Mary’s song / written by Lee Bennett Hopkins ; illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.


LCCN 2011035890. ISBN 9780802853974, hardcover, $17.00.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 32 cm. Grades PS-3.

E Rating: *5

Mary--Blessed Virgin--Fiction. Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction.

It is noisy and busy as shepherds and animals come to pay homage to the newborn Jesus. Even a spider whispers its reverent joy! Finally they all depart, leaving Mary to savor the quiet peacefulness as she tenderly rocks her baby son, humming him a “mother-song,” and wondering what his future will be. Beautifully told in Mary’s voice, Mary’s Song envelopes the reader in the wonder and awe of Jesus’s birth and captures the precious feelings of a mother for her infant. Lee Bennett Hopkins’s poetic writing reads like a soft lullaby and is so perfectly suited to the Christmas story. The artwork by Stephen Alcorn is magnificent! Colored pencil and pastel sketches cover two-page spreads that open flat to reveal rich scenes of the holy family and their visitors. Turn the pages slowly and enjoy. This is a wonderful book to read aloud and is sure to touch the heart and imagination at Christmastime and beyond. Nina Ditmar

Mr. and Mrs. Bunny : detectives extraordinaire! / by Mrs. Bunny ; translated from the Rabbit by Polly Horvath ; illustrated by Sophie Blackall.


Fic Rating: 3


Polly Horvath’s off-beat, anthropomorphic mystery Mr. and Mrs. Bunny–Detectives Extraordinaires is a unique addition to the world of chapter books, which is dominated by formulaic series. The central character is a remarkably mature 5th grade girl named Madeline, who lives on an island off the coast of Canada. Madeline’s parents embrace an anti-establishment, free-thinking, laid-back hippy culture.

Madeline acts as the adult in the family–taking care of finances, repairs, etc. Meanwhile, Mr. and Mrs. Bunny are adjusting to life without their 12 children when they move to a new hutch. Their lives become intertwined with Madeline’s after her parents are kidnapped by some devious foxes who want a recipe decoded for their new business endeavor. After she finds the ransom note, Madeline goes to her uncle, who works for the government, for help, but he quickly falls into a coma. The bunnies meet Madeline and become determined to be detectives to solve the mystery. Much of this story revolves around absurd circumstances and witty dialog. Some readers may not be pleased with how Horvath portrays
Madeline’s parents are not very bright, occasionally using language that is not very nice (pee, crap). Moreover, the humor in the book may go straight over the heads of many children. The character of Madeline is particularly strong, as her personality keeps the story moving through one ridiculous situation after another. Overall, the book is quite well-written, the pencil illustrations are delightful, and the premise is amusing and original; but somehow the book seems to miss its target audience. Kristine Wildner

**Life in the ocean : the story of oceanographer Sylvia Earle / Claire A. Nivola.**


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. Grades 2-5.

B or 551.46 Rating: 5


Born in 1935, Sylvia Earle first explores the pond on her family’s New Jersey farm, collecting specimens and recording her “investigations.” A move to Florida when she is 12 broadens her fascination with aquatic life as she snorkels in the clear water of the Gulf of Mexico. She aspires to remarkable accomplishments as a diver and researcher, living for two weeks in a deep-sea station, exploring the ocean floor, and immersing herself among the whales and other sea creatures. This beautifully written and illustrated picture book biography is a gem for children of all ages. Simply and captivatingly told, *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle* introduces young readers to a true pioneer and to the interesting methods used to explore the ocean world. Walking underwater in an aqua suit, traveling in a spherical bubble, and diving in a submersible ship, Earle has a passion for the deep and its hidden splendor. Author Claire A. Nivola’s gentle pictures capture the spirit of the adventurous Sylvia Earle, who likens the sound of singing whales to being “inside the heart of an orchestra” and inspires us to discover and care about the wondrous oceans of the earth. An author’s note addressing current environmental concerns and a selected bibliography challenge older readers to learn more. Nina Ditmar

**Bon appetit! : the delicious life of Julia Child / Jessie Hartland. (True north series)**


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm. Grades 2-4.

B or 641.5 Rating: 5


*Bon Appétit! The Delicious Life of Julia Child* by Jessie Hartland is a unique picture book biography. The story covers Julia Child’s entire life from her childhood in Pasadena, her life in France, and her success as an author and television personality. Julia is an inspiring character; she accepts her own rather awkward, very tall self, and embraces her passions and the opportunities life offers in terms of education, a writing career, work for the government during World War II, and a married life which took her all over the world. The book offers a surprising amount of detail and insight into Julia’s career and the hard work involved in French cooking and the translation needed for American readers. The text is handwritten amidst color sketches and speech bubbles, some of which are written in small frames, others in full and half page spreads. The format may intimidate adult readers, but children, especially those familiar with graphic novels, will enjoy the humor and movement evident on each page. Nonetheless, the text flows.
smoothly from one frame or page to the next. Overall, *Bon Appétit!* is a distinctive picture book biography, well worth a thoughtful young reader’s time and attention. Kristine Wildner

**The fantastic jungles of Henri Rousseau /** by Michelle Markel ; illustrated by Amanda Hall.


LCCN 2011035838. ISBN 9780802853646, hardcover, $17.00.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 29 cm. Grades K-4.

B or 759.4 Rating: 5


Frenchman Henri Rousseau is a 40-year-old toll collector, but what he really wants to do is paint the beauty of the natural world. He is undeterred when his self-taught “naïve” style is ridiculed by critics, continuing to paint the wondrous things he sees and imagines. Two decades later, Rousseau’s work is finally acclaimed by younger artists, including the famous Pablo Picasso. *The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau* is a biographical story by Michelle Markel that introduces the life and work of the determined 19th century artist. *The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau* is a wonderful look at the spirit and resolve of an artist at heart, who does not let poverty, lack of formal training, or discouragement from peers dissuade him from pursuing his passion to paint. Michelle Markel provides young readers (suggested for grades K-4) with factual details within the framework of a simple story that will intrigue, enlighten, and inform. The author’s endnote contains additional insights into the work of the artist, who never left the city of Paris yet created “fantastic jungles” on canvas. Amanda Hall’s rich watercolor and acrylic illustrations honor the unique style and perspective of Rousseau, portraying actual events and acquaintances of the artist. This would be an excellent addition to a school or home library and would certainly enhance an elementary-level art history lesson. Nina Ditmar

**Books for Upper Level Elementary Children**

**The second life of Abigail Walker /** Frances O’Roark Dowell.


338 p. ; 20 cm. Grades 5-6.

Fic Rating: 3


In *The Second Life of Abigail Walker* by Frances O’Roark Dowell, Abby Walker just doesn’t fit in with the popular girls. One day a fox bites Abby on the hand. For some reason, she feels different. She decides to actually speak her mind instead of going along with everything that Kristen and Georgia say. Now they’re out to get her, but she doesn’t seem to care. When Abby meets Anders, a little boy that lives on the other side of the creek, she realizes that there’s more to life than worrying about what others think of her. Anders’ dad, Matt, is home from Iraq, but he’s suffering from demons of his own. Matt is interested in writing a poem about different types of animals, and his family is doing everything they can to help. Abby enlists the help of her new friends, and they are determined to find as much research as they can for Matt’s poem. Abby wishes everyone would quit talking about her weight, including her parents. She wants them to see the beauty around them—like the fox that always seems to be watching her, or Anders’ dog, Wallace, that always seems to know when she’s coming. She sees how Anders is worried about his father’s condition. This is a lot for a little boy to have to carry. The more she spends
time with Anders’ family, the more she feels the need to help them with their research. However, she realizes that his family is also helping her. When the fox bites Abby, it seems to open her eyes to the true meaning of life. She makes new friends that like her for who she is, she sees that there are people that have real problems, and she also realizes the meaning of family. Trina Chase

Rachel Carson and her book that changed the world / by Laurie Lawlor ; illustrations by Laura Beingessner.
LCCN 2010047302. ISBN 9780823423705, hardcover, $16.95.
32 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. Grades 3-6.
B or 570 Rating: 4
Biologists. Environmentalists.
Small town life in early 1900s Pennsylvania is rich with rural splendor for young Rachel Carson to explore. She attends college to become a writer, but when factories begin to intrude on the land she treasures, Rachel commits to the study of biology and conservation. With jobs for women scientists scarce during the Depression, Rachel combines her love of writing and nature, publishing books about environmental changes and the sea. She later investigates the dangers of pesticides, challenging the chemical industry by exposing many concerns in her best-selling book, Silent Spring, written in the final years of her life. Laurie Lawlor’s straightforward telling of the life and work of Rachel Carson is a tribute to the noted environmentalist, 50 years after the publication of Carson’s revolutionary Silent Spring. Rachel Carson and Her Book that Changed the World is suggested for ages 6-10 (publisher’s note); however, there is much about this compelling picture book that warrants putting it into the hands of older readers. Laura Beingessner’s carefree illustrations—Rachel walking on the beach, sketching wildlife, and deep-sea diving—transition rather abruptly to pictures of a pesticide truck and a bedridden Rachel stricken with cancer. A more mature reader will better understand the powerful facts of the story and the enduring ramifications of Carson’s research. A thorough epilogue and source notes provide additional details and make this eye-opening book a good catalyst for further discussion. Nina Ditmar

Books for Middle Schoolers

The moon over High Street / Natalie Babbitt.
LCCN 2011926886. ISBN 9780545376365, hardcover, $15.95.
148 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-8.
Fic Rating: 5
Orphaned as an infant, 12-year old Joe Casimir is being raised by his loving Gran. He is dreading their summer visit to Aunt Myra, and is even less thrilled when he has to make the trip alone after Gran breaks her hip. But Joe quickly feels at home with his kind and doting aunt, and there is even a girl his age just across the street. Summer in Midville starts to feel just about perfect…until a chance encounter with the town millionaire, Mr. Boulderwall, has Joe facing a difficult and unexpected choice. The Moon Over High Street is an engaging story with endearing characters and a suspenseful (if somewhat improbable) plot. Author Natalie Babbitt voices the thoughts, feelings and worries of young Joe with delightful accuracy. Many passages are gems (“all at once he felt like something ordered through the
mail that might turn out to be wrong”). Details both amusing (an auto part called the “Swervit”) and tender (Joe’s fascination with the moon) contribute to the book’s wonderful warm tone, and lessons about family, friendship, dreams, wealth, and opportunity are pieced together in a satisfying conclusion. Set in the 1960s, the book captures a more innocent time, when kids played the alphabet game during long bus trips and spent summer vacation riding their bikes around town—a wonderful bit of nostalgia to share with young readers 10 and up. Nina Ditmar

A black hole is not a hole / Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano ; Illustrated by Michael Carroll.
LCCN 2010022764. ISBN 9781570917837, hardcover, $18.95.

v, 74 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm. Grades 5-8.
523.8 Rating: 4
Black holes (Astronomy)

Black holes fascinate everyone with an interest in astronomy; many have preconceptions of what they might be, but don’t fully understand the concept. In A Black Hole Is Not a Hole, Carolyn DeCristofano introduces black holes by speaking directly to the reader, assuming only a rudimentary understanding of astronomy and physics. She begins by addressing the suppositions that black holes “lurk in the shadows” and “gobble up stars.” Readers learn how black holes are places of incredible gravitational pull, occurring at the end of a star’s life. Putting the vast expanse of space into perspective, the author incorporates analogies and comparisons such as a similarity to a whirlpool. These devices help the reader understand how a black hole works, and highlight their unique characteristics. An important part of this book centers on the work of astronomers, new discoveries and methods used to identify black holes in the universe. There is so much more to learn and to inspire young scientists to explore the unknown, apply the principles of physics and conceptualize black holes and other parts of the universe. Brilliantly illustrated, A Black Hole Is Not a Hole is designed and organized so as to make this complex concept understandable to a middle school reader. Paragraphs are relatively short with attractive graphics and captions highlighting important points. DeCristofano’s narrative stands out as she uses the second person voice to address the reader, asking questions and answering them in a conversational manner. Notwithstanding the easy-going tone of the book, a black hole is a complex entity; readers must engage themselves in the text, thinking and learning as they read, to fully grasp this difficult concept. Concluding with a timeline, glossary, index and resources for further research, this book is an exceptional resource. Kristine Wildner

Explore Meteor Crater and Petrified Forest with Noah Justice / produced, written, directed and shot by Kyle Justice ; produced by Compel Media LLC ; distributed by Master Books. (Awesome science)
LCCN 2012930188. ASIN: B007HQGUBS, DVD, $14.99.

1 videodisc (34 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in. Grades 6-8.
523.5 Rating: *5

Explore the Grand Canyon with Noah Justice / produced, written, directed and shot by Kyle Justice ; produced by Compel Media LLC ; distributed by Master Books. (Awesome science)
LCCN 2012930189. ASIN: B0074AWO08, DVD, $14.99.
Explore Yellowstone with Noah Justice / produced, written, directed and shot by Kyle Justice; produced by Compel Media LLC; distributed by Master Books. (Awesome science)


LCCN 2012942044. ASIN: B007HQGUFO

This DVD series is great for those who want to go beyond just “God said it, therefore, it is so.” Using science to explain some of the earth’s natural wonders according to the biblical account, 14-year-old host Noah Justice does an outstanding job in making science understandable and refuting evolution as fact. He is an excellent host who is quite comfortable with science. In each 30-minute episode, Noah visits a national park (e.g., the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Meteor Crater and Petrified Forest). He uses and defines scientific terms and gives the biblical background to the age of the Grand Canyon, the role the global flood played in the formation of the earth as we know it today, and how dinosaurs were not killed off by a large meteor. But this DVD series is more than a geology lecture; it’s a field trip with actual footage of the national parks. One of the downsides of the series is that there is a great deal of repetition within each episode and among the three episodes. A book to accompany each DVD that explains in more detail the terms and theories, along with appropriate Scripture, and a brief guide to each location for trip planning would be a great addition. Christians should not relinquish the field of science to secularists, but should embrace science and learn about the evidence of the global flood and other geological “Scripture.” “How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small.” Psalm 104:24-25. Watching these made-by-kids-for-kids DVDs is a great start. Martha Jo Dendinger

Books for High Schoolers


SAT & college preparation course for the Christian student : test-taking insights and strategies, timely tips for thriving academically, 50+ sample essays sharpen your skills / James Stobaugh.


SAT (Educational test)

James Stobaugh, a certified SAT/ACT scorer, presents two valuable books for high schoolers to prepare them for college entrance exams. Following the lessons in *SAT & College Preparation Course for the Christian Student* and *ACT & College Preparation Course for the Christian Student* will also help students grow in their spiritual life. CT is an achievement test covering English, math, reading, and science, while the SAT is an IQ test, based on critical thinking and aptitude. It takes time to raise SAT scores (Stobaugh recommends one to three years of preparation), while a student can raise the ACT score in fifty days.

The SAT measures the student’s ability to solve problems, while the ACT measures the student’s acquisition of knowledge. The two volumes are very similar. Both take the approach that “beating the test” is not their goal, but spiritual and practical preparation is vital to doing one’s best. Stobaugh stresses reading 50-100 pages per day to increase verbal and critical thinking skills. Both volumes encourage reading at least one challenging literary book per week. Each volume has lessons with answers, and a free downloadable workbook. Each SAT lesson includes scripture, vocabulary words, and a critical thinking section to enhance verbal and math skills. Each ACT lesson covers scripture, vocabulary, reading comprehension, English grammar, math, and science. Both volumes have appendices: vocabulary helps, a book list, reading journal, devotional journal, and test-taking strategies.

The ACT volume includes Greek and Latin morphemes, while the SAT volume includes fifty college entrance essays. The latter answers general questions about the PSAT and NMSQT tests as well as the SAT. Following the lessons counts as one full year elective for most home school diploma programs. It is a must-read for all Christians bound for college as a way to prepare for the rigors of college work. *Carol R. Gehringer*

Books for Adults

*A plain death / Amanda Flower. (Appleseed mystery ; 1)*


vii, 324 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).

Fic Rating: 5

Amish--Ohio--Fiction. Murder--Investigation--Fiction

Amanda Flowers presents a twist on Amish fiction–a mystery that takes place in Ohio’s Amish country, proving that life among the Amish community is not as peaceful as one assumes. *A Plain Death* finds Chloe Humphrey moving into Appleseed Creek. She has just accepted a position as the computer services director at a local college. Her plan is to be there for a few years before taking a promotion elsewhere. On her first day, she saves Becky, a young Amish woman who was being accosted by some “English” men. Becky has left her Amish family and wants to pursue a career in art. She moves into Chloe’s house and looks for a job. Her brother Timothy, another former Amish, wants to keep an eye on his sister. He befriends Chloe and helps her make repairs on her house. When Becky borrows Chloe’s car without permission, she causes an accident, killing an Amish bishop. It is labeled murder when the police discover the car was tampered with. Meanwhile, Chloe discovers that she was hired to fire some of her staff and bring about some other changes. She faces dissension in her work environment. Could one of them be behind the murder? Was Chloe the intended victim? Or was someone targeting the Amish?

Chloe needs to find out before the murderer strikes again. Flower writes a cozy mystery that engages the reader. Her book has interesting characters (Grandfather Zook is a charmer!) and several twists to
The fiddler / Beverly Lewis. (Home to Hickory Hollow ; 1)  
Minneapolis, Minn. : Bethany House, 2012.  
325 p. ; 23 cm. Adult (HS). Fic Rating: 5  
Women violinists--Fiction. Amish Country (Pa.)--Fiction.  
After a night of secret fiddling at the Mann Center in Philadelphia, twenty-five year old Amelia Devries finds herself lost in a pouring rainstorm with a flat tire on a Pennsylvania mountain road in the middle of nowhere. With no cell phone coverage, Amelia fears she may be stuck in the storm all night, but when the rain slows, she sees light in the distance that leads her to a little cabin. There she finds Michael Hostetler, a young Amishman who is trying to forget the past and escape the present. Although from two very different worlds, both Amelia and Michael are struggling with the same thing: disappointing their parents whose plans for each of them are quite different than their own. Will this seemingly chance meeting lead them to the answers they are searching for, or will it only serve to complicate their lives further? In The Fiddler, Beverly Lewis takes readers into the heart of Amish country, where time seems to move a little slower and answers are sought. Well written, this novel is full of beautiful prose strung together in a symphony of love and forgiveness. The book is character driven with a slow progressing plot that allows readers to focus more on the inward struggles and growth of the two main characters. Through the different relationships that are formed, there is an excellent balance portrayed between the Amish and the English world, showing the positives and the negatives of both. It is clear the author has a heart for and a great insight into the Amish and their convictions. The author’s own personal love of music is clearly expressed through Amelia’s character. Good examples of redemption, restoration, and renewed faith are seen in the lives of Amelia and Michael. Both characters are wonderful examples of Christian adults who still strive to honor their parents, even when they disagree. The only downfall to this book is that it comes to a rather abrupt end; however, there is still resolution, and as this is only the first novel in the series, readers will be left anticipating the next installment.  
Justina McBride  

The messenger / Siri Mitchell.  
Minneapolis, Minn. : Bethany House, 2012.  
374 p. ; 22 cm. Adult. Fic Rating: 4  
Quakers--Fiction Philadelphia (Pa.)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction  
Hannah Sutherland is a young woman torn between her Quaker faith and helping her twin brother who has found himself imprisoned by the British army for joining the Colonial cause. As a Quaker, Hannah is forbidden to even see her brother, let alone take sides in the War, yet she knows she must do something to help him. Jeremiah Jones is the former British officer turned Colonial spy, who has his own personal vendetta against England. Though as different as two people can be, Hannah and Jeremiah
both need the same thing: access to the jail. Jeremiah can get Hannah a pass, but in return, he needs her to carry a message to the prisoners. Hannah agrees to take the message but refuses to lie for anyone. Can both achieve their goals or will Hannah’s convictions get them caught? Full of suspense and intrigue, The Messenger is plot driven, with multi-dimensional characters that serve to add to its depth. The book is well written, packed full of historical facts and vivid descriptions of Colonial America. Rotating between Hannah’s and Jeremiah’s perspective, Siri Mitchell gives her readers a personal look into the thoughts and motivations behind the main characters’ actions. Hannah and Jeremiah are characters with flaws, one with a cloak of righteousness, the other with a bitter heart. These flaws make them both believable and relatable, while allowing for character growth. Sacrifice and conviction are woven together to create an appealing story of courage and freedom. The suspense of the plot is increased with each chapter, leaving the reader eager to reach the climax in anticipation of the resolution; however, the reader will find that the conclusion leaves behind more questions than it answers. This ending creates a dissonance between the reader’s desire for resolution and the reader’s appreciation for the author’s chosen literary technique. In the end, the reader must reach his or her own conclusions, which serves to leave the reader contemplating this excellent work of fiction long after the final word is read. Justina McBride

293 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 4
Mary Magdalene by Diana Wallis Taylor is a fictional account of Mary of Magdala. Mary is such a happy, young girl until one night she’s stolen from her bed. The kidnapping is a result of a relative’s greed and jealousy. Luckily, her family finds her before she is harmed physically. However, she begins to suffer mentally. She suffers from nightmares, seizures, and fits of madness. Everyone in town calls her ‘Mad Mary’. Her parents are surprised when her childhood friend, Nathan, wants to marry her in spite of her illness. Once married, Nathan is very patient with Mary, but wishes he could find help for her. News of the miracles of Jesus of Nazareth reaches Nathan. Nathan and Mary travel to find Jesus. When Jesus heals Mary, Nathan and Mary return home to share the news of the Great Messiah. When Mary suffers another tragedy, she realizes her place is with Jesus and his followers. When Mary joins Jesus, she is determined to spread His word throughout their travels. The crowds grow bigger as people start to believe in the words of Jesus. Unfortunately, there are still those that do not believe and scoff at Jesus and His miracles. When Jesus informs His followers and disciples that one of them will betray Him, Mary doesn’t want to believe this. But she knows that all of His words come true. The people decide to trade Jesus’ life for the life of a murderer, even though Jesus has committed no crime. Mary watches in sadness as Jesus is crucified. When she witnesses His resurrection, she is determined to spread the word of God. She returns home to tell of all the miracles that Jesus performed. Even though this is a fictional account of Mary, the story includes great historical details regarding Mary’s life from when she meets Jesus. It describes Mary’s triumphs over her demons because of Jesus and her willingness to spread His word. Trina Chase

Daystar / Kathy Tyers.
Kathy Tyers returns with two long-awaited sequels to her Firebird trilogy, a science fiction/fantasy series originally published in 2004 and re-released as an annotated edition (2011). Wind and Shadow and Daystar pick up the threads of the Federate Whorl storyline. In Wind and Shadow, Kiel and Kinnor, the twins born to Firebird and Brennen Caldwell, are now adults in a world where one of them may be the promised Word to Come. Wind Haworth is a member of a despised race. Deported when she was five years old, she returns to Mikuhr as a diplomat. Desperately wanting to fit in, Wind studies the ancient writings and invites Kiel, a priest in training, to Mikuhr. When he vanishes upon arrival, his brother Kinnor, a military man, is sent to find out why. Daystar continues the story with Jorah, Wind and Kinnor’s son, who is imprisoned on another planet by a supernatural visitor. Kinnor attempts to rescue him. Meanwhile, medical student Meris Cariole catches a ride on a Sentinel ship in her attempt to get to Tallis, where she is to complete her training. When the ship makes an emergency landing on Procyel, she is stranded there. Meris is the only person living there who is not a Sentinel. She is challenged by what she sees as the irrational faith of the Sentinels. A mysterious stranger shows up claiming to be the promised Word to Come, causing family members to rise up against one another, and putting events into motion that are unexpected. Daystar brings the Firebird story to a startling conclusion. These books are well-written; the characters are likeable, with both failings and strengths. Kathy Tyers manages to include plot twists and turns in unexpected places. These sequels build on the themes found in the earlier books. Readers will enjoy the action and intrigue, as well as the ethics of technological and genetic advances. The books ponder the question of how God’s promises would be fulfilled if mankind lived on other planets. The original Firebird trilogy was reviewed in CLJ, June 2005. Carol R. Gehringer

The NIV Life Journey Bible features a number of excerpts and mini-articles from the writings of Dr. John Townsend and Dr. Henry Cloud, renowned Christian counselors and authors of the best-selling book Boundaries. The biblical text is the 2010 update of the New International Version, and most of Cloud and Townsend’s articles appear as sidebars. The articles include 300 “Insights,” short commentaries on topics such as relationships, parenting, maturity, fear, obedience, and more. There are also more than 30 profiles of biblical figures highlighting their personal and spiritual growth as found in scripture, 20 longer essays that discuss facets of spiritual growth, and an overview introduction for each of the 66 books of the Bible. For those who like to make connections between scripture readings and personal growth, this Bible offers a wealth of insights. Cloud and Townsend tackle difficult topics in the realm of relationships and clearly link specific verses to their commentaries in the “Insights” articles. Their
wisdom is biblically solid, clear, and helpful, especially for those struggling with habitual sins, dysfunctional relationships, and difficult family members. The articles often focus on community and the need for constant spiritual and personal growth. At the beginning of each book Townsend and Cloud highlight “Growth Lessons”—for example, the lessons for Lamentations are “Being Honest About Our Feelings” and “Identifying With Weaknesses.” This is a great Bible for those interested in personal and spiritual growth and application of biblical principles inwardly and outwardly. It’s like reading Scripture in the company of two wise, experienced Christian counselors. Jessica Boling

CLJ Core Collection February 2013

Books for Young Children

The story of Ferdinand / by Munro Leaf ; drawings by Robert Lawson.
1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 24 cm. Grades PS-2.
E Rating: 5

Books for Upper Level Elementary Children

Caddie Woodlawn / Carol Ryrie Brink ; illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman.
x, 275 p. : ill. ; 23 cm. Grades 3-6.
Fic Rating: 5
Frontier and pioneer life--Wisconsin--Fiction. Brothers and sisters--Fiction.

Blue willow / by Doris Gates ; illustrated by Paul Lantz.
172 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.
Fic Rating: 5
Migrant labor--Fiction. California--Fiction.

Listen for the singing / Jean Little. (Sequel to From Anna)
LCCN 90040019. ISBN 9780064403948, paperback, OP; buy used.
262 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.
Fic Rating: *5
People with visual disabilities Family life--Canada--Fiction
From Anna / Jean Little.
LCCN 72076505. ISBN 9780064400442, paperback, OP; buy used.
  201 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.
Fic Rating: *5
People with visual disabilities Family life--Canada--Fiction

The life of Jesus / Dowley, Tim (Look inside the Bible)
  1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm. Grades 3-7.
  232 Rating: 5
Jesus Christ--Biography Christianity.

Catch the wind, harness the sun : 22 super-charged science projects for kids / by Michael J. Caduto.
LCCN 2010051169. ISBN 9781603429719, hardcover, $16.95.
  333.79 Rating: 5

The story of St. Valentine : more than cards and candied hearts / written by the Voice of the Martyrs with Cheryl Odden ; illustrated by R.F. Palavicini and Castle Animation.
Bartlesville, OK : Voice of the Martyrs, 2007, c2006..
ISBN 9780882640099, hardcover, $Buy direct.
  34 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm. Grades 2-6.
  394.26 Rating: 5

Vivaldi's Four seasons / Anna Harwell Celenza ; illustrated by JoAnn E. Kitchel. (Anna Celenza'a Music appreciation series with CDs)
LCCN 2011025896. ISBN 9781570916373, hardcover + CDR, $19.95.
  32 p. : col. ill. ; 26 cm. + 1 sound disc (digital ; 4 3/4 in.). Grades 2-5.
  780.92 Rating: 5
Composers--Italy--Biography Vivaldi, Antonio, 1678-1741.

Colorado / Linda Jacobs Altman, Stephanie Fitzgerald. (It's my state!)
LCCN 2010003903. ISBN 9781608700462, library binding, $31.36.
Books for Middle Schoolers

Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze / Elizabeth Foreman Lewis ; illustrations by William Low.
LCCN 2006049633. ISBN 9780805081138, hardcover, $17.95.
   xii, 302 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 7-10.
   Fic Rating: 5
   China--Fiction City and town life--China--Juvenile fiction.

His banner over me / Jean Little. (Jean Little memoirs ; 1)
LCCN 95158618. ISBN 9780140377613, paperback, $8; buy used.
   x, 207 p. : ill. ; 19 cm. Grades 7-Adult.
   Fic Rating: 5
   Missionaries--Fiction Family life--Canada--Fiction.

Call it courage / Armstrong Sperry ; illustrations by the author.
   95 p. : ill. ; 23 cm. Grades 5-9.
   Fic Rating: 5
   Folklore--Indonesia. Survival--Folklore.

Adam of the Road / by Elizabeth Janet Gray ; illustrated by Robert Lawson.
   Fic Rating: *5
   Middle ages--Fiction. Great Britain--History--Plantagenets, 1154-1399--Fiction.

Invincible microbe : tuberculosis and the never-ending search for a cure / Jim Murphy and Alison Blank.
   330 p. ; 23 cm. Grades 6-10.
   619.9 Rating: 5
   Tuberculosis. Microorganisms.
The Kingfisher atlas of world history / Simon Adams ; cartography by Colin and Ian McCarthy.
1 atlas (190 p.) : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 32 cm. Grades 5-9.

Cuba / by David K. Wright. (Enchantment of the world)
LCCN 2008008423. ISBN 9780531120965, library binding, $38.00.
972.91 Rating: 5 Cuba

His name was Raoul Wallenberg : / by Louise Borden.
B Rating: 5

Amelia lost : the life and disappearance of Amelia Earhart / by Candace Fleming.
LCCN 2010005279. ISBN 9780375841989, hardcover, $16.95.
B Rating: 5

Alexander Hamilton : the outsider / Jean Fritz ; illustrations by Ian Schoenherr.
144 p. : ill., map ; 24 cm. Grades 6-9.
B Rating: 5 Statesmen--United States--Biography United States--History--Reolution, 1775-1783

Amos Fortune : free man / Elizabeth Yates ; illustrated by Nora S. Unwin.
181 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-9.
Books for High Schoolers

The dark unwinding / Sharon Cameron.
LCCN 0. ISBN 9780545327862, hardcover, $17.99.
318 p.; 22 cm. Grades 8-12.
Fic Rating: 5
Eccentrics and eccentricities--Fiction. Inventions--Fiction.

Black as night: a fairy tale retold / by Regina Doman.
LCCN 2004104011. ISBN 9780981931821, paperback, $18.00.
429 p.; 21 cm. Grades 9-12.
Fic Rating: 4
Sisters--Fiction. Catholics--Fiction.

The shadow of the bear: Snow White and Rose Red retold / by Regina Doman.
LCCN 2002107700. ISBN 9781883937768, paperback, $11.95.
265 p.; 21 cm. Grades 9-12.
Fic Rating: 4
Sisters--Fiction. Catholics--Fiction.

Blue / Joyce Moyer Hostetter.
LCCN 2005033570. ISBN 9781590783894, hardcover, $16.95.
197 p.; 22 cm. Grades 8-12.
Fic Rating: 4

Comfort / Joyce Moyer Hostetter.
LCCN 2008043664. ISBN 9781590786062, hardcover, $17.95.
306 p.; 21 cm. Grades 8-12.
Fic Rating: 4

The flame tree / by Richard Lewis.
LCCN 2003009672. ISBN 9780689863332, hardcover, $16.95.
276 p.; 22 cm. Grades 8-12.
Little by Little / Jean Little. (Jean Little memoirs ; 2)
LCCN 87050985. ISBN 9780670816491, hardcover, OP; buy used.
viii, 233 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 7-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
People with visual disabilities Authors, Canadian

Stars come out within / Jean Little. (Jean Little memoirs ; 3)
LCCN 91050290. ISBN 9780140347142, hardcover, OP; buy used.
viii, 260 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 6-12.
Fic Rating: *5
People with visual disabilities Authors, Canadian

Private Peaceful / by Michael Morpurgo.
LCCN 2003065347. ISBN 9780439636483, hardcover, $16.95.
202 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 7-10.
Fic Rating: 5

The rose round / by Meriol Trevor.
211 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 6-11.
Fic Rating: 5
Christian life--Fiction.

Jackaroo / Cynthia Voigt. (Novel of the kingdom ; 1)
LCCN 85007954. ISBN 9780689864353, paperback, OP; buy used.
358 p. : map ; 18 cm. Grades 8-11.
Fic Rating: 5
Heroes--Fiction. Fantasy.

On fortune's wheel / Cynthia Voigt. (Novel of the kingdom ; 2)
LCCN 98039010. ISBN 9780689829574, paperback, OP; buy used.
402 p. ; 18 cm. Grades 8-11.
Fic Rating: 5
Adventure fiction. Fantasy.
Books for Adults

Centurion's wife / Davis Bunn & Janette Oke. (Acts of faith ; 1)
378 p. : map ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 4
Bible. N.T. History of biblical events--Fiction. Historical fiction.

The hidden flame / Davis Bunn and Janette Oke. (Acts of faith ; 2)
394 p. : ill., map ; 24 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 4
Bible. N.T. History of biblical events--Fiction. Historical fiction.

The Damascus way / Davis Bunn & Janette Oke. (Acts of faith ; 3)
Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2011.
426 p. : map ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 4
Bible. N.T. History of biblical events--Fiction. Historical fiction.

Beside still waters / Tricia Goyer. (Big sky novel : 1)
xx, 300 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5
Amish--Fiction. Montana--Fiction.

Along wooded paths / Tricia Goyer. (Big sky novel : 2)
xi, 306 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5
Amish--Fiction. Montana--Fiction.

Beyond hope's valley / Tricia Goyer. (Big sky novel : 3)
  xii, 290 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5
Amish--Fiction. Montana--Fiction.
Additional titles:

The valley of betrayal / Tricia Goyer. (Chronicles of the Spanish Civil War ; 1)
  319 p. ; 21 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5
Women journalists--Fiction. Spain--History--Civil War, 1936-1939--Fiction.

A shadow of treason / Tricia Goyer. (Chronicles of the Spanish Civil War ; 2)
  288 p. ; 21 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5
Women journalists--Fiction. Spain--History--Civil War, 1936-1939--Fiction.

A whisper of freedom / Tricia Goyer. (Chronicles of the Spanish Civil War ; 3)
  314 p. ; 21 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5
Women journalists--Fiction. Spain--History--Civil War, 1936-1939--Fiction.
Additional titles:

Thorn in my heart / Liz Curtis Higgs. (Lowlands of Scotland ; 1)
  486 p. : maps ; 21 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: *5
Scotland--History--18th century--Fiction. Triangles (Interpersonal relations)--Fiction.

Fair is the rose / Liz Curtis Higgs. (Lowlands of Scotland ; 2)
  464 p. : maps ; 21 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: *5
Scotland--History--18th century--Fiction. Triangles (Interpersonal relations)--Fiction.

Whence came a prince / Liz Curtis Higgs. (Lowlands of Scotland ; 3)
Stand by me / Neta Jackson. (Stand by me ; 1)
  394 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
  Fic Rating: *5
  Additional titles: Come to the table

Where do I go? / Neta Jackson. (Yada Yada House of Hope novel ; 1)
  xiv, 386 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
  Fic Rating: *5
  Shelters for the homeless--Fiction Chicago (Ill.)--Fiction.
  Additional titles: Who do I talk to?, Who do I lean on?, Who is my shelter?

The yada yada prayer group / by Neta Jackson. (Yada Yada prayer group, party edition ; 1)
  x, 402 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
  Fic Rating: *5
  Women--Illinois--Fiction Prayer groups--Fiction.
  Additional titles: The Yada Yada prayer group gets real, The Yada Yada prayer group gets down, The Yada Yada prayer group gets tough, The Yada Yada prayer group gets caught, The Yada Yada prayer group gets rolling, The Yada Yada prayer Group gers decked out

Hood / by Stephen R. Lawhead. (The King Raven trilogy ; 1)
  490 p. ; 24 cm. Adult (HS).
  Fic Rating: *5
  Robin Hood (Legendary character) -- Fiction. Wales -- History -- 1063-1284 -- Fiction.

Scarlet / Stephen R. Lawhead. (The King Raven trilogy ; 2)
  449 p. : map ; 25 cm. Adult (HS).
  Fic Rating: *5
Robin Hood (Legendary character) -- Fiction. Wales -- History -- 1063-1284 -- Fiction.
Tuck / by Stephen R. Lawhead. (The King Raven trilogy ; 3)
443 p. ; 25 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: *5
Robin Hood (Legendary character) -- Fiction. Wales -- History -- 1063-1284 -- Fiction.

Additional titles:

Angels watching over me / by Michael Phillips. (Shenandoah sisters; 1)
316 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5

A day to pick your own cotton / Michael Phillips. (Shenandoah sisters; 2)
318 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5

The color of your skin ain't the color of your heart / Michael Phillips. (Shenandoah sisters; 3)
314 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5

Together is all we need / Michael Phillips. (Shenandoah sisters; 4)
317 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 5

Additional titles:

Healing sands / Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn. (A Sullivan Crisp novel)
LCCN 0. ISBN 9781595544285, paperback, $14.99.
424 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5

Healing stones / Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn. (A Sullivan Crisp novel)
LCCN 0. ISBN 9780849918902, paperback, $14.99.
391 p.; 22 cm. Adult.

Healing waters / Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn. (A Sullivan Crisp novel)
LCCN 0. ISBN 9781595544315, paperback, $14.99.
422 p.; 22 cm. Adult.
Additional titles:

Veiled freedom / J. M. Windle.
432 p.; 22 cm. Adult.

The new answers book 1 / Ken Ham, general editor.
378 p.; ill., maps ; 23 cm. Adult (HS).

The new answers book 2 / Ken Ham, general editor.
374 p.; ill., maps ; 23 cm. Adult (HS).

The new answers book 3 / Ken Ham, general editor.
381 p.; ill., maps ; 23 cm. Adult (HS).
Additional titles:

The lie : evolution/millions of years / Ken Ham.