Outstanding Books Reviewed in This Issue

Cold case Christianity, by J. Warner Wallace.

Yankee in Atlanta, by Jocelyn Green.

Serafina’s promise, by Ann E. Burg.

Jungle fire, by Dana Mentink.
A Letter from the Publisher

Dear CLJ Readers:

Can you believe that summer is already drawing to a close? Many of you are looking at the start of another school year - my kids started last week! I hope you have had an enjoyable season with your friends and families - and found time to enjoy some good books, too. In this issue, we are sharing with you some of the great reading we have discovered. Those of you who are educators will find some good ideas for books to share with your students. This issue features wonderful fiction and nonfiction titles for all ages!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of CLJ’s fine reviewers. They have continued to read and write through busy summer schedules, and have faithfully submitted their reviews in time for this issue. Our reviewers are men and women who view their work for CLJ as a ministry, and Nancy and I thank God for you!

We also thank God for our readers. We appreciate your continued support of CLJ as we seek to expand our ministry as God wills. Please be sure to sign up for the CLJ blog in order to receive reviews several times a week and occasional updates about CLJ.

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. And when finished, for new schools, will be a major reference source for building a new library.

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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

LCCN Library of Congress Cataloging Number
CDR CD-ROM
C Canadian Library Cataloging Number
DVD Videodisc
ISBN International Standard Book Number
VID Videocassette
Primary Fiction

Show time with Sophia Grace and Rosie / by Sophia Grace Brownlee and Rosie McClelland ; as told to Willa Grace ; illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 x 24 cm. Grades K-3
E Rating: 4

Show Time with Sophia Grace and Rosie opens with the announcement of an upcoming school talent show. Sophia Grace and her cousin Rosie love to sing, so they know that they will participate in the contest. However, they struggle to decide what they will sing. They ponder. They talk. They sleep on it. Finally, they think of a terrific song to sing. As they practice, they think of an even more terrific idea, but it’s a secret until their performance in the talent show.

Sophia Grace Brownlee and Rosie McClelland write a charming book with Willa Grace about two cousins who love all things sparkly—probably because Sophia Grace and Rosie ARE two cousins who love all things sparkly. Their characters develop as they start the book focused on their own performance and end the book focused on others as well. Lovely illustrations by Shelagh McNicholas bring the girls and their world to life—in all of its sparkly-glitteriness. The bright, cheery tone of Sophia Grace and Rosie suffuses the book. The story brings out the theme that everyone is special, but people who think to include others are extra special. Sophia Grace and Rosie are real girls and have performed songs by many artists, including Katy Perry’s music, on YouTube and the Ellen Degeneres Show.

Kristina Wolcott, CLJ

Go to sleep, little farm / written by Mary Lyn Ray and illustrated by Chris Neal.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 27 cm. Grades PS-1
E Rating: 3

As nighttime descends on the farm, animals prepare for their bedtime, as does the young girl in this picture book. Although a cow and horse are shown here and there, interestingly the denizens of the farm and its surroundings include the fox and her pups, the beaver, gray mice, and even the worm. Intertwined with the animal preparations are the yawns and dreams of the little one.

The wording of Go to Sleep, Little Farm is quite poetic, and the illustrations may be described as retro—they certainly have an old-fashioned look. It is a peaceful, quiet book perfect for bedtime.

Available September 2, 2014.
Ceil Carey, CLJ

Primary Nonfiction

Bats : Biggest! Littlest! / Sandra Markle.

LCCN 2012947937 ISBN 9781590789520, hardcover, $16.95.
31 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 21 x 27 cm. Grades K-4
599.4 Rating: 4

Bats: Biggest! Littlest! explores the range of sizes, habitats, behaviors, and characteristics of 14 varieties of bats from the very large (Gray-Headed Flying Fox) to the very small (Bumblee Bat).

Author Sandra Markle delivers a fascinating look at these remarkable but often maligned creatures,
explaining how each bat’s unique size and physical traits allow it to survive in its particular environment. *Bats* is part of the Biggest! Littlest! youth non-fiction series.

Stunning photographs by multiple contributors highlight everyday moments in the life of a bat: flying, hunting, nesting, taking shelter from the rain. *Bats* is chock-full of interesting facts and explanations and can be enjoyed on many levels. It offers a wonderful framework for discussing adaptation, introduces readers to the helpful role of bats as pollinators and insect-eaters, and features exceptional nature photography. The text and photo captions are clear and succinct, but the material and concepts are challenging, garnering a wider audience (including adults) for this eye-opening volume.

A colorful world map spread shows where each bat in the book was photographed. Additional resources include a short glossary, bibliography, and list of suggested websites.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

**Hi, Koo! : a year of seasons / presented by Koo and Jon J. Muth.**


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 23 x 25 cm. Grades PS-3 811.54 Rating: 5

A panda bear and two children explore the year in *Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons*, an illustrated volume of haiku. The character Koo was introduced in Muth’s earlier *Zen Ties*.

Readers of this sweet and cleverly-titled picture book will feel an immediate connection with author/illustrator Jon J Muth, whose informative preface explains why his poems do not precisely follow the cadence of traditional Japanese haiku. Muth describes haiku as capturing “a moment of emotion,” and that is exactly what he delivers in *Hi, Koo!* with expressive words and tender images that take the little panda and his friends from fall to summer.

Children will relate to the sensory world of young Koo as he dances through cold rain, eats warm cookies, studies icicles, rolls in new grass, catches fireflies, and skips stones. Koo’s personality shines through each haiku’s simple language and soothing watercolors. When joined by two unnamed friends, they romp together in scenes both universal (carefree summer handstands) and humorous (getting square eyes from too much winter TV).

For added enjoyment and learning, the author invites young readers to trace the capitalized letters on each page in a playful alphabetical journey through the 26 haiku in this delightful and visually rich book.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

**Let there be light / written by Nobel Peace Prize Winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu ; illustrated by New York Times bestselling author of On the Night You Were Born, Nancy Tillman.**


1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm. Grades PS-3 222 Rating: 5

*Let There Be Light* combines the text of “The Creation” from Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s *Children of God Storybook Bible* with illustrations by Nancy Tillman in this picture book introduction to Genesis.

Nancy Tillman’s magnificent images show a God of light and love and a world of life and beauty...
alongside Archbishop Tutu’s chosen scripture. The realistic animal pictures seem almost like photographs, set against a fantastical backdrop of the earth and sky. Tillman portrays a group of multi-ethnic children as the receivers and custodians of God’s creation; readers of her previous book *The Crown on Your Head* will be familiar with her style of depicting the children with shimmering crowns.

There are introductory notes from the author and illustrator, as well as a sweetly illustrated page for inscription, which adds to the book’s appeal as a meaningful gift and keepsake. *Let There Be Light* delivers just the right balance of tenderness, imagination, and wonder. Young readers will be enchanted by the bright illustrations and exaggerated colors as they read or hear about each day of God’s marvelous handiwork and the culminating message: “You are loved.”

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*

**Animals all around : forest friends; our feathered friends; cats, dogs, hamsters, and horses; barnyard critters.**


123 p. : col. ill. ; 25 cm. Grades PS-3

590 Rating: 4

*Animals All Around* is a “bind up” of four Level 2 “I Can Read!” non-fiction youth readers from the Zonderkidz “Made by God” series: *Forest Friends; Our Feathered Friends; Cats, Dogs, Hamsters, and Horses; and Barnyard Critters.*

On the front cover, a circle of animal faces peer down as if in a huddle with the reader; the back cover offers an intriguing assortment of “Did You Know” questions, and the pages in between are a delightful collection of large photos and facts about familiar animals. *Animals All Around* offers text that is straightforward and colorfully presented, with attention to the behaviors, physical traits, and habitats of God’s creatures. There are a few terms to challenge young learners (omnivore, zygodactyl, ailurophile) and concepts that may prompt further discussion (such as service animals and animals we eat).

Throughout, readers are reminded that “God created everything and made it all good.” Wonderfully photographed and presented, *Animals All Around* has the feel of a quality picture almanac, enhanced by its comfortable square size and sturdy pages. An alphabetical subject index allows children to revisit their favorites, and 50+ bonus facts are added to the content of the original four volumes.

*Nina Ditmar, CLJ*
Middle School Fiction


299 p.; 21 cm. Grades 5-8
Fic Rating: 5

Serafina’s Promise by Ann E. Burg tells the story of a young Haitian girl who dreams of going to school so that she can become a doctor. Her dream was born when she lost a baby brother and promised him that she would become a doctor so that she could help other little babies. Unfortunately, her family is very poor, so Serafina has to do many chores while also growing and selling produce and herbs in order to raise money for school. Even after she finally convinces her mother to allow her to go to school, she still has to help her family, especially after their home is destroyed by a flood. More troubles arise when Serafina’s new baby brother gets sick, and an earthquake separates her family. Will Serafina’s strength and determination be enough to obtain help for her little brother and to reunite her family?

Ms. Burg poignantly depicts the poverty in Serafina’s community and the hard work required to survive. Serafina’s family experiences sickness and natural disasters, yet finds happy times to celebrate and things for which to be thankful. They pray to God and also to family members that have passed on (such as Serafina’s grandfather and deceased little brother). Serafina’s character is shown as a strong, caring person with great courage and determination. The story, told from Seraphina’s point of view, is both heartbreaking and heartwarming. Serafina’s Promise is written in free verse, a style that seems fitting for Serafina’s free spirit and big heart.

Trina Chase, CLJ

Heard No Evil / by Mary L. Hamilton. (Rustic Knoll Bible Camp ; 1)

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

Brady McCaul’s father deserted him at age seven, but through the loss, he and Mom grew close—that is until another man came into Mom’s life. Now six years later everything has changed. Mom drops Brady off at a summer Bible camp and tells him not to return home. Brady is devastated. Caring kids, Steven and Claire, include him in their activities, but another kid takes every opportunity to bully the newbie. Brady broods over his isolation, rejection, and fear. The bullying comes to a climax, and Brady learns through the process; however another darker struggle takes root as an unexpected reason for his Mom’s behavior emerges in his mind. The emotional angst builds throughout and comes to a surprising climax that will keep readers turning the pages.

Hear No Evil is the story of how Brady overcomes rejection, isolation, despair, and the bad decisions of the adults in his life—alcoholism, divorce, and abuse—to find an everlasting relationship, reconciliation, and real friends who care. Author Mary L. Hamilton naturally weaves in the excitement of summer camp with the winsome advice of Christian mentors. This title includes some awakening of romantic feelings, some violence (fist fight), and a high level of spirituality.

Glenn Haggerty, www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com
Middle School Nonfiction

David Livingstone : Africa’s trailblazer / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes, then & now)
215 p. : 1 map ; 21 cm. Grades 5-10
B Rating: 4

Librarians often tell readers how the Christian life, and especially that of a missionary, is full of adventure. David Livingstone: Africa’s Trailblazer more than demonstrates that statement. Authors Janet and Geoff Benge actually begin Livingstone’s story in the middle of a lion attack!

Known as the missionary who discovered Africa, David Livingstone served the Lord in the far reaches of unexplored and unmapped areas of Africa at a very unusual time. The continent was not very well known outside its borders. Millions of Africans had never heard of Jesus. Science was viewed by many as anti-Christian, and slavery was widespread. Beginning with Livingstone’s youth and his desire to learn more about science, the authors illustrate the hand of God in every aspect of Livingstone’s life—as evangelist, explorer, and activist. From recanting his discovery of Victoria Falls and the source of the Nile River, to sharing the Gospel with native peoples and fighting the slave trade, the book never leaves the reader without adventure. The writing is clean and crisp, with a pace that mimics Livingstone’s life—full and fruitful.

A truly good read for children aged 10 and older, this biography makes a wonderful supplemental resource for missions, history, and geography studies. It also is an excellent choice for adults who wish to “brush up” on the biographical information of missionaries. (Note: Unit study curricu-

Florence Young : mission accomplished / Janet & Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes, then & now)
195 p. : map ; 21 cm. Grades 5-8
B Rating: 4

Florence Young: Mission Accomplished by Janet & Geoff Benge is a biography included in the “Christian Heroes: Then & Now” series. Florence Young couldn’t ignore the calling for her to become a Christian missionary. Her home, a sugar plantation in Queensland, Australia called Fairymead, had almost 100 indentured laborers that had never heard of God. Florence felt the need to share her knowledge and experience with these indentured laborers, who were known as “Kanakas.” This was very difficult to do because Florence and the Kanakas did not speak the same language. However, they were able to communicate in pidgin English, and thus Florence was able to teach the Kanakas. With the success of her work at Fairymead, Florence left the Kanakas’ education in the hands of a family member and decided to join the China Inland Mission. Florence continued with her mission work, traveling with her missionary group from country to country, until her death at the age of 83 on May 28, 1940.

Florence’s story depicts the dangers for a woman doing mission work in foreign territories. Despite these hardships, she wasn’t deterred from spreading the gospel to all those in need of God’s word.

Lum guides are available for this title and other select biographies in the series on the publisher’s web site. These books and guides may make wonderful additions to the homeschooling or missions sections of a library.)

Martha Jo Dendinger, CLJ
The authors portray Florence’s faith, fearlessness, and determination in completing the missions. Florence and her friends encountered villagers that practiced cannibalism and revenge killings, and they were successful in leading some of these villagers to God. There is mention of cannibalism and violence in the book, but nothing too graphic. The book is written so that middle school readers would be able to understand and appreciate the history of Florence Young.

Trina Chase, CLJ

We’ve got a job : the 1963 Birmingham Children’s March / written by Cynthia Levinson.

176 p. : ill. ; 25 x 24 cm. Grades 7-12
323.1196 Rating: 5

Award-winning children’s author Cynthia Levinson was an Ohio teenager in 1963, when Birmingham, Alabama police hosed and set dogs on 4,000 protestors. When Levinson discovered later that these protestors were not adults but children, she spent four years researching and writing We’ve Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March. She interviewed dozens of participants and witnesses in order to share an accurate telling of the events that transpired in Birmingham leading up to, and following, the famous march.

Levinson’s meticulously researched account of this history-making event documents, in detail, the backgrounds and experiences of four African-American children and teenagers who marched in 1963 and helped change the course of history. Her book provides an intimate look at how the Civil Rights movement affected these four lives in particular, and the lives of so many others in general.

This well-documented book contains many photographs of protestors and police, politicians and Klansmen, and lunch counters and churches that played such important roles in American history. It also includes a timeline of significant Civil Rights events in Birmingham from 1944 to 1964, as well as a map of Birmingham’s downtown district in the 1950s and 1960s, which help put the events described into clearer context. Throughout the book are scattered dark text boxes containing other pertinent facts, such as examples of segregation ordinances, the Ten Commandments of Nonviolence, inspiring words of Reverend Ralph Abernathy, Points for Progress, quotes from white citizens, news headlines from around the world, dueling press statements, and information on Civil Rights events that occurred outside Birmingham.

Levinson’s in-depth journalistic research results in a moving retelling of historical events from personal perspectives, and provides readers with thought-provoking facts and a very human understanding of the struggles of some of America’s Civil Rights activists. The Afterward recounts the lifetime achievements and 21st-century hopes and concerns of four marchers whose lives forever changed on May 2, 1963.

Valorie Cooper, CLJ

Eruption! : volcanoes and the science of saving lives / text by Elizabeth Rusch ; photographs by Tom Uhlman. (Scientists in the field)

76 p. : col. ill. ; 24 x 29 cm. Grades 5-9
363.34 Rating: 5

On November 13, 1985, 23,000 people were killed by a volcanic eruption of Nevada del Ruiz in Colombia. A group of scientists in Vancouver, Wash-
ington watched the footage of the blast and the plight of the survivors. They vowed to do all they could to stop this loss of life. Since volcanoes could not be stopped, they formed an international team that would warn of danger from imminent eruptions of the world’s volcanoes. Andy Lockhart, United States Geological Survey scientist, gathered the best geologists to form the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP). This small group would study the volcanoes that were most likely to erupt and send out warnings to keep people safe.

The group went to Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991. Clark Air Base was near this volcano, as were many local civilians. After the group studied the area, evacuation orders were given. Mount Pinatubo sent ash and mud down on the surrounding area. 20,000 people were saved by the VDAP’s warning. This success inspired geologists from around the world to come to the United States to be trained by the group. The VDAP, together with the scientists it trains, continue to warn people of the impending danger of volcanoes.

Elizabeth Rusch wrote *Eruption!* in an exciting, storytelling style. Facts about volcanoes are given as part of the stories, and become clear even to those who know little about volcanoes. As a part of her storytelling, Rusch includes humor and personal interest. Tom Uhlman’s photographs bring the reader into the action, and the captions explain different cultures as well as scientific fact. Profanity is used once by a scientist seeing an especially violent eruption.

*Carol Baker, CLJ*

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**High School Fiction**

**The orphan king / Sigmund Brouwer.** *(Merlin’s immortals ; 1)*


220 p.; 21 cm. Grades 9-12 (6-8)

Fic Rating: 3

In his eighteenth year, the orphan Thomas flees virtual slavery in a remote Cistercian monastery to pursue his outrageous quest to regain his kingdom—the fabled English castle of Magnus. Using powers gleaned from a woman he believes is his mother before she dies, Thomas rescues and recruits a Knight Templar to his quest in the year 1312. Together they hazard the perilous journey and the unseen manipulation of two opposing, yet hidden forces. However, how will this boy-man and one knight conquer a castle that an army of thousands could not defeat? Who is the mysterious Isabelle? And who is the old man who seems to know everything?

Mystery is paramount in this title; however, some facts seem overly obscured. The main character, Thomas, is likable, and although a skeptic he draws closer to God as the curtain falls on this tale. The plot, while creative and mostly solid, has a significant flaw in the climax and conclusion. The writing style also keeps the characters somewhat distant. Readers who like mystery and/or knights and the age of chivalry might nonetheless enjoy *The Orphan King*. This book contains moderate violence, has a solid Christian worldview, and some romance.

*Glenn Haggerty,*

[www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com](http://www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com)
First date / Melody Carlson. (Dating games ; 1)
Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2013.
212 p.; 22 cm. Grades 8-12

Blind date / Melody Carlson. (Dating games ; 2)
216 p.; 22 cm. Grades 8-12

Teen author Melody Carlson returns with a contemporary series featuring five very different girls who want dates for the homecoming dance and other major high school events.

In First Date, the girls discover they have one thing in common: they have never had a real date. They create a secret club to get dates for the homecoming dance. Their tasks are to help one another with makeovers, understand parental expectations for dating, learn how to act on a date, and of course, get the boys they like to ask them out. The girls plan a dinner and transportation together for the dance, but things don’t turn out exactly the way they hope or plan.

In Blind Date, the girls now want to set each other up on blind dates for the masquerade ball. After picking names, each girl begins planning the mystery date for a friend. Not only do the girls have to fix up a date for their friend, they have to help the guy create his costume to coordinate with his date. Some girls wonder if their friends in the club will come through with a dream date or a dud. Will their club be able to survive the blind dates?

In Carlson’s books, not all of the girls are Christian or even attend church. They all have realistic fears, drama, faith issues, and problems of their own. The teen reader will be able to identify with the girls as they navigate the dating scene. The next book, Double Dates, is due in January 2015.

Melody Carlson is the author of more than two hundred teen books, aimed at teen girls. First Date and Blind Date are light, entertaining reads, which Carlson fans have come to expect in her recent works.

Recommended for public libraries and school libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Purple moon / by Tess Emily Hall.
316 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12

Tessa Emily Hall is a nineteen-year-old author making her debut with Purple Moon, a contemporary novel about a troubled teen girl whose mother struggles with her own problems.

In Purple Moon, Selena’s life is not what she dreamt as a young girl; that fairy tale ended when she and her mom stopped living with her dad. As a result, she has fallen away from her relationship with God. When her mother goes into rehab and Selena is sent to live with her relatives over the summer, Selena tries to give up her personal bad habits (smoking and drinking). She rediscovers her talents in the arts as she faces the wounds in her past and accepts the healing God has for her, opening her to new opportunities.

Tessa Emily Hall is a new voice in young adult literature, one worth watching. Readers will be drawn into the story of this imperfect but likeable teen. The faith element is strong; her teen neighbor is a strong Christian, and Selena’s own faith struggles are evident. Scripture verses are scattered throughout. Hall’s debut novel is a story of
courage in the midst of troubling circumstances. Her voice is honest and will resonate with her teen readers. Yet it is still a message of hope and redemption underlying the story when Selena realizes her life is a fairy tale—just not the one she wrote for herself.

*Purple Moon* was a Selah Award finalist (Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writers’ Conference, First Novel & Young Adult categories, 2014). Discussion questions are also included, making this a welcome suggestion for teen book clubs. Recommended for church and school libraries, as well as teen collections in public libraries.

Carol R. Gehringer, worthy2read.wordpress.com

**The Last Thing I Remember** / by Andrew Klavan. *(The homelander; 1)*


346 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12 (6-8)

Fic Rating: 5

Charlie West awakens in a torture chamber strapped to a bloody chair—and he can’t remember how he got there. Fighting down panic, pain, and nausea, he searches his mind, but the last thing he remembers is finishing his high school homework and falling asleep in his own bed. Voices outside his cell interrupt his thoughts; his captors have decided to kill him. Miraculously, Charlie escapes, but pursued by friends and foes alike, he stays only a step ahead of disaster while trying to recover a year of his life. Charlie pieces together some of the puzzle. Something horrible is about to happen, and only he can stop a national disaster. But will it cost him his freedom and the tattered remains of his reputation?

The high action, suspense, complex plot, and intriguing character are riveting. Just when Charlie seems to have gained breathing room, another hammer falls. And just when it seems he can’t possibly continue, he finds the strength through faith to cling to his convictions, to do right, and “never give up.” *The Last Thing I Remember* contains moderate violence, only a mention of a romantic relationship, and a Christian worldview.

Glenn Haggerty, www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com

**Crazy dangerous** / Andrew Klavan.


330 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12

Fic Rating: 5

Preacher’s kid, Sam Hopkins, runs the forest trails edging a small town hoping to make varsity track. Three thugs from school accost the sixteen-year-old and force him into their gang. But when Jeff, the chief gangster, pressures Sam into doing a job, he decides to ditch these losers. In the process, Sam takes a beating while rescuing his apparently demon-oppressed classmate, Jennifer Sales, from the hooligans. At school Jennifer’s brother and popular jock, Mark Sales, rallies behind Sam. Suddenly, he’s a hero, and the thugs are on the run. But another deeper, darker plot is about to explode on this rural town, and Jennifer holds the key. Now Sam must decide if he will once again risk it all to “Do right and fear nothing.”

Andrew Klavan’s close point of view brings readers right into Sam’s shoes where, with ironic humor and a killer plot, he demonstrates how an ordinary kid can do extraordinary things by following his convictions through faith. *Crazy Dangerous* is one of the best contemporary action adventure tales with a Christian high school male protagonist in recent years. This title has some romance, moderate violence, and some creepy spiritual
scenes nicely handled by the author.

Glenn Haggerty,
www.christianbooksfortweensandteens.com

Failstate legends / John W. Otte. (Sequel to Failstate)

ISBN 9781935929949, .
455 p.; 22 cm. Grades 9-12
Fic Rating: 4

John Otte continues the adventures of Failstate, his teen superhero, in this sequel to his earlier novel, Failstate (see: Christian Library Journal, June/July 2013).

In Failstate: Legends, sixteen-year-old Robin Laughlin (aka Failstate) finds that life is not easy as a teenage superhero, even one with an official license. Nobody thinks he is up to the challenge of protecting the city, least of all he himself when the other superheroes are unavailable. When a legendary superhero returns to New Chayton and stirs up trouble, can Failstate face him in battle, especially when his brother Ben and his friend Mike are not standing with him? And what about the zombie apocalypse that threatens the city?

And like any normal teenager, Failstate also faces complications with two girls vying for his attention and superpowers that are evolving. Being a teen is hard enough with roller coaster emotions, let alone being a teen superhero with evolving superpowers!

Otte does an excellent job in developing the characters in this series. The relationships between Failstate, his brother Ben (aka Gauntlet), and his friend Mike (Veritas) change from the first book but do so in a realistic manner.

Otte’s books have a comic-book feel to them, even the cover. In fact, one is slightly disappointed that more illustrations were not included. Still it is a good read, and the shadow image on the first page of each chapter is a step in the right direction!

While there is some violence, none of it is graphic; all of it is expected in a world where superheroes are battling evil. With its short chapters, comic-book feel, and mixture of humor, light romance, mystery, and adventure, Failstate is the perfect read for teens and adults.

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

Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ

Merlin’s blade / Robert Treskillard. (Merlin’s spiral ; 1)

Grand Rapids, MI: Blink, 2013.
LCCN 2013363410 ISBN 9780310735076, paper-
back, $9.99.
423 p.: maps; 21 cm. Grades 10-12

Merlin’s shadow / Robert Treskillard. (Merlin’s spiral ; 2)

Grand Rapids, MI: Blink, 2013.
LCCN 2013028068 ISBN 9780310735083, paper-
back, $9.99.
437 p.; 21 cm. Grades 10-12

Merlin’s nightmare / Robert Treskillard. (Merlin’s spiral ; 3)

Grand Rapids, MI: Blink, 2014.
LCCN 2013036903 ISBN 9780310735090, paper-
back, $9.99.
432 p.; 21 cm. Grades 10-12
Fic Rating: 4

Robert Treskillard breathes new life into the often-told tale of King Arthur and his faithful mentor, Merlin. Tresskillard has managed to put a new spin on the story in this three-volume series called Merlin’s Spiral by focusing on Merlin’s story.

In Merlin’s Blade, fifth century druids in Britain
attempt to regain power, defeat King Uther, and destroy the Christian faith embraced by the people. A blind boy (Merlin) is the only one not bewitched by the meteorite’s blue flames used by the druids to entrap the people. How can a blind boy who is bullied, ridiculed, and criticized be the one to save Arthur, and overthrow the evil that controls the people of Britain?

In *Merlin’s Shadow*, Merlin’s story continues. He finds himself adrift–an advisor to the uncrowned king, Arthur. On the run with his beloved and his faithful friend, Merlin faces adversaries on every side. Even his half-sister is bent on his destruction. Having plunged the sword into the druids’ stone, will Merlin be able to keep the young king safe when enemies surround them on every side?

In *Merlin’s Nightmare*, Arthur is now eighteen, and Merlin wants nothing more than to enjoy his family. But when Arthur disappears, Merlin stops at nothing to rescue him before one of their enemies finds him. Together they face the Saxenow in the south, the Picts in the north, and a new enemy rising in the east. And Merlin’s half-sister has unleashed werewolves–Merlin’s biggest fear since being attacked by wolves as a child. Will they survive?

It is hard to believe that *Merlin’s Blade* was Treskillard’s first novel. It is a well-written epic fantasy, with an enormous amount of detail and character development. This series—a prequel to the King Arthur legend—will be of interest to epic fantasy readers and fans of Arthurian legends. There is a lot of action but almost too much detail about the violence (although it was a bloodthirsty time period).

*Merlin’s Shadow* and *Merlin’s Nightmare* are difficult to read as standalone novels, although the author tries to give the reader enough background in the glossary to permit this. Kudos to Treskillard, who not only identifies the characters but describes what happened in the previous books that is significant to the overall storyline. His attempt to recreate the Arthurian legend from a Christian perspective is to be applauded.

*Carol R. Gehringer, worthy2read.wordpress.com*
Adult Fiction

Visible threat / from veteran police officer Janice Cantore.

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.
ix, 383 p. ; 21 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 4

K9 Officer Brinna Caruso wants to save and protect all the innocents in the world no matter what the cost. Suspended for disobeying a direct order and up against a town council that is considering whether to continue funding her K9 dog, she questions her career choice.

When the body of a young woman is found in the river with a mysterious tattoo on her hip, homicide detective Jack O'Reilly asks for Brinna's help. It is soon clear that the victim's death is more than a random act of violence, and Brinna must deal with issues from her past that threaten to overwhelm her.

A police procedural, Visible Threat delves into the evils of human trafficking. As a retired police officer, author Janice Cantore provides an accurate behind-the-scenes view of law enforcement and the challenges associated with solving cases. Through well-written dialogue and effective plot twists, the reader is quickly drawn into a story that sensitively yet realistically deals with a difficult topic. Teens would enjoy the story as well, but it should be read with discussion in mind regarding the topic of human trafficking.

Linda Matchett, CLJ

Chasing hope : a novel / Kathryn Cushman.

Bloomington, IL: Bethany House, 2013.
314 p. ; 22 cm. Adult (HS)
Fic Rating: 5

Chasing Hope by Kathryn Cushman is about a young woman who dreams of running in the Olympics. Sabrina Rice trains hard and is determined to compete in the Olympics. However, when she receives a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, her dreams are shattered. So she pours all of her time into her schoolwork and a possible internship at a prestige publishing firm. Sabrina is drawn to the internship position, but wonders if this is God's real plan for her.

This all changes when she meets Brandy Philip, a troubled teen who doesn't want help from anybody. However, circumstances arise that make Brandy need all the help that Sabrina is willing to give. These two women are complete opposites, but realize they each need the other in their lives. Sabrina sees potential in Brandy and over time becomes determined to help Brandy realize this.

The author clearly illustrates the pain Sabrina experiences due to her medical diagnosis and inability to pursue her dream of running. Sabrina’s and Brandy’s characters undergo personal growth throughout the book as they begin to open up to each other and listen more to their hearts. Sabrina’s positive impact on Brandy’s life and Brandy’s eventual desire to “pay it forward” form a great message for young and old. As the relationship between these characters develops through the course of the story, the author expresses the importance of trust and following God.

Trina Chase, CLJ
Yankee in Atlanta / Jocelyn Green. (Heroines behind the lines, Civil War : 3)
411 pages ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

When the Civil War started, Caitlin McKae dressed as a boy to gain entrance into the Union Army along with her younger brother. When she is wounded during a battle, a dying Rebel soldier wraps her arm with his jacket—labeling her as a Rebel. Awakening in an Atlanta hospital, one of her secrets is out: the Rebels know she is a girl. When Noah Becker, a businessman in Atlanta, hires her as his daughter’s caretaker, she decides to melt into the fabric of the south as best she can, even though her northern accent betrays her.

Ruby O’Flannery, a domestic in New York, wants nothing more after the death of her husband than to be able to survive as an accomplished seamstress and support her one-year-old son, Aiden. However, in spite of the growing admiration of Edward Goodrich, her past keeps pulling her back as she tries to go forward.

Alternating between Caitlin in Atlanta and Ruby in New York, the author deftly describes life during the Civil War. Descriptions of starvation, smallpox, the Orphan Train, and other authentic events unfold. The tragedy of what happened in Atlanta during the war is described in minute detail. The author has truly done her homework to present so many diversities in the lives of the people who survived the war. Compelling dialogue never fails to keep one’s interest as new characters and new situations are introduced. Both Ruby and Caitlin demonstrate their love for God and his word.

Will Caitlin or Ruby be able to accept the love that comes into their lives? Will they survive in spite of so many hardships? Can either of them overcome the things in their past that want to limit their future?

Although this is book three in the series, it stands alone and is a very good read. Recommended highly for people who enjoy Christian historical fiction.

Juanita Wier Nobles, CLJ

Vanished / Irene Hannon. (Private justice ; 1)
Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2013.
328 p. ; 22 cm. Adult

Trapped / Irene Hannon. (Private justice ; 2)
Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2013.
393 p. ; 22 cm. Adult
Fic Rating: 5

Award-winning Irene Hannon presents a new contemporary suspense series featuring former enforcement officers turned private investigators, who solve the case and win the heroine’s affection.

In Vanished, reporter Moira Harrison crashes into a tree on a deserted road during a thunderstorm. She accidentally hits a woman before she crashes. Or did she? A witness promises to call 911 just before Moira loses consciousness. When she comes to, no one is there—no witness and no accident victim. Unable to forget the look of terror on the woman’s face, Moira tries to get authorities to help her find the injured woman. No one believes her until Cal Burke, a former homicide detective turned private investigator, takes on her case. As they uncover clues, someone wants their
In *Trapped*, librarian Laura Griffith turns to James Devlin, a former ATF agent, for help when her sixteen-year-old sister, Darcy, disappears on a cold wintry day. All the signs point to a troubled runaway, but is Darcy really a runaway, or are other forces at work? As Laura and James investigate, the reason behind her sister’s disappearance becomes clear—and puts Laura in danger. Will they find Darcy in time—and before anyone else is hurt?

Hannon is an expert at presenting believable characters, a tightly-written plot with plenty of twist and turns, just enough romance to make things interesting, and subtle faith elements incorporated into the story. Just when the reader thinks the story is done, there is another plot twist, a knot in the story line. Violence is appropriate and not graphic. Her new series will be of interest to fans of Dee Henderson and DiAnn Mills. The third book in this series, *Deceived*, will be available in October 2014.

Highly recommended for all high school and public libraries.

*Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ*

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**The queen’s handmaid / Tracy L. Higley.**


390 p. ; map ; 22 cm. Adult

Fic Rating: 4

In the year 39 B.C. the Galilean governor Herod is eyeing the Judean kingship, and Cleopatra is scrabbling to hold on to her Egyptian empire. An orphan since birth, Lydia serves as handmaid to the demanding Cleopatra and her royal child, the son of Julius Caesar.

Lydia’s problems begin when her beauty becomes a liability to the aging queen. Then Lydia’s mentor is murdered, and she inherits the task of returning an ancient set of sealed scrolls, the writings of the prophet Daniel, to Jerusalem. Danger threatens Lydia and her mission at every turn when she leaves the palace to serve as lady’s maid to Herod’s wife in the Holy City.

Tracy Higley’s *The Queen’s Handmaid* is a steady read. Well-researched with intricate attention to details, the book gives readers an in-depth view of palace life in ancient times. Higley captures the intrigue and political machinations through multiple points of view. A surprising plot twist provides an interesting climax to the story. There are two instances of violence described in some detail.

*Linda Matchett, CLJ*

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**Jungle fire / Dana Mentink.**


284 p. ; 22 cm. Adult

Fic Rating: 5

In *Jungle Fire*, Nina Truman, a missionary nurse, is a passenger on a bus in Guatemala. She is incredulous when a gunman sprays the bus with bullets. The driver is hit and loses control of the bus. It careens off the road and tumbles down an embankment. In her efforts to rescue the injured driver, she becomes trapped inside the bus, which is filled with smoke and flames. Shaw Wilder stumbles upon the wreckage and manages to get Nina out of the bus just before it explodes.

After the crash, Nina and Shaw are thrown together—not by choice—into a desperate race for their lives. Shaw is trying to figure out why he is helping Nina, since he blames her for the death of his sister, Beth. With police and drug runners
chasing them across harsh jungle terrain, the only person Nina feels she can trust is Shaw.

Dana Mentink has written a riveting and suspenseful thriller. The story is filled with surprising twists and turns, which culminate in a tense and exciting final confrontation. Interwoven into the story is the conflict between Nina and Shaw who are romantically drawn to one another, but are at different places in their faith. Discussion questions are included.

Dianne Woodman, CLJ

The wings of morning / Murray Pura. (Snapshots in history ; 1)  
297 p.; 22 cm. Adult

The face of heaven / Murray Pura. (Snapshots in history ; 2)  
352 p.; 22 cm. Adult

Whispers of a new dawn / Murray Pura. (Snapshots in history ; 3)  
349 p.; 22 cm. Adult

Murray Pura's Snapshots in History is a historical romance series that addresses the impact of war on an Amish community located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Wings of Morning centers around World War I, The Face of Heaven around the American Civil War, and Whispers of a New Dawn around World War II. The Amish are pacifists, and in each story the main characters must choose between their Amish beliefs and God's leading with regard to their participation in the conflict, thus facing the possibility of shunning by the church.

Vivid description transports readers to the stories' times and places, and Pura's knowledge of all three wars is evident in his portrayal of the battles, home-front sacrifices, and interaction with historic figures. The series is informative about the Amish culture and doctrine and effectively captures the cadence of Pennsylvania Dutch dialect without being distracting. The books are a clean read, and each may be enjoyed as a stand-alone novel. Teens may also find this series of interest.

Linda Matchett, CLJ

Rachel / Jill Eileen Smith. (Wives of the Patriarchs ; 3)  
314 p.; 22 cm. Adult

Rachel is the third book in Jill Eileen Smith's Wives of the Patriarchs series. Jacob has tricked Esau out of his inheritance and flees for his life. He arrives at Paddan-Aram, hoping that his Uncle Laban will take him in. When Jacob meets Laban's daughter, Rachel, it is nearly love at first sight, and he agrees to work for seven years to earn her bride-price.

Jacob finds himself on the receiving end of treachery when Laban substitutes Rachel's older sister Leah at the wedding. The deceit is discovered too late, and Jacob negotiates another seven-year stint in order to take Rachel as his second wife. The man who wanted only one woman ends up with sisters who have never
gotten along and now must spend the rest of their lives sharing a husband.

Combining research and imagination, Rachel gives readers a glimpse into the biblical world of Israel’s forefathers. The book moves at a steady but occasionally slow pace, and is a clean read. The dialogue is somewhat predictable, and the characters lack depth. The book should be read with discussion in mind regarding the topic of polygamy.

*Linda Matchett, CLJ*

**Shadow hand / Anne Elisabeth Stengl.**
*(Tales of Goldstone Wood ; 6)*


Anne Elisabeth Stengl continues her Tales of Goldstone Wood with *Shadow Hand*, the sixth book in her award-winning series. It picks up the story of Lady Daylily where *Moonblood* (book 3) left off.

Lady Daylily is a minor character in *Moonblood* whose backstory is told in *Shadow Hand*. She is betrothed to the Prince of Southlands (Foxbrush), but Daylily is in love with his cousin, Lionheart. On her wedding day she receives a letter convincing her to flee her arranged marriage. She escapes into the Wilderlands. Lionheart competes with his cousin to find Daylily. Pursued by the one she loves and by the one who loves her, she finds that the Wilderlands is an unusual place, creating changes in her relationships. All three face strange creatures and dangerous magic.

The plot lines in *Shadow Hand* weave a tale sure to delight its readers. Stengl carries on three storylines (telling the different adventures of Daylily, Foxbrush, and Lionheart in the Wilderlands). Her complex story is descriptive and detailed, and careful reading is required to keep the details straight. As all good fairy tales end with a happily ever after, *Shadow Hand* ends with: “this is how heroic tales should end .. the kiss of true love found.”

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

*Carol R. Gehringer, CLJ*

**Cold case Christianity : a homicide detective investigates the claims of the gospels / J. Warner Wallace.*


*Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels* by J. Warner Wallace is an introductory apologetics book with a special focus on the historicity of the Gospels through the lens of a “cold-case” homicide detective (i.e., one who investigates unsolved murders involving events from the distant past).

The first part of the book presents a detective’s “tools” and demonstrates how they may be applied to evaluate the Gospel accounts and evidences for the existence of God. For example, there are excellent explanations of concepts such as “reasonable doubt,” “chain of custody,” and “circumstantial evidence,” as well as a fine, succinct discussion of how to evaluate eyewitness testimony. Wallace’s understanding of legal issues and courtroom experience are evident in these
The second part of the book then applies these tools to evaluate New Testament claims. Each of the chapters in this section—addressing the dating of the Gospels, internal and external corroboration of the eyewitness accounts, the accuracy of the records preserved over time, and the issue of potential bias on the part of Gospel authors—presents compelling, clear arguments as to why the Gospels can be trusted. In support, Wallace draws extensively from both biblical and non-biblical records.

Perhaps the greatest strengths of Cold-Case Christianity lie in its readability and unique approach. Peppered with fascinating anecdotes from Wallace’s career as a cold-case homicide detective, the book effectively makes its points with apt and dramatic examples that will especially appeal to fans of true crime and forensic mysteries. There are also sidebars with additional information and definitions, including excerpts from law books and court cases. While Wallace’s treatment of each topic in the broad spectrum covered is necessarily brief, he includes extensive notes and a bibliography for those that would like to delve further into particular topics.

Highly recommended.

Angela Walsh, CLJ

The art of storytelling : easy steps to presenting an unforgettable story / John Walsh.

185 p.: ill.; 26 cm. Adult (HS)
808.5 Rating: 5

John Walsh—author, speaker, professional storyteller, and founder of the Christian Storytelling Network—lays out a step-by-step plan for creating and presenting a captivating story in The Art of Storytelling: Easy Steps to Presenting an Unforgettable Story. This detailed yet easy-to-understand guide includes helpful lists and shaded text boxes in each chapter that contain valuable information and exercises to help readers implement each of the steps discussed.

This jewel of a guide is filled with valuable information for anyone who needs to speak in front of groups—whether school, business, family or church—or one-on-one. For instance, a captivating story is “one-third details and two-thirds description,” and “People don’t want to listen to your story; they want to experience it.” Walsh is also the founder and president of BibleTelling, an organization dedicated to teaching people how to learn and tell Bible stories and use them in all phases of ministry. The book contains a bonus section dedicated to BibleTelling techniques, and this makes the book especially valuable to anyone wishing to share the Good News in a meaningful and memorable way.

Valorie Cooper, 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
Henkes, Kevin
Penny and her marble / Kevin Henkes.
E Rating: 5
Lost and found possessions--Fiction.
Marbles--Fiction.

E
Vischer, Phil
Sidney & Norman : a tale of two pigs / written by Phil Vischer ; illustrations by Justin Gerard.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm. Grades K-3.
E Rating: *5
Neighbors--Fiction.
Pigs--Swine.

E
Willems, Mo
Listen to my trumpet! / by Mo Willems. (An Elephant & Piggie book)
57 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. Grades K-3.
E Rating: 5
Pigs--Fiction.
Elephants--Fiction.

Primary Nonfiction

529.2
Perrin, Clotilde
At the same moment, around the world / by Clotilde Perrin.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 33 cm. Grades K-3.
529.2 Rating: 5
Time--Systems and standards--Juvenile literature.
Space and time--Juvenile literature.

979.4
Rosenstock, Barb
The camping trip that changed America : Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and our national parks / by Barb Rosenstock ; illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 30 cm. Grades K-3.
979.4 Rating: 5
Yosemite National Park (Calif.)--History--History.
National parks and reserves--United States--History--Juvenile literature.

Intermediate Fiction

Fic
Stone, Phoebe
The Romeo and Juliet code / by Phoebe Stone.
300 p. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.
Fic          Rating: *5
World War, 1939-1945--Evacuation of civilians--Great
Britain--Fiction
Ciphers--Fiction.

Fic
Stone, Phoebe
Romeo Blue / by Phoebe Stone. (Sequel to
Romeo and Juliet code)
LCCN 2012038060. ISBN 9780545443609, hardcover,
$16.99.
346 p. ; 20 cm. Grades 4-7.
Fic Rating: *5
World War, 1939-1945--Evacuation of civilians--Great
Britain--Fiction
Family life--Maine--Fiction.

Intermediate Nonfiction

581.6
Richardson, Gillian
10 plants that shook the world / Gillian
Richardson ; art by Kim Rosen.
581.6 Rating: 5
Plants and history--Juvenile literature.

590.72
Burns, Loree Griffin
Citizen scientists : be a part of scientific
discovery from your own backyard / Loree
Griffin Burns ; photographs by Ellen
Harasimowicz.
LCCN 2011021673. ISBN 9780805090628, hardcover,
$19.99.
590.72 Rating: 5
Suburban animals--Research--Citizen participation--
Juvenile literature.

956.94
Washburn, Kim
Let's go explore Galilee / written by Kim
Washburn.
LCCN 2013033680. ISBN 9780310743354, paperback,
$6.99.
956.94 Rating: 5
Galilee (Israel)--Description and travel--Juvenile literature.
Galilee (Israel)--Antiquities--Antiquities--Juvenile literature.

956.94
Washburn, Kim
Let's go explore Israel / Kim Washburn.
LCCN 2013030050. ISBN 9780310743163, paperback,
$6.99.
956.94 Rating: 5
Israel--Description and travel--Juvenile literature.

956.94
Washburn, Kim
Let's go explore Jerusalem / Kim Washburn.
LCCN 2013033681. ISBN 9780310743187, paperback,
$6.99.
956.94 Rating: 5
Jerusalem--Description and travel--Juvenile literature.
Jerusalem--Antiquities--Juvenile literature.
962.
Washburn, Kim
Let’s go explore Egypt / written by Kim Washburn.
962. Rating: 5
Egypt--Juvenile literature.
Egypt--Civilization--To 332 B.C.--Juvenile literature.

B
Christensen, Bonnie
I, Galileo / Bonnie Christensen.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill., col. map ; 29 cm. Grades 3-6.
B Rating: 5
Astronomers--Italy--Biography--Juvenile literature.
Physicists--Italy--Biography--Juvenile literature.

B
Wadsworth, Ginger
B Rating: 5
Low, Juliette Gordon--1860-1927--Juvenile literature.
Girls Scouts of the United States of America--History--Juvenile literature.
Middle School Fiction

Fic
Fiedler, Lisa
Mouseheart / Lisa Fiedler ; with illustrations by Vivienne To. (Mouseheart; 1)
315 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Grades 5-7.
Fic Rating: 5
Mice--Fiction.
Subways--Fiction.

Benge, Janet
Samuel Zwemier : the burden of Arabis / by Janet and Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes : now and then)
B Rating: 4
Missions to Muslims--Biography.
Zwemier, Samuel Marinus--1867-1952.

Moody, Ralph
Little Britches : father and I were ranchers / by Ralph Moody ; illustrated by Edward Shenton. (Little Britches; 1)
260 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5
Ranch life--Colorado--History--20th century.
Ranchers--Colorado--Biography.

Moody, Ralph
Man of the family / by Ralph Moody ; illustrated by Edward Shenton. (Little Britches; 2)
LCCN 92037787. ISBN 9780803281950, paperback, $14.95.
272 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5
Ranch life--Colorado--History--20th century.
Ranchers--Colorado--Biography.

Moody, Ralph
The home ranch / by Ralph Moody ; illustrated by Tran Mawicke. (Little Britches; 3)
LCCN 93039762. ISBN 9780803282100, paperback, $14.95.
277 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5

Middle School Nonfiction

220.92
McAllister, Margaret
Women of the Bible / Margaret McAllister ; illustrated by Alida Massari.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm. Grades 5-8.
220.92 Rating: 5
Bible--Biography.
Christian women--Religious life--Biography.

540.54
Stone, Tanya Lee
Courage has no color : the true story of the Triple Nickles : America's first black paratroopers / Tanya Lee Stone.
147 p. : ill. ; 26 cm. Grades 5-8.
540.54 Rating: 5
Ranch life--Colorado--History--20th century.

B

Moody, Ralph

Mary Emma & company / by Ralph Moody; illustrated by Tran Mawicke. (Little Britches; 4)
233 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5
Widows--Fiction.
Massachusetts--Fiction.

B

Moody, Ralph

The fields of home / by Ralph Moody; illustrated by Edward Shenton. (Little Britches; 5)
335 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5
Farm life--Maine--Biography.
Maine--Biography.

B

Moody, Ralph

Shaking the nickel bush / by Ralph Moody; illustrated by Tran Mawicke. (Little Britches; 6)
234 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5
Moody, Ralph, 1898- Authors, American -- Biography.

B

Moody, Ralph

The dry divide / by Ralph Moody; illustrated by Tran Mawicke. (Little Britches; 7)
230 p. : ill. ; 21 cm. Grades 5-Adult.
B Rating: *5
Nebraska--Fiction.

High School Fiction

Fic

Lawhead, Steve

In the hall of the Dragon King / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Dragon King trilogy; 1)
376 p. : ill., maps ; 22 cm. Grades 7-12.
Fic Rating: *5
Fantasy.

Lawhead, Steve

The warlords of Nin / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Dragon King trilogy; 2)
404 p. : maps ; 22 cm. Grades 7-12.
Fic Rating: *5
Fantasy.

Lawhead, Steve

The sword and the flame / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Dragon King trilogy; 3)
Lawhead, Steve

Grail / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Pendragon cycle; 5)
870 p. : maps ; 18 cm. Grades 11-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Arthurian romances--King--Adaptations.
Galahad (Legendary character)--Fiction.

Lawhead, Steve

Byzantium / Stephen R. Lawhead.
870 p. : maps ; 18 cm. Grades 11-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Church history--Middle Ages, 600-1500--Fiction.
Byzantine Empire--History--527-1081--Fiction.

Lawhead, Steve

Taliesin / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Pendragon cycle; 1)
LCCN 2011489286. ISBN 9780380706136, paperback, $6.50.
486 p. : ill., map ; 18 cm. Grades 8-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Arthurian romances--King--Adaptations.
Epic fiction.

Lawhead, Steve

Merlin / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Pendragon cycle; 2)
Fic Rating: *5
Arthurian romances--King--Adaptations.
Wizards--Fiction.

Lawhead, Steve

Arthur / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Pendragon cycle; 3)
446 p. ; 18 cm. Grades 8-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Arthurian romances--King--Adaptations.

Lawhead, Steve

Pendragon / Stephen R. Lawhead. (Pendragon cycle; 4)
448 p. ; 17 cm. Grades 8-Adult.
Fic Rating: *5
Arthurian romances--King--Adaptations.
Knights and knighthood--Fiction.
Adult Fiction

Fic
Bischof, Joanne
Though my heart is torn: a novel / Joanne Bischof. (The cadence of grace; 2)
340 p.; 21 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5
Marital conflict—Fiction.
Life change events—Fiction.

Bischof, Joanne
My hope is found / Joanne Bischof. (The cadence of grace; 3)
338 p.; 21 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5
Marital conflict—Fiction.
Life change events—Fiction.

Fic
Otte, John
Numb / John W. Otte.
395 p.; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5
Assassins—Fiction.
Fantasy fiction.

Fic
Peterson, Tracie
All things hidden / Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse.
Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2013.
344 p.; 22 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5
Physicians—Fiction.

Fic
Woiwode, Laurel
Past darkness / Laurel Woiwode.
Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
176 p.; 21 cm. Adult.
Fic Rating: 5
Parents—Death—Fiction.
Loss (Psychology)—Fiction.

Adult Nonfiction

232.9
Ortberg, John
Who is this man?: the unpredictable impact of the inescapable Jesus / John Ortberg.
219 p.; ill.; 23 cm. Adult.
232.9 Rating: 5
Jesus Christ—Influence.

266.001
Van Rheenen, Gailyn
Missions: Biblical foundations and contemporary strategies / Gailyn Van Rheenen, with Anthony Parker.
514 p. : charts, graphs ; 24 cm. Adult (HS).
266.001 Rating: 5
Missions—Theory.
Christianity and culture.
Professional Nonfiction

011.62
Safford, Barbara Ripp
Guide to reference materials for school library media centers.
xiv, 236 p. ; 27 cm. Adult.
011.62 Rating: 5
Children's reference books--United States--Bibliography.
School libraries--United States--Book lists.

220
Bible timeline : an illustrated timeline of the most often taught Bible stories.
9781426744426, paperback, $24.99.
1 chart : single sided, col. ; 37 x 193 cm. folded to 37 x 29 cm.
220. Rating: 5
Bible--Chronology--Charts, diagrams, etc.
Chronology--Charts, diagrams, etc.

220.9
Helm, David R.
The big picture story Bible / written by David Helm ; illustrations by Gail Schoonmaker.
451 p. ; col. ill. ; 24 cm.
220.9 Rating: 5
Bible stories.

268
Helm, David R.
The big picture bible verses : tracing the storyline of the bible / David Helm.
27 p. ; 16 cm.
268. Rating: 5
Bible--Commentaries--Miscellanea.
Christian education of children.

220.07
Reproducible maps, charts, time lines & illustrations.
287 p. : ill., maps, charts ; 28 cm. HS (Adult).
220.07 Rating: 5
Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Bible--Maps.

370.11
Encyclopedia of Bible truths : [fine arts/health].
116 p. ; 28 cm.
370.11 Rating: *5
Bible--Concordances, English.
Church schools--Curricula--Miscellanea.

370.11
Encyclopedia of Bible truths : [social studies].
129 p. ; 28 cm.
370.11 Rating: *5
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