-1-4296-6016-7. 32p. \$22.49. Gr. 4-7.**

This brief but informative graphic biography of Barak Obama begins with his 2004 run for the senate, and ends with his 2008 presidential victory. Direct quotations are used for all dialog throughout, with sources cited on the title page verso. Illustrations are colorful, detailed and flow with the text. Back material includes a summary of Barak Obama's major accomplishments, illustrated with color photos; a glossary; further reading; a FactHound website; and an index. **Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Blumenthal, Karen. *Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine and the Lawless Years of Prohibition*. New York: Roaring Brook, 2011.**

**978-1596434493. 160p. \$18.99. Gr. 6-12.**

Blumenthal has created a well written narrative of the "Prohibition Experiment". She vividly brings to life both the "dry" and "wet" individuals and organizations influencing the creation of the 18th Amendment, both the positive and negative consequences, as well as its eventual repeal. Included are period photos, newspaper clippings and cartoons, as well as a glossary, index, detailed bibliography (paper and electronic resources), and source notes. This informative book is both an enjoyable read and excellent source for students researching the period.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

**Blumenthal, Karen. *Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine and the Lawless Years of Prohibition*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2011.**

**978-1-59643-449-3. 160p. \$18.99. Gr. 7-10.**

Blumenthal takes a heavily illustrated look at the Eighteenth Amendment, including a varied cast of characters from Carrie Nation to Al Capone. The book describes how the temperance movement took root and spread in the eighteenth century, as well as how the Prohibition period from 1920 to 1933 gave rise to more crime than it eliminated. The reasons for the movement against prohibition, and the adoption of the Twenty-First Amendment (repealing the Eighteenth Amendment) are also thoroughly covered. The last chapter examines modern movements such as MADD and DARE programs, providing a bridge to the present for students who may be struggling to relate to the Prohibition era. Extensive back matter includes glossary, bibliography, source notes, picture credits and index.

**Mary Fran Torpey, Friends' Central School**

**Bontempo, Nancy Rogers. *Word of Mouth: The Food You Eat*. Norwood House Press, 2012. 978-1-59953-449-7.**

**48p. \$25.00. Gr. 5-8.**

One of the *Second Nature* series titles, discusses the impact on everyone of not having enough food each day. Since the world keeps growing, this book looks at the five major forces that impact food and the world. New techniques and research are encouraged to ward off future challenges. The banana story stresses how important it is not to rely on one type of food, in case something goes wrong. The different options recommended for growing problems are extremely helpful for our future planet's food problems. In the final chapter, ways are presented on becoming part of the sustainability movement and being healthier. Includes Glossary, Sources & Resources, and Index & Authors.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

**Borgenict, David, et al. *The Worst-Case Scenario Survive-o-pedia: Junior Edition*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2011.**

**978-0-8118-7690-2. 142 p. \$16.99 Gr. 4-8.**

We all know you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but when you start with a toothy shark bursting out of a shiny sunburst design, it's hard to go wrong from there. This handy volume provides kid-friendly instructions for surviving 70 potential threats to life and limb, from airplane crashes to trips over waterfalls, poison plants to jellyfish. Profusely illustrated and strangely informative, this is sure to be a hit with *Ripley's Believe it or Not* and *Guinness Book of World Records* readers.

Mary Fran Torpey, Friends' Central

School

**Bragg, Georgia. *How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous*. New York: Walker & Company, 2011. 978-0-8027-9817-6. 184p. \$17.99. Gr. 7-10.**

The humor in Bragg's text is accentuated by the drawings of Kevin O'Malley in this book that should really appeal to middle school students. In addition to learning about the quirks and deaths of some famous people, you get to know some interesting trivia (like who is buried in Westminster Abbey or how many pennies would weigh what Henry VIII did). Fun, tongue-in-cheek writing that will actually have kids learning some interesting things and wondering more about some fascinating people.

Nonfiction/Death/History

Lynne V. Smith, Biglerville High School

**Brimmer, Larry Dane. *Black & White: The Confrontation between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2011. 978-1-59078-766-3. 112p. \$16.95. Gr. 6-12.**

This book concentrates on the show-down between Bull Connor and Fred Shuttlesworth over segregation in Birmingham, and the key events and individuals involved. The author gives a full portrayal of both men. Shuttlesworth's coverage and determination shines through. Extensive use of black and white archival photos enables a clear visual image of the struggle. Further reading, source notes, and an index are included. This book won *Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honors* for 2012.

David Ascitutto, History Teacher, Retired

**Brotherton, Marcus. *Shifty's War: The Authorized Biography of Sergeant Darrell "Shifty" Powers, the Legendary Sharpshooter from the Band of Brothers*. New York: Penguin, 2011. 978-0-425-24097-7. \$26.95. 285 p. Gr. 9+.**

Whether readers are fans of *Band of Brothers* or fans of chronicles of war, this selection will keep their interest throughout. Shifty was an expert marksman for Easy Company and is responsible for saving the lives of many men within his unit. Much of this book is dedicated to his wartime experience, but there is closure provided as Shifty tells how he adjusts back to life after war.

Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School

**Brown, Ann K. *Roger Federer*. Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2012. 978-1-4205-0611-2. 112p. \$33.45. Gr. 6-10.**

One of the *People in the News* series titles, Roger Federer's career as tennis star and goodwill ambassador are explored through color photos and sidebars. Roger Federer continues to make an impact in the world of tennis and as a role model with his modest quote, "Be true to yourself, honest and always try to do things for others less fortunate." Includes Notes, Important Dates, For More Information, and Index.

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

**Brown, Mike. *How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming*. New York: Spiegel & Grau Trade Paperbacks, 2012. 978-0-385-53110-8. 271p. \$15.00. Gr. 10-Adult.**

In 2005, astronomer Mike Brown and his research team discovered an icy mass, somewhat larger than Pluto, revolving around the sun on the outer edge of the solar system. While it would be thrilling to go down in history as the man who discovered the tenth planet, Brown was more concerned with scientific accuracy, and he knew that this object, nicknamed Xena, was not a true planet, and, therefore, neither was Pluto. It was up to the International Astronomical Union to make this determination, and after coming up with some bizarre solutions to the controversy, they ultimately demoted Pluto to the status of "dwarf planet." Brown's astronomy lesson in memoir form, offers a brilliant explanation to help those of us who were chagrined at Pluto's fate, understand the big picture. An interesting read for anyone and a must-read for those who regularly find themselves gazing up at the night sky.

Patricia Fischer, Retired Librarian

**Bryn Barnard. *The Genius of Islam*. New York: Knopf, 2011. 978-0-375-84072-2. 37p. \$17.99. Gr. 6-8.**

Beautifully illustrated by the author, this book highlights the influences and contributions of the Islamic religion and cultures and how it shaped the world throughout history. The arts, math, science, religion, and medicine are covered in this resource.

Joanne Dieterly, Springfield Township Middle School

**Bulion, Leslie. *At The Sea Floor Café: Odd Ocean Critter Poems*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2011. 978-1-56145-565-2. 45p. \$14.95. Gr. 5-9.**

The subtitle, *Odd Ocean Critter Poems* is the perfect description for this poetic and scientific book. Whether studying various types of poetry, or exploring the sea below, this colorfully illustrated book is a great resource. Each poem is followed by a description of the sea creature(s) mentioned. Highlighted terms are defined in a glossary. Back material includes poetry notes, which outlines the form of each poem. An additional reading list is included.

Jamie Rongione, Sandy Run Middle School

**Leslie. *At the Sea Floor Café: Odd Ocean Critter Poems*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2011. 978-1-56145-565-2. 45p. \$14.95. Gr. 5-9.** Eccentric topics yet enlightening poetry focuses on different marine life from the ocean. Large and tiny, strange and wily, colorful and deadly, each animal is described in a poem with a detailed, factual description. Back matter includes a glossary, websites to explore, and additional books to enjoy. The poetry notes at the end explain the breakdown and pattern of each form of poetry used including haiku, cinquain, double dactyl, free verse and others. Hand-colored block print illustrations enhance each poem.

**Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School**

**Calhoun, Chrissy. *Love You to Death: the Unofficial Companion to the Vampire Diaries Season 2*. Toronto: ECW Press, 2011. 978-1-77041-056-5. 272p. \$14.95. Gr. 9-12.**

If you live and breathe *The Vampire Diaries*, this book provides all the behind-the-scenes looks at Season 2. There are interviews with new and guest characters and connects the show to the books. Includes *The Vampire Diaries Timeline, Season 1 Refresher* and *Sources*.

**Melanie B, Abington Senior High**

**Calhoun, Scott, ed. *Exploring U2 Is This Rock 'n' Roll: Essay on the Music, Work, and Influence of U2*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2011. 0810881578. 304p. \$59.99. Gr. 11+.**

This anthology of 16 interdisciplinary essays, resulted from a 2009 conference exploring *The Hype and The Feedback: A Conference Exploring The Music, Work and Influence of U2*. The volume is aimed at fans, teachers, students, and scholars. Essays cover such topics are vocal layering, the use of anti-language, the crafting of spiritual community at live concerts, the band as a brand, and Bono's representation of Africa. My student musicians and fans who are eager to research in their areas of passion will stretch, read, and use this fascinating content.

**Joyce Valenza, Springfield Township High School**

**Cartlidge, Cheresse. *Neil Patrick Harris*. Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2011. 978-1-4205-0615-0. 104p. \$33.45. Gr. 6-10.**

One of the *People in the News* series titles, Neil Patrick Harris' life as an actor, family man, performing charity work, and as an environmental activist is detailed through color photos and sidebars. Harris' appeal has increased in recent years with his support of gay rights.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

***Chemical Dependency*. Roman Espejo, ed. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2011. 978-0-7377-5216-8. 211p. \$ 41.70. Gr. 9-12.**

Part of the *Opposing Viewpoints* series, substance abuse in juveniles is debated in four chapters: Is Chemical Dependency a Serious Problem, What Causes Chemical Dependency, What Drug Treatment and Prevention Programs are Effective and Should Drug Laws be Changed? The history of drug addiction is explored in essays citing statistics, opinions, and laws. Especially enlightening was the White and McClellan essay, "Addiction is a Chronic Disorder," which explores the historical background of addiction as a chronic illness. Included are Book, Periodical, and Internet Sources Bibliography, Questions for Further Discussion, Organizations to Contact and Index. Recommended.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior**

**High**

**Crosby, Jeff, and Shelly Ann Jackson. *Harness Horses, Bucking Broncos & Pit Ponies: A History of Horse Breeds*. Plattsburgh, NY: Tundra, 2011. 978-0-88776-986-3. 71p. \$19.95. Gr. 5-Adult.**

For horse lovers of all ages, this book is a nice pictorial of some common and not so common breeds. Interwoven with some interesting horse facts is their connection to human history. Lovely illustrations depict life in a historical time period, providing nice background knowledge for younger readers. The breeds are nicely broken down into categories. Not a comprehensive book, but enjoyable, with just enough information for a novice or the curious. A bibliography is included.

**Sonja Feldsher, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Davis Pharr Jennifer. *Becoming Odyssea*. NY: Beaufort Books, 2010. 978-082530568-9. 304p. \$15.95. Gr. 9+.**

When she graduates from college, Jennifer is unsure of what she wants to do with her life. She is drawn to the Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine. Even though her friends and family think she's crazy, she sets out her own to hike the trail, hoping it will give her much needed time to think about her life and what she wants to do next. The next four months, spent on the trail are the most challenging of her life. This is a must read that is informative (there is much to be learned about the Appalachian Trail) funny and touching.

**Nora S. Neumann, Enfield Elementary**

**Downer, Ann. *Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication*. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century, 2011. 978-0-7613-5677-7. 112p. \$24.95. Gr. 6+.**

Ever wonder how elephants communicate? In *Elephant Talk* readers will learn that elephants feel vibrations with their sensitive feet, they flap their ears, and they use a variety of sounds that can be heard to communicate with each other and humans. Wonderful pictures add appeal to this fascinating book. Includes index, author's note, an elephant dictionary

explaining common elephant calls, and sources for further information.  
**School**

**Nancy Eisele, Springfield Township Middle**

**Dubois, Michael, Katri Hilden, and Jane Price. *The Not-for-Parents Travel Book*. Oakland, California: Lonely Planet, 2011. 978-1-74220-814-5. 207p. \$19.99. Gr. 4 and up.**

Arranged by continent, this very fun book has interesting and unusual information about all 200 countries of the world. Illustrated with many color photos, this is a great book for browsing or for finding tidbits of information not found in other sources. Each country has its own page, which contains pictures and as noted in the introduction, "epic events, amazing animals, funky foods, and crazy facts." Included is a table of contents and a colorful, large world map with a listing of the countries, which also serves as an index. A great book for students interested in traveling or just interested in their world.

**Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School**

**Dugard, Jaycee. *A Stolen Life: A Memoir*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011. 978-1-4516-2918-7. \$24.99. 273p. Gr. 10+.**

Jaycee Dugard, victim of abduction at age eleven, writes a chronicle of her experiences and mothering of two children within the confines of abduction until the age of twenty-nine. This heartbreaking account is a real life chronicle similar in some ways, yet very different from *Room* by Emma Donoghue. As with any memoir of such a terrible event, readers will be amazed at the strength that Jaycee had to unearth in herself in order to endure.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades**

**High School**

**Durango, Julia. *Under the Mambo Moon*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011. 978-1-57091-723-3. 46 p. \$12.95. Gr. 4-7.**

Although identified for grades 4-7, *Under the Mambo Moon* is a great resource for middle school and high school students. Told through lyrical poetry and illustrations by Fabricio VandenBroeck, readers are immediately swept into Latin culture by Marisol, a young girl who recently celebrated her quinceañera and helps her father at his music store. Marisol explores the world of Latin music through her explanations of neighbors, family, and friends, and their preferred music and dance. VandenBroeck helps to establish the importance of music in Latin communities and culture by differentiating the illustrations; daily life is expressed through black and white sketches, while the music and culture appears in bold, bright colors. Durango's author note expands on the story of Marisol and her community to help readers better understand the variety of Latin music and dance. *Under the Mambo Moon* is a beautifully written and illustrated volume of poetry that will help enhance the understanding of culture and the importance of community and family in any Spanish or sociology course.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School,**

**Ellwood City**

**Ebine, Zazuki. *Gandhi: A Manga Biography*. New York: Penguin, 2011. 978-0143120247. 192p. \$15.00. Gr.5+.**

Zazuki presents Gandhi, the man, in this elegant graphic biography. The engaging book focuses on the emotional events that transformed a young man into a hero. The personal aspects of the series make the icon real. Young people will connect. For middle and high school collections.

**Joyce Valenza, Springfield Township High School**

**Edge, Laura B. *From Jazz Babies to Generation Next: The History of the American Teenager*. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2011. 978-0-7613-5868-8. 112 p. \$33.26. Gr. 6+.**

Teenagers will love diving into the cultural history of their age group - from 1900 to the present day. Each chapter in this book highlights a different decade in teen culture as they evolve from child workers to rock-and-rollers to "society's trendsetters". Teens will get a kick out of the final chapter on "Generation Next", their own generation. Black and white pictures are seen on almost every page and add to the book's appeal. This well-researched book also has a timeline from 1800 to 2010, a bibliography and further reading suggestions.

**Chrissy Sirianni - Springfield**

**Township Library**

***Family Violence*. Diane Andrews Henningfeld, ed. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2012. 978-0-7377-5650-0. 242p. \$39.60. Gr. 9-12.**

Gale's *Global Viewpoints* does an excellent job of bringing the global implications of family violence throughout the world to students and teachers for research and assignments. Full of maps, diagrams, and tables, there is a great annotated Table of Contents, and each essay includes the name of the country. Topics include intimate partner abuse, dowry violence, honor killings, female genital mutilation, and family violence directed at children and elders. Provided are Guided Reading Questions, Further Discussion Questions, Organizations to Contact, Bibliography and Index. Recommended.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

**School**

**Farndon, John. *What Do We Know About Stars and Galaxies?*. Chicago: Raintree, 2011. 978-1-4109-4162-6. 48 p. \$32.00. Gr. 6-10.**

*What Do We Know About Stars and Galaxies*, an *Earth, Space, and Beyond* book, breaks the study of stars and galaxies into specific sections focusing on stars, galaxies, dark matter, black holes, the hierarchy of stars and galaxies, and galaxies throughout the universe.

Each section incorporates photographs, graphs and images, specific astronomy jargon, captions, and sidebars to reinforce and expand upon the specific information provided. Additionally, the volume includes a “Fact File” page that reinforces information about stars, a “Find Out More” section with expansion books and websites, and a glossary of specific astronomy terms.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**Fillion, Susan. *Miss Etta and Dr. Claribel: Bringing Matisse to America*. Boston: David R. Godine, 2011. 978-1-56792-434-3. 83p. \$18.95. Gr. 5+.**

Etta and Claribel Cone established one of the major art collections in Baltimore. Interested collectors, they bought over 500 works by Henri Matisse as well as works by Picasso, Cezanne, Gauguin and Vuillard. Travelling to Europe in the early 20th century they met and became friends with the artists, especially Matisse. This well-illustrated story warmly tells the story of two sisters and their quest to bring beauty into their lives. Fillion uses both the works of art and her own Matisse like paintings to bring the story to life. This book will be useful in study of art history of the early 20th century. Although not a true biography, Fillion does offer insights into the lives of the Cone sisters, the Steins and Matisse. The back matter includes a selected bibliography, sources for the quotations and sources for the illustrations.

**Jeannie Bellavance, retired**

**Fogarty, Mignon. *Grammar Girl Presents the Ultimate Writing Guide for Students*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2011. 978-0-8050-8943-1. 294p. \$19.99. Gr. 6-Adult.**

This creative presentation of grammar rules is clear and easy to navigate. Chapters cover parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, tips on tricky words, and writing guidelines. Features including inset boxes, tables, and bold text in black and orange, draw the reader to various levels of detail. Examples demonstrate the lessons and pop quizzes allow students to test their learning. Appendices include capitalization rules, parts of speech, using dashes, formatting lists, and citing sources. A glossary and index are also included. The author has produced podcasts on her “Quick and Dirty Tips” network.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle**

**School**

**Gerber, Larry. *Torture*. New York: Rosen Publishing, 2011. 978-1-4488-1291-2. 64p. \$30.60 Gr. 7-12.**

A good beginning for students to learn about the background and history of torture. It could have included a bit more on the debate itself and the international implications of the U.S. practicing torture. Colored pictures and sidebars are helpful and chapters on Abusive Rulers and International Action Against Torture give good basic information. Includes Glossary, For More Information, Bibliography and Index.

**Melissa L., Abington Senior High School**

**Gerszak, Rafal and Dawn Hunter. *Beyond Bullets: A Photo Journal of Afghanistan*. Buffalo: Annick Press, 2011. 978-1-55451-293-5. 127p. \$19.95. Gr. 8-Adult.**

The photographs of the modern struggles in Afghanistan create powerful imagery, setting the tone for this moving, real life story. The text describes, in detail, the challenges that Afghan civilians, soldiers, and police officers experience on a regular basis. The author's goal is to get graphic images and personal stories of these people out to the world, to illustrate what this conflict is all about.

**Aliza H, Sandy Run Middle**

**School**

***The Girl Who Was On Fire*. Dallas: SmartPop, 2010. 978-1-935618-04-1. 211p. \$12.95. Gr. 9-12.**

Since I read the Hunger Games so long ago, this collection of young adult author essays on many of the *Hunger Games* trilogies, different themes was a welcome read. Of interest to many will be the Peeta/ Gale question and Katniss' balance of brain and heart. The dystopian craze is explored; reality versus unreality in the games, Katniss as a media symbol in “Reality Hunger,” and Cinna's designs in “Crime of Fashion.” For the Hunger Games enthusiast, this collection is a perfect extension.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High School**

**Gladstone, Brooke. *The Influencing Machine: Brooke Gladstone on the Media*. Josh Neufeld, ill. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2011. 978-0-393-07779-7. 170p. \$23.95. Gr. 10-12.**

*The Influencing Machine* is partially a collection of essays on the media and predominantly a graphic format book that gives both the history and the current issues in media influence. Brooke Gladstone becomes a character in this graphic book finely illustrated by Josh Neufeld (A. D. New Orleans After the Deluge). Through her short essays on such topics as bias, influence, and other media related topics as well as through the stories illustrated in comic strip format, students will learn a great deal and be provided with stimulating discussion that will get them thinking and questioning further. Excellent work on seeing the influence of the media on today's culture.

**Nonfiction/Media/Journalism**

**Lynne V. Smith, Biglerville High**

**School**

**Global Warming.** New York: Rosen Educational Services, 2012. 978-1-61530-506-3. 79p. \$31.70. Gr. 7-12.

A well-researched topic in *The Environment: Ours to Save* series uses a variety of visuals to help students understand climate change. In easy to read language, global warming is explored in chapters that include the study of global warming, the effects of global warming and the responses to global warming. Includes Glossary, For more Information, Bibliography and Index.

Melissa L., Abington Senior High

**Goble, Paul.** *The Woman Who Lived with Wolves and Other Stories from the Tipi.* Bloomington, IN: World Wisdom, 2010. 44p. (n.p.) \$14.95. Gr. 4-7.

This collection of Indian tales explores their connections to animals, spirits, and the world around us. Many stories explain why things are the way they are or how things have come to be. The color illustrations and tales show the beauty, strength and courage of the people of the Tipi.

Jamie Rongione, Sandy Run Middle School

**Gioia, Ted.** *The History of Jazz.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. 978-0-19-539970-7. \$19.95. 444p. Gr. 9+.

This fully updated version of Gioia's classic *The History of Jazz* offers a re-visitation on each aspect presented within. Chapters include: The Prehistory of Jazz; New Orleans Jazz; The Jazz Age; Harlem; The Swing Era; Modern Jazz; The Fragmentation of Jazz Styles; Freedom and Fusion; Traditionalists and Postmodernists; Jazz in the New Millennium. Students researching jazz will find this volume to be one of the most useful resources as they work towards understanding jazz.

Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School

**Hamby, Zachary.** *Greek Mythology for Teens: Classic Myths in Today's World.* Waco, TX: Prufrock, 2011. 978-1-59363-717-0. 199 p. \$19.95. Gr. 7 and up.

*Greek Mythology for Teens* approaches the classic stories of Greek Mythology through readers' theatre. Each chapter focuses on a topic, including The Nature of Gods, Teamwork, Heart and Soul, Wisdom vs. Intelligence, and Greed. Chapters begin with a reader's theatre myth, which is followed by discussion questions/points, topics for writing and presentation. Following the myth, each chapter includes additional information about the Greek Gods, myths, Greek society and culture, along with discussion questions, vocabulary, fun facts, and items for assessment. This volume also includes a Teacher's Guide, introduction to Greek Mythology, references, and a fun Underworld Find-It activity. *Greek Mythology for Teens* is a unique volume because it presents Greek myths through readers' theatre and explores student interaction with Greek culture and mythology.

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City

**Hample, Zack.** *The Baseball: Stunts, Scandals, and Secrets Beneath the Stitches.* New York: Anchor Sports, 2011. 978-0-307-47545-9. 356p. \$14.95. Gr. 6+.

This book will primarily appeal to collectors and trivia buffs, not the casual baseball fan. Hample jumps around a bit, covering the history of the baseball - the ball itself - everything from materials and how it's historically been made, to discussing collectors who hunt down the most prized souvenir baseballs for their collection. Individual collectors - called 'ball hawks' - are profiled detailing their achievements, such as Artie Luran who's snagged over 4,000 baseballs including Roger Maris's 8th home run in 1961 and Ricky Henderson's 35th lead-off homerun. Hample also discusses the baseball's impact on the game: how far it's been hit, people it's injured, profiling celebrities who've caught foul balls and home runs, and unusual cases such as a foul ball that hit a fan in the chest, igniting the pack of matches in his pocket, and causing a fire. Hample gives tips on things fans can do to have the best chance of snagging a ball. Includes glossary and index.

Ed Ruby, Springfield Township

**Harrison, Guy P.** *50 Popular Beliefs That People Think Are True.* Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2012. 978-1-61614-495-1. 485p. \$18.00 Gr. 9-12.

This book concerns itself with the beliefs people hold dear to their hearts, believe completely with their minds, just know are true...but are they? One needs to keep an open mind when reading this book. The author just might step on your toes. Harrison explores time honored areas of our world such as global warming, creationism, alien visitors from outer space, the existence of Noah's ark, even the existence of God. He delves into alternative medicine, the existence of Atlantis and the 2012 Mayan end of the world and lots more. He presents each topic and the beliefs and then he respectfully and gently presents the facts or the lack of facts. He is scientific, logical and thoughtful but humorous at times. A great book for students who want to explore new ways of thinking about our world. Excellent, promotes thinking outside the box.

Marianne D, Abington S.H.

**Higgins, Matthew.** *The Air Out There: How Clean is Clean?* Norwood House Press, 2012. 978-1-59953-451-0. 48p. \$25.00. Gr. 5-8.

One of the *Second Nature* series titles, emphasizing the importance of clean air and the challenges that face the world today due to air pollution. Filled with color illustrations, photos, tables and maps, I particularly enjoyed the Trailblazers, like Robin Chase, who started

the car-sharing company Zipcar which reduces air pollution. Career opportunities are explored and the final chapter gives examples of how individuals can keep plants in their homes to keep the air clean. Includes Glossary, Sources & Resources, and Index & Authors.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High School**

**Holzer, Harold. *Father Abraham: Lincoln and his Sons*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2011. 978-1-59078-303-0. 231p. \$17.95. Gr. 9-12.**

The family dynamics of Abe, Mary, and their four sons are the focus of this interesting book. The author uses relevant primary sources to support his claim that the family was quite dysfunctional and endured much grief because of the early deaths of two of the boys. The Lincoln's very relaxed discipline created a chaotic home life. Black and white period photos complement the text. Includes a bibliography, chapter notes and an index.

**David Ascuitto, History Teacher, Retired**

**Hopkinson, Deborah. *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster*. New York: Scholastic, 2012. 0545116740 . 304p. \$17.99. Gr. 4+.** *Maybe the Titanic makes us all historians. What happened? Why? Who said what and when? What did it mean? And, of course, what if?* Hopkinson tells the story of the Titanic by weaving together illustrations, diagrams, document facsimiles, archival photographs, and witness testimonies from survivors—a stewardess, a nine-year-old boy, a science teacher, and affluent gentleman, a high school student, a young mother. The effect is a dramatic and engaging retelling of the tragedy. This is young adult nonfiction at its best and a wonderful addition to intermediate, middle and high school collections in this 100th anniversary year.

**Joyce Valenza, Springfield Township High School**

**Hudson, David L. *Let the Students Speak! A History of the Fight for Free Expression in American Schools*.**

**Boston: Beacon Press, 2011. 978-0-8070-4454-4. 195p. \$17.00 Gr. 9-12.**

A powerful and bold look at First Amendment Rights and how those rights limit students then and now. A look at how students' freedom of expression in public schools is not really a priority. Hudson uses chapters in history such as Columbine, as a way to urge individuals they have rights in and out of school. Teachers and students will find this an authoritative and valuable look at the First Amendment. Index of Cases.

**Anthony C., Abington Senior High**

**Humphrey, Sandra McLeod. *They Stood Alone! 25 Men and Women Who Made a Difference*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2011. 978-1-61614-485-2. 176p. \$14.00 Gr. 6-10.**

Each of these heroes are an inspiration for taking risks that changed the world, and their stories will resonate with today's youth. Each hero's story begins with their picture, their own quote, and **Imagine this:** as their inspiring life is honored. Includes Notes and Bibliography.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High School**

**Hunter, Zach. *Be the Change: Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011. 978-0-310-72611-1. 171p. \$9.99. Gr. 7-12.**

This book is an updated and expanded edition of Hunter's 2007 release. Hunter, a teenager himself and self-described abolitionist and activist, both shines a light on an enormous problem and writes an inspiring call to action in this book. Part of the appeal of this book is having an author who is roughly the same age as the readers serving up information on tragic conditions in our world (such as the **fact** that there is more slavery in the world today than at any other point in history). Teens will relate to Hunter's stories of people who inspire him and will, in turn, be inspired by him to make a difference in their world. With solid information, questions to spark thought and discussion, suggestions on how to get involved, and resources provided, this book offers students a great opportunity to get involved, work on a community service project, or just become aware that one teenager can make a difference.

**Nonfiction / Social Awareness / Community Involvement**

**L. V. Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Issacson, Walter. *Steve Jobs*. New York : Simon & Schuster, 2011. 978-1-4516-4853-9. 627 p. \$35.00. Gr. 10+.**

This biography of Jobs is based on over forty interviews that the author conducted with Job's himself and does not mince words about his unorthodox work and lifestyle. It covers everything from Job's uncharacteristic adoption, his interactions with Apple, Mac and Pixar, the creation of the iPod and iPad, descriptions of his bizarre personality traits, his trysts with drugs, and a very moving three passages on his cancer battle. The book is set up in a comprehensive reflection of Job's life, includes an index, interviews with family and co workers, and pictures. Although it is a lengthy book, it is easy to read and filled with bits of humor.

**Biography**

**Melissa Daugherty, Sharon Middle-High School**

***In Controversy Series*. San Diego, CA: ReferencePoint Press, 2012. Gr. 7-12**

**Marcovitz, Hal. *How Should America Respond to Illegal Immigration?* 978-1-60152-173-. 96 p. \$27.95.**

**Szumski, Bonnie and Karson, Jill. *Is Animal Experimentation Ethical?* 978-1-60152-174-3. 96 p. \$27.95.**

The *In Controversy* series is a great place to find information on current hot topics like animal experimentation and illegal immigration. These books strive to present compelling arguments for and against issues by asking big questions, like “Can America Effectively Seal Its Borders?”, and backing up opinions with facts. Quotes and personal examples dispersed throughout add to the main text and a block of statistics ends each chapter. The books also include information on related organizations and websites, additional reading and source notes.

**Chrissy Sirianni - Springfield Township Library**

***Issues in the Digital Age.* San Diego: ReferencePoint Press, 2012. 96p.each. \$ 27.95 each. Gr.6-12.**

**Marcovitz, Hal. *Online Information and Research.* 978-1-60152-192-7.**

**Marcovitz, Hal. *Online Gaming and Entertainment.* 978-1-60152-191-0.**

**Whiting, Jim. *Online Communication and Social Networking.* 13:978-1-60152-190-3.**

**Mooney, Carla. *Online Predators.*13:978-1-60152-193-4.**

**Currie, Stephen, *Online Privacy.* 13:978-1-60152-194-1.**

As the title of this series indicates, there are many issues facing us in the digital age. While being online can have many important benefits, it can also be a source of many problems. This series is an easy and informative read on the subjects various subjects in the books.. Many examples demonstrating the benefits and problems are included and the books are well documented. This is good reading for all middle and high school students.

**Rhoda Gansler, Springfield Township High School**

***It Happened to Me.* Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2011. 175-227p. \$40. Gr 9-12.**

**Kleyn, Tatyana. *Immigration.* 978-0-8108-6984-4.**

**Thornton, Denise. *Living With Cancer.* 978-0-8108-7277-6.**

These two books are part of a series of thirty, designed for inquisitive teens seeking answers to certain illnesses, social issues or lifestyle interests.

**Rhoda Gansler, Springfield Township High School**

**Janeczko, Paul B. *Requiem: Poems of the Terezin Ghetto.* Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2011. 978-0-7636-4727-8. 102p. \$16.99. Gr. 7-Adult.**

Janeczko, through his hauntingly beautiful poetry, personalizes the tragedy of the Holocaust, by giving voice to the experiences of many of its victims. Poem after poem, each connecting the reader with one individual’s heartbreaks or the observations of a single victim, eventually overwhelms the reader with the realization that these few poignant poems represent but a fraction of the millions of stories that will never be heard. Poignant and deeply moving, these poems will not be quickly forgotten. Highly recommended, but not for the emotionally fragile.

**Peter Olsho, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Jocelyn, Martha. *“Scribbling Women” True Tales from Astonishing Lives.* Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Tundra Books, 2011. 978-0-88776-952-8. 198p. \$19.95 Gr. 9+.**

Women in their own words, writing of amazing adventures of practical everyday life, were not common for most of our history. The eleven women discussed in this book are truly amazing. Some are better known than others – Nellie Bly and Mary Kingsley, but readers will be entranced by the words of Ava Blackjack as she survives two arctic winters and Harriet Ann Jacobs, a slave who hid in an attic so that she could be close to her children. Isabella Beeton’s book, *Mrs. Beeton’s Book of Household Management*, was one of the most popular books published in England in 1861, a forerunner of *Hints from Heloise*. The book profiles women from other cultures, Sei Shonagon, Dang Thuy and Doris Pilington Garimara. Whether read in its entirety or as individual chapters, these women inspire one to find out more. The selected bibliography contains books, letter, archives, film, television, and radio sources. This book will be useful as a starting place for research.

**Jeannie Bellavance,**

**retired**

**Kallen, Stuart A. *The Beatles British Pop Sensation.* New York: Kidhaven, 2011. 978-0-7377-5868-9. 48p.\$29.60. Gr. 5-8.**

This biography provides a comprehensive overview into this innovative rock band and shows the impact their music and style had on the 20th century. It is an enjoyable and fast read. Both black and white, and color photos complement the text. Chapter notes, a glossary, further reading, and an index are included.

**Aliza Herman, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Kallen, Stuart A. *Prophecies and Soothsayers. The Mysterious & Unknown Series.* San Diego: ReferencePoint Press, 2011. 978-1-60152-184-2. 96p. \$27.95. Gr. 7+.**

This richly illustrated volume in *The Mysterious & Unknown Series*, details and analyzes all sorts of prophecies through the ages, from pre-biblical times to the present, religious and otherwise. The author covers Nostradamus, future seers of the present such as Jean Dixon and Edgar Cayce, as well as failed prophecies of religious and secular individuals and groups. Librarians take note that an extensive passage is devoted to a plain language decoding of the Old Testament's Book of Revelations, which the author discussed at length but neither attempts to prove or disprove. Call-outs of fast facts and original quotes throughout, includes index and reading list "For Further Research."

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township H.S.**

**Lee, Dora. *Biomimicry: Inventions Inspired by Nature*. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2011. 978-1-55453-467-8. 40p. \$18.95. Gr. 3-6.**

This is a delightful book probing how nature is so amazingly creative in terms of problem solving and sustainability, not wasting a thing. Through the evolution of plants and animals over almost 4 billion years, the Earth has solved many complex problems. Mankind needs to study her solutions to solve human problems. The author presents many examples of how nature has already provided engineers and scientists with solutions to the world's problems. Each page is beautifully illustrated and the information is written in a short, clear, and interesting style. The author concludes that we need to continue to look to Nature as our teacher and adapt solutions to our own problems, especially in the areas of energy and biodegradable materials. Recommended for students who are interested in Nature, environmental science, and the beginnings of engineering science. Glossary and Index.

**Marianne D., Abington Senior High**

**Lankford, Ronald D. Jr. Ed. *Alternatives to Prisons*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-5544-2. 111p. \$38.51. Gr. 9-12.**

*Alternatives to Prisons*, a new volume in the *At Issue: Crime* series, follows the classic style of the *At Issue* books focusing on both the pro and con issues at hand. The volume is designed to alternate between arguments both for and against prison alternatives, while focusing on specific needs of the U.S. prison system and specific programs throughout the country that provide alternative placements and character development, such as drug rehabilitation, mental health placements, and boot camps. Each section begins with a very brief introduction of the author and overview of the argument at hand. The style is very academic and does not integrate pictures or graphs providing a very succinct research guide for high school students. Additionally, the volume provides contacts for organizations concerned with U.S. prison reform and a bibliography to help students expand their research beyond the single volume. This is a must-have resource for any government and criminal justice course.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**Larson, Erik. *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*. New York: Crown, 2011. 978-0-307-40884-6. \$26.00. 448 p. Gr. 10+.**

The Dodds, an American Family, arrive in Germany with the father serving as America's first Ambassador to Hitler's Germany. At first enchanted by the new land that they have arrived in, The Dodds are central figures in political and cultural activities. As time moves on, Mr. Dodd begins to witness many alarming events which he conveys in hopes of righting the wrongs he witnesses. For anyone wanting to experience accounts of this era in history, this book deserves a space on the must read list.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**Lewis, J. Patrick and Jane Yolen. *Self-Portrait with Seven Fingers: The Life of Marc Chagall in Verse*. Mankato, MN: Creative Editions, 2011. 978-1-56846-211-0. 40p. \$18.99. Gr. 7-12.**

Lewis and Yolen created a lovely book that couples their poetry and a small narrative with Chagall's artwork to give readers a portrait of the life of Marc Chagall. The book and poems take their titles from the works of Chagall. Following each poem is a small explanation of the events in his life that are highlighted in the poetry. The book serves as a biography, an art book, a poetry book, and a history...all in 40 pages. To do something with "seven fingers" comes from a Yiddish saying that signifies doing something well.

Lewis and Yolen have written a book with seven fingers. **Poetry/Biography**

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

**McClafferty, Carla Killough. *The Many Faces of George Washington: Remaking a Presidential Icon*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2011. 978-0-7613-5608-0. 112p. \$20.95. Gr. 7-12.**

This book tells the fascinating story of how George Washington's image at 19, 45 and 57 years of age was created for display at Mount Vernon. McClafferty provides just enough background information to set the scene for the reader's understanding of the sources used to create Washington's likeness. Students will be informed and inspired by the teamwork of scientists, historians and artists whose expertise contributes to this project. "The Many Faces of George Washington" is an interdisciplinary book not to miss!

**Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

**Marston, Daniel. *The American Revolutionary War*. New York: Rosen Publishing, 2011. 978-1-4488-1331-5. 96p. \$31.95 Gr. 7-10.**

Don't let this slim volume fool you; it is easy to use and there are great colored maps and political cartoons. The section are very detailed and include specific examples. Students will be interested in the primary source photographs and documents. Includes a Glossary, For More Information, Further Reading, Index and an online list of web sites at <http://www.rosenlinks.com/eaw/rev>.

**Jim G., Abington Senior High**

**Matthews, Patricia O'Brien. Fang-tastic Fiction: Twenty-First Century Paranormal Reads. Chicago: American Library Association, 2011. 978-0-8389-1073-3. 258 p. \$55.00. Adult.**

Matthews narrowly defines the paranormal genre including only titles with paranormal elements that are set in a realistic modern setting, and almost all being published since 2000. The book offers a great organization scheme with books listed as read-alikes to help readers find books similar to favorites. Titles are categorized by plot (romance, mystery, etc.), protagonist's gender, protagonist's type (vampire, werewolf, etc.). There are also chapters defining the level of violence, sensuality and humor. A good resource for the librarian trying to match titles to the throngs of rabid paranormal fans.

**High School**

**Nancy Summers Harry S. Truman**

**McGregor, Harriet. Globalization. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2011. 978-1-4488-1878-5. \$27.95. Gr. 6-9.**

Part of the *Global Issues* series, this is an excellent introduction to middle school students on the topic of globalization. Through color photos, tables, and quotes globalization is thoroughly explained and does a nice job of framing the issue and covering the positive and negative effects of globalization. Excellent for assignments, research and information. Includes a Glossary, Further Information and Web Sites and Index.

**Melissa L., Abington Senior High**

**Merino, Noël Ed. School Policies. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2011. 978-0-7377-5201-4. 136 p. \$42.00. Gr. 8 and up.**

*School Policies*, from the *Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints*, divides the argument of school policies into three chapters, each with six individual arguments. Chapters include pro/con arguments surrounding student expression, school safety policies, and student health policies. Each argument begins with an introduction to the author, an argument about to be presented and questions to consider while reading. Arguments also integrate photographs, images, graphs, and tables to support the research and facts presented by the author. The format of alternating pro/con arguments allows readers to formulate their own opinion about school policies and also allows them to integrate fact, research, and personal experiences into their opinion. *School Policies* is an excellent volume for current issues, sociology, and speech and debate courses.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**Moore, Wes. The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2011. 978-0-3855-2820-7. 250p. \$19.41. Gr. 9-12.**

*The Other Wes Moore* is a story which is, at the least, thought provoking. Authored by Wes Moore, the story achieves great accomplishments as he compares his life to that of another Wes Moore, who is serving a life sentence in jail. Haunted by the story of a person who not only shared his name, but also the same age and geography, author Wes Moore sets out to meet and learn more about the "other Wes Moore." In alternating segments, the book explores both their childhood experiences. I oscillated between being disturbed - the author discounts important factors such as the difference in their mothers, siblings, extended families, and education, attributing the two Wes' life outcomes to decisions and/or second chances - and being inspired by the story and the thoughts that it has stirred for me. The book is thought provoking: What does determine success? What do we do about deep rooted social issues such as poverty and urban life? The book has the ability to prompt deep discussion and debate, especially since all readers will not be likely to view the stories and philosophical concepts exactly as the author presents them.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**Nelson, Kadir. Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans. New York: HarperCollins, 2011. 978-0-06-173074-0. 108p. \$20.89. Gr. 4-8.**

This in-depth look at the difficult history of African Americans is a saddening, yet gripping, read. Its message of the cruelty and unfairness with which African Americans were treated during times of slavery and later segregation is clearly expressed through both powerful words and beautiful illustrations. Nelson's style of writing is very conversational and familiar, using words like "honey" to directly address the reader in an open and natural way. Immediately, the reader experiences a connection with the narrator's family, becoming disheartened when they are faced with obstacles and rejoicing when they repeatedly overcome them using great courage and strength of character. With a timeline, a bibliography, and index, this book will be useful for research, but it is so attractive that it will appeal to browsers, too. **Zoe E., Springfield Township M.S.**

**New, Jennifer. Dan Eldon: Safari as a Way of Life. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2011. 978-0-8118-7091-7. 183p. \$24.99.**

**Gr. 7-12.**

This biography is a beautiful book filled with artwork and interactive pages which capture the zest for life that Dan Eldon had. Eldon, a photojournalist who published his own illustrated journals, died at the age of twenty-two while working in Somalia. His story and his art are captivating. Jennifer New has created a story that jumps off of the page and envelops the reader. Her words and his art form a cohesive picture of a life cut short entirely too soon. Each page is rich in detail and impact. Readers are taken on a journey throughout the world in his photos and artwork. They are invited into his world through postcards that fold out from the pages, iron-on transfers that slip out of envelopes, newsletters that are inserted into the pages. The impact of the words, "He was gone" as the final words in one section juxtaposed with his art and his death certificate on the following pages takes the breath out of you. Teens should be inspired by Dan Eldon's life, and Jennifer New has done a great job of presenting it in a way that will capture their attention.

**Nonfiction/Biography/Art/Africa**

**Lynne V. Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Osborne, Linda Barrett. *Miles to Go for Freedom: Segregation & Civil Rights in the Jim Crow Years*. New York: Abrams, 2012. 978-1-4197-0020-0. 118p. \$24.95. Gr. 6-8.**

This photo-story includes personal anecdotes, historic records of Supreme Court cases, primary sources, and easy to read descriptions of life during the Jim Crow Years. It explains how the laws, both written and unwritten, affected the education, jobs, travel, and daily lives of African Americans in the North and South. The author treats the subject with dignity and respect, recounting the many ways the system of segregation was fought. Organizations such as the NAACP, National Association of Colored Women, and the National Urban League are discussed as well as the role of the church in the civil rights movement. The historic perspective takes the reader from the late 1800s, through the World Wars and up to the 1954 Supreme Court Ruling of Brown Vs Board of Education. I would highly recommend this book for students who are studying this time period, as it presents the important facts of the time period in clearly written fashion.

**Wendy Hopf, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Pastis, Stephan. *Pearls Blows Up*. Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2011. 978-1-4484-0106-1. 255p. \$16.99. Gr. 9-12.**

This is a great collection of *Pearls Before Swine* cartoons. The commentary that goes with them makes them even more hilarious and helps the reader relate to the cartoonist. A definite must for cartoon fans.

**Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School**

**Phelan, Matt. *Around the World: Three Remarkable Journeys*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick. 2011. 978-0-7636-3619-7. 235p. \$24.99. Gr. 4-8.**

Phelan, the excellent author/illustrator behind *The Storm in the Barn*, presents three stories of 19th-century adventurers who set out to circumnavigate the globe: Thomas Stevens, an early bicyclist in 1884, Nellie Bly, intrepid reporter in 1889, and Joshua Slocum, a sailor in 1895. (Spoiler alert: they all make it.) Each episode is driven in large part by Phelan's cinematic drawings, so students may not find a lot of historical detail here. But Phelan's presentation is beyond factual--somehow the illustrations manage to capture the emotional journey of each adventurer as well. Includes a short list of sources that inspired the author -- I would have loved to see an annotated bibliography for students who want to research these stories in-depth, but librarians should have no trouble pointing interested students in the right direction.

**Mary Fran Torpey, Friends' Central School**

**Peot, Margaret. *Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish Your Way to Creativity*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill, 2011. 978-1-59078-720-5. 56p. \$19.95. Gr. 5 up.**

This irresistible introduction to inkblot art will inspire experimentation and creativity. Going well beyond instructions and materials, Margaret Peot enthusiastically presents ideas on how to stimulate the creative process, suggests silly questions to trigger the imagination, and offers tips for seeing beyond the obvious. Introductions to "Inkblot Heroes" including Hermann Rorschach, Victor Hugo, and Stefan Bucher, add an inspiring art history lesson to this visually delightful book.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Peot, Margaret. *Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish your Way to Creativity*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills, 2011. 978-1-59078-720-5. 56p. \$ 19.95. Gr. K-Adult.**

*Inkblot* offers a refreshing and inventive approach that makes art accessible on all levels, to all ages. The book presents many varied techniques for the process of inkblot art. One can simply have fun on a very playful level, or delve into making complete works of art. Colorful examples fill the pages along with step by step instructions and inspirations. A bibliography and index are included.

**Megan Goodwin, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Pimm, Nancy Roe. *The Daytona 500: The Thrill and Thunder of the Great American Race*. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2011. 978-0-7613-6677-5. 64p. \$29.27. Gr. 7-12.**

This exciting book will grab and hold NASCAR fans from cover to cover. Vivid photos on each 2-page spread of this 9" x 9" book are strategically placed to capture the excitement conveyed in the racing stories told throughout this non-fiction book. The stories go

beyond the history of the sport. Pimm is an insider whose husband raced. The rebuilding/improvement of the cars, a description of “Speedweeks,” the 2 weeks making up the Daytona 500 experience, and a first-hand account of the race with John Andretti are well told by Pimm. She tops off this “thrilling” book with a list of race car slang. Page for page this book is a “thunderous” success!

**Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

**Poe, Edgar Allan. *Steampunk Poe*. Philadelphia: Running Press Teens, 2011. 978-0-7624-4387-1. 263p. \$18.95. Gr. 7+.**

Zdenko Basic and Manuel Sumberac have added a new dimension to seven stories and six poems in this uniquely illustrated edition of Poe’s work. Striking steampunk art that includes gears, goggles, gas masks, and eerie characters offers unique interpretations that will capture students’ imaginations. The text is nicely spaced to make these classic works inviting to a wide range of readers.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Pringle, Laurence. *Billions of Years, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press, 2011. 978-1-59078-723-6. 102p. \$17.95. Gr. 5-8.**

Pringle goes beyond the usual discussion of human evolution, of Darwin and his theories, to talk about the all the aspects of evolution. He includes not only paleontology but also geology, biogeography, and genetics. He shows how birds developed from dinosaurs, how land animal evolved from fish, and how land mammals returned to the sea as whales. Life is still evolving. Bacteria are mutating and becoming drug resistant, bed bugs are becoming resistant to pesticides. On the other hand scientists are discovering ways to benefit mankind through the understating of genetics. The illustrations by Steve Jenkins and the photographs enhance and enrich the text. The side bars are used judiciously to reinforce concepts. Back matter includes a glossary, additional resources including websites, sources and index. This will be a good resource for both the researcher and the casual reader.

**Jeannie Bellavance, Retired**

**Reef, Catherine. *Jane Austen: A Life Revealed*. Boston: Clarion Books, 2011. 978-0-547-37021-7. 192 p. \$18.99. Gr. 7-Adult.**

Set within the context of 19th century English society in which Austen lived, this exhaustively-researched biography sheds light on an author about who relatively little is known. She did not marry, nor keep a diary, and most of her letters were destroyed. Yet, Reef has managed to create a definitive, readable and well-researched biography. She really does bring Jane Austen, as well as her family and times, to life. **Literary Biography**

**(Delco)**

**Pat Naismith – Springfield HS**

**Rodriguez, Gaby. *The Pregnancy Project*. New York: Simon and Schuster BFYR, 2012. 978-1-4424-4622-9. 218 p. \$17.99. Gr. 7-12.**

Gaby Rodriguez comes from a family that has lived with the consequences of teen pregnancy for multiple generations. Gaby, a good student with dreams for her future that do not include becoming a teen mother, took on a senior project where she faked a pregnancy to study how it affected the way she was treated. Gaby’s experiences both with her own family and with this project provide a remarkable look into stereotypes, the power of expectations (both low and high), and family. A must read - especially for teens who are sexually active. **Memoir**

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Rolbin, Cyrus, ed. *Art and Life in Rural Japan: Toho Village Through the Eyes of its Youth*. Providence, RI: Next Generation Press, 2011. 978-0-9815595-3-7. 176p. \$15. Gr. 5+.**

This book is the culmination of words and photography from children of the Toho Village in southern Japan. There are numerous colorful photographs depicting all areas of life in the village. The original Japanese characters appear beneath their English translation. An excellent independent resource for grades 5 and up, also useful for teachers use with younger grades for the photographs and discussion.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

**Riordon, Michael. *Our Way to Fight: Israeli and Palestinian Activists for Peace*. London: Lawrence Hill Books, 2011. 978-1-56976-778-8. 242p. \$16.95. Gr. 9-12.**

Journalist and author Riordan has interviewed many on both sides of the conflict who are trying to achieve peace. This book is unique and the topic of peace activists is explored fully. It is not often you hear of grassroots peace efforts like the ones discussed in this book. Although the Israeli and Palestinian situation has developments on a daily basis, this book is still relevant because the subjects reveal why they are freedom fighters. Photographs, maps and diagrams would be helpful. An excellent resource for hearing “the voices of authentic peace-makers.”

**Melissa L., Abington Senior High**

**Rodriguez, Luis J. *It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing*. New York: A Touchstone**

**Book, Simon and Schuster, 2011. 978-1-4165-8416-2. 323 p. \$24.99. Gr. 9+.**

In his follow up to *Always Running*, Rodriguez continues his own story picking up from his last jail stint as an eighteen-year-old. In this book he deals with the struggles to overcome his addictions, to raise a family and to make something of a life that was once ruled

by gangs, violence, and drugs. While this book is not necessarily written for the teen market, teens who loved *Always Running* will be eager to pick up the story of Rodriguez's life. He doesn't pull any punches. - acknowledging the bad choices he made and how they have impacted his whole life and the lives of his family. **Memoir**

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Ross, Stewart. *Into the Unknown: How Explorers Found Their Way by Land, Sea and Air*. Illus. Stephen Biesty. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2011. 978-0-7636-4948-7. \$19.99. Gr. 3+.**

All though this book is aimed at an elementary audience, students of all ages will enjoy the descriptions of the 14 extremely different explorers and the interactive maps/illustrations. From Leif Eriksson to Neil Armstrong, the short and descriptive passages in this book will grab students attention. The fold out illustrations provide information specific to each explorer and are very detailed, such as ship guides and voyage maps. It includes a table of contents, index, glossary, and works cited.

**Explorers and Geography  
Middle-High School**

**Melissa Daugherty, Sharon**

**Rubalcaba, Jill & Eric H. Cline. *Digging for Troy: From Homer to Hisarlik*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011. 978-1-58098-327-5. 74p. \$9.95. Gr. 5-10.**

*Digging for Troy: From Homer to Hisarlik* is an informative non-fiction title perfect for upper elementary and middle school collections. The book is a thin volume containing information on both the legend of the Troy and the excavation of the site in Greece. There are many maps of both ancient times with modern day borders highlighted to illustrate changes to the region over time. The pictures throughout the book are vivid and help to recreate life in Troy and are supplemented with photographs of the current dig site in Greece. The book includes a comprehensive timeline for the history of Troy, bibliography, source notes, and an index. This title makes a wonderful addition to non-fiction collections and is highly recommended.

**School**

**Robin Burns, Whitehall High School**

**Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011. 978-1-58089-344-2. 178p. \$19.95. Gr. 5-9.**

This biography about Leonard Bernstein, *Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein*, is written at a level that students as young as middle school would find it easy to use and is informative enough that it would also aid high school students in their research needs. The book includes many black and white photographs from Bernstein's childhood and offer insight into his musical beginnings. The author, Susan Goldman Rubin, has set the book up to be both informative and interesting for both pleasure reading and informational reading at the middle school grade level. The book includes a timeline of Bernstein's life, biographies of influential people in Bernstein's life, information about Lenny's music, a discography, bibliography, sources of quotations that appear throughout the book, and an index. I would highly recommend this book for middle and high school libraries.

**Robin Burns, Whitehall High School**

**Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011. 178p. 978-1-58089-344-2. \$19.95. Gr. 5-10.**

From the time he was a young boy, Leonard Bernstein showed great interest in and aptitude for music. However, his father did not support his passion and certainly not his aspiration to make music his life's work. Rubin's presentation of Bernstein's struggle to do what he loved will resonate with adolescents. Well-researched and appealing, this biography will captivate readers with its focus on Bernstein's youth, ending with his unexpected and stunning debut as a conductor with the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall at the age of twenty-five. Bernstein's early life as related by Rubin is a lesson in perseverance in pursuing ones' dreams and will be a welcome addition to middle and high school collections. This outstanding biography includes a timeline, short biographies of musicians close to Bernstein, bibliography and discography, source notes, index and credits for black-and-white photos, sheet music, and concert program that appear in the book. Highly recommended.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Wilderness and Wonder: The Life and Art of Georgia O'Keeffe*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2010. 978-0-8118-6983-6. 117p. \$16.99. Gr. 5-Adult.**

This book is a wonderful tribute to the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. It offers a look at O'Keeffe as a person, an artist, and a visionary in her time. Photographs from her life and numerous vibrant color prints of selected works add flavor to the book. A bibliography, image credits, and an index are included.

**School**

**Megan Goodwin, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Sandler, Martin W. *Kennedy Through the Lens: How Photography and Television Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Leader*. New York: Walker, 2011. 978-0-8027-2160-0. 96p. \$19.99. Gr. 6-9.**

Young, charismatic, and photogenic President John F. Kennedy is a perfect subject for Martin Sandler's new "Through the Lens" photo essay. As he promotes readers' understanding of the 1960s, Sandler shows the impact that color photography and television had on the public's perception of the Kennedy family and presidency. Sandler's fine choice of photos, Kennedy quotations, and clearly written text that references recent historical events, such as 9/11 terrorist attacks and the election of Barack Obama, will entice students to pour over this visually appealing Kennedy showcase.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Say, Allen. *Drawing From Memory*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2011. 978-0-545-17686-6. 63 p. \$17.99. Gr. 7-12+.**

In *Drawing From Memory*, Caldecott Medal Winner Allen Say recounts how he got his start as an artist. The book is filled with his beautiful artwork – including cartoons, drawings, and sketches – as well as photographs from his childhood in Japan. The book is a testament to both his sensei (mentor) and his mother who both encouraged him and allowed him to grow by following the old Japanese saying "Let your dear child journey." Students will be inspired by his story as well as his art.

**Nonfiction/Biography/Art**

**Lynne V. Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Say, Allen. *Drawing From Memory*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2011. 978-0-545-17686-6. 63p. \$17.99. Gr. 6-Adult.**

This is a wonderful autobiography about the author as a young boy who loves to draw. Say's desire to become a cartoonist takes him on an amazing adventure beginning in Japan, and ending in America. This book is full of beautiful black & white and full color illustrations. Author-artist Allen Say has won a Caldecott Medal, a Caldecott honor, and the Boston Globe Horn Book Award.

**School**

**Aliza H., Sandy Run Middle**

**Schiff, Stacy. *Cleopatra: A Life*. New York: Little, Brown, 2010. 978-0-316-00192-2. 368p. \$29.99. Gr. 10-Adult.**

This is not a typical biography because there are few sources directly from Cleopatra's life. Pulitzer Prize winning nonfiction author Schiff relies on what primary sources there are ~ mostly Roman commentaries and histories from the winner's point of view ~ but takes a fresh and more objective look at the Egyptian queen. Rather than following in the interpretive footsteps of the Romans, Shakespeare, and 20th century film, she emphasizes Cleopatra's excellent classical education and her accomplishments as a linguist, diplomat, strategist, and competent patriotic ruler of a country that offered more rights to women than did the Romans. The result is a well-researched (and end-noted) in-depth view of the Egyptian and Roman worlds, and their interaction, in the 1st century BCE; the index of persons, places, and events allows easy access for research on such topics. Schiff analyses national and international events and players through a lens of "real politik" ~ politics, interests, motives, personalities ~ rather than romance and rose colored glasses. The text is supplemented by maps and plates of antiquities. A less expensive paperback edition became available in 2011.

**Cleopatra Ancient Egypt**

**Ancient Rome**

**Eleanor Howe, Pine-Richland High School**

**retired.**

**Schwartz, Heather E. *Make Good Choices: Your Guide to Making Healthy Decisions*. Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2011.**

**978-1-4296-6546-9. 32p. \$22.49. Gr. 4-8.**

This brief self-help book addresses bullying, choices about smoking, drinking and drugs. It also covers consequences of decisions, the role of peer pressure in the lives of adolescents, and the ever increasing incidence of stress. The magazine layout is appealing and the message is delivered in an honest voice. As school counselors, we recommend this book to both students and counselors. A glossary, further reading, and an index are included.

**Kathleen Gillespie, Margie Scherzer, Ellen Tannenbaum, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Scieszka, Casey and Steven Weinberg. *To Timbuktu: Nine Countries, Two People, One True Story*. New York, Roaring Brook Press, 2011. 978-1-59643-527-8. 496p.. \$19.99. Gr. 9+.**

Scieszka's words (yes, Jon's daughter) and Weinberg's drawings bring to life the adventurous years they spent following college graduation traveling the world. The story takes readers from both ends of the United States to China, Southeast Asia, and all the way to Timbuktu as these travelers learn about people and other cultures while teaching English. The authors have created a nonprofit that works on local language literacy in Africa. Fun and enlightening read. **Memoir/Travel**

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Shoket, Ann. *Seventeen Ultimate Guide to Style: How to Find Your Perfect Look*. Philadelphia: Running Press, 2011.**

**978-0-7624-4193-8. 187p. \$19.95. Gr. 9-12.**

An excellent source for types of styles: girly, edgy, boho, classic, glam, and indie including accessories such as shoes, bags, jeans and swimsuits. This is a good source for any teen girl who wants to upgrade her personal style and fun for fashionistas like myself.

**Mariah H, Abington Senior High**

**Silhol, Sandrine and Gaelle Guerive. *Extraordinary Endangered Animals*. New York: Abrams, 2011. 157p. \$24.95. Gr. 3-8.**

This informative book would be a great start for someone studying endangered animals. Thirty-five animals are organized by continent. Each animal is given two pages of coverage, including background on the animal itself and information on why the animal is endangered. Stunning pictures show each animal in its habitat. Glossary, index, and information on how you can help endangered animals are included.

**Katie Q., Springfield Township Middle School**

**Sommer, Shelley. *Hammerin' Hank Greenberg: Baseball Pioneer*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2011. 978-1-59078-452-5. 135p. \$17.95. Gr.6-9.**

This book is not only a biography, but it is also a social commentary about certain Americans who fought against prejudice in the 1940's and 1950's, including Jessie Owens, Joe Lewis, Jackie Robinson and Hank Greenberg. The book also emphasizes why Greenberg was a successful athlete. His modesty, hard work, and selflessness contributed to his Hall of Fame career and success in the business world after baseball. Black & White photos complement the text. Further resources, chapter notes and an index are included.

**David Ascitutto, History Teacher, Retired**

***Speaking Out*. Steve Berman, ed. Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2011. 978-1-60282-566-6. 276p. \$13.95. Gr. 9-12.**

A wonderful collection of short stories designed to captivate and urge LGBT kids to speak out and let their voices, stories, and thoughts be heard. The author of each story has an introduction detailing their life as a YA author and a personal story or anecdote.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

**Stewart, Mark and Mike Kennedy. *Score!: The Action and Artistry of Hockey's Magnificent Moment*. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2011. 978-0-8225-8753-8. 64p. \$29.27. Gr. 7-12.**

The success of the Pittsburgh Penguins professional hockey team has increased interest in hockey among high school students. In "Score," hockey writers Stewart and Kennedy focus on the most exciting part of the game (aside from the fighting) - scoring goals. Students who pick up this 9" x 9" book from an accessible display will not only get an overview of the sport, but will enjoy reading about the types of goals and the 10 "unforgettable" goals in the history of the sport. A detailed index helps readers find even more information about the players they learn about. Think of this 2011 Booklist Top 10 Sports Book for Youth book as your winning goal for sports fans.

**Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

**Tougas, Shelly. *Little Rock Girl 1957, How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration*. Mankato, MN: Compass Point (Capstone), 2011. 978-0-7565-4440-9. 64p. \$25.49. Gr.5-9.**

A picture is worth a thousand words. The picture that Will Counts took of Elizabeth Eckford being harassed by Hazel Bryan during her attempt to enter Little Rock High School in 1957 spoke to thousands of Americans. It helped move forward the Civil Rights movement by revealing the hate and prejudice against another human being. It gave a face to hatred. This book and others in the *Captured History* series show the power of photography. Shelley Tougas follows both the drama of events in Little Rock and the lives of the Little Rock Nine. Back matter includes pictorial timeline for school integration, glossary, additional resources, source notes and a selected bibliography as well as an index. This book will give insight to younger students into this movement and will serve as a starting place for older students who wish to delve further.

**Jeannie Bellavance, Retired**

**Uschan, Michael V. *The March from Selma to Montgomery*. Detroit: Gale, 2011. 978-1-4205-0571-9. 104p. \$21.25. Gr. 7-12.**

This book from the *Lucent Library of Black History* provides excellent information on this topic. This will be a good book for libraries as a source of up-to-date, clearly-presented information on this history-changing event. In addition to a table of contents and excellent illustrations, there are also notes, a chronology, a list of places to get more information, an index, and information about the author.

**Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School**

**Valentino, Serena. *How to Be a Werewolf: the Claws-on Guide for the Modern Lycanthrope*. San Francisco: Candlewick, 2011. 978-0-7636-5387-3. 144 p. \$14.99. Gr. 7+.**

This handbook, *How to be a Werewolf*, breaks down the world of lycanthropy into three books: "Unleashing Your Wild Side," "The Stylish Lycanthrope," and "Moonlight Mastery." Each book is further broken into chapters providing history of lycanthropy, quizzes, transformation information, cultural references, friends and foes, literary references, and much more, while integrating fact, fiction, and images seamlessly. Although entertaining, this guide also provides a wealth of information about lycanthropy legend, lore, research, and additional reading. It is a great addition to any paranormal collection.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**VanHecke, Susan. *Raggin' Jazzin' Rockin': A History of American Musical Instrument Makers*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2011. 978-1-59078-574-4. 136p. \$17.95. Gr. 7-12.**

The stories behind 8 American musical instruments come alive in this large (10" x 11") book. Zildjian symbols, Steinway pianos, Conn cornets and brass instruments, Martin guitars, Ludwig drums, Hammond organs, Fender electric guitars and Moog synthesizers each

have a commanding chapter complete with photos of the maker and the players over time. Diagrams, playbills and other ephemera are also featured on each page. "Raggin' Jazzin' Rockin'" will please music students and teachers alike. It may also inspire others to take up an instrument featured in this engaging and entertaining book. Highly recommended. **Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

**Walker, Sally M. *Blizzard of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2011. 978-0-8050-8945-5. 145p. \$18.99. Gr. 7-12.**

The story of a little-known accident involving 2 ships in Halifax, Nova Scotia is told with attention to detail in this broadly researched and well-written book. While many students will want to read this because it is about a harrowing accident, a good use of this book is as a sample of historical research. Photographs and interviews are among the primary sources that informed Walker as this book was created, and Walker's source notes demonstrate how to use and document sources in the text. Overall, this is a worthwhile investment for students and teachers alike. **Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

**Yomtov, Nel. *The Grimy, Gross Unusual History of the Toilet*. Mankato: Capstone Press, 2012. 978-1-4296-5489-0. 48p. \$23.54. Gr. 5-8.**

Chronicling the history of the toilet and how proper sanitation has improved the quality of lives, Yomtov begins with the earliest toilets dating back to 3000 B.C. The journey continues to Roman aqueducts and the hardships of the Middle Ages. Moving into the modern period, futuristic toilets will use less water and flush by themselves while the iPod toilet roll holder will allow bathroom users to listen to their favorite tunes while taking care of business. Features include highlighted vocabulary defined on the page, glossary, read more section, index, and internet sites. Filled with toilet-related puns and bathroom humor, chamber pots, latrines, privies, outhouses -- whichever name you choose -- the books reveals how the fixture we take for granted has become a necessity in millions of homes.

**Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School**

## NF SERIES

**101 Series. Chicago: Raintree, 2012. 56 p. \$25.13. Gr. 6-Adult.**

**Guillain, Charlotte. *101 Ways to Be a Great Role Model*. 978-1-4109-3900-5.**

**Townsend, John. *101 Things You Didn't Know About Your Body*. 978-1-4109-3896-1.**

**Vickers, Rebecca. *101 Ways to Be Smart About Money*. 978-1-4109-3888-6.**

These well-organized informative books are full of colorful pictures and are easy to read, with information insets on most all the pages. You can open to any section for information without reading the entire book. I used the section on 'Baffling Brains' from *101 Things You Didn't Know About Your Body*, while teaching 8th grade child development. Each title includes a glossary, additional reading, topics to research, and an index. I recommend the series to both students and teachers.

**Stephanie Colletti, Sandy Run Middle School**

***Actual Times*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2011. np. \$16.99. Gr. 3-6.**

**Brown, Don. *America is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: the Day the Towers Fell*. 978-1-59643-694-7.**

An honest retelling of the events of 9-11 beginning with the 19 members of al-Qaeda who boarded the planes in the morning and the violence promised by Bin Laden. Brown describes the crash into the World Trade Center and the following tragedies of the Pentagon and the heroic efforts of those involved in the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. Civilians, firefighters, police and emergency medical technicians surged into buildings on rescue missions and cared for the injured. Insight from firefighters and eyewitnesses adds heartfelt authenticity to the story. Although the faces of the people are blurred, the watercolor illustrations reveal the horror and sadness, the courage and strength of all involved. An emotional account of an American tragedy for a generation who wants to learn about 9-11 but was too young at the time to understand. Other titles in the series: *All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912, the Day the Titanic Sank; Gold! Gold from the American River!*; and *Let it Begin Here! Lexington and Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution*.

**Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School**

***Amendments to the United States Constitution: The Bill of Rights Series*. New York: Rosen Central, 2011. 64p. \$30.60. Gr. 5-8.**

**Furgang, Kathy. *The Seventh Amendment: The Right to a Jury Trial*. 978-1-4488-1262-2.**

**Galiano, Dean. *The Fourth Amendment: Unreasonable Search and Seizure*. 978-1-4488-1259-2.**

**Gerber, Larry. *The Second Amendment: The Right to Bear Arms*. 978-1-4488-1253-0.**

**Jones, Molly. *The First Amendment: Freedom of Speech, the Press, and Religion*. 978-1-4488-1252-3.**

**Orr, Tamra. *The Tenth Amendment: Limiting Federal Powers*. 978-1-4488-1265-3.**

**Porterfield, Jason. *The Third Amendment: The Right to Privacy in the Home*. 978-1-4488-1256-1.**

**Roza, Greg. *The Eighth Amendment: Preventing Cruel and Unusual Punishment*. 978-1-4488-1263-9.**

**Shea, Therese. *The Sixth Amendment: The Rights of the Accused in Criminal Cases*. 978-1-4488-1261-5.**

Each volume in the series explains the history and evolution of a constitutional amendment included in the bill of rights. The books begin by outlining the historical need for the amendment, creating some repetition throughout the set. Recent or prominent examples of the amendment's application are given. Color photos and illustrations complement the text. The last chapter in each book discusses how the amendment is interpreted with today's issues. Back matter includes a list of all amendments, a glossary, further reading, a bibliography, and an index.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

***The Apollo II Moon Landing*. New York: Greenhaven, 2011. 978-0-7377-5785-9. 207p. \$39.70. Grades 7-12.**

This title in the Perspectives on Modern World History series is certainly full of pertinent information for students. Coverage is broad and chapters include: Background on the Apollo II Moon Landing; Controversies Surrounding the Apollo II Moon Landing; Personal Narratives. Each chapter offers writings from highly regarded authors on the topic. When we talk about pulling the best of the best into digital curation platforms to offer our students the best information available on one topic, this series is the perfect example of the same concept provided in print form. There are currently thirty – three volumes in the Perspectives of Modern World History series by Greenhaven and each are worthy of serious consideration.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**Biley, Cynthia A. Ed. *Standardized Testing*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2011. 978-0-7377-5202-1. 144 p. \$42.00. Gr. 8-12.**

*Standardized Testing*, from the *Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints* series, follows the familiar pattern of the *Opposing Viewpoints* series, with alternating pro/con arguments to help students recognize both sides of an argument and determine their own opinion based on the research and facts presented. The differences, though, between the two series and a major importance to the *Introducing Issues* series, are the breakdown of each argument into questions to consider, lengthier introductions to authors and arguments and the integration of pictures, images, graphs, and charts to reinforce the information presented. *Standardized Testing* is divided into three chapters presenting six different arguments. Chapters include topics such as the impact of standardized testing on student learning, the benefit of testing to teachers, and the value of standardized tests for college admissions. These chapters and their arguments introduce students to the validity of the questioning and understanding all aspects of a single argument before rendering a decision or opinion. With the current debate over high stakes testing, *Standardized Testing* is a great volume for introduction and exploration.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**The Britannica Guide to Sound and Light. New York: Britannica Educational Publishing, 2011. 978-1-61530-300-7. 347p. \$64.65 Gr. 10-12.**

In this volume in the *Physics Explained* series, readers can find excellent information on principles of basic sound and light, acoustics, ultrasonics, electromagnetic radiation, lasers, optics, the quantum theory of light, and much more. There is also a very good chapter containing biographies of famous physicists, information that is sometimes hard to find. There are illustrations, a glossary, an index, and a bibliography. An excellent resource for physics students. Also in this series, *The Atom*.

**Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School**

#### **Britannica Guide to Religion Series**

***Christianity: History, Belief, and Practice*. Matt Stefon, ed. New York: Britannica/Rosen, 2012. 1615304932. 384p. \$70.50.**

***Judaism: History, Belief, and Practice*. Matt Stefon, ed. New York: Britannica/Rosen, 2012. 1615304878. 366p. \$70.50.**

The two books in this series offer comprehensive discussion of the faiths and their connection to human society and culture. Each offers a glossary, annotated bibliography and index and is attractively illustrated with page borders. The titles cover history, philosophy, basic beliefs and doctrine, and mysticism. Judaism looks at rabbinic Judaism, the literature of Judaism, the religious year and holidays, myth and legend, key figures throughout history and Judaism in world perspective. Christianity examines God, the Christian conception of human nature, the various churches, missions and ecumenism and Christianity and world religions. Both titles include sidebar highlights and excerpts from relevant scripture and documents. These two volumes update some of the older surveys on your shelves with depth and new insight. Buy if religion is an area of study in your high school.

**Joyce Valenza, Springfield Township High School**

***Captured History Series*. North Mankato, MN: Compass Point, 2011-2012. 64 p. \$25.49. (paperback \$8.95) Gr. 6-10.**

**Tougas, Shelly. *Birmingham 1963: How a Photograph Rallied Civil Rights Support*. 978-0-7565-4398-3. Burgan, Michael. *Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor*. 978-0-7565-4439-2.**

**Tougas, Shelley. *Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration*. 978-0-7565-4512-3 (paperback).**

**Dell, Pamela. *Man on the Moon: How a Photograph Made Anything Seem Possible*. 978-0-7565-4396-9.**

**Nardo, Don. *Migrant Mother: How a Photograph Defined the Great Depression*. 978-0-7565-4397-6.**

**Burgan, Michael. *Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*. 978-0-7565-4395-2.**

Each entry examines a historical event in the context of an iconic and instantly recognizable photograph (e.g., migrant mother in the Great Depression, raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima). The books discuss how the photograph (and other photographs from the time) informed or inspired the public, moved the government to action, or otherwise helped bring about social change. Professional, pleasing, and neat in appearance with large-sized font and striking photos, each book includes four chapters, followed by appendices including: timeline, glossary, additional resources (including a proprietary website with access code), source notes, bibliography, and index. Appealing to browsers and useful for research. Recommended.

**Scott Armington, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Compact Research Series. San Diego, CA: ReferencePoint Press, 2012. \$27.95 each. Gr. 7-12**

**Alters, Sandra. *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*. 978-1-60152-159-0. 96p.**

**Bjornlund, Lydia. *Oxycodone*. 978-1-60152-161-3. 96p.**

**Bjornlund, Lydia. *Marijuana*. 978-1-60152-160-6. 96p.**

**Nakaya, Andrea C. *Food-Borne Illnesses*. 978-1-60152-153-8. 96p.**

**Nakaya, Andrea C. *Biomedical Ethics*. 978-1-60152-157-6. 96p.**

**Parks, Peggy J. *The Death Penalty*. 978-1-60152-158-3. 96p.**

The *Compact Research* series offers readers a concise overview of a variety of topics, including the subsets "Diseases and Disorders", "Drugs" and "Current Issues". These well-organized books offer "At a Glance" and overview sections, which provide a great starting point for research. They go on to expand on the particular topic by breaking it down into digestible sections. A highlight of the *Compact Research* series is that each book includes primary source quotes, colorful graphs and charts, and statistics. At the end of the books, readers can find information on key people and advocacy groups, chronologies, related organizations and resources for further research. The timely information in these books make them a valuable purchase for middle and high school libraries.

**Chrissy Sirianni - Springfield Township**

**Library**

**Contemporary Issues. New York: Rosen Publishing. 2011. \$173. Gr. 9-12.**

**Lentin, Alana. *Racism and Ethnic Discrimination*. 978-1-4488-1861-7. 139p.**

**DeCarlo, Jacqueline. *Fair Trade and How it Works*. 978-1-4488-1865-5. 157p.**

**Brunswick, Nicola. *Living With Dyslexia*. 978-1-4488-1866-2. 178p.**

**Guttman, Burton, et al. *Genetic: The Code of Life*. 978-1-4488-1863-1. 309p.**

**Dartnell, Lewis. *Astrobiology: Exploring Life in the Universe*. 978-1 4488-1862-4. 173p.**

This series covers the gamut from science to economics to social issues to learning difficulties. Each book includes illustrations, graphs, and tables, glossaries, and sources for further information. The issues are covered very comprehensively and include many subtopics. It is a critical tool for hot topic research for students.

**Rhoda Gansler, Springfield Township High School**

**Contemporary Issues Series. New York: Rosen, 2011. Siegel, Jay. *Forensic Science at Work*. 978-1-4488-1864-8. 160p. \$30.00. Gr. 8+.**

Forensics expert, Jay Siegel, uses a narrative style to provide readers with an understanding of the major areas of forensic science. Using real-life cases, the author exposes the complexities behind forensics, specifically in the areas of drugs, trace evidence, and crime scene investigation. Topics covered include everything from crime labs, laboratory systems, culture, pattern evidence, and work environment to forensic toxicology, fingerprinting, handwriting, forensic biology, and analysis of firearms, fires, explosions, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and soils.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape**

**Middle School**

**Current Controversies Series. Detroit, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2012. 231p. \$40.90. Gr. 9-12.**

**Engdahl, Sylvia, ed. *Alternative Therapies*. 978-0-7377-5610-4.**

Sylvia Engdahl, the editor of this volume, has compiled a wonderful and varied compilation of essays. The book offers viewpoints from both sides and features well-known and highly-qualified authors from both sides of the controversy. The topics go beyond herbal remedies and supplements to include such things as acupuncture, chiropractic care as well as music, creative arts, and dog therapies. Good writing, well-presented, and thought-provoking.

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

**Current Issues. San Diego, CA: ReferencePoint Press, 2011. 96p. \$26.95. Gr. 7-12.**

**Marcovitz, Hal. *Genetic Testing*. 978-1-60152-115-6.**

**Parks, Peggy J. *Gangs*. 978-1-60152-114-9.**

**Parks, Peggy J. *Online Social Networking*. 978-1-60152-116-3.**

These thin volumes are full of information and statistics about contemporary issues. Following a forward each book contains an overview on the specific topic followed by sections with multiple pop out quotes, excellent charts and graphs to organize statistics and survey data about the topic, and although there are few pictures the books are attractive and well organized. The publisher provides a list of key people and advocacy groups, chronology of the topic, organizations contact information, further research websites, and source notes in each volume to extend the learning process. The *Current Issues* series includes thirty-six different titles and is a good addition to middle and high school libraries.

**Robin Burns, Whitehall High School**

***Digital and Information Literacy.* New York: Rosen Publishing, 2011. 48p. \$27.95. Gr. 5-8.**

**Grayson, Robert. *Managing Your Digital Footprint.* 978-1-4488-1319-3.**

**Mills, J. Elizabeth. *Creating Content: Maximizing Wikis, Widgets, Blogs, and More.* 978-1-4448-1322-3.**

**Popek, Emily. *Copyright and Digital Ethics.* 978-1-4488-1323-0.**

**Randolph, Ryan P. *New Research Techniques: Getting the Most Out Of Search Engine Tools.* 978-1-4488-1321-6.**

Each title provides the most current essential information and tips for younger students on the use of the internet and how to manage their digital footprint, being polite, safe, and ethical. Issues such as respecting copyright, digital etiquette, research techniques and using wikis, blogs, and widgets are covered. Included are color pictures, sidebars, glossary, bibliography and index. Students will like the easy to read chapters, recommended for digital literacy.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

***Digital and Information Literacy.* New York: Rosen, 2011. 48p. \$27.96. Gr. 5-8.**

**Ryan, Peter K. *Social Networking.* 978-1-4488-1922-5.**

**Wilkinson, Colin. *Mobile Platforms: Getting Information on the Go.* 978-1-4488-1320-9.**

Each volume in the *Digital and Information Literacy* series provides information about the history of digital technology, the impact of technology on everyday life, ethical and moral use of technology, and individual responsibility with digital and informational technologies. The volumes are organized into effective chapters that integrate pictures, images, myths and facts, and common ideas and properties within each technology. Additionally, each volume includes a glossary, further reading, and bibliography. Volume titles include *Social Networking*, *Mobile Platforms*, *New Research Techniques*, *Managing Your Digital Footprint*, *Creating Content*, and *Copyright and Digital Ethics*. With the changes to technology standards and requirements, this is a great series to support technology and digital literacy curriculums.

**Ellwood City**

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School,**

**Dunn, John M. *Modern-Day Pirates. Hot Topics series.* New York: Lucent, 2011. 978-1-4205-0351-7. 120p. \$33.45. Gr. 7-12.**

This excellent volume is a great resource for anyone needing information on modern-day piracy. It is a well-written account of this issue which includes the history of the problem, geographical concerns, reasons for piracy, facts and figures, possible solutions, and much more. There are color photographs, maps, charts, bibliographic information, questions for discussion, organizations to contact, books and websites for more information, and an index. A very well-done and much-needed research tool.

**School**

**Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High**

**Dunn, John M. *Modern-Day Pirates. Hot Topics Series.* New York: Lucent, 2012. 978-1-4205-0351-7. 119p. \$33.45. Gr. 8-12.**

Seven fact filled chapters cover everything from the rise of modern pirates, hot spots around the world, the evolution of piracy laws, piracy's economic impact, and finally, the possibilities of additional threats that may rise from piracy and terrorism. Color photos and inset boxes complement the text. Overall, this is a valuable resource for students researching current global issues. Extensive back matter includes chapter notes, discussion questions, a list of organizations, further reading, an index, and picture credits.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Earth Issues. Mankato, MN: Creative, 2010. 48 p. \$23.95 ea.. Gr. 5-8.**

**Bodden, Valerie. *Critical Plant Life.* 978-1-58341-984-7.**

**Gunderson, Jessica. *The Energy Dilemma.* 978-1-58341-980-9.**

**Gunderson, Jessica. *Global Warming.* 978-1-58341-982-3.**

These highly readable introductions to environmental concerns will entice students with attractive layout and striking photos. Sidebar entries give examples related to a theme in each book: e.g. "Greener Pastures" sidebars offer thought-provoking information about plant uses and conservation in *Critical Plant Life*. Bold-faced words that appear throughout the text are defined in the glossary. Book source and website information adds value to this set.

**Rich Colonna, Springfield Township Middle School**

***Edge Books: Kid's Guides Series.* Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2012. 32p. \$20.49. Gr. 5-7.**

**Bell-Rehwooldt, Sheri. *The Kids' Guide to Duct Tape Projects.* 978-1-4296-6010-5.**

Price, Sean Stewart. *The Kids' Guide to Lost Cities*. 978-1-4296-6009-9.

Price, Sean Stewart. *The Kids' Guide to Pro Wrestling*. 978-1-4296-6008-2.

All three books are fun, easily accessible, and informative. Information is presented with many illustrations and are not overwhelming. The illustrations are straightforward and easy to understand. Each includes a brief glossary, further reading lists, and an index.

Gary Hite, Sandy Run Middle School

**Edge Books: Kitchen Science Series.** Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2011. 32p. \$20.49. Gr. 3-8.

Bell-Rehwooldt, Sheri. *Science Experiments that Surprise and Delight: Fun Projects for Curious Kids*. 978-1-4296-5428-9.

Lew, Kristi. *Science Experiments that Fly and Move: Fun Projects for Curious Kids*. 978-1-4296-5426-5.

Wheeler-Toppen, Jodi. *Science Experiments that Explode and Implode: Fun Projects for Curious Kids*. 978-1-4296-5427-

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Wheeler-Toppen, Jodi. *Science Experiments that Fizz and Bubble: Fun Projects for Curious Kids*. 978-1-4296-5425-8.

Each attractive hi-low volume contains nine to eleven simple experiments students can do alone or with adult supervision. The colorful step by step directions include multiple photos, a materials list, definitions, and a "Why it works" box. Further reading, a glossary and an index are included.

Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School

**Edge Books: Monster Wars.** Mankato: Capstone, 2012. 32p. \$20.54. Gr. 4-7.

O'Hearn, Michael. *Zombies vs. Mummies: Clash of the Living Dead*. 978-1-4296-6520-9.

O'Hearn, Michael. *Vampires vs. Werewolves: Battle of the Bloodthirsty Beasts*. 978-1-4296-6521-6.

"It's past midnight. The night is dark. Shadows creep across your bedroom wall." This disturbing opening begins each book and puts the reader on the edge of his/her seat. Readers will discover the power and vulnerabilities of zombies and mummies, vampires and werewolves, and prepare for the inevitable battles to come. The ultimate confrontation is narrated as a story with illustrations portraying more action. Photographs heighten the descriptions from the text, and bold words are defined in the text and in the glossary. Frightful fact boxes and comparison boxes provide quick interesting details. Repulsive and wonderfully wicked covers will entice readers to open the book and enter a nightmarish world where monsters may not be real, but the legends are notorious.

Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School

**Edge Books: Tiny Creepy Creatures Series.** Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2012. 32p. \$20.49. Gr. 4-8.

Leet, Karen M. *Food Intruders: Invisible Creatures Lurking in Your Food*. 978-1-4296-6532-2.

Leet, Karen M. *Yard Monsters: Invisible Creatures Lurking in Your Backyard*. 978-1-4296-6533-9.

Swanson, Jennifer. *Body Bugs: Invisible Creatures Lurking Inside You*. 978-1-4296-6530-8.

Swanson, Jennifer. *Uninvited Guests: Invisible Creatures Lurking in Your Home*. 978-1-4296-6531-5.

These are very inviting books that make learning about microbes fun. Explanations are fairly simple but good for middle microbes living in the given area, a disgusting fact, and definitions. Further reading, a glossary and an index are included.

Jeanie Kellock, Sandy Run Middle School

**Edge Books: Voices of War Series.** Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2011. 32 p. \$20.49. Gr. 5-8.

Heinrichs, Ann. *Voices of World War I: Stories from the Trenches*. 978-1-4296-4737-3.

Huey, Lois Miner. *Voices of World War II: Stories from the Front Lines*. 978-1-4296-4738-0.

Huey, Lois Miner. *Voices of the American Revolution: Stories from the Battlefields*. 978-1-4296-4739-7.

This series provides interesting accounts of some of the world's most famous wars. Each book begins with a brief summary of events that led up to the war. Firsthand accounts of events are told by soldiers who experienced the wars. Color illustrations, maps, and black and white photos are included, as well as a glossary of terms. A bibliography, list of internet sites, and several authors are also provided for anyone who would like more information. These books serve as a great introduction to the world's major wars.

David Mancini, Sandy Run Middle School

**The Environment Challenge.** Chicago: Heinemann-Raintree, 2012. \$24.00. Gr. 7-12.

Barber, Nicola. *Coping With Population Growth*. 978-1-4109-4317-0.

This book is every teacher's answer to how to tackle an understanding of the broad concept of population growth. It is like a class research project in a box! The expected word banks, maps and other graphic organizers are effectively embedded on the pages, however, it is the 10 one-page case studies that make this book so useful to teachers interested in a whole-class learning experience. The group can begin with basic understanding presented in the text, learn more about a case-study issue, then share their learning as the group comes back together. If "Coping With Population Growth" is an example of all the books in *The Environment Challenge* series, then I recommend purchasing the entire set.

Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School

Enz, Tammy. **Edge Books: Build It Yourself Series.** Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2011. 32p. \$20.49. Gr. 4-7.

***Build Your Own Fort, Igloo, and Other Hangouts.* 978-1-4296-5436-4.**

***Build Your Own Periscope, Flashlight, and Other Useful Stuff.* 978-1-4296-5439-5.**

***Build Your Own Car, Rocket, and Other Things that Go.* 978-1-4296-5437-1.**

***Build Your Own Mini Golf Course, Lemonade Stand, and Other Things To Do.* 978-1-4296-5438-8.**

All four books are fun, easily accessible, and informative. The directions are rendered with great attention to detail, and photographs get you through all of the simple projects. All projects are basic and do not require previous building experience or adult supervision. These books are perfect for middle school. Each volume includes further reading.

**Gary Hite, Sandy Run Middle School**

***Essential Careers.* New York: Rosen Publishing, 2011. 80p. \$22.95. Gr. 7-12.**

**Harmon, Daniel E. *A Career as an Electrician.* 978-1-4358-9470-9.**

**Harasymiw, Therese. *A Career as a Physical Therapist.* 978-1-4358-9467-9.**

**Heos, Bridget. *A Career as a Hairstylist.* 978-1-4358-9474-7.**

**Orr, Tamra B. *A Career as an Auto Mechanic.* 978-1-4358-9471-6.**

**Payment, Simone. *A Career as a Plumber.* 978-1-4358-9473-0.**

**Roza, Greg. *A Career as a Carpenter.* 978-1-4358-9472-3.**

**Silivanch, Annalise. *A Career as a Teacher.* 978-1-4358-9468-6.**

**Watson, Stephanie. *A Career as a Police Officer.* 978-1-4358-9469-3.**

Each book in this series concisely presents information on careers in high demand and focuses on jobs skills, training, and future advancement in that particular career field. Following an introduction to each career the books are set up into sections that easy for the high-low readers to use with glossy pictures and an engaging layout. The series includes a glossary, lists for further readings websites for more information, an extensive bibliography, and easy to use index. The entire series is a good addition for middle and high school libraries working on career exploration research.

**Robin Burns, Whitehall High School**

***Everyday Science Series.* Mankato, MN: Compass Point, 2012. 64p. \$24.99. Gr. 5-8.**

**Kennedy, Karen Latchana. *Shop Tech: The Science of Cars.* 978-0-7565-4487-4.**

**Stille, Darlene R. *Lunch Lady Science: Understanding the Food that Goes In Your Body.* 978-07565-4484-3.**

**Stille, Darlene R. *The Science of Gym Class: More than Just Dodgeball and Sweatpants.* 978-07565-4485-0.**

These are fun factual books about science in everyday life. They present the facts in clear, simple, but accurate detail. I think students may find them fun to read, but they will actually learn something from them. Many color photos and fact box insets complement the text. A glossary, additional resources, and an index are included.

**Jeanie Kellock, Sandy Run Middle School**

***Experiments for Future Scientists series.* New York: Chelsea, 2011. 978-1-60413-851-1. 140 p. \$35.00 Gr. 5-8.**

***Environmental Science Experiments.* 978-1-60413-851-1.**

Hands-on science gets a boost with this book of twenty experiments that develop awareness of a variety of environmental issues. Inviting large text, clear instructions, and simple graphics will encourage students to explore a variety of activities such as testing water quality, cleaning up oil spills, slowing down erosion, and growing plants without soil. Experiments ideas are suitable for in school or at home and will be particularly helpful for students participating in science fairs.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

***For Kids Series.* Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2011. 129-145p. \$16.95. Gr. 6-Adult.**

**Bauer, Helen. *Beethoven for Kids: His Life and Music, with 21 Activities.* 978-1-56976-711-5.**

**Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *Elizabeth I- the People's Queen: Her Life and Times: 21Activities.* 978-1-56976-349-0.**

**Miller, Brandon Marie. *Thomas Jefferson for Kids: His Life and Times, with 21 Activities.* 978-1-56976-348-3.**

**Sabbeth, Carol. *Van Gogh and the Post Impressionists for Kids: Their Life and Ideas: 21 Activities.* 978-1-56976-275-2.**

This series is a fantastic resource on each historical figure with twenty-one relevant activities per book. Some activities could be used by teachers in class and are of the performance or craft variety. Others are projects a student would do at home. The books are dense with historical information about the subject's life and the times in which they lived. All titles are cross-curricular and could be applied to art, music, theatre, family and consumer sciences, science, literature, and, of course, history.

**Laura Hill, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Fishkin, Rebecca.** *A Practical Guide to Pursuing the Art Series.* Mankato, MN: Compass Point, 2011. 48p. \$21.49. Gr. 4-8.

*Dancing: A Practical Guide to Pursuing the Art.* 978-0-7565-4363-1.

*Singing: A Practical Guide to Pursuing the Art.* 978-0-7565-4362-4.

These teen friendly volumes are short, basic, and to the point. Each outlines the basics of going from beginner to professional, in the areas of singing and dancing. The books contain exercises for warming up, advice on “the business,” and biographies of successful people in each field. They are good resources for young performing artists in need of help getting started, or those considering a career in the performing arts. **Laura Hill, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Friedman, Lauri S.** *The BP Oil Spill.* Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2012. 978-0-7377-5833-7. 128p. \$32.75. Gr. 9-12.

Writing a critical essay has challenged many exceptional students. This Opposing Viewpoints Guide not only provides arguments for marine life effects, abandoning oil and our dependence on oil, but it also gives in-depth explanations of the different kinds of essays. There are step by step instructions showing students how to plan an essay and gather resources to help support their viewpoint. Students are being challenged in the earlier grades to formulate opinions and create essays to express those opinions. In the wake of expository writing on achievement and aptitude tests, this book is an invaluable resource.

**Kathy Gilbride, North Pocono**

S.

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of Wal-Mart.* Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2012. 978-1-60818-064-6. 46p. \$ 27.95. Gr.6-10.

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of eBay.* 978-1-60818-062-2.

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of McDonalds.* 978-1897563045

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of Apple.* 978-0898126594

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of Starbucks.* 978-1897563076

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of Google.* 978-1897563038

**Gilbert, Sara.** *The Story of the NFL.* 978-0898126617

These titles encompass the Built for Success series published by Creative Education. While sparsely filled with content, the friendly and visually appealing layout of this series will provide readers with an overview of the businesses presented, their history, and the most important features of the business. A glossary and bibliography are provided at the end of each book.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**Girls Play to Win.** Chicago: Norwood House, 2012. 64p. \$27.93. Gr. 7-12.

**Gitlin, Marty.** *Cheerleading.* 978-1-59953-462-6.

**Gitlin, Marty.** *Softball.* 978-1-59953-465-7.

**Hoblin, Paul.** *Swimming & Diving.* 978-1-59953-466-4.

**Kassouf, Jeff.** *Soccer.* 978-1-59953-464-0.

**McDougall, Chros.** *Track & Field.* 978-1-59953-467-1.

**Smolka, Bo.** *Lacrosse.* 978-1-59953-463-3.

The *Girls Play to Win* series is a perfect way for students to learn about sports and the females who have been successful athletes in the sport. Each book provides the basics - how to “play” and equipment used, as well as the history of the sport. The trim size (5.5” x 8”) won’t overwhelm a curious student, nor will it hinder use of the books as idea-generators for biography projects. A worthy addition for students interested in athletics.

**Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

**Green Issues in Focus Series.** Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2011. \$24.00. Gr. 6-9.

**Watson, Cindy.** *Unloved and Endangered Animals: What Can You Do.* 978-0-7660-3345-0. 128p.

**Wroble, Lisa A.** *Food for a Greener Planet: What Can You Do.* 978-0-7660-3349-8. 112p.

This series provides a good overview of key environmental issues. Both books have a nice setup and include many color pictures to show the reader what they’re talking about. Scientific research is cited and presented at the appropriate reading level. In addition to presenting the facts, each book talks about things the reader can do and why we need to care about these issues. Each book includes chapter notes, a glossary, further reading and an index.

**Rachel Buchman, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Guttman, Burton, Griffiths, Anthony, Suzuki, David,& Cullis, Tara.** New York: Rosen Classroom, 2011.

*Genetics: The Code of Life.* 978-1-4488-1863-1. 308p. \$30.00. Gr.9+.

An outstanding introduction to this leading edge science, all the key questions and major issues are addressed from how our genetic structure works to important topics such as gene therapy, genetic engineering, and genetically modified foods. This book is a handy

step-by-step guide to the subject of genetics. The books covers: Mendel's Laws and their implications; the functions of genes; the structure of DNA, the human genome and DNA manipulation. Illustrations and diagrams make difficult concepts easy to follow, while a useful glossary explains key terms and ideas.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

**Headlines! series.** New York: Rosen, 2011. 64p. \$22.95. Gr. 6-10.

Jones, Molly. *Health Care for Everyone*. 978-1-4488-1290-5.

Kamberg, Mary-Lane. *Sports Concussions*. 978-1-4488-1289-9.

Lew, Kristi. *Food Poisoning: E Coli and the Food Supply*. 978-1-4488-1293-6.

Tasian, Sarah K. *Swine Flu*. 978-1-4488-1292-9.

Current topics get student-friendly coverage in this attractive series. Clearly written text, large pictures, and information-rich sidebars make these books valuable for research and appealing for browsing. Each book includes a glossary, sources for additional information, and an index. Recommended.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

*Holocaust Through Primary Sources, The*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2012. 128 p. \$31.93. Gr. 6 and up.

Byers, Ann. *Saving Children from the Holocaust: The Kindertransport*. 978-0-7660-3323-8.

Deem, James M. *Auschwitz: Voices from the Death Camp*. 978-0-7660-3322-1.

Deem, James M. *Kristallnacht: The Nazi Terror that Began the Holocaust*. 978-0-7660-3324-5.

Each volume in *The Holocaust Through Primary Sources* series begins with a personal narrative from a German or German-Jew who survived World War II and the Holocaust. This personal narrative then leads into the history and development of the Nazi Party and Holocaust and chapters focused on specific events and people influential to the Holocaust and Germany during World War II. Volumes integrate history, personal narratives, photographs, images, and captions that focus on the horrendous actions of the Nazi Party and the struggles of Jewish and other targeted peoples throughout the Holocaust. Additionally, each volume includes chapter notes, a glossary, further reading, and websites for further research. Reluctant readers will be fascinated by the photographs, images, and personal narratives found in each volume, while also developing an understanding of the historical significance of the Holocaust. This is a must-have series for 20th Century American Studies courses and any genocide curriculum or humanities course.

**Alex G. and Zach B., Lincoln Jr/Sr High School Students**

**Hot Topics.** Chicago, Il: Heinemann Library, 2012. 56 p. \$536.00 Gr. 6-10.

Bliss, John. *Designer Babies*. 978-1-4329-4870-2.

Friedman, Mark. *Assisted Suicide*. 978-1-4329-4867-2.

Friedman, Mark. *Legalization of Drugs*. 978-1-4329-4872-6.

Hunter, Nick. *Cyber Bullying*. 978-1-4329-4869-6.

Hunter, Nick. *Immigration*. 978-1-4329-5175-7.

Hunter, Nick. *Internet Safety*. 978-1-4329-4871-9.

Hunter, Nick. *Offshore Oil Drilling*. 978-1-4329-5176-4.

Hunter, Nick. *Terrorism and Security*. 978-1-4329-4873-3.

Knight, Geof. *Cosmetic Procedures*. 978-1-4329-4868-9.

Lssieur, Allison. *Violent Crime*. 978-1-4329-4874-0.

Controversial topics made accessible to the younger grades and the students who struggle with reading. There is a glossary in each book that defines any term that appears in bold in the text. There is a great deal of informative text interspersed with photographs and charts for the students. The authors pose questions to make the reader think about what really matters to them, questions that will make an essay or an informative paper easier to write. Timely topics make this a great pick. This set would be very beneficial to a middle school collection.

**Kathy Gilbride, North Pocono High School**

**Huffines, Alan C.** *Texas War of Independence*. New York: Rosen, 2011. 978-1-4488-1332-2. 94p. \$24.00 Grades 7-12.

Benn, Carl. *The War of 1812: The Fight for American Trade Rights*. 978-1-44881-333-9.

Marston, Daniel. *The American Revolutionary War*. 978-1-44881-331-5.

Robinson, Charles M. *Battle on the Plains: The United States Plains Wars*. 978-1-44881-334-6.

This book within the *Early American Wars* series provides information on Texas' War of Independence. Almost entirely black and white, this series is not visually appealing but where it lacks in aesthetics, it makes up for in content. Chapters include: Chronology, Background to War, Warring Sides; The Fighting; Common Soldiers; Portrait of a Soldier; The World around War; Portrait of a Civilian; How the War Ended. Also provided are a glossary and suggestions for additional information.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**Hurley, Michael.** *The Olympics Series.* Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2012. 32p. \$22.49. Gr. 4-7.

*Great Olympic Moments.* 978-1-4109-4129-9

*The World's Greatest Olympians.* 978-1-4109-4128-2

These brief books are full of interesting facts about the history of the modern Olympics. *Olympians* covers eleven gold medal winners from Jessie Owens in 1936 to Chris Hoy in the 2008 games. Each two page spread includes many color photos, a fact box, and a brief summary of the achievement. *Great Olympic Moments* includes highlights of memorable events in Olympic history, from repeated success, to those shocking and controversial. Bold terms are defined in a glossary. Olympic timelines and statistics, further reading, and an index are included.

**School**

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

*Inside Science Series.* San Diego: ReferencePoint, 2011. 96p. \$30.24. Gr. 7-10.

**Allman, Toney.** *Vaccine Research.* 978-1-60152-131-6.

**George, Charles and Linda George.** *Biotech Research.* 978-1-60152-176-7.

**Kallen, Stuart A.** *Renewable Energy Research.* 978-1-60152-129-3.

**Marcovitz, Hal.** *Stem Cell Research.* 978-1-60152-130-9.

This series provides a great introduction to new and important types of research. Each book is set up the same way and includes great information. A timeline for each topic introduces the reader to the development of the research presented. Many color images are provided throughout the text to illustrate concepts and show uses for the technology discussed. Each book concludes with a "Facts about..." section, a list of related organizations, resources for further research, and an index.

**Rachel Buchman, Sandy Run Middle School**

*In Controversy Series.* San Diego, CA: ReferencePoint Press, 2012. \$17.95 each. Gr. 7-12.

**Marcovitz, Hal.** *How Should America Respond to Illegal Immigration?* 978-1-60152-173-. 96p.

**Szumski, Bonnie and Karson, Jill.** *Is Animal Experimentation Ethical?* 978-1-60152-174-3. 96p.

The *In Controversy* series is a great place to find information on current hot topics like animal experimentation and illegal immigration. These books strive to present compelling arguments for and against issues by asking big questions, like "Can America Effectively Seal Its Borders?," and backing up opinions with facts. Quotes and personal examples dispersed throughout add to the main text and a block of statistics ends each chapter. The books also include information on related organizations and websites, additional reading and source notes.

**Chrissy Sirianni - Springfield Township Library**

*In the News Series.* New York: Rosen Publishing, 2011. 64 p. \$30.60. Gr. 7-12.

**Bezdecheck, Bethany.** *Bailout! : government intervention in business.* 978-1-43589-449-5..

A basic overview of the financial crisis of 2008. Explains the circumstances leading to the financial failure of the banking and auto industries, the governmental actions that prevented their collapse, and the controversy about the effectiveness of the interventions.

**Bukovac, Matthew.** *Failed States: Unstable countries in the 21st century.* 978-1-4358-9447-1.

This book examines the numerous failed states across the globe which are currently the focus of media scrutiny. Discusses the circumstances leading to financial difficulty in each of the nations, also presents the international efforts to stabilize their economies. Includes discussion of economics and fiscal policies.

**Nancy Summers, Harry S Truman High School**

*Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints Series.* New York: Gale Cengage, 2011. 150p. \$34. Gr. 6+.

**Laurie S Friedman, ed.** *Cyberbullying.* 978-0-7377-5117-8.

**Laurie S. Friedman, ed.** *Genetic Engineering.* 978-0-7377-5680-7.

*Introducing Issues* shares many of the features of its parents series *Opposing Viewpoints*: a pro/con format, active reading questions, charts, graphs, cartoons, introduction with background, an annotated bibliography with additional resources, an appendix of organizations political groups etc. related to the topic, and a comprehensive index. As the title implies, however, this series is an introduction to the concept of opposing viewpoints. Its format appeals to a broader age range; it is more colorful, contains more photos and illustrations, shorter interviews and a thought provoking question at the end of each section to prompt further investigation. There are sidebars with at-a-glance statistics and a "Facts About" section in the back with further facts and figures. This series is an excellent introduction for upper elementary grades but certainly a useful starting place for upper grades as well.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

*Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints series.* Detroit: Greenhaven, 2011. 114-144 p. \$35.75. Gr. 7+.

*Cyberbullying.* 978-0-7377-5117-8.

*Media Violence.* 978-0-7377-4480-4.

*Standardized Testing.* 978-0-7377-5202-1.

Each book in this attractive series gives students a variety of viewpoints in response to focusing questions about the topic. For example, in *Cyberbullying*, one essay response to the question, “How can cyberbullying be prevented?” is titled “Electronically Monitoring Teens’ Online Communication Can Prevent Cyberbullying.” These student-friendly books include clearly detailed charts of statistical data, color photos and fact boxes as well as a “Facts about” section, organizations to contact, book and web sources, and an index. Excellent sources for debate/issues research with a balanced presentation. **Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Issues That Concern You series. Farmington Hill, MI: Greenhaven, 2011. 112-132p. \$28.50. Gr. 6-10.**

***Nuclear Power.* 978-0-7377-5696-8.**

***Privacy.* 978-0-7377-5697-7.**

Following an informative introduction these books present articles covering various viewpoints related to a contemporary issue. The variety of articles offers students many perspectives and gives a balanced start to debate or persuasive essay research. Excellent charts and graphs organize pertinent statistics and survey data about the topic. Appendices including ‘What You Should Do About,’ lists of organizations to contact, and print and web sources add to the value of these volumes. Recommended.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Kiesbye, Stefan Ed. *Sexting.* Detroit: Greenhaven, 2011. 978-0-7377-5161-1. 119 p. \$38.51. Gr. 9-12.**

*Sexting*, an *At Issue: Social Issues* book focuses on the phenomenon amongst teenagers of sending provocative images and texts to one another. Each essay presented in *Sexting* takes a pro or con stance on the issue and provides a brief introduction of the author and argument presented. Following the *At Issues* format, every other argument is opposite the one before to help students recognize both pro and con arguments and develop their own opinion about the issue through the research and facts presented. The volume also includes a personal narrative introduction about sexting, organizations to contact, and a detailed bibliography for further reading. This particular volume from the *At Issues: Social Issues* series should be added to all middle school and high school libraries, not only because of the currency and relevance of sexting in schools today, but also because of the academic presentation of the text; students will not feel as though they are being lectured when reading these arguments. **Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/ Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**Llewellyn, Claire and Clare O’shea. *Cooking Healthy Series.* New York: Rosen Central, 2012. 48p. \$20.95. Gr. 5-8.**

***Cooking with Fruits and Vegetables.* 978-1-4488-4844-7.**

***Cooking with Meat and Fish.* 978-1-4488-4845-4.**

This series provides great information about healthy diet, food storage, food choices, and cooking techniques, in addition to a wealth of recipes. The recipes are easy to follow and look delicious with informative and helpful tips throughout. The pages are colorful and inviting with many photos. Additional information includes a glossary, food safety, useful cooking techniques, an index, and further reading.

**Jamie Rongione, Sandy Run**

**Middle School**

**Living Wild series. Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2012. 48p. \$23.95. Gr. 5-8.**

**Gish, Melissa. *Bison.* 978-1-60818-077-6.**

**Gish, Melissa. *Komodo Dragons.* 978-1-60818-080-6.**

**Gish, Melissa. *Owls.* 978-1-60818-081-3.**

These visually spectacular and highly readable books will be popular for browsers and researchers alike. Coverage on physical characteristics, habitat, behavior, interaction with humans, and environmental concerns is enriched by selections of art and/or literature related to the animal. Outstanding photography.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**Master This! Series. New York: Rosen, 2012. 32 p \$17.95. Gr. 4-7.**

**Adams, Ian. *Drumming.* 978-1-4488-5284-0.**

**Taylor, Des. *Cartoons and Manga.* 978-1-4488-5283-3.**

**Torrington, Emma. *Street Dance.* 978-1-4488-5285-7.**

Each colorfully illustrated volume instructs beginners in the basics of these creative activities. Photos and illustrations demonstrate the simply written instructions. “Star File” boxes give brief biographies of famous individuals in the given field. “Top Tip” insets are located on most two-page spreads for easy reference. These are great books for students interested in learning the basics of the given activity. Bold terms are defined in a glossary. Additional reading and an index are included.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Monster Wars. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2012. 32p. \$19.99. Gr. 7-9.**

**O’Hearn, Michael. *Vampires vs. Werewolves: Battle of the Bloodthirsty Beasts.* 978-1-4296-6521-6.**

**O’Hearn, Michael. *Zombies vs. Mummies: Clash of the Living Dead.* 978-1-4296-6520-9.**

Browsing middle school students will battle for these easy-to-read books that pit monster against monster. Prior to the final battle toward the end of each book, shape-shifting, speed, intelligence and attack style skills are rated. Which creature will win in the ultimate battle? Students will want to read each book in this fun series to find out.

**Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

***Monsters in Myth Series.* Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane, 2011. 48p. \$21.50. Gr. 7-Adult.**

**Orr, Tamra. *The Sirens.* 978-1-5841-5930-8.**

**Tracy, Kathleen. *Cerberus.* 978-1-5841-5924-7.**

Each fascinating book focuses on a different mythological creature beginning with their origin, and tracing each one's life until his or her untimely demise. The stories frequently lend credence to more than one version of the myth. Excellent resources are used, including the modern authors, Hamilton and Bullfinch, and ancient authors, Homer and Ovid. Many full color reproductions of oil paintings illustrate the texts. Back matter includes additional facts about the monster, chapter notes, further reading, a glossary and an index.

**Sue Long, Sandy Run Middle School**

**Nardo, Don. *Ancient Roman Art and Architecture: Eye on Art Series.* New York: Lucent, 2012. 978-1-4205-0714-0. 118p. \$33.45. Gr. 6-10.**

This interesting and informative title covers the history and development of Ancient Roman architecture, and a variety of art and craft mediums. My 7th grade Social Studies teacher especially liked the in-depth information about the creation of roads, aqueducts and the bath house systems. Extensive back matter includes chapter notes, a glossary, further reading, an index, and picture credits.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle**

**School**

**Nardo, Don. G. *Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire (World History).* Florence, KY: Gale Cengage, 2011. 978 14205032. 128p. \$34.95. Gr. 6 – 9.**

When the USSR fell in the 1990s, historians and archaeologists from around the world gained full access to Mongolia for the first time in centuries, and as a result unearthed a treasure trove of information about Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire that the world had never known. Widely viewed as nothing but a brutal conqueror, author Nardo provides rich detail about how the poor, uneducated Khan evolved into a multi-faceted leader who brought about a quantum leap in cultural advancement in the lands he conquered. He established a written alphabet, encoded laws, enforced religious freedom, opened trade routes, and forged alliances. This fascinating book in Gale's World History series is richly illustrated and filled with primary sources: maps, quotes from 12th century Monks' writings, and observations by Marco Polo. Nardo begins by giving the reader background in Mongol geography and climate, what they ate, their horsemanship, how they created their clothing and homes, as well as their courtship rituals. The book follows through with Khan's descendants who ruled the Mongol empire, his lasting legacy, and battlefield tactics that still influence military thinking today. Contains a glossary and index

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield**

**Township H.S.**

***Nutrition and Health.* Farmington Hills, MI: Lucent, 2011. 96-104 p. \$24.68. Gr. 6-12.**

**Juettner, Bonnie. *Diet and Disease.* 978-1-4205-0270-1.**

**Woog, Adam. *Food Myths and Facts.* 978-1-4205-0269-5.**

Visually attractive and highly informative, these books give students a foundation in both what constitutes a healthy diet and the importance of it. Food Myths and facts focuses on nutrition, exercise, and healthy weight while Diet and Disease details the correlation between foods and heart disease, cancer, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. The books strongly emphasize the importance of fruits, vegetables, and grains to overall health and preventing disease. Facts boxes, charts and tables, glossaries, organizations to contact, and source lists for more information add value to these outstanding resources for health/science classes.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

**O'Connor, George. *Hera: The Goddess and her Glory.* Olympians Series. New York: First Second, 2011. 978-1-59643-724-1. 77p. \$16.99. Gr. 6-9.**

Hera, Zeus's wife, agrees to save the baby Alcides (Heracles) when his mother abandons him. Heracles is Zeus's child from another woman. In exchange, when he grows up, Heracles must perform ten labors. He is tricked, and actually completes twelve labors which are depicted in colorful panels. The story continues after Heracles death, where he lives with the Gods and marries Hera's daughter. Back matter includes fact about Hera, Heracles, and the Hydra, a list of discussion topics, a bibliography, recommended reading, and notes relating this story to previous books in the series. **Graphic**

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle**

**School**

**O'Neill, Robert John. *The Civil War: Bull Run and Other Eastern Battles, 1861-May 1863.* New York: Rosen, 2011. 978-1-4488-0387-3. 96p. \$24.00. Grades 7-12.**

**O'Neill, Robert John. *The Civil War: Gettysburg and Other Eastern Battles, 1863-1865.* 978-1-44880-388-0**

**O'Neill, Robert John. *The Civil War: Sherman's Capture of Atlanta and other Western Battles, 1863-1865.* 978-1-44880-389-7.**

**O'Neill, Robert John. *The Civil War: The Siege of Vicksburg and other Western Battles, 1861- July 1863.* 978-1-44880-390-3.**

This book within *The Civil War: Essential Histories* series provides specific detail on eastern battles of the Civil War. Almost entirely black and white, this series is not visually appealing yet the content is definitely helpful to students collecting information on specific battles. Specific chapters include: Chronology; Background to War; Outbreak; Warring Sides; The Fighting; Common Soldiers; Portrait of a Soldier; The World around War; Portrait of a Civilian; How the Period Ended. Also provided are a glossary and suggestions for additional information.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**O'Reilly, Bill & Dugard, Martin. *Killing Lincoln.* New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2011. 978-0805093070. 336p. \$17. Gr. 8+**

This non-fiction narrative on the assassination of President Lincoln reads like a Grisham style thriller. It covers the frantic manhunt for Booth led by Detective Baker, a former Union spy. You've read about it in history class, but O'Reilly & Dugard draw you into an account of adventure, suspense, and immediacy which keeps you riveted right to the end.

**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

***Passport to World Sports.* Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2011. \$20.49. Gr. 7-12. Mason, Paul. *Fishing.* 978-1-4296-6864-4.**

"Fishing" is the perfect way to get local boys to think internationally - through fishing! Each 2-page spread of this trim book (6" x 8.5") features a different location around the world to fish. The spreads include a world map with the location identified, types of fish available to catch, "Essential Information," a "Tip from a Local," and "If you like...you could also try..." Other topics covered in the series include dirt biking, BMX and mountain biking, hiking and camping, kayaking and canoeing, rock climbing, skateboarding, snowboarding, surfing and windsurfing. I recommend that you purchase them all.

**Sarah Braxton,**

**Juniata Valley High School**

***Perspectives on Modern World History Series.* Detroit, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2012. Pages vary. \$41.70. Gr. 9-12.**

**Cruden, Alexander, ed. *The Bosnian Conflict.* 978-0-7377-5786-6.**

**Hay, Jeff, ed. *The Montgomery Bus Boycott.* 978-0-7377-5795-8.**

As the title of the series suggests, these books offer varying perspectives on events in recent history. While there are many series of books that do this, this series stands out because of its use of first person narratives and essays written by major players in world events. Among the essay authors included are Margaret Thatcher, Bill Clinton, David Halberstam, Richard Holbrooke. The primary source material in the form of narratives from such people as Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy, Zlata Filipovic and David Rieff add a wonderful richness to the books.

**Lynne Smith, Biglerville High School**

***Perspectives On Series.* New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark. 2011. \$159.72. Gr. 7-12.**

**Marsico, Katie. *The Columbine High School Massacre.* 978-0-7614-4985-0. 128p.**

**Marsico, Katie. *The Texas Polygamist Raid.* 978-1-60870-449-1. 128p.**

**Burlingame, Jeff. *The Titanic Tragedy.* 978-1-450-7. 112p.**

**Mara, Wil. *The Chernobyl Disaster.* 978-0-7614-4984-3. 112p.**

These four events, although unconnected, have all had a lasting effect on American life. From the tragedy in Columbine, people have tried to better understand what happened and eradicate violence from our classrooms. The raid on YFZ Ranch in Texas prompted Americans to see if we can support one issue without jeopardizing another. The sinking of the Titanic has impacted the way the shipping industry is regulated. Finding new forms of energy is an ongoing attempt to learn from the disaster at Chernobyl. Each book is well documented with extensive notes, a timeline, a bibliography, an index, and sources for further reading.

**Rhoda Gansler, Springfield**

**Township High School**

***Profiles in Fashion series.* Greensboro, NC: Morgan Reynolds. 2011. 112p. \$28.95. Gr. 7-10.**

**Branscomb, Leslie Wolf. *Marc Jacobs.* 978-1-59935-153-7.**

**Freistadt, Margo. *Kate Spade.* 978-1-59935-154-4.**

**Petrillo Lisa. *Isaac Mizrahi.* 978-1-59935-152-0.**

**Petrillo, Lisa. *Vera Wang.* 978-1-59935-150-6.**

**Sapet, Kerrily. *Jimmy Choo.* 978-1-59935-151-3.**

These biographies of famous designers are sure to please students interested in fashion. Whether Jimmy Choo's shoes or Vera Wang's wedding dresses captures a reader's interest, young teens will enjoy reading about the ups and down that these designers experience. While background about each designer's early life and interesting anecdotes about interactions with the rich and famous add interest, it

is the straightforward text, color photos, timelines, sources notes, and index in each book that make them valuable to student researchers. Dull covers notwithstanding, this series will fill an important niche in school libraries.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle**

#### School

***Race in Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man.* New York: Greenhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-5811-5. 165p. \$26.50. Grades 9-12.**

The Social Issues in Literature series offers amazing explorations into literary analysis with specific focus on theme. This specific title analyzes race in *Invisible Man* and provides the following chapters: Background on Ralph Ellison; Race in *Invisible Man*; Contemporary Perspectives on Race. Each chapter offers scholarly insight and varied viewpoints and its related themes also putting historical and modern consideration on the topic. Each book in this set is a good value for its content and would work well not only for classes studying the novel but also for classes studying the thematic concept discussed within.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High**

#### School

***Real Life Issues.* Chicago: Heinemann, 2011. 48 p. \$24.00. Gr. 5-8.**

**Colson, Mary. *Coping with Absent Parents.* 978-1-4329-4760-6.**

**Guillain, Charlotte. *Coping with Bullying.* 978-1-4329-4761-3.**

**Miles, Liz. *Coping with Domestic Violence.* 978-1-4329-4762-0.**

**Miles, Liz. *Coping with Illness.* 978-1-4329-4763-7.**

**Guillain, Charlotte. *Coping with Moving Away.* 978-1-4329-4764-4.**

**Colson, Mary. *Coping with Unemployment.* 978-1-4329-4765-1.**

Each of these slim volumes provides an explanation and analysis of a difficult life situation and suggests practical ways for tweens to cope. By offering case studies, students will get the sense that they are not alone in dealing with a particular problem. Each book includes a list of ten tips for coping, a glossary, and sources for more information.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

***School Policies.* Noel Merino, ed. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2011. 978-0-7377-5201-4. 136p. \$36.80. Gr. 9-12.**

In this *Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints* series, policies in schools concerning students' rights are explored. Each essay is introduced with active reading questions and short, thorough viewpoints are argued, and end with provocative questions. The three chapters are titled: Should Schools Limit Student Expression? Are School Safety Policies Warranted? and Are School Policies Aimed at Student Health Effective? Viewpoint Essays contain color photographs, tables, diagrams and graphs. Includes Facts About School Policies, Organizations to Contact, Further Reading and Index. Recommended for debate classes.

**BJ Neary, Abington Senior High**

***Science Behind Sports.* Farmington Hills, MI: Lucent, 2011. 104-112p. ----- \$26.00. Gr. 5-8.**

**Harnman, Lizabeth. *Baseball.* 978-1-4205-0262-6.**

**MacKay, Jenny. *Track and Field.* 978-1-4205-0707-2.**

**Yancey, Diane. *Basketball.* 978-1-4205-0293-0.**

Students who love sports will be drawn to this attractive series which will be useful for both research and browsing. Each book covers one sport and opens with a chapter about its history. Later chapters explore physics, training and sports medicine, and sports psychology as they relate to the particular sport. Detailed chapter notes, a glossary of scientific terms, a list of additional resources, and a detailed index add value to each book. Sports-related science fair projects will get a boost of background information from these volumes. Recommended.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

***The Science of Nutrition.* New York, Crabtree Publishing, 2011. \$23.46 each. 48p. Gr. 5-8.**

**\*Aloian, Molly. *Why We Need Carbohydrates.* 978-0-7787-1686-0.**

**---*Why We Need Fats.* 978-0-7787-1687-7.**

**Bow, James. *Why We Need Minerals.* 978-0-7787-1689-1.**

**Cohen, Marina. *Why We Need Vitamins.* 978-0-7787-1690-7.**

**Royston, Angela. *Why We Need Proteins.* 978-0-7787-1689-1.**

**\*--- *Why We Need Water and Fiber.* 978-0-7787-1691-4.**

**\*books reviewed**

Each book in this series examines an essential nutrient, explaining why it is important for a healthy body. The authors also encourage healthy eating habits and discuss the pros and cons of eating too little or too much of the nutrient. Statistics show the reader how to calculate how much they should eat. In addition the authors encourage readers to eat a variety of different foods. The sidebar notes (Body Talk, Did you know?, Try this) offer interesting insights, experiments and challenges. There is information for readers with food allergies and special diets such as being lactose intolerant or having celiac disease. The photographs and illustrations make these books most appealing to teens and preteens. Back matter includes a glossary, books for further reading, websites and an index. This set will be a good addition for health and science collections.

**Jeannie Bellavance, retired**

**Sheen, Barbara. *Foods of Poland: A Taste of Culture Series*. New York: Kidhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-5951-8. 62p. \$30. Gr. 3-6.** This book describes the land, climate and culture of Poland and discusses how these factors have influenced their traditions and foods. Eight recipes, including Apple Cake, are scattered throughout the book. Each recipe includes a color photo of the completed dish. Fact boxes explain important Polish traditions. Bold terms are defined in a glossary. A chart of metric conversions and chapter notes are included.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run**

**Middle School**

***Should Juveniles Be Given Life Without Parole?* Olive Ferguson, ed. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2011. 978-0-7377-5165-9. 103p. \$33.70 Gr. 9-12.**

In this *At Issue Crime* series book, statistics and data are used in fourteen articles debating the treatment of juveniles who have been given the sentence of life without parole. Dahl's "Incarcerated Youth are Often Abused and Mistreated" and Bell's "The Justice System is Prejudiced Against Juveniles of Color" detail the impact on youth and society and advocate for change in the system. Includes Organizations to Contact, Bibliography and Index.

**BJ Neary, Abington**

**Senior High**

**Silverstein, Alvin, Virginia Silverstein and Laura Silverstein Nunn. *Yucky Science Series*. Berkley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2011. 48p. \$18. Gr. 3-6.**

***Poop Collectors, Armpit Sniffers, and More: The Yucky Jobs Book*. 978-0-7660-3316-0.**

***Snot, Poop, Vomit, and More: The Yucky Body Book*. 978-0-7660-3318-4.**

These high interest titles will attract and entertain browsers. Colorful illustrations and photos accompany brief descriptions of "yucky" jobs and bodily functions sure to amuse readers. Interesting fact boxes explain relevant information, such as world records and the science behind the topic. Each volume includes a glossary, further reading and website lists, and an index.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

***Social Issues in Literature*. Detroit: MI: Greenhaven Press, 2012. 160 p. \$39.60. Gr. 9-12. *Genocide in Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl*. 978-0-7377-5448-3.**

Uncommon and complex topics that are crucial for a better understanding of Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* are presented in this book. There is a timeline at the beginning, as the rest of the book is presented topically. This book is written by various authors, leading to some repetition and abrupt transitions. However, the detailed accounts of how Anne wrote and revised her diary, as well as accounts from people who were involved in hiding the Frank family, and others who knew Anne after she had been taken to a concentration camp are captivating. Writers then tackle a comparison of Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* with Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and present competing views regarding the value of Anne Frank's diary as a Holocaust text. The final chapter addresses genocides in other countries and ends by telling a story of Cambodian children who survived genocide in the 1990s and were able to identify with the diary, using her book as a source of inspiration and comfort.

**Literary criticism, History**

**Holly Lewis, Biglerville High School**

***Sohn, Emily. iScience*. Chicago: Norwood House Press, 2011. 48 p. \$18.00. Gr. 3-6.**

**Sohn, Emily and Frederick Fellows. *Variables and experiments : getting across the river*. 978-1-59953-431-2.**

**Sohn, Emily and Laura Townsend. *Patterns and textures: Who took the pets?* 978-1-59953-432-9.**

**Sohn, Emily and Nina Tsang. *Matter and energy: Finding the power*. 978-1-59953-416-9.**

**Sohn, Emily and Joseph Brennan. *Mixtures and solutions: The sugar in the teas*. 978-1-59953-428-2. 4**

**Sohn, Emily and Joseph Brennan. *Magnetism and Electricity: The broken toy car*. 978-1-59953-415-2.**

**Sohn, Emily and Joseph Brennan. *Insects: Which one doesn't belong?* 978-1-59953-415-2.**

**Sohn, Emily and Anya Hansen. *Models and designs: It's a roller coaster ride!* 978-1-59953-429-9.**

This series of iScience readers for the elementary grades offers clear descriptions of key scientific concepts and also discusses the usefulness of the scientific method in finding answers to questions. Each title give readers activities to follow, puzzles to solve and questions to answer using the information found in the texts.

**Nancy Summers, Harry S Truman High School**

**Sohn, Emily and Judy Kento Schmauss. *Structures of Life: What is that Fossil*. iScience series. Chicago: Norwood House, 2011. 978-1-59953-420-6. 32p. \$22.60. Gr. 3-6.**

In this title the reader is introduced to what a fossil is, the job of a paleontologist, and then encouraged to think like a scientist to analyze the material presented and become familiar with the types of questions a paleontologist asks to discover information about the fossils they study. This is a solid introduction to the world of fossils and paleontology. Other titles are: *Human Body: Train It Right*, *New Plants: Seeds in the Soil Patch*, *Solar Energy*, *Weather and the Water Cycle*, *Air and Weather* and *Pebbles, Sand, And Silt: The*

*Neighbor's Garden* All the titles follow the same format of having a puzzle, an activity, a glossary, further reading, and an index. These are most suited for elementary school.  
**Sandra Krieg, The Haverford School**

**Somervill, Barbara A. *The Story Behind Maps: True Stories Series*. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2012. 978-1-4329-5443-7. 32p. \$22.49. Gr. 3-8.**

This brief book is a terrific introduction to the history of maps. Beginning with a chapter on the need for maps, the book goes on to discuss their history and famous mapmakers. A chapter explains latitude, longitude and map projections. Map reading is briefly covered. Finally, common types and the future of maps are discussed. Many color photos and illustrations complement the text. Bold terms are defined in a glossary. A timeline, further reading, and an index are also included.  
**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run M. S.**

**Sonenklar, Carol. *Health Reports: Disease and Disorders - Anorexia and Bulimia*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2011.**

**978-0-8225-6786-8. 128p. \$34.60. Gr. 7-12.**

This title is part of a series published in conjunction with *USA Today* and combines their unique news style into an informative non-fiction title geared toward middle and high school students. The text is easy to read and is augmented with colorful photographs and pop out statistical charts and graphs. Included in the title is an in depth definitions section, articles from *USA Today News*, biographies about notable people with eating disorders, and a recovery section with true life stories. The book has a glossary, web-site resource list, bibliography for further reading, and an easy to use index. I would highly recommend this title for high school libraries looking to add to their health and wellness sections.  
**Robin Burns, Whitehall High School**

**Stearman, Kaye. *Human Trafficking Around the World*. New York: Rosen, 2011. 978-1-4488-1879-2. 48p. \$22.37 Grades 7-10.**

**Connolly, Sean. *Fundamentalism*. 978-1448818778.**

**Dicker, Katie. *AIDS and HIV*. 978-1448818761.**

**McGregor, Harriet. *Globalization*. 978-1448818785.**

**Senker, Cath. *Refugees*. 978-1448818808.**

**Woolf, Alex. *Terrorism*. 978-1448818815.**

The Global Issues series published by Rosen is a great selection for middle and high school students looking for a basic overview on each topic. Amusingly, practically each page is called a chapter with a new chapter number. Do not expect a lot of content within, but do expect an appealing presentation with sidebars filled with important quotes, article excerpts, and beautiful photos. A glossary is included.  
**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

**Stewart, Gail B. *Urban Legends. The Mysterious & Unknown Series*. San Diego: ReferencePoint Press, 2012.**

**978-1-60152-185-9. 96p. \$27.95. Gr. 7+.**

This richly illustrated volume in *The Mysterious & Unknown Series* recounts just about every tall tale you've ever heard and possibly believed, from alligators in the NY sewers to The Beatles "Paul is Dead" phenomena of the 1960s. Very current urban legends - including the Obama birth certificate flap - are discussed and debunked, and Stewart discusses reasons many of the popular myths and fallacies have flourished. This book could launch an interesting classroom discussion about healthy skepticism, especially in the electronic age where contemporary tall tales spread virally. The text includes call-outs of fast facts and original quotes throughout, and an index and reading list "For Further Research" appear in the back of the book.  
**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township H.S.**

***Tales of Invention series*. Chicago: Heinemann Press, 2012. 32p. \$ 7.99. Gr. 3-6.**

**Spilsbury, Lousie & Richard. *The Television*. 978-1-4329-4881-8.**

**Spilsbury, Lousie & Richard. *The Printing Press*. 978-1-4329-4876-4.**

This attention-grabbing series reveals the discovery and creation of everyday items! Uncover the excitement of early inventions, the rivalries between competing scientists and the problems that had to be overcome. Follow the story of these fascinating inventions through short articles focusing on the people and major events from prior to discovery to future projections. It includes an index, glossary, additional resources and a timeline to tie everything together.  
**Robin Bassion, Lenape Middle School**

***Technology in Ancient Cultures*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2011. 96p. \$31.93. Gr. 7-12.**

**Woods, Michael and Mary B. Woods. *Ancient Medical Technology: From Herbs to Scalpels*. 978-0-7613-6522-8.**

**Woods, Michael and Mary B. Woods. *Ancient Machine Technology: From Wheels to Forges*. 978-0-7613-6523-5.**

**Woods, Michael and Mary B. Woods. *Ancient Transportation Technology: From Oars to Elephants*. 978-0-7613-6524-2.**

How has technology improved the lives of humans over time? This series investigates that question in an interesting and informative format that is perfect for high school students. Whether used for gathering background information about a specific type of technology, creating a timeline, or considering a career, students will benefit from the comprehensive information in this set.

**Sarah Braxton, Juniata Valley High School**

***Teen Mental Health*. New York: Rosen, 2012. 48p. \$125.75 (set/6 vols.) Gr. 8-12.**

**Huddle, Lorena and Jay Schleifer. *Teen Suicide*. 978-1-4488-4586-6.**

**Morrison, Betsy S. and Ruth Ann Ruiz. *Self-Esteem*. 978-1-4488-4587-3.**

**Spalding, Frank. *Antisocial Behavior*. 978-1-4488-4585-9.**

The *Teen Mental Health* series focuses on specific mental health issues facing teens today, including self-esteem, antisocial behavior, teen suicide, dating violence, drug abuse, and online bullying. Each volume breaks down the specific mental health problem into chapters identifying behaviors, struggles, experiences, and solutions, including coping mechanisms, therapies, and prevention techniques. Additionally, each volume includes photographs and images, true stories focused on specific aspects of each issue, questions for counselors, additional resources, a glossary, and further readings. This series is a great addition for character education, health, and introductory psychology courses.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

***Teen Rights and Freedoms*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2012. 160 p. \$37.10. Gr. 9-12.**

**Engdahl, Sylvia Ed. *Free Press*. 978-0-7377-5827-6.**

**Espejo, Roman Ed. *Social Networking*. 978-0-7377-5832-0.**

**Merino, Noël Ed. *Free Speech and Expression*. 978-0-7377-5826-9.**

The *Teen Rights and Freedoms* series focuses on issues important to teens today that previously were not considered or not prevalent. Each volume begins with a foreword explaining the purpose of the *Teen Rights and Freedoms* series and how to use the series. Following the foreword is an introduction to the issue presented in the volume and the history of how it became an issue along with how society currently views it; a chronology follows the introduction. Each chapter then focuses on a particular court decision, personal narrative, or professional article about the issue and includes images, photographs, graphs, and captions for further exploration of the issue. Finally, each volume ends with organizations to contact and further reading. This series is a must have for any government, public speaking, current event, and sociology courses. It is one of the best teen issues series available.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

**Thomson, Ruth. *Terezin: Voices from the Holocaust*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2011. 978-0-7636-4963-0. \$18.99. Gr. 6-10.**

During the Holocaust the Germans made great efforts to cover up the atrocities that they perpetrated in the Terezin, Czechoslovakia, concentration camp called Theresienstadt. They showcased the camp to the Red Cross as a "model Jewish settlement" complete with schools, gardens, and a cultural life. Using diary entries, excerpts from memoirs, and artwork of its prisoners, Ruth Thomson vividly portrays the horrid reality of Theresienstadt and contrasts it to the camp's public face. Pair this book with Paul Janeczko's *Requiem: Poems of the Terezin Ghetto* (2011) to give students greater understanding; a valuable addition to any Holocaust collection. Timeline, index. Highly recommended.

**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

***The Vietnam War. Perspectives on Modern World History Series*. Farmington, MI: Greenhaven/Gale Cengage, 2011.**

**978-0-7377-5008-9. 247p. \$39.70. Gr. 7+.**

This informative and interesting volume begins with a world map, and gives us eight essays on the historical background to the war by Richard Nixon, Robert McNamara, the president of South Vietnam, a general from the North Vietnamese army, and trusted news outlets Saturday Evening Post, the Economist and others. The second chapter is a compilation of essays on controversies surrounding the war from a variety of perspectives, including Lyndon Johnson and Ho Chi Minh. Chapter 3 contains narratives by and interviews with primary sources: POWs, a conscientious objector, a war protester and a Viet Cong soldier. Richly illustrated and contains a chronology, recommended further reading and an index. Recommended.

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township H.S.**

**Townsend, John. *Amazing Crime Scene Science*. Mankato, MN: Amicus, 2012. 978-1-60753-168-5. 32 p. \$145.00 (series/6 vols). Gr. 5-8.**

This is an excellent series for middle school and lower-level readers with an interest in forensic science and criminal justice. Each volume is very colorful and sectioned to focus attention on one particular aspect of forensics, while including case studies, processes for solving crimes, photographs and images, a glossary, and web sites for further information. Volumes include *Searching for Murder Clues*, *Famous Forensic Cases*, *Cyber Crime Secrets*, *Crime Lab Detectives*, *CSI at Work*, and *Forensic Secrets*.

**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School, Ellwood City**

***True Rescue Series*. New Jersey: Enslow, 2011. 48p. \$21.26. Gr. 4-8.**

**Jankowski, Susan. *True Wilderness Rescue Stories*. 978-0-7660-3666-6.**

**Scherer, Glenn. *True Mountain Rescue Stories*. 978-0-7660-3572-0.**

These easy-to-read tales of true adventure rescues will attract teens who like to read nonfiction adventure stories and who like to help with community rescue services. Each of the two books reviewed here has five stories of rescues, a glossary of rescue and outdoor terms, an index, and lists of books and websites for further information.

**Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School**

***Tyranny in William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Social Issues in Literature Series. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven/Gale Cengage, 2011. 978-0-737752625. 180p. \$26.50. Gr. 8+.***

This well organized and extremely interesting volume contains a collection of scholarly articles examining Shakespeare's life, works, motives, and analyzes how his depictions of tyranny resonate in today's world. Opening with four-page timeline of The Bard's life, the first three writings give the reader background and a history of Shakespeare's life. Articles by the next nine scholars present a variety of viewpoints on Julius Caesar such as "tyranny is inevitable," and "Julius Caesar was staged to both promote and oppose fascist regimes." The third section of the book contains five essays using Julius Caesar as a story structure with character archetypes that help us to look at the contemporary world in different ways. These authors compare and contrast Julius Caesar's various characterizations with current day leaders including Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Kim Jong Il. This informative volume manages to be scholarly yet readable. Contains discussion questions, suggestions for further reading and an index.

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township**

**H.S.**

**Tzemach Lemmon, Gayle. *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman who Risked Everything to Keep them Safe*. New York: Harper Collins, 2011. 978-0-06-173237-9. 256p. \$24.99. Gr. 8-12.**

This is the true story of a young woman trying to help her family survive when the Taliban have taken control of their city in the late 1990s. After her parents and older brother left to live in a safer location, Kamila is left to take care of her five sisters and brother. Faced with survival, Kamila risks her safety in order to begin a dressmaking business to bring in a necessary income. Kamila's success multiplies as she learns to expand the business allowing young girls to work for her dressmaking shop and earn money to support their own families. Rich with history, this story allows readers to see the influence of the Taliban on Afghan culture. This story also serves to inspire individuals to serve humanitarian need whenever needed. An excellent choice for high school required reading.

**Karen Hornberger, Palisades High School**

***Velocity: History's Greatest Warriors Series. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2012. 48 p. \$23.49. Gr. 5-8.***

**Caper, William. *Gladiators: A Guide to the Deadly Warriors*. 978-1-4296-6602-2.**

**Gunderson, Jessica. *Ninjas: A Guide to the Ancient Assassins*. 978-1-4296-6600-8.**

**McCollum, Sean. *Vikings: a Guide to the Terrifying Conquerors*. 978-1-4296-6603-9.**

Each book in this series focuses on some of history's greatest warriors; Vikings, ninjas, and gladiators. A brief history is provided for each, along with descriptions of the weapons and fighting tactics they used. Full color photos and illustrations are provided to enhance the information. Each book contains a glossary of terms and lists of additional resources.

**David Mancini, Sandy Run Middle School**

***Velocity: History's Greatest Warriors. Mankato: Capstone Press, 2012. 48p. 22.99. Gr. 5-8.***

**McCollum, Sean. *Vikings: a Guide to the Terrifying Conquerors*. 978-1-4296-6603-9.**

**Niz, Xavier W. *Samurai: a Guide to the Feudal Knights*. 978-1-4296-6601-5.**

Legends are built on the incredible endeavors of powerful warriors who fought to save their countries and protect the citizens from invaders. Samurai warriors, revered by the Japanese for hundreds of years, have come to symbolize honor, courage and loyalty. Viking heroes and legends were kept alive for centuries through talented storytellers. The books in this series take an earnest look at some of the fierce and valiant men who believed there was more honor in dying on the battlefield than living a long life. Filled with maps, quick facts, and bold headings and subheadings, the authors provide background information on the time period, details on the religion, and descriptions of the weapons used and training. Features include table of contents, glossary, index and read more resources.

**Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle**

**School**

***Velocity: Instant Expert. Mankato: Capstone Press, 2011. 48p. \$23.54. Gr. 5-8.***

**Ellar, Simon. *Survival Skills*. 978-1-4296-6884-2.**

**Freeman, Gary and Jonathan Bentman. *Self-Defense*. 978-1-4296-6885-9.**

**Mason, Paul. *Bike Mechanic*. 978-1-4296-6882-8.**

**Teller, Jackson. *Skateboarding*. 978-1-4296-6883-5.**

From bicycles and skateboards to surviving in the wilderness or defending yourself in dangerous situations, the *Instant Expert* series will provide the knowledge and techniques that can soon turn the novice into an expert with a little patience and practice. The “Why Become” section after the table of contents explains the layout of the book and how to use the special features. Color-coded FYI fact bubbles, special tools and tricky vocabulary boxes will enable readers to find information quickly. Text is enhanced by full-colored photos and step-by-step illustrated directions. Back matter includes glossary, further information, a timeline and index.

**Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School**

**Velocity: Unexplained Phenomena Series. Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2011. 48p. \$23.49. Gr. 4-7.**

**Burgan, Michael. *Searching for Aliens, UFOs, and Men in Black*. 978-1-4296-4816-5.**

**Doak, Robin. *Investigating Hauntings, Ghosts, and Poltergeists*. 978-1-4296-4814-1.**

**Yomtov, Neil. *Tracking Sea Monsters, Bigfoot, and other Legendary Beasts*. 978-1-4296-4817-2.**

Browsers will enjoy these colorful, highly illustrated and eye catching titles. Chapters present evidence of the subject with facts and speculations over many years. The information is brief but interesting. Highlighted terms are defined at the bottom of the page, and in a glossary. Further reading and an index are also included.

**Michelle Stone Hankin, Sandy Run Middle School**

***Women's Issues in Alice Walker's The Color Purple*. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2011. 978-0-7377-5270-0. 163p. \$35.00 Gr. 9 – 12.**

This collection of essays from the valuable *Social Issues in Literature* series explores women's issues presented in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. Along with ten critical essays pertaining to Walker's work, the collection includes background information about the author as well as historical and contemporary views on women's issues and race. A timeline of Walker's life, suggested further readings, and extensive index and bibliography are also included.

**Dawn McGee, Abington Senior High**

***Women's issues in Kate Chopin's The Awakening*. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2012. 978-0-7377-5819-1. 197p. \$35.00 Gr. 9 – 12.**

This is a highly accessible collection of essays from the *Social Issues in Literature Series*, exploring women's issues presented in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. Along with ten critical essays pertaining to the work of literature, the book includes background information about the author and historical and contemporary views on women's issues, a timeline of Chopin's life, suggested further readings, and extensive index and bibliography.

**Dawn McGee, Abington Senior High**

**Yancey, Diane. *Basketball. Science Behind Sports Series*. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2011. 978-1-4205-0293-0. 112p. \$33.45. Gr. 6+.**

For true hoops fans this book covers it all: from the history of the game since its invention in 1891 by James Naismith at the YMCA, through present day college March Madness, WBA, and NBA action. Covers the history of rules of the game, sports medicine, equipment used, the mechanics of basketball moves such as dunks and layups, and vignettes of the greats in both men's and women's basketball. This beautifully illustrated, fun to read page-turner includes a glossary, index and list of resources for further reading.

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township**

**H.S.**

## **GRAPHIC BOOKS**

**Backderf, Derf. *My Friend Dahmer*. New York: Abrams Comicarts, 2011. 978-1-4197-0217-4. 224p. \$17.95. Gr. 7-12.**

Fascinating peek into the teenage years of Jeffrey Dahmer, America's most twisted and reviled serial killer, as told by his middle and high school classmate. Carefully researched and straightforward, we learn of the ordinary and not-so-ordinary events in Dahmer's troubled young life. **Graphic Book**

**Kathie Jackson, student teacher, Springfield Township H.S.**

**Lee, Tony. *Excalibur: the Legend of King Aruthur*. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2011. 978-0-7636-4644-8. n.p. \$21.99. Gr. 7-12.**

Following the lore of the legendary king, Arthur has a prophecy to fill. To become the champion of the Britons “he would rule the people, he would fight for the people and he would die for the people.” With King Ulric's rule becoming more rigid and discordant, the time for Arthur to challenge the king has come. The story is augmented and brought to life through arresting illustrations. Background colors change to reflect and enhance the mood and tone. Modern-day slang is sporadically sprinkled throughout the text, but the story is still gripping and full of collusion. Arthur finds love and deceit in those most-trusted, but redemption prevails as the hero completes his task. From the author of *Outlaws: the Legend of Robin Hood*, another classic tale vividly comes to life.

**Graphic Book**

**Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School**

**Committee Members**

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