

American Music Milestones (series). Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century, 2013. 63 p. \$23.00 ea. \$139.00 set. Gr. 6 and up.
Doeden, Matt. *American Latin Music: Rumba Rhythms, Bossa Nova, and the Salsa Sound.* 978-0-7613-4505-3.
Farseth, Erik. *American Rock: Guitar Heroes, Punks, and Metalheads.* 978-0-7613-4503-9.
Kaplan, Arie. *American Pop: Hit Makers, Superstars, and Dance Revolutionaries.* 978-0-7613-4504-6.
Mendelson, Aaron. *American R&B: Gospel Grooves, Funky Drummers, and Soul Power.* 978-0-7613-4501-5.
Sachs, Lloyd. *American Country: Bluegrass, Honky-Tonk, and Crossover Sounds.* 978-0-7613-4502-2.
Sacks, Nathan. *American Hip-Hop: Rappers, DJs, and Hard Beats.* 978-0-7613-4500-8.

The *American Music Milestones* series is a great addition to library collections. Each volume focuses on one style of American music and provides the history of that style. Volumes also include information about famous musicians, movers and shakers, songs, videos, awards, photographs, and additional reading and resources about the specific genre and musicians that made the music famous. The titles provide information and photographs about both classic and contemporary artists in semi-chronological order. This series connects Common Core Standards in research to general music classes and pop-culture electives.

Music

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Ancient Egyptian Wonders (series). San Diego: Reference Point, 2013. 80 p. \$27.95. Gr. 7-12.
George, Charles and Linda. *Pyramids of Giza.* 978-1-60152-258-0.
Kallen, Stuart A. *Pharaohs of Egypt.* 978-1-60152-256-6.
Lace, William W. *King Tut's Curse.* 978-1-60152-250-4.
Lace, William W. *Mummification and Death Rituals of Ancient Egypt.* 978-1-60152-254-2
Whiting, Jim. *Life Along the Ancient Nile.* 978-1-60152-252-8.

This series offers detailed information about high interest topics from the ancient Egyptian world. Each book begins with the same timeline of ancient Egypt and an overview of the topic covered. Chapters are highly readable with a pleasing format. The text is interspersed with color photos of Egyptian art and architecture as well as with fact boxes highlighting fascinating information, such as in *King Tut's Curse*: "After Tutankhamun's death his widow wrote to the king of the Hittites, asking that he send one of his sons to wed her and become the pharaoh." Each book includes source notes, resources for further research, and a thorough index.

Recommended.

Ancient Egypt; History

Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School

Aronson, Marc. *Master of Deceit: J. Edgar Hoover and America in the Age of Lies.* New York: Candlewick, 2012. 978-0-7636-5025-4. 230p. \$25.99. Gr. 8-12.

Aronson's portrait of J. Edgar Hoover during his 40 year reign as the head of the FBI was riveting and to quote the author, "scary." Hoover blackmailed "everyone" by keeping secret files; he poisoned his staff with his directives and took advantage of his position whenever he felt the inclination. There was meticulous period research, but this did not read like a history book; instead it is a superb thriller you can't put down. This period in US history was certainly tainted with the likes of J. Edgar Hoover and Joseph McCarthy. As I rooted for those "few" who took on J. Edgar Hoover with right and might; I cried for the many like the Rosenbergs, the Scottsboro Boys, and Martin Luther King. Illustrated and includes bibliographical references (p. 198-219) and index. Highly recommended for high school students.

J. Edgar Hoover

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Athans, Sandra K. *Tales from the Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest with Pete Athans.* Minneapolis: Millbrook, 2013. 978-0-7613-6506-8. 62 p. \$24.00. Gr. 5-8.

Pete Athans, an avid climber and outdoorsman, has climbed Mount Everest 14 times and reached "the top of the world" (Everest's summit) seven times. In *Tales from the Top of the World*, Sandra Athans shares her brother's stories of climbing Mount Everest through photographs, diagrams, charts, and factual information about mountain climbing and Mount Everest. She discusses the history of Mount Everest and why climbing it is such a challenge, along with individual stories of how her brother, Pete, found both success and heartbreak on Everest. This is a great addition for middle school libraries because of the integration of personal essay and informational writing, along with facts about climbing in general.

796.522; Outdoor Adventure

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Backderf, Derf. *My Friend Dahmer.* New York: Abrams Comicarts, 2011. 978-1-4197-0217-4. 224 p. \$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. Winner of the YALSA 2013 Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

Graphic Book

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Berlatsky, Noah Ed. *At Issue: Transportation Infrastructure.* Detroit: Greenhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-6542-7. 118 p. \$34.45. Gr. 9 and up.

Transportation Infrastructure, a part of the *At Issue: American Politics* series, presents both pro and con essays focused on the current infrastructure of the United States. Each essay focuses on a different aspect of the current state of affairs ranging from the decay of the current structure, how transportation infrastructure affects the economy, fiscal responsibility and infrastructure during times of recession, high speed rail development, and the sustainability of the current infrastructure. Each essay provides information about the author and includes organizations to contact and a bibliography for further research. This title and the *At Issues* series is a great addition to support Common Core research standards because the books encourage exploration of both sides of a topic, while also providing easy, understandable development of a specific argument, such as a position paper or speech would require.

Transportation; American Politics

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Blumenthal, Karen. *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*. New York: Fiewel & Friends, 2012. 978-1-250-01445-0. 310 p. \$16.99. Gr. 10-12.

Blumenthal has crafted an exciting, can't put it down, biography revealing Steve Jobs as a complicated man passionate about computers, but searing in his dealings with family, friends, and employees. Beginning with his commencement speech to Stanford University, the reader will be hooked while reading about Jobs' life from adoption to dropping out of college after one semester; from his inventions to his freakish eating habits, and from his vision of technology to his being fired by Apple, and how each of these life lessons framed him as the legend of ipads, iphones and ipods. Side bars, black and white illustrations, notes, bibliography, glossary and index provided.

Biography

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Burgan, Michael. *The Split History of the American Revolution: A Perspectives Flip Book*. N. Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2013. 32 p. \$33.32. Gr. 5-9.

Read Revolutionary War history from both points of view: one side of this book has a blue cover and tells the story from the American perspective. Flip the book over and upside down and read the red cover version told from the point of view of the British. Thoroughly researched, beautifully designed, these volumes are a fabulous way to catch young interest in U.S. history. "Shared Resources" between the two stories include glossary, internet sites, timeline, further reading and bibliography. Other volumes in The Split History series include: *Civil War*, *Westward Expansion in the U.S.*, and *World War II*.

American Revolutionary War

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Close, Chuck. *Chuck Close: Face Book*. New York: Abrams, 2012. 978-1-4197-0163-4. 55 p. \$18.95. Gr. 4-8.

This vibrant autobiography introduces artist Chuck Close who is best known for his very large, photo-realistic portraits of human faces. The text is structured using interview questions from 5th grade students who visited the artist in his New York City studio. Questions range from "Did you go to art school?" to "Why do you only paint faces?" to "How do you make your pictures look so real?" Browsers will enjoy manipulating "mix and match" sections of Close's self-portraits. Students interested in art and readers, in general, will be intrigued and inspired as they read about Close's challenges, both physical and academic, and his determination to work as an artist even in the face of paralysis. An introduction, timeline, and glossary of art terms are included.

Autobiography

Scott Armington, Springfield Township Middle School

DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami. *A Black Hole Is Not a Hole*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2012. 978-1-57091-783-7. 74 p. \$18.95. Gr. 4-8.

This chapter book makes a complex subject easy to understand with many analogies and vivid illustrations. Several cartoon-like images and thought bubbles are sprinkled throughout to grab the reader's attention. A timeline and glossary are found at the back of the book. The author offers many resources for further research. Highly recommended.

Science; Astronomy

Jackie Michelson, Substitute, Springfield Township Middle School

Deem, James. *Auschwitz: Voices From the Death Camp (The Holocaust Through Primary Sources series)*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2012. 978-0-7660-3322-1. 128 p. \$23.95. Gr. 6-10.

Using prisoners' personal accounts, James Deem details the horrors of the German death camp Auschwitz. Beginning with an introduction on the construction and expansion of the camp, each chapter focuses on an individual's experience in the camp. This searing account concludes with an entry on visiting Auschwitz today and its emotional impact on the author. Well-chosen photos, chapter notes, glossary, additional resources, and index add value to this important book. Highly recommended for all middle school and high school libraries.

Holocaust

Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School

DiPiazza, Francesca. *Friend Me: 600 Years of Social Networking in America*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century, 2012. 978-0-7613-5869-5. 112p. \$25.00. Gr. 5-8.

An informative nonfiction title perfect for middle school collections bridges the gap between history and technology in the field of communication. The book is a thin volume containing details on both the history of social networking and how technology has changed people's interactions. The text is easy to read and is augmented with black and white photographs and pop out statistical charts and graphs. The short chapters easily divide the information into specific time periods and focus more on the type of communication in the United States prior to the digital age. Included in the title is an in depth timeline of communication from Native Americans to European settlers and up until today. The book has source notes, a list of further readings, a web-site resource list, bibliography for further reading, and an easy to use index. I would highly recommend this title for middle school libraries looking to add to their technology section.

Social Networks

Robin Burns, Salisbury High School

Dobson, Jolie. *The Duct Tape Book: 25 Projects to Make with Duct Tape*. Buffalo, NY: Firefly, 2012. 978-1-77085-098-9. 144 p. \$14.95. Gr. 5-8.

Crafters will welcome this guide of creative projects using duct tape. Following an introduction and a brief history of duct tape, Dobson offers tips and techniques for using duct tape as a craft material. The bulk of the book is devoted to step-by-step illustrated directions for clever projects including a backpack, vest, purse, bike saddlebag, picture frame, skirt, lunch bag, and more. Decorative duct tape page borders and color photos of finished crafts give this book an appealing, up-to-date look. Recommended.

Arts and Crafts

Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School

Doeden, Matt. *Can You Survive the Wilderness? : An Interactive Survival Adventure*. (You Choose: Survival series). North Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2012: 978-1-4296-7542-0. 112 p. \$23.49. Gr. 3-7.

Students who love the outdoors will appreciate this "choose your own adventure" style book. It contains three stories, forty-one choices, and eighteen possible endings. The reader learns about survival skills in the context of nonfiction adventures that take place in Alaska, "down under," and in the Cascades. As the adventures unfold, readers make choices based on their knowledge of survival skills which can lead to either survival or doom. It includes tips on how to survive in the wilderness, stories of real survivors, a survival quiz, resources for further reading, a glossary, and index.

Survival

Lori Pinelli, Springfield Township Middle School

Eamer, Claire. *The World in Your Lunchbox: The Wacky History and Weird Science of Everyday Foods*. New York: Annick, 2012. 978-1-55451-393-2. 121p. \$22.95. Gr. 5 and up.

After reading this book you will look at the food in your lunchbox in a whole new way. The premise of the book is that all food, no matter how simple, has ties with exciting history, amazing science, and perhaps some very strange stories. Each of the seven chapters includes a food joke, some history about the food's origin and some interesting science facts. There's also a Top 10 Foods Fact list. I found the book both interesting and entertaining.

Food

Lori Pinelli, Springfield Township Middle School

Ellis, Deborah. *Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War*. Toronto: Groundwood, 2012. 978-1-55498-181-6. 143 p. \$15.95. Gr. 8-12.

The many children who are now living in Kabul, Afghanistan, have lost so much; many have no parents. They poke through garbage dumps for food or for items to sell. These kids' stories told to Deborah Ellis, show resilience, hope, and a yearning for a better life that does not consist of war, the Taliban, and fear. I highly recommend this for all junior and senior high school social studies classes.

Afghanistan

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Engdahl, Sylvia, Ed. *Electronic Devices (Teen Rights and Freedoms series)*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-5825-2. 143 p. \$33.70. Gr. 9-12.

The rights of youth within the scope of the law, the family, and school policy are continually being defined and clarified. Each volume in this series focuses on a specific right or freedom. This book begins with a chronology of developments in the area of electronic devices followed by an assortment of essays and articles on video games, cell phones, e-books and other electronic media. Some are fact-based, while others express the opinions of the author. The reading level, validity, and authoritativeness vary from article to article. Some pieces, such as an explanation of a Supreme Court decision written by Antonin Scalia, can be used as primary sources for research. The format of the book also makes it suitable for various classroom purposes. At the end of the book, there is a contact list of organizations concerned with the issues discussed, sources for further reading and an index.

Social Issues; Students' Rights

Patricia Fischer, School District of Lancaster, Retired

***Equipped for Battle* series. North Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2012. 32p. \$20.49. Gr. 3-7.**

Fein, Eric. *Weapons, Gear, and Uniforms for the Civil War*. 978-1-4296-7648-9.

Tougas, Shelley. *Weapons, Gear, and Uniforms of the Iraq War*. 978-1-4296-7652-6.

To set the stage for a presentation on military weapons, gear, and uniforms, the authors of each of these books first introduces background information on the particular conflict. Subsequent chapters give brief, basic information in an easy-to-read format with a “picture book” quality. Cursory text will generally limit appeal and usefulness to upper elementary and lower middle school readers. An attractive layout features full color diagrams and photographs, maps, fact boxes, and highlighted “vocabulary words.” Also included: Glossary, Read More (reference to other topical books), Internet Sites (including a proprietary code to a website identified as “safe”), and an index.

Weapons; Warfare

Scott Armington, Springfield Township Middle School

Exploring Media Literacy (series). North Mankato, MN: Compass Point/Capstone, 2012. 80 p. \$25.49 ea. Gr. 5 and up.

Palsler, Barb. *Choosing News: What Gets Reported and Why.* 978-0-7565-4517-8.

Wittekind, Erika. *The Big Push: How Popular Culture is Always Selling.* 978-0-7565-4518-5.

This series is an excellent, graphic-rich, and up-to-the-minute thin volumes on media literacy for your middle and upper grades. I’d recommend these as teacher resources or give to students in tandem with media literacy activities and projects. Concise and extremely well written, each volume contains facts, examples and case histories, current photos pulled from today’s media, a glossary, index, and activities/lesson extensions that are a wonderful resource. I’m currently teaching a media literacy unit to 5th and 6th graders, and plan to buy the two companion volumes to this set: *Violence as Entertainment: Why Aggression Sells*, and *Selling Ourselves: Marketing Body Images*, to round out my students’ experience.

News Media; Marketing

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Field, Simon Quellen. *Culinary Reactions: The Everyday Chemistry of Cooking.* Chicago: Chicago Review, 2012. 978-1-56976-706-1. 238 p. \$16.95. Gr. 7-12.

For students needing research material on the chemistry of cooking ingredients and processes, this book is sure to please. Foams, emulsions, colloids, gels, suspensions, oils, fats, solutions, and crystallization all get ample treatment. Additionally, biological processes occurring in foods such as yeast and yogurt, as well as in food preservation, are well-documented. The kitchen chemistry of heat, boiling, freezing, and pressure, as well as oxidation and reduction, and acids and bases are thoroughly explained. A must-have purchase for science fair research involving cooking.

Food Science; Chemistry

Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School

Freedman, Russell. *Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind An American Friendship.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. 978-0-547-38562-4. 119 p. 18.99. Gr. 5-10.

Outstanding insight into the friendship between Lincoln and Douglass, despite their different perspectives on the Civil War, the author provides a unique perspective on Lincoln’s formative years and the struggles he had in dealing with the issue of slavery because of his background. He also provides an interesting treatment of Douglass’s trials and tribulations as a slave and free man. Excellent photos, illustrations and cartoons. Highly recommended.

Biography; Civil War

Rich Colonna, Teacher, Springfield Township Middle School

Gay, Kathlyn. *Food: The New Gold.* Minneapolis: Lerner, 2013. 978-0761346074. 96 p. \$31.93. Gr. 6 -12.

This book takes a hard look at agri-business and factory farming, world hunger, waste, genetically modified foods, inequity, “food deserts” in urban America, malnutrition, the safety of our food supply from E-coli and other pathogens, and other subjects. Broken down into seven sections addressing some of the key issues facing the world’s food supply, this well researched, easy-to-read book is nicely designed with beautiful graphics. Useful as a non-fiction stand-alone, or as a companion to a social studies unit, this book is accessible to readers as young as 6th grade, but does not appear dumbed down and will likely appeal to older readers as well. Our 5th graders do a food social studies unit using *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat*, Young Readers Edition by Michael Pollan (sourced by the author for this book), and their teacher is very excited to use *Food: The New Gold* as an additional teaching resource.

Food; Hunger; Environment

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Gunderson, Jessica. *Your Life as a Pharaoh in Ancient Egypt.* N. Mankato, MN: Picture Window/Capstone, 2013. 978-1-4048-7371-1. 32 p. \$25.99. Gr. 3-8.

Beautifully illustrated and fun nonfiction treatment of exactly what it would be like to step into the life of Pharaoh Nabibi in 2401 B.C. Egypt. Medicine, life expectancy, religion, commerce, marriage, war, death, and the building of pyramids are all covered. Sure to please your younger readers as well as lower level older readers interested in antiquities. Includes index, glossary, additional reading and recommended internet sites.

Ancient Egypt

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Hale, Nathan. *Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales. One Dead Spy.* New York: Amulet, 2012. 978-1-4197-0396-6. 127p. \$12.95. Gr. 4-8.

Hale, Nathan. *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales. Big Bad Ironclad!* New York: Amulet, 2012. 978-1-4197-0395-9. 127p. \$12.95. Gr. 4-8.

Beautifully illustrated graphic novelizations of true stories in American history; they are sure to please your history and war buff readers, especially adolescent boys. *One Dead Spy* tells the true story of Revolutionary War-era spy Nathan Hale. *Ironclad!* details the race between America's north and south to build a bigger, stronger ship sheathed in iron and capable of surviving cannon fire. The appendix contains historic photos and bio sketches of Civil War characters, a history timeline, a Lego activity, a graphic bibliography, and a fascinating little short about how the author produces these books. Highly recommended.

Graphic Novel; Civil War; American Revolutionary War

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Hammelef, Danielle. *This Book Beats the Odds (Super Trivia Collection series)*. N. Mankato, MN: Edge Books/Capstone, 2013. 978-1-42968420-0. 32 p. \$27.32. Gr. 3-9.

Very fun, easy-to-read collection of fun facts about rare occurrences such as phobias, physical anomalies in animals and humans (alopecia, extra fingers and toes, extraordinarily IQs, for example), rare events in nature and weather, and extreme sports odds. Each fun fact is featured as a short paragraph with a photo or graphic. Includes glossary, index, further reading and suggested internet sites. Other titles in the series include *This Book is History: A Collection of Cool U.S. History Trivia*, *This Book is Top Secret: A Collection of Awesome Military Trivia*, and *This Book Might Blow You Away: A Collection of Amazing Weather Trivia*.

Oddities in Nature

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

***A History of Popular Culture (series)*. Chicago: Heinemann Raintree, 2013. 64 p. \$35.00 ea. Gr. 6-9.**

Bingham, Jane. *Popular Culture: 1920-1939*. 978-4109-4622-5.

Burgan, Michael. *Popular Culture: 1960-1979*. 978-1-4109-4624-9.

Hunt, Jilly. *Popular Culture: 1980-1999*. 978-1-4109-4625-6.

Hunt, Jilly. *Popular Culture: 1900-1919*. 978-1-4109-4621-8.

Hunter, Nick. *Popular Culture: 1940-1959*. 978-1-4109-4623-2.

Hunter, Nick. *Popular Culture: 2000 and Beyond*. 978-1-4109-4626-3.

Popular culture helped to define generations and continues to do so today. In this new series, *A History of Popular Culture*, Heinemann Raintree publishing breaks down the key trends, fashions, music, film, and literature that helped to define American decades of the Twentieth and now Twenty-First Centuries. Each book includes photographs (color and black and white), highlights of interesting developments in transportation, industry, entertainment, and more, "Did You Know?" sections, timelines, the "Best of" list for the decades covered, and additional sources for more information. Written to provide information about popular culture, while also encouraging additional research and interest in American pop culture history, this series is a nice addition for American Studies research and Common Core connections to history.

970; American Culture

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Hoose, Phillip. *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012. 978-0-374-30468-3. 148 p. \$21.95. Gr. 6 and up.

Well-written story about a small shorebird that migrates 18,000 miles each year, Hoose followed B95, a Rufa Red Knot affectionately nicknamed "Moonbird" because in this bird's amazingly long lifespan (20 years!) he has flown the distance equivalent to the moon and halfway back! Interesting stories, facts, maps, and pictures help the reader understand the plight of these small birds that are endangered because of habitat destruction. A "What You Can Do" section includes what readers can do right now to get involved. The book profiles Mike Hudson whose grandfather encouraged his love of birds from the time he was five-years-old. At the time of the writing, Mike was fifteen and had already founded a group called "Friends of the Knot" that drafted letters, wrote petitions, and even spoke in front of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources. His efforts succeeded in getting the Red Knot listed as an endangered species. Amazing story!

Red Knots; Migration; Bird Watching

Lori Pinelli, Springfield Township Middle School

Hoose, Phillip. *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012. 978-0-374-30468-3. 148 p. \$21.99. Gr. 8 and up.

I followed this story as reported in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and was delighted to see attention called to the plight of the Rufa Red Knot (a small shorebird) in this beautiful book. Hoose, a multiple award-winning author (Newbery, YALSA, National Book Award) and conservationist, joined an international team of scientists studying this bird's diminishing numbers over a period of years. The Red Knot migrates the unbelievable distance from Terra Del Fuego at the southern tip of South America to the Canadian Arctic annually. The nickname "Moonbird" was given when they tagged a single bird, B95, and discovered the astonishing number of years the bird lives. As a result, it was determined that the Red Knot flies approximately the distance of the moon and back during its lifetime! The Red Knot makes a crucial stop along the Jersey shore for protein-rich horseshoe crab eggs. Could climate and other environmental changes be responsible for the dwindling quantity of this food supply and the remarkable bird? *Moonbird* is one *The Washington Post's* Best Kids Books of 2012 and also won the 2012 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor.

Nature; Birds; Environment**Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School**

Howard, Melanie A. *Camping for Kids (Into the Great Outdoors series)*. N. Mankato, MN: Edge Books/Capstone, 2013. 978-1-4296-8423-1. 32 p. \$27.32. Gr. 3-9.

Great, easy-to-read, how-to for your outdoor fans, this title covers what to pack, hazards, things to do, and “Leave No Trace” environmental stewardship for campers. It features terrific photos and short facts interspersed throughout and includes a glossary, index, further reading and suggested internet sites. Other titles in the series include *Bowhunting for Kids*, *Deer Hunting for Kids*, *Duck Hunting for Kids*, *Freshwater Fishing for Kids*, and *Turkey Hunting for Kids*.

Camping; Outdoor Activities**Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School**

Jenson-Elliot, Cindy. *Life Under the Pirate Code*. North Mankato, MN: 2013. 978-1-4296-8611-2. 32 p. \$25.99. Gr. 5-8.

Beautifully illustrated series for your pirate fans, this volume covers how pirates handled battle, rule breakers, leadership, and a glimpse of their daily lives. Other titles in the series include: *The Most Famous Pirates*, *Pirate Ships Ahoy!* and *Pirates' Tools for Life at Sea*. Very simply and clearly written, this series is perfect for both your younger readers as well as lower level readers in the higher grades. Includes glossary, index, further reading and suggested internet sites.

Pirates**Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School**

Kraus, Michael G., David M. Neville, and Kenneth C. Turner. *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History*. Pittsburgh: Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation, 2012. 978-0-936340-19-7. 303 p. \$34.95. Gr. 9 and up.

The Civil War in Pennsylvania is one of the most extensive books written about the role of Pennsylvania pre-war, during the war, and post-war. Through photographs and drawings from both individual collectors' pieces and archives, Kraus, Neville, and Turner, share the story of Pennsylvania in the 1860s. This is the best compilation of Civil War photography with most of the history of the war being told through original photographs of individuals, events, and locations. This book is a must-have for all Pennsylvania libraries, not only for the history, but for the personal connection developed through the photographs and images of war, hardship, and hope.

Pennsylvania; Civil War**Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City**

Lambert, Joseph. *Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller*. New York: Hyperion, 2012. 978-1-42311-336-2. 91p. \$17.99 Gr. 5-8.

This graphic novel tells of the story of Anne Sullivan, the teacher of Helen Keller. It portrays issues that previous children's books may not have covered, like an episode where Helen Keller's story was thought to be plagiarized. Instead of focusing on Helen Keller, this book fills you in on the background of Anne Sullivan, who was orphaned at a young age and had her own eye issues. Throughout the story, readers have the opportunity to learn sign language in the way that was taught to Helen Keller. This book will be an eye-opener to those who have already heard the story of Helen Keller.

Graphic Novel; Biographical**Nicole Starner, Biglerville HS/MS**

Langley, Andrew. *Ancient Medicine (Medicine Through the Ages series)*. Chicago: Raintree, 2013. 978-1-4109-466-7. 48 p. \$25.49. Gr.5 and up.

Ancient Medicine is a richly illustrated and beautifully laid out guide to ancient medicine starting with hunters and gatherers in the Middle East, India, China, Greece and Rome. It is sure to please your science buffs and lovers of ancient history of all kinds, and contains a timeline, glossary, index and a “Find Out More” section in the back giving readers additional books, websites, places to visit, and topics to explore.

Medicine; Science; Ancient History**Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School**

Langley, Andrew. *Ancient Medicine (Medicine Through the Ages series)*. Chicago: Raintree, 2013. 978-1-4109-4642-3. 48 p. \$25.49 Gr. 6-9.

This entry surveys the contributions of early civilizations to the art and science of medicine. Beginning with an overview of the beginning of disease and healing practices, each chapter that follows focuses on a particular civilization and their medical ideas and practices. Visually attractive layout and fascinating information make this book a winner. Timeline, glossary, additional resources, and index make this volume a fine source for research.

Medicine; Ancient World**Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School**

LeGrand, Eric. *Believe: The Victorious Story*. New York: Harper Collins, 2012. 978-0-06-222582-5. 214 p. \$16.99. Gr. 5-8.

The young readers version of a similarly titled adult autobiography examines Rutgers University football player, Eric LeGrand's, injury and road to recovery. LeGrand who was injured on the field in a 2010 game against Army left him paralyzed from the neck down and ended his football career. The accident is used as a jumping off point to hi-light LeGrand's struggle to return to college, continue physical therapy, and follow his new dream of becoming a sports broadcaster. The book includes a lot of details about his time on the field and also his progress in the two years following his accident. The book has several photographs, a timeline, and

dialogue of the injury. This book is recommended for both middle school and high school libraries. An excellent fit for biographies and sports books.

Autobiography; Sports; Football

Robin Burns, Salisbury High School

***The Letter Q: Queer Writers; Notes to Their Younger Selves.* New York: Arthur A. Levin, 2012. 978-0-545-399326. 281p. \$17.99. Gr. 9-12.**

An anthology of sixty-three award winning authors write letters to their younger selves about what they would have liked to know about their lives as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgendered people. The entries are written by authors, playwrights, and illustrators from the LGBT community, and their audiences include both young adults and adults. The editor, Sarah Moon, has set the book up to be interesting and engaging for pleasure reading at the high school grade level. The book includes an appended brief biographical sketch of each author and information about the most well-known text of each author. The book is similar to *It Gets Better* however Moon's collection offers a more personal promise of hope to young readers. I would highly recommend this book for high school and public libraries.

Self Help; Adolescence; LGBTQ

Robin Burns, Salisbury High School

Levinson, Cynthia. *We've Got a Job: the 1963 Birmingham Children's March.* Atlanta: Peachtree, 2012. 978-1-56145-827-7. 176 p. \$19.95. Gr. 9-12.

Cynthia Levinson's book is just such an awesome read about such a difficult and horrible time during the Civil Rights Movement. Four African American teens' stories are re-told concerning the fateful year of 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama, when thousands of children were jailed while marching peacefully for segregation in stores, lunch counters, fitting rooms, and bathrooms. The research is very thorough and riveting; photographs and side bars show how difficult it was to remain nonviolent with racist police, fire hoses, insults and attack dogs. With the support of their parents, these children marched for their freedom, fairness, and self-esteem for equal opportunities for future generations of African Americans. This is also a great addition for high school collections as a nonfiction title for Common Core Social Studies; students will be spellbound.

Civil Rights

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Levinson, Cynthia. *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March.* Atlanta: Peachtree, 2012. 978-1-56145-627-7. 176 p. \$18.95. Gr. 6-12.

Cynthia Levinson spent four years researching and writing to produce this detailed account of civil rights activity that took place in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963. The book focuses on the black children and teenagers who marched to secure their freedom and were jailed in the process. This extensive compendium of Civil Rights material includes interviews of actual participants, many black and white photographs, source notes, recommended nonfiction books, movies, websites, a Birmingham civil rights timeline, and detailed index. Highly recommended.

Civil Rights--History

Scott Armington, Springfield Township Middle School

Lewis, J. Patrick. *If You Were a Chocolate Mustache.* Honesdale, PA: Wordsong, 2012. 978-1-59078-927-8. 159p. \$18.95. Gr. 4-8.

This delightful book of poems features a charming collection of riddles, limericks, haikus, epitaphs and plenty more. Word play will evoke chuckles and the whimsical pen and ink drawings add to the lighthearted mood of the verses. Add this to any elementary or middle school poetry collection!

Humorous poetry

Carol Breen, Springfield Township Middle School

***Life in the Early Islamic World* series. New York: Crabtree, 2012. 48p. \$22.95. Gr. 5-8.**

Flatt, Lizann. *Arts and Culture in the Early Islamic World.* 978-0-7787-2167-3.

Lassieur, Allison. *Trade and Commerce in the Early Islamic World.* 978-0-7787-2172-7.

Romanek, Trudee. *Science, Medicine, and Math in the Early Islamic World.* 978-0-7787-2170-3.

Whiting, Jim. *The Role of Religion in the Early Islamic World.* 978-0-7787-2169-7.

This series is a refreshingly multi-faceted introduction to the Islamic world. Its frequent mentions of Europe, though at times forced, serve to make Islam more accessible to any budding historian already familiar with medieval Europe. Each book is well-organized and highly visual. Bonus points for showing Islam's influence on Southeast Asia, which will inform any reader's understanding of the Middle East and Asia.

Islam

Thomas Leischner, Substitute, Springfield Township Middle School

Merino, Noel, Ed. *Media Ethics (Current Controversies series).* New York: Gale Cengage, 2013. 978-0-7377-62372. 199 p. \$40.95. Gr. 7 and up.

In Gale's *Current Controversies* series, an aspect of a topic is introduced with an overview by an expert in the field, followed by essays addressing multiple sides of a viewpoint by various other experts. Topics examined in this volume include: "What is the

Current State of Media Ethics?” and “Should Journalists Avoid Actions that Compromise Objectivity?” Books in this series are excellent springboards for discussions in social studies, as background material for student research papers, or as interesting reading for the civic-minded student. Includes bibliography, index, and list of related organizations to contact for more information. Highly recommended.

Ethics; Current Events

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Merino, Noel Ed. *Privacy*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-5830-6. 152 p. \$37.45. Gr. 9 and up.

The *Teen Rights and Freedoms* series from Greenhaven Press focuses on student rights and freedoms in specific aspects of society. In the new title, *Privacy*, the series considers students’ rights both in school and society. Designed to present both pro and con arguments, each essay addresses a specific aspect of privacy in accordance to student rights. Topics presented include general privacy rights, abortion and contraception rights of minors, searches performed in public schools of student belongings, drug testing students, and online privacy. In addition to each topical essay, an extensive bibliography is provided for further research along with a list of organizations focus on youth rights. In a society that is constantly questioning privacy and the rights of its citizens, this book is very timely and supportive, not only of current, social discussion, but also Common Core standards related to research and position writing. This is a very useful resource for speech, debate, and research.

Student Rights

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Mooney, Carla. *The Creators and Cast of Glee*. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2012. 978-1-4205-0789-8. 104 p. \$33.95. Gr. 6 and up.

This terrifically fun book will be a huge hit with your *Glee* fans: it begins with how a hit show is conceived and produced, and then profiles the cast of characters and provides information on other roles the *Glee* actors have played. It includes references, important dates in the series, further reading, an index, and picture credits.

TV Shows; Popular Culture

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Moore, Arden. *What Dogs Want: A Visual Guide to Understanding Your Dog’s Every Move*. Buffalo, NY: Firefly, 2012. 978-1-77085-055-2. 192 p. \$19.95. Gr. 6 and up.

Dog enthusiasts who want to better understand what a dog’s posture, expressions, sounds, and actions mean will be delighted with this guide. Individual dog behaviors (e.g. gutting stuffed toys, stiff tail wagging) are described and followed with a list of breeds that may exhibit the behavior and what the behaviors tell about what a dog wants. Additionally, suggestions on how to respond to each behavior and vet notes are included. Highly recommended to extend the range of dog manuals in a middle school or high school.

Dogs and Behavior

Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School

Murray, Elizabeth A. *Forensic Identification: Putting a Name and Face on Death*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century, 2013. 978-07613-6696-6. 72p. \$27.54. Gr. 7-9.

The text and photographs are gruesome enough to attract the interest of middle-schoolers, but the book also contains enough science to make it genuinely educational. Forensic anthropologist Dr. Elizabeth A. Murray explains the many methods that forensic scientists use to identify corpses, which may be found in various stages of decomposition and are sometimes merely bones. After positively identifying a body, the scientists and law enforcement officials can use this information to facilitate determining cause of death, which often leads to solving crimes. Some fascinating case studies are profiled, and the book includes a bibliography and index. Interesting reading and terrific for research. One small criticism is that the picture captions use small red font on a black background, which makes them difficult to read.

Forensic Science

Patricia Fischer, School District of Lancaster, Retired

O’Reilly, Bill and Dwight Jon Zimmerman. *Lincoln’s Last Days: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever*. New York: Henry Holt, 2012. 978-0-8050-9675-0. 316 p. \$19.99. Gr. 5-9.

Lincoln’s Last Days, an adaptation for younger readers of *Killing Lincoln* also by Bill O’Reilly, is the perfect addition to any collection about the Civil War and Lincoln’s presidency. Through original photographs, maps, drawings, and pictures, O’Reilly shares the story of the end of the Civil War and the plot by John Wilkes Booth and his accomplices to assassinate President Lincoln, and the aftermath following the death of President Lincoln. Each short chapter integrates images of the people, places, and events being described to enhance the reader’s understanding of this horrific event. In addition to the main focus of Lincoln’s death and its aftermath, O’Reilly also includes information about the flags of the Union and Confederacy during the Civil War, major players in both the Civil War and Lincoln’s assassination and what happened to them following the assassination, the Lincoln family, facts about the Civil War, medicine and weapons of the time, a walk through Washington D.C. during Lincoln’s presidency, timelines, and additional information for reading and research about both the Civil War and President Lincoln. This book is the perfect Common Core companion piece for American Studies.

973.7; Abraham Lincoln; Civil War

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Pearl, Sydelle. *Dear Mr. Longfellow: Letters to and from the Children's Poet*. New York: Prometheus, 2012. 978-1-61614-638-2. 233p. \$16.25. Gr. 8-12.

Henry Wordsworth Longfellow, lovingly referred to as the children's poet, lived up to his name. He was revered and venerated by children of various ages who sent him birthday wishes and visited him at home, where they were always welcomed. Sydelle Pearl has written a beautiful account of the poet's life, including letters to and from his intimate friends and devoted admirers and selections from his own prominent poetry. Bibliographical references and index are included in the back.

Literary Criticism

Christine Massey, JW Parker Middle School

Piehl, Norah, Ed. *Choosing a College (Issues that Concern You series)*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2012. 978-0-7377-5691-3. 122 p. \$33.75. Gr. 8-12.

This volume contains articles on various issues for high school students to consider when deciding on their paths for higher education. Some topics included are SAT's, college ranking, admission essays, and campus visits. Some of the articles are written by professors and professional writers, while others are written by college students relating their own experiences. The book also contains information on whether or not college is the right path for each individual and whether or not taking time off after high school could be beneficial. The appendix includes additional information on how to go about choosing a college as well as a list of organizations to contact, a bibliography and an index. Recommended for high school libraries and guidance counselors.

Guidance; Counseling

Patricia Fischer, School District of Lancaster, Retired

Polydoros, Lori. *Top 10 Ancient Mysteries*. N. Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2013. 978-1-4296-8437-8. 32 p. \$25.99. Gr. 3-9.

Super fun, quick nonfiction read for your younger readers or lower level older students, the pages are dominated by photos and graphics with photo caption-length text blurbs about The Pyramids, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Atlantis, Easter Island, and other world mysteries. Contains glossary, recommended additional reading, internet sites and an index. This is a companion to Top 10 Haunted Places.

Wonders of the World; Antiquities; Legends

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Pringle, Laurence. *ICE! The Amazing History of the Ice Business*. Honesdale: Cakins Creek, 2012. 978-1-59078-801-1. 74p. \$17.95. Gr. 5-8.

This book examines the history of the ice business by transporting readers to a time before refrigerators and freezers were commonplace. The writing is easy to read and has many photographs, paintings, and diagrams that help to illustrate the ice business from the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century when the need for "frozen water" faded with new technologies. Pringle includes a resource list at the end of the book with outside links to websites and YouTube videos. This unique look on a little known or covered field is a good addition to middle school libraries for high interest non-fiction.

History of Industry

Robin Burns, Salisbury High School

Rappaport, Doreen. *Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2012. 9780763629762. \$22.99. 228 p. Gr. 5 and up.

In this beautiful, carefully-researched volume, Rappaport chronicles little-known stories of Jews who, despite all odds, fought back in Nazi-occupied Europe. Compelling personal stories, photographs and artifacts, organized in thematic sections--The Realization, Saving the Future, In the Ghettos, In the Camps, and Partisan Warfare--draw the reader in. While stories of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising may be covered in your collection, the inspiring lesser-known stories of courage and nobility, many about young people, deserve to be read. Included in the back matter are a pronunciation guide, a timeline, source notes, a highly useful bibliography, and an index. Rappaport's website will include a study guide. This volume makes a fine addition to the middle and high school Holocaust collection.

Holocaust; Jewish Studies

Joyce Valenza, Springfield Township High School

Raum, Elizabeth. *True Stories of the Revolutionary War (Stories of War series)*. N. Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2012. 978-1-4296-8674-7. 32 p. \$29.99. Gr. 3-7.

Exceptionally attractive and easy-to-read, this volume contains short-story graphic novelizations of characters and battles in the war. Contains glossary, recommended additional reading, internet sites and an index. Other volumes in the series: *True Stories of the Civil War*, *True Stories of WWI* and *True Stories of WWII*.

Revolutionary War; Graphic Book

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Reef, Catherine. *The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne*. New York: Clarion, 2012. 978-0-547-57966-5. 219 p. \$18.99. Gr. 5-11.

Wuthering Heights, *Jane Eyre*, and *Agnes Grey* are three of the most famous Victorian novels written, and yet how much do readers actually know about their authors: Emily, Charlotte, and Anne? In *The Bronte Sisters*, Catherine Reef explores the lives of the most famous Victorian literary sisters. Beginning in 1820, Haworth, England, and ending with the sisters' deaths and rise to literary fame,

this complete book follows the difficulties of the sisters' lives, careers, and family affairs in a time when women were meant to stay at home and raise children and unmarried, preacher's daughters, were not looked upon fondly. Infused with photographs and drawings, this well-researched (the bibliography is six pages long) book considers not only the lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne, but also Victorian England and the immense impact these women had not only in literature, but within the feminist movement; in a period of suppression, the Bronte sisters provided a voice for women through their writing.

920; Biography

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Rodriguez, Gaby. *The Pregnancy Project*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2012. 978-144244-622-9. 218 p. \$17.99. Gr. 9-12.

Gaby Rodriguez wrote her story, a memoir, after receiving widespread media attention for her senior project. A young Latina student, who was herself a product of teen pregnancy, "faked" her own pregnancy with approval from her school for a social research study. The book is well written and draws readers into the experience and the gossip which followed Gaby for the six months of her senior project. Title included as a Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers 2013 and Top Ten Quick Picks 2013. Highly recommended for high school library collections.

Autobiography

Robin Burns, Salisbury High School

St. John, Warren. *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town*. New York: Delacorte, 2012. 978-0-385-74194-1. 226 p. \$16.99. Gr. 6-10.

In this adaptation of his adult novel, *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference*, Warren St. John shares the story of Luma Mufleh, a Jordanian woman whose mission becomes one of courage, determination, and hardships as she dedicates her life to refugees living in Clarkston, GA. Through the game of soccer, Luma is able to teach the young refugee boys not only soccer skills, but also how to work as a team, become dependable and reliable, and develop a positive sense of self. Luma's work does not end at the field, though. She not only helps her players, but also helps their families learn how to confront issues of race, language barriers, and poverty positively and in a way that opens doors and is strengthened through education. Each chapter shares the story of a different player or players and how Luma's guidance and kindness not only led to a successful soccer experience, but also a successful transition from a war-torn country to life in Clarkston, GA. This is a wonderful addition to both the library and social studies curriculum for not only soccer lovers, but also to enhance the understanding of life and the hardships that follow refugees of war-torn countries.

796.334; Soccer; Refugees

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Sandler, Martin W. *The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick, 2012. 978-0-7636-5080-3. 163 p. \$22.99 Gr. 6-10

It's 1897 and eight American whaling ships are locked in Arctic ice, which means 300 sailors are stranded with few supplies and dwindling hopes of surviving the upcoming winter. There's no telephone, no email, no GPS. The President sends three men on a rescue mission over 1,500 miles of frozen landscape, while driving food "on the hoof" (that means reindeer) with them. The action takes a few chapters to get going, just as the rescue mission itself took a while to unfold, but patient readers will be rewarded with an astounding true story of human endurance and heroism. Sandler's narrative is based around primary source journal entries and photographs taken by one of the rescue participants. Back matter includes source notes and a bibliography, as well as details on what happened after the conclusion of this adventure to the people you've met in these pages.

979.8; Adventure; Rescue Mission

Mary Fran Torpey, Friends' Central School

Sandler, Martin W. *The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2012. 978-0-7636-5080-3. 163p. \$22.99. Gr. 7-12.

The Impossible Rescue is a detailed account of a journey that three men were commanded to take to rescue 300 men stranded in eight whaling ships during the winter of 1897 in Alaska. Along the 1,500 mile trek, the rescuers learned how to survive from the many indigenous people they met. The book is filled with maps, copies of original letters and pictures. A timeline and bibliography are located at the back of the book.

Arctic; Whaling

Jackie Michelson, Substitute, Springfield Township Middle School

Seaman, Barbara and Laura Eldridge, Eds. *Voices of the Women's Health Movement*. New York: Seven Stories, 2012. 978-1-60980-444-2 (vol.1). 461p. 978-1-60980-446-6 (vol.2) 281p. \$21.95 ea. Gr. 9 and up.

These two volumes contain contributions from more than two hundred people including many well-known women's health advocates, Angela Davis, Germaine Greer, Erica Jong, Shere Hite, and Gloria Steinem. Editor, Barbara Seaman, a science journalist, brings together essays, interviews, and commentaries by leading activists, doctors, writers, and sociologists on a range of provocative topics such as activism, reproductive rights, motherhood and birth control. These contributions create a powerful history of words and perspectives that have inspired countless women to take control of their health and their lives. Included are brief biographies of the contributors to these volumes. A useful feminist lens for APUSH.

Women's Health Movement; Primary Sources

Joyce Valenza, Springfield Township High School

Sheinkin, Steve. *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*. New York: Roaring Brook, 2012. 978-1-59643-487-5. 272p. \$19.99. Gr. 9-12.

Beginning with the spy, Harry Gold, and expanding out to Germany, Great Britain, Norway, the Soviets and U.S. secret location of Los Alamos, *Bomb* is a wild ride as the race to build the first atomic bomb is waged. Sheinkin provides interesting, exciting, detailed research, primary sources, photographs, and delivers a riveting heart pounding, page turner. This nonfiction title about the creation of the hydrogen bomb has so many important characters that bear mentioning: Robert Oppenheimer, Tony Hall, Leslie Groves, Norwegian Knut Haukelid, and President Truman. *Bomb* has aptly earned its award as 2012 National Book Awards finalist for Young People's Literature.

Atomic Bomb; History

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Sheinkin, Steve. *Lincoln's Grave Robbers*. New York: Scholastic, 2013. 978-0-5454-0572-0. 224 p. \$16.99. Gr. 8-12.

The year is 1865 and counterfeiting is rampant. Master engraver, Ben Boyd, has been arrested and this affects business in a very bad way. In order to spring Boyd, his buddies hatch a plot to steal Lincoln from his grave, hold his body for ransom, and collect \$200,000. Will this scheme work? Follow the conspirators, the Secret Service, and an undercover agent while learning about the Lincoln Monument, grave robbing, and the Presidential Election of 1976. This is a must read for junior and senior high school social studies classes. Includes photographs and glossary.

Counterfeiting

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Slingerland, Janet. *The Secret Lives of Plants!* North Mankato, MN: Capstone, 2012. 978-1-42967-686-1. 32 p. \$22.54. Gr.5-10.

Part of a science series, Slingerland's graphic novel is a slim text, but contains a lot of in-depth information on plants and biology. It is a must read for anyone researching plants and their life cycle. Do not be fooled by the size or format of this book; it is a valuable resource. A detailed graphic novel with excellent illustrations makes it appealing for struggling readers and more advanced students. Recommended for both middle school and high school libraries.

Graphic Book; Plants; Biology

Robin Burns, Salisbury High School

Smith, Caroline M. *Dr. Seuss The Cat Behind the Hat: The Art of Dr. Seuss*. Chicago: Chaseart, 2012. 978-1-4494-3260-7. 320 p. \$75.00. Gr. 8 and up.

Dr. Seuss once said, "If you don't get imagination as a child, you probably never will." These words are the perfect introduction to *Dr. Seuss The Cat Behind the Hat*, a semi-chronological look at the life, writing, and art of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. This book highlights early sketches and works by Geisel, along with biographical information broken down into chapters entitled "As Early As It Gets", "Very Early", "Pretty Early" and later "Later", "A Little Later" and "Somewhat Still Later". Each chapter includes full color prints of both individual pieces created by Geisel and illustrations from his numerous children's books as Dr. Seuss. This book is the perfect addition to any art collection, along with a great resource for "Read Across America" and research about American artists.

759.13; American Art; Biographical

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Spilsbury, Richard. *Titans of Business: Jay-Z*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2013. 978-1-4329-6430-6. 48 p. \$32.00. Gr. 6 and up.

This is a wonderfully accessible "making of a mogul" biography of Shawn Carter, aka the fabulously successful Jay-Z. Contains dozens of current photos and covers his early family life, influences, the progression of his career in the music industry, and his business empire today. Later chapters include what's in the future for Jay-Z, and advice for the reader interested in becoming an entrepreneur. Other titles in this *Titans of Business* series include, *Mark Zuckerberg*, *Richard Branson*, *Rupert Murdoch* and *Simon Cowell*. This middle grade series will also appeal to your older students with lower reading levels who are interested in popular culture and famous personalities.

Biography; Low Level/High Interest

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Strayed, Cheryl. *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. 978-0-307-59273-6. 315 p. \$25.95. Gr.11 and up.

At age 22, Cheryl Strayed's mother is diagnosed with cancer and very quickly dies; Cheryl is devastated. Her mother loved all of her children very much, and Cheryl couldn't deal with her illness and all too quickly her death and departure from Cheryl's life. In the four years after, her family disintegrates and her marriage ends. An idea forms, and Cheryl works and saves money to hike to Pacific Crest Trail. She reads guidebooks and consults with REI about her clothes, boots, and all the essential gear she will need to accompany her on the 2,663 mile long trail. She mails money and supply boxes to lodges along the way. The 1200 miles that she traverses takes her from California, through Oregon, Nevada and Washington. She meets people along the way and battles all kinds of problems on the way to rediscovering herself. Readers will be thoroughly engaged in Cheryl's story, each step she took, each monumental moment she encountered along the trail. I laughed with her; I cried with her, but most of all I cheered with/for her.

Biography

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Thomas, Isabel. *What Is the Controversy Over Stem Cell Research?* Chicago: Raintree, 2012. 978-1-4109-4467-2. 48 p. \$24.49. Gr.6-12.

Part of Raintree/Capstone's *Sci-Hi: Science Issues* series, this book discusses many aspects of stem cell research. The discussion includes a definition of what stem cell research is, how it is done, what stem cells are used for, the controversies surrounding stem cell research, and much more. This is a somewhat simplistic treatment of a complicated issue that will give struggling students a better understanding of a topic that is often in the news.

Medical Issues

Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School, Retired

Tougas, Shelley. *Little Rock Girl 1957*. North Mankato, MN: Compass Point, 2012. 978-0-7565-4440-9. 64 p. \$25.50. Gr. 5-9.

This is an excellent account of the Little Rock Nine and their integration into an all-white high school in 1957. The book focuses on one girl, Elizabeth Eckford, but biographies of the other eight are also highlighted in the book. Stunning, powerful photographs with descriptions are found on most pages. A timeline, glossary and additional resources are found at the end of the book. Highly recommended.

Civil Rights

Jackie Michelson, Substitute, Springfield Township Middle School

Tougas, Shelley. *The Science of Weapons (Science of War series)*. N. Mankato, MN: Compass Point/Capstone, 2012. 978-0-7565-4461-4. 48p. \$24.99. Gr. 5-9.

This slim, easy-to-read, richly illustrated volume will attract your fans of guns, warfare and explosives. Tougas clearly explains the history and science behind guns, artillery, bombs and explosives, rockets, and missiles. State-of-the-art techniques such as unmanned drones and probe-armed dolphins are clearly explained, as well as expected weapons of the future. Contains glossary, list of further reading, recommended internet sites, bibliography and index. Other books in the series: *Science of Military Vehicles* and *Science of Soldiers*.

Science; Weapons; Warfare

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

***Understanding World History* series. San Diego, CA: Reference Point, 2013. 94-96p. \$27.95. Gr. 7-12.**

Currie, Stephan. *Black Death*. 978-1-60152-480-5.

Currie, Stephan. *Renaissance*. 978-1-60152-189-7.

George, Charles and Linda. *Holocaust*. 978-1-60152-155-2.

Kallen, Stuart A. *Ancient Egypt*. 978-1-60152-152-1.

Marcovitz, Hal. *Ancient Greece*. 978-1-60152-284-9.

Woog, Adam. *Early Middle Ages*. 978-1-60152-151-4.

Woog, Adam. *Late Middle Ages*. 978-1-60152-188-0.

Beginning with a visual timeline showing important events and followed by an introduction to the defining characteristics of the time, each book in this series offers a readable overview of an important time period in the history of Western civilization. Attractive illustrations, well-defined maps, and high interest sidebars add appeal to these volumes. A section on important people of the time period briefly tells who's who in the era covered. Lists of books and websites as well as detailed indexes add value to each entry in this engaging series.

History

Ro Becker, Springfield Township Middle School

Uschan, Michael V. *Comic Art*. Detroit: Gale Cengage, 2013. 978-1-14205-0862-8. 112 p. \$34.10. Gr. 6 and up.

Attractively arranged and fun to read, the history of the comic as social commentary and art form is thoroughly examined. Comic books, strips, and single panel cartoons are discussed as well as current forms, such as Manga and the graphic novel. Includes notes, glossary, recommended additional reading, and an index.

Comics; History

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Waldron, Melanie. *Deserts (Habitat Survival series)*. Chicago: Raintree, 2013. 978-1-4109-4594-5. 32 p. \$22.49. Gr. 4-9.

This simply written and gorgeously illustrated book will be a great resource for your middle graders doing research on habitats or readers curious about different environments and animals. It includes maps, *National Geographic*-quality photos of deserts in different parts of the world, and the fascinating creatures who survive in these harsh environments. The striking cover features a multi-colored bird peeking out of a hole in a saguaro cactus! Also included are a conclusion covering climate change, a glossary and a "Find out More" list of books and websites.

Science; Environment; Habitats

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Walker, Sally M. and Douglas W. Owsley. *Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, 2012. 978-0-7613-7457-2. 136 p. \$22.95. Gr. 8 and up.

In 1996 a discovery was made that changed the understanding of the history and development of man. During a boat race on the Columbia River in Washington bones were discovered dating back over 9,500 years to Paleoamerica and Native American inhabitants. Through forensic science and anthropological studies, the bones, “Kennewick Man”, tell the story of the first inhabitants of what is now the United States. This discovery challenged forensic scientists and forensic practices to learn about how Paleoamericans lived. With information from other, less complete, Paleoamerican skeletons, scientists were able to build the story and development of man, not only 9,500 years ago, but also today. *Their Skeletons Speak* not only shares the story of the discovery and science behind Kennewick Man, but also the development of Native Americans and their culture, along with information about earlier Paleoamerican beings. The integration of photographs, sketches, and diagrams only adds to the story of Kennewick Man and the history and story his bones provide today. This is a great Common Core piece because it connects science, history, anthropology, and sociology, while also challenging the reader with scientific jargon and an understanding of prehistoric man.

970.01; Forensic Anthropology; Early American

Erin Parkinson, Lincoln JSHS, Ellwood City

Wittrock, Jeni. *How Honest are You? (Friendship Quizzes Series)*. N. Mankato, MN: Compass Point/Capstone, 2012. 978-1-4296-6542-1. 32 p. \$26.65. Gr. 4-8.

These slim volumes are sure to please your tweens and early teens who enjoy magazine quizzes. In this book, quizzes ask readers multiple choice questions about how honest they would be in many true-to-life scenarios. In the scoring section, advice is given for those who rate as 100% honest versus those who may tend to bend the truth for different reasons, and compare them to characters in popular culture as a reference point. Contains glossary, list of further reading, recommended internet sites, bibliography and index. Other books in the series: *Are You a Good Friend? How Much Do You Know About Bullying?* and *How Trustworthy Are You?*.

Honesty; Friendship

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Yolen, Jane. *Birds of a Feather*. Honesdale, PA: Wordsong, 2011. 978-1-59078-930-1. 33p. \$17.95. All ages.

This is a spectacular book! Each page contains one of Yolen’s short, simple, yet beautiful poems accompanied by her son Jason Stemple’s Audubon-quality photography of the bird the poem describes. Additionally each poem’s page spread contains a nonfiction informational caption on each bird. Wonderful for read aloud any time, I plan to incorporate this book into my class lessons for Poetry Month in April.

Poetry; Photography; Nature

Kathie Jackson, Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Professional Resources

Calkins, Lucy and Mary Ehrenworth and Christopher Lehman. *Pathways to the Common Core: Accelerating Achievement*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2012. 978-0-325-04355-5. 214 p. \$33.13. Gr. K-12.

I found so much interesting in this book and am spreading the word about the CCSS Reading, Writing and Speaking/Listening and Language Standards. Calkins, etc. has structured a very engaging book about the reading and common core ELA standards and looks at each standard and helps guide in very real lessons and suggestions how to navigate the CCSS with what is already being done in your school. As I read the book, I felt, with the suggestions, that I would easily be able to collaborate with ELA, social studies, and science teachers and at the same time, help students enjoy reading much more by giving them choice, time to read, and more writing, too! I especially liked the importance of reading informational texts. Highly recommended for all educators.

Professional; Common Core Standards

BJ Neary, Abington Senior High

Russell, Carrie. *Complete Copyright for K-12 Librarians and Educators*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2012. 978-0-8389-1083-2. 173 p. \$50.00.

School librarians rejoice! Carrie Russell is back with a long-awaited follow-up to 2004’s *Complete Copyright: An Everyday Guide for Librarians*, but now with a focus on the K-12 landscape. Be aware that there are not many simple solutions to copyright dilemmas offered here, since fair use analysis requires considering several factors at once, but you’ll be confident in making fair use determinations after you finish reading this book. Russell covers many common questions: “Can I scan book chapters and put them online for my students?”, “Can I convert all the library’s VHS tapes to DVD?”, and “Can I make copies of videos on YouTube to get around our school filter?” are all here, along with many other pressing questions. And her clear prose should provide relief to teachers and librarians who have been too scared of legal liability to open the seeming Pandora’s box of copyright.

Professional; Copyright

Mary Fran Torpey, Friends’ Central School

Committee Members

Ro Becker, Springfield Twp. MS, Springfield Twp. School District
Sara Braxton, Juniata Valley School District
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Nancy Chrismer, Juniata High School, Retired
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Patricia Fischer, School District of Lancaster, Retired
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Jill Toye, Jenkintown MS/HS, Jenkintown School District
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* indicates co-chair, PSLA Media Selection and Review Committee