Outstanding Books Reviewed in This Issue

*Romeo and Juliet Code* and *Romeo Blue*, by Phoebe Stone

*Past Darkness*, by Laurel Woiwode

*At the Same Moment, Around the World*, by Clotilde Perrin

*Courage Has No Color*, by Tanya Lee Stone
A Letter from the Publisher

Dear CLJ Readers:

Summer is upon us! It's the perfect time to slow down and relax with a good book. We hope that you will find this issue of CLJ a help in your search for rewarding reading material. As always, we are pleased to present you with great finds in Christian adult fiction and both fiction and non-fiction titles for young readers.

If you have kids, you will want ideas for good books to keep them engaged with reading through summer vacation. CLJ can help with that as well. We are the only professional review journal that provides reviews—from a Christian perspective—of both Christian and secular titles for young readers.

Please don’t forget to share CLJ with the librarians, educators and homeschoolers (or anyone who enjoys good books!) among your family and friends. We would like to expand the reach of our publication and would appreciate your directing others to www.ChristianLibraryJ.org to sign up for the bi-monthly CLJ journal as well as subscribe to the CLJ blog.

God bless you all,

Angela Walsh
Co-Publisher and Editor
The purpose of the Christian Library Journal is to provide reviews from a Christian point of view, of both Christian and secular titles for the Christian reader. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of Christian Library Journal.

The Core Collection, under construction, is a help for parents, teachers, librarians, and others in choosing the best books for the children and teens in their care.

Co-Publisher & Editor
Angela Walsh
Co-Publisher & Mentor
Nancy Hesch
Webmaster
Shawn Estes

Review Rating System

*5 Outstanding — a book which impacts someone’s life or thinking
5 Excellent — well written, among the best
4 Very good — definitely worth reading
3 Good — may be a good source for relaxation or to meet needs for information
2 Fair — poor writing or editing; read only if very interested
1 Poor — not much going for this title.

Recommended with caution (may be used with any of the above ratings) – Note reservations within the review.
Not recommended (may be used with any of the above ratings) – Note problems within the review.

Value of the book:
With fiction, the rating includes the quality of plot development/pacing, characterization, sense of time and place, mood, and atmosphere, dialogue, depth of perception, sensitivity of writing, use of humor. Be aware that some books are character driven, so character development is extremely important. Others are plot driven, so character development isn’t as critical; plot is.

With nonfiction, the rating includes quality of the information, accuracy, up to date, stimulates further inquiry, adds to the understanding of the topic, illustrations which are informative and appropriate.

With picture books, first be aware that these are written today for various age groups, so don’t assume little children. The rating includes those above for fiction and nonfiction, and also emphasizes the illustrations.

Commonly used abbreviations in CLJ reviews

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Primary Fiction


LCCN 2013931086. ISBN 9781590789964, hardcover, $16.95.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. PS-Grade 2.
E Rating: 3

In Fox Forgets, the fifth title in Suzanne Bloom’s Goose and Bear stories, Goose is packing up her books and preparing to leave on an errand. She charges Fox with the responsibility to tell Bear that she will be right back. But when Bear arrives on the scene Fox is so preoccupied with playing that she forgets to tell Bear. Bear becomes increasingly worried but finally agrees to play a game of checkers with his little friend. Eventually an adorably shame-faced Fox remembers and delivers the message just before Goose returns to Bear’s great delight. In the final illustration it is evident that all is forgiven as the three friends happily embrace, a fitting conclusion to this warm-hearted story.

The rich pastel illustrations admirably convey the characters’ emotions through character placement on the page, body language, and color. The white of Bear’s and Goose’s figures and the fox’s red fur are set against a bright blue background that practically forces them to leap off the page, further engaging young listeners and readers. Although done in picture book format, the sparse text and plot make this a fitting selection for a beginning reader. This delightful book would make a fine addition to any school or public library collection, especially where Suzanne Bloom’s titles are in demand.

Peggy Morgan, CLJ


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm. PS-Grade 3.
E Rating: 4

Yuriko is sad when her classmates make fun of her Japanese name. She briefly tries becoming “Michelle,” until her loving father helps her to explore and embrace both her heritage and her individuality. The Favorite Daughter is based on a personal story of author Allen Say.

Set in San Francisco, the book is a tender look at a father-daughter relationship and the value of a family’s culture and traditions. It is also a poignant reminder of how teasing and ignorance between schoolchildren can be hurtful. One of the book’s strong messages is that differences are okay. It is implied that Yuriko has mixed ancestry (she is blonde) and that her parents are separated (she is visiting her father). The Favorite Daughter celebrates a child’s uniqueness, from her ethnicity to her beautiful name and her own artistic creativity.

The bright, detailed ink and watercolors of author/illustrator Allen Say convey an affectionate journey. Vivid cultural elements (a favorite sushi restaurant, Japanese garden, and a Japanese ink painting demonstration) blend with tender scenes of father and daughter in meaningful conversation. Two photographs of Say’s own daughter are a wonderful addition.

The Favorite Daughter is recommended for ages 4-8 and would be a great entry to discussions on diversity, family, and the importance of feelings.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm. PS-Grade 3.

E Rating: 4

A young boy’s case of head lice is the subject of *Bugs in My Hair!*, a picture book by David Shannon. As Mom declares war on the “little nasties,” the boy deals with the itch, the humiliation, and ultimately the cure.

Filled with bright, bold, and humorous illustrations, *Bugs in My Hair!* is an amusing look at a familiar problem. David Shannon’s attention-grabbing artwork combines with a lighthearted and sympathetic tone to present head lice in a whole new light.

Comically depicted (as a luggage-toting houseguest, a vampire, and a city-crushing villain), the relentless lice invade and multiply like characters in a science fiction movie. But in this “Lice-a-Palooza,” the lice also dance, play the banjo and washtub, smoke cigars, and drink soda in front of the TV! Anyone who has dealt with an episode of head lice knows that larger-than-life is exactly how they seem. A useful addition to the classroom or school nurse’s office, *Bugs in My Hair!* just might lighten the dreadfulness of a lice outbreak. Factual information is included (lice lay eggs and feast on blood, and lots of kids get them) to balance out the jocularity.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

**Primary Nonfiction**

*At the same moment, around the world / by Clotilde Perrin. San Francisco, CA : Chronicle Books, 2014.*


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 33 cm. Grades K-3.

529.2 Rating: 5

In *At the Same Moment, Around the World*, French author/illustrator Clotilde Perrin introduces children to time zones with intriguing scenes, occurring simultaneously, from each of the 24 original time zones around the world. Moving eastward from the Greenwich meridian, from day to night, each page contains a warm, richly colored, and detailed illustration of an important location within each time zone. Every illustration provides several clues to the unique and special characteristics of its place.

This delightful book opens at six o’clock in the morning on a beach in Senegal. As the narrative moves around the globe, it continues to a market road in Uzbekistan, on to the desert near Ayers Rock in Australia, and then to a cozy home in Alaska before ending at five o’clock in the morning “on a ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean...when Chloe finds herself tired from dancing all night.”

The illustrations are whimsical works of art reminiscent of vintage fairy tales. The pencil drawings are colorized digitally, making the hues rich and the overall feel a bit magical.

The book concludes with a brief but detailed essay on the history of timekeeping. There is a pull-out map in the back that puts the idea of time zones into a clear and easily understood format, and all the locations referenced into perspective. At the Same Moment, Around the World explains time zones in a unique and interesting way, but it will be treasured for its beautiful illustrations. Children will return again and again to soak in the rich colors and ask questions about the exotic locales, cultures, and customs described in this distinctive educational tool.

*Valorie Cooper, CLJ*
Intermediate Fiction


315 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-7.
Fic Rating: 5

A tiny, new hero has arrived! In Lisa Fiedler’s first book of the new Mouseheart series, Hopper is a pet store mouse who must learn to trust his gut and listen to his instincts after his mother is suddenly taken. With only cryptic last words as guidance, Hopper and his sister, Pinky, and baby brother, Pup, are left to devise their own escape from certain death in this middle grade Braveheart-style epic adventure.

Hopper is a sensitive, curious intellectual and a problem-solver, unlike hot-blooded Pinky, who can’t resist a battle. Hopper conceives a daring plan, but things go awry when Pinky’s temper flares. Eventually, they escape, but sibling rivalry rears its head, and Hopper falls into the underground Brooklyn transit tunnels.

A good Samaritan rescues Hopper from the tracks and leads him to Atlantia, a utopian rat civilization. The seemingly idyllic kingdom is threatened by rebel mouse warriors. Why? Cats don’t harm the rats in Atlantia. Why? Hopper has many questions. Whom can he trust?

Innocence becomes wisdom, and fear becomes strength, as Hopper learns to trust himself, his intellect, and his instincts to navigate his way in a dark and foreign world. He uses the knowledge he gains to aid good in a world where good and evil constantly battle. Through his perilous adventure, Hopper learns the value of understanding from whence he came and comes to truly understand the value of family and friends, and of knowing when to fight. He finds his way in a scary world when he learns to discern truth for himself and to follow the voice of wisdom. (There are allusions to a spiritual dimension within the story).

Mouseheart contains gory, graphic depictions of life-and-death battles between good and evil characters. The story also emphasizes love and loyalty, and provides clear examples of mercy and restraint. Vivienne To’s cover art is a vibrant masterpiece.

Valorie Cooper, CLJ


300 p. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.


346 p. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.
Fic Rating: *5

Eleven-year-old Felicity Bathburn Budwig has been brought to Bottlebay, Maine to escape the dangers of London during World War II. With little explanation, her parents leave her with a houseful of unfamiliar and quirky relatives: Uncle Gideon, Aunt Miami, The Gram, and Captain Derek. The Romeo and Juliet Code and Romeo Blue are about young “Flissy” and the secrets and
mysteries she must confront and resolve, as the United States enters the war, bringing profound changes to her life and family.

In The Romeo and Juliet Code, Flissy is trying to adapt to her new situation, confounded by the puzzling absence of her parents and the cautious behavior of everyone around her. One year later, in Romeo Blue, Flissy has uncovered many truths about her family, but must continue to navigate the challenges and uncertainties that remain.

These fantastic stories from Phoebe Stone are a welcome and refreshing delight! The storyline is intriguing and suspenseful, with just the right amount of historical context (World War II) and literary references (to familiar classics such as The Secret Garden) to challenge but not overwhelm young readers. Told through the eyes of Flissy, The Romeo and Juliet Code and Romeo Blue easily engage the emotions and imagination. The author’s command of descriptive phrasing is positively lyrical, giving a lively and credible voice to her endearing protagonist.

While the books’ titles and cover art may suggest that these are contemporary romance stories for teenagers, the titles actually reflect one of many plot twists, and the emotional attachment between the young (ages 11 and 12) characters is innocent and wholesome.

Both books present some sad realities of war: separation of families, death of a loved one, and the dangerous work of espionage. However, the tone is hopeful—families rise to their challenges, some risk their own safety to help others, and love can endure immeasurable trials.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ

Intermediate Nonfiction


581.6 Rating: 5

Sugarcane, rubber, pepper, cacao, cotton, tea, papyrus, corn, potato, and cinchona have something in common: their influence on human culture. Gillian Richardson explores the history and value of these plants in 10 Plants That Shook the World.

Facts, stories, and sidebars combine with photographs and folk art in this intriguing book for middle grade readers. Author Gillian Richardson integrates the discovery, politics, science, economics, agriculture, and technology behind the featured plants. Each engaging chapter offers both “pros” (cinchona bark for the treatment of deadly malaria) and “cons” (the role of slavery and child labor in the growth of cotton). Reference to ancient times (using BCE terminology) and religious practice (such as the Mayans’ worship of corn as a gift from the gods) are presented alongside modern concepts such as “biorespecting”, deforestation, and genetic modification.

10 Plants That Shook the World is a fascinating read on many levels; adults as well as students would surely find the information noteworthy and the back-stories compelling. Kim Rosen’s bold illustrations have a dramatic quality. Each page is a colorful array of text and graphics that invite the reader to peruse and revisit. Plant origins are displayed on a two-page world map, and references for further reading are included along with a detailed index.
Nina Ditmar, CLJ


956.94 Rating: 5


956.94 Rating: 5


956.94 Rating: 5


956.94 Rating: 5

Jerusalem, Galilee, Israel, and Egypt—titles in the Let’s Go Explore series—present each land’s culture, geography, history, and biblical context in picture book format for young readers.

Kim Washburn’s fun headings (“Curiosities to Consider”, “Words to Work On”) introduce a mosaic of wonderful photographs and colorful text boxes in these absorbing and educational youth paperbacks. Each book in the series offers a glimpse at the landscape, holidays, homes, customs, language, sports, agriculture, art, animals, food, politics, and events from the Bible for the locale covered. Multiple religions (Muslim, Christian, Jewish) are described. The books are well organized, inviting, and enjoyable.

Though the reading level is grades 2-5, older readers and adults would have an equally pleasant journey through “the Holy Land” (Israel), “The world’s first great civilization” (Egypt), “The Holy City” (Jerusalem), and “The land where Jesus walked” (Galilee).

Nina Ditmar, CLJ


LCCN 2012949044. ISBN 9781590788806, hardcover, $16.95. 
1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 29 cm. Grades 2-6. 
973.3 Rating: 4

Author Selene Castrovilla and illustrator Drazen Kozjan make history come alive in Revolutionary Friends. The action begins on July 31, 1777, with the fatherless and eager 19-year-old Marquis de Lafayette in City Tavern in Philadelphia, where he first meets his hero, 45-year-old General George Washington.

Though strictly political on Washington’s part in the beginning, a true and close friendship develops between the two great men as they fight together for the rights and freedoms in
which they both believe. The Marquis de Lafayette proves himself in the Battle of Brandywine, rallying fleeing American troops and providing leadership despite a musket ball wound. Thereafter, Washington loves him as a son.

A few, scattered French phrases lend flair to the story, and sidebars illustrated as scrolls containing quotes from the Marquis de Lafayette add interest. Quotes from their correspondence give readers a deeper view into the hearts and minds of these two friends, whose close father-son-like relationship lasts, through wars and across continents, until Washington’s death.

A timeline of major events in each man’s life is included near the back of the book, rounding out the story, and making clear how important these two men were in the course of world events. There is also a listing of places to visit in the U.S. and France to gain more understanding of where these two leaders came from and how they became who they were. Additionally, the book includes a brief summary of Lafayette’s legacy in America, a bibliography, and a glossary of the French phrases used.

Castrovilla crafts an interesting and dramatic story, blending facts, quotes, and human emotion into a memorable, historical non-fiction tale. Kozjan’s pen and ink and digital color illustrations employ a textured Colonial era color scheme, and include perceptive sketches that clearly capture characters’ emotions, architectural details, and period dress.

*Valorie Cooper, CLJ*
Middle School Fiction


304 p.; 22 cm. Grades 5-8.
Fic Rating: 4

Wayne Thomas Batson pens a new series where he examines the world of dreams, asking “what would happen if your ‘dream come true’ turns out to be your worst nightmare”? (author’s website).

In Dreamtreaders, fourteen-year-old Archer Keaton is one of three chosen dreamtreaders. By day, he is an ordinary teen, living with his dad and younger sister. By night, he is a dreamtreader, taking on the responsibility to roam throughout the dream world fighting evil forces. He is bound by rules in the dream world (i.e., Nightmare Lord rules the sixth hour, and the dreamtreader needs to return to the temporal world before their personal midnight).

Led by the Nightmare Lord, the evil forces turn dreams into nightmares, trying to make the dream world the new reality. When the other two dreamtreaders go missing, it is up to Archer to defend the dream world with the help of some unlikely allies, who temporarily join him with their own agenda, one that puts them on opposite sides at different times.

Batson is a well-established author of fantasy books aimed at middle school readers. His books appeal to boys and girls alike. Dreamtreaders is the first book in a trilogy and sets the stage for the subsequent books. Batson excels in his worldbuilding and character development—Rigby’s interesting animal menagerie is a delight!

Archer is a likeable, flawed hero. In the first chapter, he is in the throes of a nightmare, introducing the reader quickly to the Nightmare Lord and Master Gabriel. Although the story starts out slowly, it grabs the reader as conflict unfolds between Archer and Rigby.

Recommended for school and public libraries, especially for middle school collections.

Carol R. Gehringer, Worthy2Read.wordpress.com


LCCN 2007011735. ISBN 9781561454242, hardcover, $15.95.
279 p.; ill.; 23 cm. Grades 5-8.
Fic Rating: 4

Two girls who have never met become best friends. Anna Casey really likes her new foster mom, biology teacher Miss Johnette. After moving around to different family members and other foster parents since her parents died, Anna is looking forward to a “forever home” this time. Miles away at a marina in the Keys, Mica Delano is living on a sailboat with her marine biologist father. When Ben, the nephew of the owners of the marina (“Aunt Emma and Uncle Bert”), meets Mica on a visit to the Keys, he sees the girls’ common interests and carries an introductory letter from Mica back to Anna.

With their common interest in science, the girls begin exchanging letters with specimens such as shells or seeds (complete with Latin scientific names). When her father receives a scientific research grant, Mica settles into the local public school, and the correspondence grows. Mica frequently invents explanations for the absence of her mother, who abandoned the family, and worries as she copes with her father’s developing alcoholism. Anna and Mica get an opportunity to meet even as this situation is addressed. Since
both are only children with single parents, they enjoy calling each other “sorta sisters.”

In *The Sorta Sisters*, author Adrian Fogelin uses a series of letters to share several months in the lives of two lonely middle-school-aged girls facing daunting challenges. Both Anna and Mica are well-drawn and grow through their experiences. Other characters contribute to these experiences. Aunt Emma, Uncle Bert, and Mica’s friend Colleen attend church regularly. Fogelin’s detailed pencil drawings of the scientific specimens exchanged with the letters enhance the reader’s enjoyment and understanding. This book has been recommended for public schools, and could be used for analysis and discussion in Christian schools and homes.

*Donna W. Bowling, CLJ*

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**The blue door / Christa Kinde. (Threshold series ; 1) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2012.**

**The hidden deep / Christa Kinde. (Threshold series ; 2) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2013.**
259 p.; 22 cm. Grades 6-9.

**The broken window / by Christa Kinde. (Threshold series ; 3) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2013**

**The garden gate / by Christa Kinde. (Threshold series ; 4) Grand Rapids, MI :**

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**Zonderkidz, 2014.**
Fic Rating: 4

Christa Kinde makes her author debut with *The Blue Door*, the first of a four-book series involving angels, demons, and an ordinary teenage girl with an extraordinary ability: she can see what others cannot.

*The Blue Door* opens with fourteen-year-old Prissy Pomeroy who lives with her parents and five brothers at the family orchard. Prissy discovers she can see angels when she meets a young male angel, Koji—and her life is never the same. With this ability, Prissy is privy to the spiritual warfare going on around her. Even the angels wonder why she has this ability. What is her role in the ongoing battle?

*The Hidden Deep* continues the story of Prissy and her angel friends. Prissy struggles to concentrate on school and her daily life as she is drawn further into the spiritual world. Life is not as perfect as it seems, as she discovers the sinister side of the supernatural world. She learns an apprentice angel was kidnapped from her family’s orchard, and a tiny angel may play a vital role.

*The Broken Window* finds Prissy preparing for her family’s Christmas traditions while her hometown is shaken by an invisible war. Demons target Prissy as they clash with angels. Is she in danger because of her ability to see angels, or does she have the ability to see angels because she is in danger? While she is dealing with typical teen life (boys, school, family, faith, and friends), the demons are preparing to battle her angel friends.

*The Garden Gate* starts with the aftermath of a storm that shakes the foundation of Prissy’s
faith. When her faith is tested, will Prissy be able to stay true? By this book, the reader has seen her grow and mature in her faith, even when faced with difficulties, whether involving her home or her angel friends.

Christa Kinde showcases her storytelling abilities in these highly imaginative novels. The first three books end with cliffhangers, making it better to read them in sequence since they build on one another. They are clean reads, without violence but implied danger. Readers' imaginations will be captivated as they read these stories of adventure and spiritual warfare.

Recommended for public and school libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Summer of the wolves / by Lisa Williams Kline. (Sisters in all seasons ; 1) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2012.
238 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8.

Wild horse spring / by Lisa Williams Kline. (Sisters in all seasons ; 2) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2012.
265 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8.

Blue autumn cruise / by Lisa Williams Kline. (Sisters in all seasons ; 3) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2012.
224 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8.

Winter's tide / by Lisa Williams Kline. (Sisters in all seasons ; 4) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2013.
LCCN 2012036225. ISBN 9780310726197, hardcover, $10.99.
238 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8.

Season of change / by Lisa Williams Kline. (Sisters in all seasons ; 5) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2013.
239 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8.

Fic Rating: 4

In Summer of the Wolves, by Lisa Williams Kline, Diana and Stephanie inadvertently become intruders into each other's lives when Diana's mom marries Stephanie's dad. Polar opposites, these eighth grade girls don't even share school friends, yet must somehow make it through an entire week of vacation together. When their parents choose a lodge in the woods, Diana looks forward to horseback riding; Stephanie hates horses and dreads the isolation of the woods. Diana struggles with abandonment issues over her dad, "mood" medicine that keeps her drowsy, and jealousy over Mom's acceptance of Stephanie. Stephanie struggles to toughen up for Dad, display Christian love to her surly new stepsister, and overcome feelings of betrayal for liking her stepmom. When Diana and Stephanie decide to free two mistreated wolf dogs they cannot foresee the chain of events set in motion that may even lead to the death of these beautiful animals.

In Wild Horse Spring, the girls spend spring break at North Carolina's Outer Banks. Diana is relieved to be away from constant bullying at school and Stephanie from her stepbrother's bullying. When both girls like the same boy, sparks fly. When he is accused of harming local wild horses, they must team up to prove his innocence.
In *Blue Autumn Cruise*, the girls join Stephanie's grandmother on a family birthday cruise to Grand Cayman Island. Cousin Lauren and Diana vie for Stephanie’s friendship, Stephanie struggles with guilt over her part in Diana’s continued hazing at school, and Diana solves a shipboard mystery involving smuggling of an endangered species.

In *Winter's Tide*, the girls face new challenges when they find a beached whale dying on the North Carolina shore and Stephanie’s stepbrother nearly dies in a car crash. Stephanie seeks Diana’s forgiveness for causing the bullying at school, and Diana must overcome feelings of betrayal to offer sisterly support.

In *Season of Change*, the girls notice increasing tension between their parents and are sent to spend a long weekend with Diana’s grandparents. When they discover a brochure for a marriage counseling retreat, they must overcome their personality clashes to save their parents’ marriage.

The Sisters in All Seasons series is written in first person point-of-view, switching between Diana’s and Stephanie’s viewpoints. Issues include parental abandonment, multiple blended family dynamics, school bullying, diabetes, and endangered wildlife. This series presents two sides to a blended family and gives hope to young teens facing similar challenges. Each chapter consists of ten to twelve pages in large, easy-to-read font. Language is age-appropriate, engaging, and gently expresses Christian values. Characters are familiar and likable.

*Kim Harris, CLJ*

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**Code of silence / Tim Shoemaker. (Code of silence ; 1) Grand Rapids, MI : Zonderkidz, 2012.**


331 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-8.

**Back before dark / Timothy Shoemaker.**


361 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-8.

**Below the surface / Tim Shoemaker.**


416 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-8.

Fic Rating: 4

Tim Shoemaker presents a new action-adventure series for middle school readers. The Code of Silence series follows three eighth grade friends who learn that their choices have consequences, and the depth of their friendships are affected by these choices.

In *Code of Silence*, the three friends—Cooper, Hiro, and Gordy—witness a robbery that leaves a victim in a coma. After being seen by the criminals, Cooper makes the friends promise to keep quiet because the criminals might be crooked cops, and telling the truth could get them killed. When is it right to lie? What happens when the truth could be harmful to you and your friends? Trapped in a “code of silence,” the three friends face these decisions, knowing each choice has its price.

In *Back Before Dark*, the three friends return with a new friend, Lunk. As they take a detour
through a park, Gordy is abducted before their eyes. They race against the clock to help the police discover Gordy's whereabouts and to rescue him. Meanwhile Cooper develops a dangerous plan. He doesn't give up even when others begin to do so. He puts himself in danger to rescue his cousin and friend, Gordy. Will his plan work? Or will both boys be lost to their families? Will the darkness swallow them both?

In *Below the Surface*, the four friends are spending the summer at Lake Geneva, trying to forget their previous harrowing adventures. They alert the authorities when they witness a possible murder, but the evidence is circumstantial. Only the murderer knows what they may have seen. He tries to scare them into silence by feeding their own fears. Each deals with the fear that he tries to hide, the one that appears just “below the surface.” Will fear keep them from chasing down the truth and protecting one another’s back? Or will they overcome their fear in time to protect their friends?

In *Code of Silence*, Shoemaker advises kids, without preaching, to consider the impact of lying and why we do it. Then, in *Back Before Dark*, he addresses how to avoid and respond to abduction. Finally, in *Below the Surface*, Shoemaker discusses good and bad fear. With the discussion questions and these sections, the series makes a good choice for middle school book clubs.

Tim Shoemaker has written a gritty adventure series with realistic characterization of the kids and the criminals. More than a mystery, each book involves a suspenseful nightmare for the kids. There is violence, but it is not graphic. The faith element is present but not overpowering. Both fit in with the stories. The series will be a welcome addition to a school and public library.

*Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ*

## Middle School Nonfiction


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm. Grades 5-8.

220.92 Rating: 5

*Women of the Bible* by Margaret McAllister tells the stories of 10 faith-filled women from the Old and New Testaments. While many familiar Bible stories are about men, this book focuses on special women of the Bible. In one story, Rachel is worried about her husband Jacob, who is meeting his brother for the first time after betraying him. In another, little Miriam helps her mother find a new home for her brother Moses when the pharaoh's new law decrees that every Hebrew newborn boy is to be killed. They are relieved when the pharaoh's daughter finds Moses and raises him as her own. Mary of Nazareth actually includes five of her favorite memories. Since she can't write, she repeats her stories to herself and keeps treasures to remind her of all the good things in her life. These are just a few of the characters featured in this book.

The illustrations throughout *Women of the Bible* are absolutely beautiful and breathtaking. They offer a glimpse into these women's lives. The stories are told from each character’s point of view, and it is interesting to see how their lives are shaped by the way people lived during their times. Each woman shows faith in her own way—even if she discovers it later in life. While some may be unfamiliar, all of these women are found in Scripture, and each of their stories is compel-
ling. Even the “nameless” characters, like the Canaanite woman, have fascinating tales to share. The stories are very well-written and easy for children to understand and enjoy.

Trina Chase, CLJ


147 p.; ill.; 26 cm. Grades 5-8.
540.54 Rating: 5

Courage Has No Color by Tanya Lee Stone tells the true story of America’s first black paratroopers. These servicemen wanted an opportunity to contribute to fighting the war, but found that black soldiers were often given service duties and kept out of combat. They met with prejudice and racism everywhere and had to fight to end segregation in the military. Even in uniform, they were sometimes refused service in white establishments. The paratroopers wanted to receive the same training and privileges as the white soldiers. This included being allowed to jump out of airplanes. Walter Morris, one of the first black paratroopers, wanted his men to feel valued, so he decided to have them copy the training of the white students. In 1943, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, also known as the Triple Nickles, was formed during World War II. These men showed true strength and courage everyday while fighting to make this country a better place to live. Some people were willing to help in the fight to give black soldiers equal treatment in the military; Eleanor Roosevelt was one such supporter.

Courage Has No Color chronicles the very interesting story of the creation of the Triple Nickles and how they endured racism while trying to serve their country. These men met with obstacles from within the military and outside, yet they persevered and vowed to uphold their commitments. Many were not honored for fulfilling their duties until years later. Historian Stephen Ambrose stated, “Soldiers were fighting the world’s worst racist, Adolf Hitler, in the world’s most segregated army.” Readers will gain an appreciation of the hard work and challenges these men experienced. The author’s extensive research included many different sources, including interviews with smokejumping experts as well as with Triple Nickles members and their families. The book contains many pictures that illustrate the battalion’s story, and never-before-seen photographs provide insight into these servicemen’s lives and their times.

Trina Chase, CLJ


229 p.; 21 cm. Grades 4-8.


196 p.; map; 21 cm. Grades 4-8.


192 p.; map; 21 cm. Grades 4-8.
B Rating: 4

Alan Shepard, Milton Hershey, and Laura Ingalls
Wilders are three youth biographies in the “Heroes of History” series by Janet and Geoff Benge. The Benges together have experience in elementary education and history, which shows in the depth of their writing as they introduce young readers to famous American figures and their notable achievements.

Each book begins with its “historical hero” at a pivotal point: in the Mercury space capsule preparing for launch (Shepard), returning home after yet another unsuccessful business venture (Hershey), and standing before a packed audience at a children’s book fair (Wilder). The authors then take readers on a journey through each subject’s early life, struggles, and triumphs. Presented in a dynamic story format, the characters are given thoughts and dialogue, which help to make them feel real and relevant to the reader. Obvious care is taken to include social, economic, geographic, and political context.

Alan Shepard: Higher and Faster recounts the life of the first American in space. Beginning with an adventurous spirit and a boyhood enthusiasm for aviation, Shepard (1923-1998) eventually walks on the moon! He later uses his fame to encourage future generations of science students through multiple scholarship foundations.

In Milton Hershey: More than Chocolate, early hardships fuel an entrepreneurial spirit and eventually the Hershey Chocolate empire. Hershey (1857-1945) perseveres through many failures en route to his ultimate accomplishments, which include an industrial school for boys and other philanthropic projects.

Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Storybook Life gives an active voice to the beloved children’s book author. Wilder (1867-1957) was an eyewitness to a transformative era in American history. Her enduring stories of pioneer life were rooted in her family’s values of faith, self-reliance, and gratitude.

These enjoyable chapter books are recommended for grades four and above and would be excellent for classroom or home school reading. Bibliographies are included, and curriculum guides are available on CD.

Nina Ditmar, CLJ

High School Fiction

265 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12.
Fic Rating: 3

With the last day of school behind and all of summer break ahead, sixteen-year-old Shannon McNamara shares her plans and hopes for the summer with her best friend. By summer’s end, she is determined to accomplish three goals: get her driver’s license, a job, and maybe even a tattoo—that is, if she can convince her mom. When she arrives home, however, all of her summer plans are halted as she learns her sick mother has already decided they will spend the summer with her relatives in Ohio, relatives whom Shannon has never met and knows nothing about. Upon arriving in Hochstetler, Shannon is in for another surprise; her mother’s family is Amish. Overnight, Shannon finds herself isolated in a world far removed from the twenty-first century. Then, she meets Ezra, a cute Amish guy, who captures her heart. Will Shannon fully embrace the Amish life and faith?

In My Amish Boyfriend, Melody Carlson brings to life a story of young love and faith amidst the backdrop of an Amish community. Shannon is an intriguing character that often demonstrates a maturity beyond her years, while still experienc-
ing youthful mistakes and confusions about life and love. Her care and love for her mother and respect for others is admirable, and there is evidence of growth in her Christian walk. The plot is rather disjointed, and readers may feel as if they have been through a whirlwind once the final page is read; perhaps this is intentional as it mirrors the whirlwind that Shannon herself experiences when she is abruptly thrust into a world much different than her own. The relationship between her and Ezra is also a reeling affair that begins and ends abruptly and is rather disappointingly shallow, particularly on Ezra's part.

Parents of young teens should be aware of the physical relationship that exists between the two; however, nothing is graphic, and it does not go beyond kissing and touching. There is also teenage drinking. The overarching theme of the novel is discovering a relationship with God that goes beyond the surface and to the heart.

Justina McBride, CLJ

280 p.; 22 cm. Grades 8-12.

265 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12.
Fic Rating: 3

Prolific teen author Melody Carlson returns to her “contemporary teen meets Amish teen” novels. A Simple Song and My Amish Boyfriend are the latest books to join Double Take (reviewed by Christian Library Journal, November 2011).

A Simple Song opens with the funeral of Katri-nna's grandmother, and Amish teenager Katrina Yoder discovers they were more alike than she realized. She loves to sing—just like her grandmother did. Katrina's best friend is a big fan of American Star (a singing competition similar to American Idol) and helps her enter the competition to win money for her father's surgery. She learns “free will has a price” and that participating in the American Star singing competition will cost her.

In My Amish Boyfriend, teenaged Shannon McNamara's mother is very ill, too ill to take care of herself and Shannon. They travel to her mother’s estranged family in Ohio, and Shannon has no idea her grandparents are Amish. It leads to culture shock as she adjusts to a new way of life. Shannon tries to take care of her mother on her own, becoming her mother's advocate in seeking treatment. She also experiences a romance with an Amish young man, making her consider whether or not she could fit into the Amish faith.

At the heart of each book is a teen struggling with her identity and where she fits in. Will Amish teenager Katrina leave behind her upbringing and family for possible fame on American Star? Will Shannon leave behind her contemporary world for the Amish way of life?

Melody Carlson is the author of more than two hundred teen books, aimed at teen girls. A Simple Song and My Amish Boyfriend are entertaining, light reads which Carlson fans will appreciate.

Recommended for public libraries and school

LCCN 2009007554. ISBN 9780823422500, hardcover, $17.95.
336 p.; 22 cm. Grades 7-12.

Fic Rating: 4

As the French Revolution becomes increasingly tumultuous around her, the spoiled young teen Eugénie de Boncoeur spends her time and attention on fancy clothes and parties where she can show them off. To protect her from rising, violent resentment against the excesses of aristocrats, Eugénie's guardian sends her to study in a convent. When that location is no longer safe, Eugénie's older brother Armand finds a place for her with a milliner (who occasionally houses a lover). Added to the mounting danger to all “aristos,” when Eugénie learns that she has been promised in marriage to the powerful but unpleasant La Fantôme, she and Armand make plans for her escape to her uncle in England.

In *The Pale Assassin*, author Patricia Elliott shifts from fantasy to historical fiction. She skillfully weaves many historical details of the French Revolution into a suspense-filled tale. The turbulent chaos of the period and casual murder for convenience abound, as well as legal execution by the guillotine. Characters represent a variety of political factions and vary from the well-drawn, frivolous Eugénie, who grows through her experiences, to the pale assassin La Fantôme, driven by vengeance. Alongside plausible, surprising twists in plot are other, less explainable advantageous coincidences in the race to escape.

The “Cast of Characters” at the beginning includes both fictional characters and a number of real people mentioned in the story. Following a “Historical Note” at the end is a “Time Line of the French Revolution During the Years of The Pale Assassin.” The accurate portrayal of the violence prevalent during this period makes this title useful for school and public libraries. The sequel is *The Traitor's Smile.*

Donna W. Bowling, CLJ
Adult Fiction


340 p. ; 21 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5


338 p. ; 21 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5

Though My Heart is Torn and My Hope is Found are the second and third book in Joanne Bischof’s Cadence of Grace series. Lonnie and Gideon O’Riley have finally found happiness after the rocky start to their marriage—a “shot gun wedding” and a harrowing journey away from home. Sheltered by an elderly couple, the O’Rileys gradually fall in love and learn the importance of God’s presence in their daily lives. Their peace is suddenly shattered when they are called home on false pretenses and find a woman who claims to be Gideon’s rightful wife. Lonnie and Gideon struggle to hold on to their new faith as they face the consequences of Gideon’s past choices.

Although part of a series, these two volumes can be enjoyed without reading the first book; however, reading the first book is recommended for a full appreciation of the entire story. Told from multiple points of view, Though My Heart Is Torn and My Hope Is Found address difficult subjects such as divorce, premarital sex, alcoholism, and domestic abuse with sensitivity and depth. Bischof’s characters are realistic and believable as they stumble and fall, yet learn from their mistakes and mature in their faith. As indicated by the series title, God’s grace is the pervading theme and is successfully woven throughout the books. Both present excellent examples of forgiveness and spiritual growth, and readers will be impacted long after they’ve turned the last page.

Linda Matchett, CLJ


347 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 4

Taylor Martin is a successful criminal profiler who has helped the Seattle police solve numerous crimes. However, the one she has been unable to solve is her father’s disappearance twenty years ago. A lead on his whereabouts sends her home to Logan Point, Mississippi where she digs for answers, but at every turn it seems someone will do almost anything to keep her from discovering the truth.

Nick Sinclair is a mystery writer who is struggling to get over the murder of his wife whose death he thinks he could have prevented. When Nick decides to search for his estranged brother Scott, he crosses paths with Taylor—who has her own reasons for wanting to find Scott. The past intrudes into the present as the pair grapple with family secrets, small town intrigue, and political machinations.

Patricia Bradley’s Shadows of the Past is well written and hooks readers from the first sentence as they follow clues alongside the characters.
Realistic dialogue and rich descriptions move the plot at a good pace. Taylor and Nick are flawed yet engaging and multi-faceted. The first in a series, the book is an enjoyable and clean whodunit.

_Linda Matchett, CLJ_


395 p.; 22 cm. Adult.

Fic Rating: 5

John Otte returns with an adult science fiction novel about a cold-blooded killer whose ability to feel nothing—no emotion or pain—makes him the best assassin. When confronted by a target who causes him to feel emotions, he struggles with whether he can complete his mission or not.

In _Numb_, Crusader kills under the orders of a futuristic, legalistic church (the Ministrix), bringing about their version of justice to those who oppose the “True Church.” Crusader is reminiscent of those knights who during the Crusades killed in the name of the church to rid the earth of the infidels.

John Otte’s _Numb_ is a wonderful addition to the speculative fiction genre. More science fiction than fantasy, it poses the question: what happens when a cold-blooded killer—one that experiences neither emotion nor pain—meets the one person who causes him to feel emotions again? Will he be able to carry out his mission to kill her? What if by not killing her, he becomes an enemy of the state and puts his personal salvation at risk?

_Numb_ is rich in plot development with twists and turns. The story starts slowly but quickly picks up the pace as Crusader and Isolda are on the run. One could easily see this as a full-length action movie (hint, hint, Hollywood!) that would appeal to both men and women. The relationship between Crusader and Isolda develops into a light romance, but it doesn’t detract from the story. First and foremost, this is an action-adventure. The door is left open for a possible sequel, though most of the loose ends are taken care of by the end of the story.

Recommended for public libraries and high school collections.

_Carol R. Gehringer, Worthy2Read.wordpress.com_

**All things hidden / Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2013.**


344 p.; 22 cm. Adult.

Fic Rating: 5

Gwyn Hillerman loves her beautiful Alaskan home and its native people. For years, she has worked alongside her physician father as a self-trained nurse, enjoying a simple life, far from the hustle and bustle of their former life in Chicago. Despite her peace and contentment, Gwyn battles feelings of worry and worth, having never fully recovered from her mother’s abandonment as a young child. Now change is coming to her dear Alaska—change that Gwyn both fears and resents. The Matanuska Project is underway, bringing settlement to the wild Alaska that Gwyn so loves. This means that Gwyn will have to share her home with strangers. For Dr. Jeremiah Vaughan, the Matanuska Project provides the perfect escape from both his professional and personal losses. He is not prepared for Gwyn or the feelings she evokes. Will Jeremiah and Gwyn’s attraction grow to love or will Jeremiah’s past keep them apart?

In _All Things Hidden_, Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse create a wonderful piece of historical fiction, bringing the wild Alaskan
frontier to life during the era of the Great Depression. This novel is equally balanced between character and plot development, with plenty of action, suspense, and human emotion to satisfy most fiction lovers. Gwyn Hillerman is a sweet, innocent character, as untouched by the sophisticated outside world as the Alaskan frontier itself. In contrast, Jeremiah is a bitter man full of regrets and resentments. Despite their different pasts, both have suffered broken hearts at the hands of those who were supposed to love them. Through these two characters’ lives, a picture of God’s healing power is beautifully depicted. The relationship between Gwyn and Jeremiah forms a gentle love story that is endearing. The novel’s overarching theme is revelation. Amid the dishonesty, secrets, fear, evil, and hurt, love and truth are ultimately revealed and triumphant.

Justina McBride, CLJ


329 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS).
Fic Rating: 4

Dani Pettrey continues the story of the McKenna siblings in this contemporary suspense novel set in Alaska. Although each sibling is the main focus of a different book, they all frequently appear in the other books, continuing their story.

In Silenced, Kayden McKenna, an avid rock climber, encounters a dead climber during a climb. Her feelings for mysterious Jake Westin have grown despite her resistance—thanks to the news of his true identity as a former Boston homicide detective. When Sheriff Grainger calls on them to investigate the death, it becomes clear that it was no accident. The killer seeks revenge for a past wrong and threatens Kayden and Jake as they uncover the truth. Will they find the killer before they discover the depth of their feelings for one another?

Meanwhile, Reef, the once bad-boy McKenna, returns to Yancey with his girlfriend, Anna, in preparation for Piper and Landon’s wedding. She welcomed him at her father’s church. Reef made a number of life changes after the death of a friend, including becoming a Christian. But is Anna really the one for him or is he trying too hard to make things work?

Pettrey continues to grow as a writer—her Alaskan Courage series carefully blends romance and adventure with page-turning suspense. While her characters are imperfect, struggling with faith and relationship issues, they endear themselves to the reader because of their imperfections. Readers have been waiting for Kayden’s story, watching her spar with the mysterious Jake since the series started.

Fans of Dee Henderson, Irene Hanson, Lynette Eason, and other suspense writers will not be disappointed by this series.

Recommended for high school libraries, as well as adult collections in public and libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, Worthy2Read.wordpress.com


340 p. ; 21 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 4

Dinah Hubley, the daughter of a prostitute, has spent her life at the Yellow Parrot, a Chicago
brothel, cleaning and staying out of everyone’s way. However, at seventeen, Dinah is finding it more difficult to avoid the male customers’ unwanted attentions. She longs to escape and become a Harvey Girl, but she is too young. When Dinah learns her mother is dying and can no longer work, she is faced with a difficult choice. Dinah eventually flees Chicago and becomes a chambermaid at the Clifton Hotel, hoping to one day become a Harvey Girl. There she meets Amos, a kind and handsome man. However, will Dinah ever feel worthy of love?

In Through the Deep Waters, Kim Vogel Sawyer tells a bittersweet story of brokenness and healing. The storyline is sweet and somewhat predictable. The plot is established quickly but is mainly character driven. The author alternates between the points of view of the three main characters—Dinah, Amos, and Ruthie (another chambermaid at the hotel)—providing the reader with a more detailed and complex understanding of the emotions and actions of each of these characters. Dinah and Ruthie are pictures of contrast; one who has known a life of love and innocence, while the other has experienced much hardship. Amos is a godly example of manhood; however, he has his own shortcomings, which keep him human. The relationship between Dinah and Amos is gentle and innocent.

Themes of redemption, forgiveness, grace, and eternal worth as a child of God all ring true in this novel. Overall, the book is definitely worth reading and may provide encouragement or healing for those who have ever struggled with being worthy of God’s perfect love.

*Justina McBride, CLJ*

**Take a chance on me / Susan May Warren. (Christiansen family ; 1) Carol Stream, IL : Tyndale House, 2013.**


xv, 393 p.; 2 cm. Adult.

**It had to be you / Susan May Warren. (Christiansen family ; 2) Carol Stream, IL : Tyndale House, 2914.**


xv, 461 p. ; map ; 21 cm. Adult.

Fic Rating: 4

Susan May Warren starts a new contemporary romance series set in Deep Haven, Minnesota, featuring six adult children in the Christiansen family and their relationships.

In Take a Chance on Me, Ivy Madison moves to Deep Haven to be the new assistant county attorney. On her first day, Ivy walks into a charity auction and bids on an eligible bachelor, Darek Christiansen, thinking he can show her around town. Jensen Atwood, Darek’s former best friend, accidentally killed Darek’s wife in a car accident, leaving Darek a bitter, single father. Ivy’s instrumental role in getting community service for Jensen (instead of jail time) affects her potential relationship with Darek. Will they be able to take a chance on a future of their dreams?

In It Had to Be You, Eden Christiansen, a writer in the newspaper’s obituary department, is the family nurturer, putting others’ needs ahead of her own. She wants to be a reporter, but is constantly being pulled into helping her brother Owen, a hockey player. When he is injured, she blames the team captain Jace for not mentoring him adequately, but Jace has his own demons to fight. An aging hockey player, Jace doesn’t know what else he could do as his playing days draw to a close. Eden has always been there to pick up the pieces for Owen. Will Eden and Jace discover they have worth on their own?

Warren writes a contemporary series that can be
read in any order. Each is a stand-alone novel but focuses on a different Christiansen sibling, and opens with a letter from their mother. More than just contemporary romances, they are stories of people who are estranged from God and how He woos them back into relationship. It Had to Be You talks of grace and redemption, while Take a Chance on Me speaks of forgiveness. Warren’s titles evoke a tender romance in the mind of readers, but the real romance is between God and the Christiansen sibling.

Recommended for public libraries and church libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ


For fifteen-year-old Gabrielle Larson, music has always been her life, as natural and vital as breathing. Of course, one would expect nothing less from a girl who has been raised by musically gifted parents. Gabrielle is already starting to follow in their career path as a Christian musician, and one day, she hopes to capture an audience just like her parents have. When a deadly accident leaves Gabrielle orphaned, her life and future are altered forever. Entrusted to the care of Aunt Bea and Uncle Will, Gabrielle begins a new life far away from her familiar city, while turning her back on music and God. As the years pass, Gabrielle continues her schooling and learns how to survive life on a horse ranch, but she keeps everyone at a distance, even her loving and understanding aunt and uncle. Will Gabrielle come to face her painful past or will its darkness overcome her?

Like a haunting melody that is both beautiful and painful to hear, moving the heart to tears, Laurel Woiwode has created a masterpiece of the soul with her novel Past Darkness. Written in first person narrative, this story will lead readers to experience Gabrielle’s thoughts and emotions firsthand, creating a deeper connection between character and reader. The writing is simple yet lyrical and full of beauty and depth. The passage of time varies from chapter to chapter, and the years often seem to pass by rather unceremoniously. This seems to reflect the heavy fog that envelops Gabrielle after the death of her parents, as she goes through the empty, listless motions of living but not living. Gabrielle’s character is completely human, full of the raw and conflicting emotions of one who has suffered great loss. Themes of forgiveness, enslavement, restoration, and freedom are beautifully woven through the threads of Gabrielle’s story. Readers will not go untouched by this beautiful journey of overcoming deep darkness through the light of Christ.

Justina McBride, CLJ

Adult Nonfiction


Who is this man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus by John Ortberg is a biographical tribute to the life of the most influential man in history. As the human embodiment of God, Jesus
bridged the gap between God and man. He reframed Scripture into understandable language. He challenged the status quo of inequality between sects, sexes, slaves, and free. He opened eyes, minds, and hearts to the gift of biblical truths God intended to free, rather than imprison, humanity. Because of Jesus, we are invited to look beyond ourselves, to overcome “ignorance…the devil’s tool” and appreciate that “God is the God of truth” (p. 66). Ortberg challenges the reader to take a second look at history and see Jesus as the revolutionary figure he truly is, rather than the pacifist for which he is often mistaken.

Presbyterian minister and spiritual development author Ortberg skillfully weaves Scripture throughout history to bring Bible truths to life. His explanation for Jesus’ impact on our country and world throughout history is well documented and ranges from church to secular history, poetry to popular music, and daily practical applications to corporate business practices. His obvious passion for his subject occasionally borders on didactic; however, the foundational message rings loud and clear: “There is one God. He is good. And every human being has been made in his image” (p. 25). In a world in which the name of Jesus causes great debate, Who Is This Man? is a timely and refreshing account of well documented truths about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Kim Harris, CLJ*
CORE COLLECTION
FOR CHRISTIAN READERS

Being developed by Librarians:
Donna W. Bowling: Fiction
Nancy L. Hesch: Nonfiction

Goal: to develop a list of highly recommended books for Christian readers, Christian school libraries, and church libraries.
Primary Fiction

E

Munsch, Robert N.

Love you forever / written by Robert Munsch ; illustrated by Sheila McGraw.
LCCN . ISBN 9780920668368, hardcover, $14.95.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm. PS-Grade 3.
E Rating: *5
Alligators.
Alphabet books.

E

Sendak, Maurice

Nutshell library / by Maurice Sendak.
LCCN 62013315. ISBN 9780060255008, hardcover, $16.98.
4 v. : ill. ; 10 cm. PS-Grade 2.
E Rating: 5

E

Sendak, Maurice

Pierre / Maurice Sendak.
48 p. : col. ill. ; 15 cm. PS-Grade 2.
E Rating: 5
Emotions--Juvenile literature.

E

Seuss, Dr.

Green eggs and ham / by Dr. Seuss. (I can read it all by myself)
LCCN 2007272114. ISBN 9780394800165, hardcover, $8.99.
62 p. : col. ill. 24 cm. PS-Grade 3.
E Rating: *5
Stories in rhyme.
Nonsense verses.

E

Seuss, Dr.

The cat in the hat / by Dr. Seuss.
LCCN 2007271288. ISBN 9780394800011, hardcover,
$8.99. 
61 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.          PS-Grade 3. 
E  Rating: *5 
Stories in rhyme. 
Cats--Fiction.  

E 
Seuss, Dr.  
Horton hatches the egg / by Dr. Seuss. 
LCCN . ISBN 9780394800776, hardcover, $14.95. 
1 v. (unpaged) : ill. ; 29 cm.          PS-Grade 3. 
E  Rating: 5 
Elephants--Fiction. 
Stories in rhyme.  

E 
Slobodkina, Esphyr  
Caps for sale : a tale of a peddler, some monkeys, and their monkey business. / told and illustrated by Esphyr Slobodkina. (Young Scott books) 
LCCN 84043122. ISBN 9780201091472, hardcover, $17.98. 
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 22 cm.          PS-Grade 3. 
E  Rating: *5 
Peddlers--Fiction. 
Monkeys--Fiction.  

Primary Nonfiction  

220  
Lucado, Max  
The story for children : a storybook Bible / 
LCCN 2011014460. ISBN 9780310732228, hardcover w/3 CDs, $24.98. 
287 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm. + 3 sound discs (digital ; 4 3/4 in.). 
Grades K-4. 
Rating: 5 
Bible stories.  

238.8  
Mother Goose  
The real Mother Goose / illustrated by Blanche Fisher Wright. 
New York : Scholastic, 1944, 1916. 
LCCN . ISBN 9780590225175, hardcover, $9.95. 
128 p. : col. ill. 30 cm.          PS-Grade 4. 
Rating: *5 
Nursery rhymes. 
Children's poetry.  

629.13  
Provensen, Alice  
The glorious flight / Alice and Martin Provensen. 
LCCN 82007034. ISBN 9780670342594, hardcover, $17.98. 
39 p. : col. ill. ; 27 x 22 cm. Grades 1-4. 
629.13 Rating: 5 
Air pilots.  

973.3  
Brown, Don  
LCCN 2012013450. ISBN 9781596432666, hardcover, $16.98. 
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 23 x 29 cm. Grades K-4. 
973.3 Rating: 5 
Knox, Henry. 
Massachusetts--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Artillery operations.
B

Tutu, Desmond

Desmond and the very mean word : a story of forgiveness / Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams ; illustrated by A. G. Ford.


  1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm. Grades 2-5.
  B Rating: 5
  Prejudices -- Fiction.
  Forgiveness -- Fiction.

Fic

Nesbit, Edith

The railway children / E. Nesbit ; with illustrations by C.E. Brock. (Everyman's library children's classics)

LCCN 92055074. ISBN 9780679425342, hardcover, $16.95.

  294 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 3-8.
  Fic Rating: *5
  Family life--Fiction.
  Railroads--Fiction.

Fic

Nesbit, Edith

Five children and it / E. Nesbit ; introduction and notes by Gillian Avery ; illustrations by H.R. Millar.


  Fic Rating: *5
  Fairies--Fiction.
  Wishes--Fiction.

Fic

Nesbit, Edith

The story of the treasure seekers / by E. Nesbit ; with illustrations by Gordon Browne and Lewis Baumer ; afterword by Peter Glassman.

LCCN 2005019601. ISBN 9780811854153, hardcover, OP; buy used.

  182 p. : ill. ; 23 cm. Grades 3-8.
  Fic Rating: 5
  Brothers and sisters--Fiction.
  Family life--Fiction.

Fic

Salten, Felix

Bambi / Felix Salten ; illustrated by Barbara
Cooney; translated by Whitaker Chambers.
190 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-6.
Fic Rating: *5
Deer--Fiction.

Susan Wojciechowski; illustrated by P.J. Lynch.
LCCN 94048917. ISBN 9780763636296, hardcover w/CD, $15.00.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 x 29 cm. Grades 1-4.
Fic Rating: 5
Christmas--Fiction.
Wood carving--Fiction.

Intermediate Nonfiction

220.3
The new lion Bible encyclopedia / Mike Beaumont.
220.3 Rating: *5
Bible--Encyclopedias.
Bible--Encyclopedias--Juvenile literature.

220.3
Fischer, Jean
Big Bible guide : kids’ Bible dictionary and handbook / Jean Fischer, Tracy M. Sumner.
220.3 Rating: 5
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Bible--Dictionaries.

220.3
Fischer, Jean
Kids’ Bible dictionary / Jean Fischer.
158 p. : ill. (chiefly col.), col. maps ; 24 cm.
220.3 Rating: 5
Bible--Dictionaries.
220.3
Beaumont, Mike

Holman illustrated Bible dictionary for kids / [general editors, Landry R. Holmes and Judy H. Latham]. (Holman reference)
220.3 Rating: 5
Bible--Dictionaries.
Bible--Dictionaries--Juvenile literature.

220.3
Day, Terry Jean

Candle Bible handbook / by Terry Jean Day & Carol J. Smith ; edited and revised by Dr Tim Dowley.
220.61 Rating: *5
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.--Juvenile literature.

220.9
Genig, Abigail

Complete Bible discovery guide / written by Abigail Genig, Cynthia Schilf, Susan Schulz, and Julie Stiegemeyer ; edited by Deborah Henry and Thomas A. Nummela.
St. Louis, MO : Concordia, 2012.
220.9 Rating: 5
Bible--Introductions--Juvenile literature.
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.--Juvenile literature.

221.9

Bible timeline : an illustrated timeline of the most often taught Bible stories.
Middle School Fiction

Fic
Quirk, Katie
A girl called Problem / by Katie Quirk.
LCCN 2012025468. ISBN 9780802854049, paperback, $8.00.
Fic Rating: 5
Tanzania--History--1964--Fiction.
Healers--Fiction.

High School Fiction

Fic
Carr, Patrick W.
A draw of kings / Patrick W. Carr. (The staff & the sword ; 3)
459 p. ; 22 cm. HS (Adult).
Fic Rating: 5
Fantasy.

Fic
Dickerson, Melanie
The captive maiden / Melanie Dickerson.
302 pages ; 22 cm. Grades 9-12.
Fic Rating: 5
Stepfamilies--Fiction.
Middle Ages--Fiction.

Fic
Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples)
The Screwtape letters : with Screwtape proposes a toast / C.S. Lewis.
LCCN 00049860. ISBN 9780060652937, paperback, OP; buy used.
x, 209 p. ; 22 cm. Grades 9-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Christianity--20th century.

Fic
Orwell, George
1984 : a novel / by George Orwell ; with an afterword by Erich Fromm. (Signet Classics)
328 p. ; 17 cm. Grades 9-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Totalitarianism--Fiction.
Science fiction.

Fic
Polsky, Sara
This is how I find her / Sara Polsky.
LCCN 2013013317. ISBN 9780807578773, hardcover, $16.98.
260 pages ; 22 cm. Grades 9-12.
Fic Rating: *5
Manic-depressive illness--Fiction.
Mother and daughters--Fiction.

High School Nonfiction

220.95
Silva, Moises
The essential companion to life in Bible times / Silva Moisés. (Essential Bible companion series)
LCCN 2010034655. ISBN 9780310286882, paperback,
$16.98.
135 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 24 cm. Grades 9-12 (Adult).
220.95 Rating: 5
Jews--Social life and customs--To 70 A.D.
Jews--Antiquities.
Adult Fiction

Fic
Austin, Lynn N.

Return to me : a novel / Lynn Austin.
(Restoration chronicles ; 1)
Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2013.
459 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5 Bible--O.T.--Fiction.
Exile--Fiction.

Fic
Green, Jocelyn

Widow of Gettysburg / Jocelyn Green.
(Heroes behind the lines : Civil War ; 2)
Chicago : River North, 2013.
381 p. : map ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5 United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Women--Fiction.
Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863--Fiction.

Fic
Johnson, Todd M.

Critical reaction : a novel / Todd M. Johnson.
Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2013.
379 p. ; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5 Nuclear reactors--Fiction.
Radioactive fallout survival--Fiction.

Fic
Rosenberg, Joel C.

Damascus countdown / Joel C. Rosenberg.
Carol Stream, IL : Tyndale House, 2013.
LCCN 2012040475. ISBN 0, hardcover, $26.98.
x, 470 pages ; 24 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5 Intelligence officers--United States--Fiction.
Nuclear warfare--Prevention--Fiction.

Adult Nonfiction

220.7
Burge, Gary M.

The Baker illustrated Bible commentary / edited by Gary M. Burge and Andrew E. Hill.
xii, 1635 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm. Adult (HS).
220.7 Rating: *5 Bible--Commentaries.

220.77
Halley, Henry H.

Halley's Bible handbook : with the new international version / Henry H. Halley.
LCCN 99059615. ISBN 9780310259947, hardcover, $29.98.
1047 p. : ill., maps ; 25 cm. Adult (HS).
220.77 Rating: *5 Bible--Commentaries.

220.61
Hays, J. Daniel

1144 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 24 cm. Adult (HS).
220.61 Rating: *5 Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
220.3
Longman, Tremper

The Baker illustrated Bible dictionary / Tremper Longman III, general editor.
xviii, 1767 p. : ill., map ; 24 cm. Adult (HS).

220.3 Rating: *5
Bible--Dictionaries.

220.95
Pilch, John J.

A cultural handbook to the Bible / John J. Pilch.
xii, 307 p. ; 23 cm. Adult (PROF).

220.95 Rating: 5
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

220.3
Unger, Merrill F.

The new Unger's Bible handbook / Merrill F. Unger ; R.K. Harrison, editor ; Howard F. Vos, Cyril J. Barber, contributing editors.
.xv, 1408 p. : ill. (some col.), 15 col. maps ; 24 cm.
Adult (HS).

220.3 Rating: *5
Bible--Dictionaries.

508.8665
LCCN 2013944452. ISBN 9780890517819, hardcover, $18.98.
.103 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 21 x 26 cm. Adult (HS).

508.8665 Rating: 5
Natural history--Galapagos Islands.
Bible and evolution.
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