

TriState Young Adult Book Review Committee
Linda McNeil , Chairperson
Spring 1997

The Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee has been in existence for more than 25 years. It has evolved over the decades into an organization comprised of dedicated professionals interested in evaluating new resources and sharing these findings with others professionals in the field. The committee is a fluid group that represents both public schools, public libraries, private schools in the Tri-State area of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. It meets several times throughout the year to share their evaluations with each other and compile their Books of Note list.

The committee is supported by a large number of publishers that send books and materials for review and evaluation. The opinions and reviews are then shared with the companies involved. The companies are able to utilize these reviews and comments to publicize their books. Each year the committee compiles a list of notables from their collective readings and reviews.

Books of Note is the title of this list. For a book to be included in this list it must be read and recommended as notable by an individual reviewer. Then a second evaluator must also agree that the item qualifies for the notables list. The list itself is not a be an end all because there are many good books, etc. that do not come through our channel. It is not meant to be a list of exclusion, merely a listing to be shared with professionals or interested educators, etc. that would like to have some guidelines in choosing materials for school students and curricula.

The format of the list is quite simple. The basic entry includes: (line 1)level (elementary, middle, high school), author, (line 2)title, (line 3) copyright, publisher, ISBN #, price, pages, and reviewer's code, (line 4) brief summary of book.

Linda McNeil, chairperson
Information /Media Specialist, retired
101 Glendale Road
Exton, PA 19341-1543
lmcneil@brushcolor.com

- Reviewers:
- Magna Diaz (Kensington High School)
 - Liz Driscoll (Malvern Prep School)
 - Ilene Flexner (Strawberry Mansion Middle/High School)
 - Tina Goldstein (Audrenrid High School)
 - Margery Hall (Ludington Library)
 - Donna Kozlowski (Gratz High School)
 - Linda McNeil (Chester County Intermediate Unit)
 - Susan Rodgers (Chestnut Hill Academy)

Joan Rosen (Cheltenham High School)
Jane Schofer (Akiba Hebrew Academy)

List is computerized and maintained by:
Ms. Marika Chalupa

Books of Note 1996/1997

ES/MS Agel, Jerome B. Words That Make America Great LM, ED
Random House 1996 \$30.00 587 p. 0-679-44959-0
The author has completed a wide variety of documents that characterize the evolution of America, from the Mayflower Compact (1620) to the Copyright Protection Act (1995).

MS/HS Ash, Russell The Top Ten of Everything 1997 MD, LM
Houghton Mifflin 1996 \$16.95 256 p. 0-7894-1264-0
The top ten reasons why you should get this book: good price, conversational piece, excellent trivia, talk show material, excellent organization, good reference-guide, and colorful pictures.

ES/MS/HS Ash, Russell Incredible Comparisons LM, ED
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$19.95 63 p. 0-7894-10009-5
This well-written book is a great conversational piece that contains excellent trivia and makes a good reference guide. This book deals with comparisons of mountains, air speeds, big buildings, disasters, etc.

ES/MS Audubon Society National Audubon Society Interactive CD-ROM: Guide to North American Birds DK, SR
Random House 1996 \$32.00 CD 0-679-76016-4
This book contains crystal clear pictures and realistic sounds; in addition, you can easily search by color, profile and picture. It has content appropriate to a wide range of levels from elementary to adult, and is an excellent resource for any school or public library.

ES/MS Avi Book One: The Escape from Home, Book Two: Lord Kirkle's Money Orchard Books 1996 \$18.95 400 p. JS, SR 0-531-09513-4
Poor Irish children and a wealthy runaway English boy join forces to escape those who would stop them from emigrating to America - a wonderful two-book series.

MS/HS Awmiller, Craig This House on Fire TG, JS
Watts 1996 \$22.70 160 p. 0-531-11253-5 African-American Experience series
The author's aim is to tell the history of the blues in the United States. He describes the blues as not only a music style, but a way of thinking, a way of looking at the world -- a philosophy.

MS Ayres, Katherine Family Tree LM,
LD
Delacorte 1996 \$15.95 165 p. 0-385-32227-3
Tyler Stoudt starts sixth grade with the toughest teacher of all, Miss Custer. The work settles around developing a family tree. In the course of the family tree construction, she learns of her Amish heritage and other family mysteries.

MS/HS Bode, Janet and Stan Mack Hard Time: A Real Life Look at Juvenile
Crime and Violence SR, MD
Delacorte 1996 \$16.95 218 p. SR, MD 0-385-32186-4
Incarcerated teenagers talk about their lives in prose, cartoon strips, and poetry. Includes "fact" pages with quotes and statistics from newspapers, current research, and a name and address list of helpful organizations.

MS/HS Byers, Ann Jaime Escalante: Sensational Teacher MD, TG
Enslow 1996 \$18.95 128 p. 0-89490-763-8
Bolivian-born Jaime Escalante is a math teacher that loves teaching math and finds it challenging. He uses methods that are enticing and interesting to young minds, non-traditional techniques, and mathematical games. His belief in the children's ability to learn is unfailing.

HS/Adult Carns, Jim Us and Them: A history of Intolerance in America
ED, JC Oxford University Press 1996 \$22.00 127 p. 0-19-510378-5
This book is a chilling account of hatred and prejudice, through the centuries, in a country founded on the premise of "liberty and justice for all". A chronological collection of stories from fourteen individuals who were oppressed for various reasons, such as religion, race, ethnicity, and sexual preference.

HS/Adult Cart, Michael From Romance to Realism MD, LM
HarperCollins 1996 \$24.95 312 p. 0-06-024289-2
An examination of books classified as books for young adults, and the many changes that have occurred over the past fifty years in young adult literature.

HS/Adult Chester, Jonathan The World of the Penguin DK, LM
Random House 1996 \$27.50 111 p. 0-87156-900-0
Magnificent photography illustrates the comprehensive and interesting text. Many different kinds of penguins are presented, along with their interaction with humans, and the outlook for their future. Expensive, but worth it.

MS Child, John et al. The Crusades JC,
LM
Peter Bedrick Books 1996 \$17.95 64 p. 0-87226-119-0
Attractive set-up, similar to, but improved, on Eyewitness type lay-outs. Plus this book is a good informational set on the Crusades -- out in front of most others.

MS/HS Coombs, Karen Mueller Jackie Robinson JR, JS
Enslow 1997 \$18.95 128 p. 0-89490-690-9 African-American Biography Series

The inspirational story of the talented athlete who broke the color bar in major league baseball; how with the support and guidance of Branch Rickey, he accomplished that feat; and what it cost him.

MS/HS Cooney, Caroline B. The Voice on the Radio JR, TG
Delacorte 1996 \$15.95 183 p. 0-385-32213-5

As Janie gradually accepts and becomes closer to her birth family, she discovers to her horror that her boyfriend is telling her story on the campus radio station to hundreds of eager listeners. This sequel to The Face on the Milk Carton is another page turner.

HS/Adult Cordingly, David Under the Black Flag LM,
DK

Random House 1996 \$25.00 296 p. 0-679-32560-8

Legendary, pirate stories make us forget that pirates actually once existed in the flesh. Their moving lives left behind little in the way of historical record. In light of the lack of information about pirates, the author has done an excellent job presenting the details.

MS Cushman, Karen The Ballad of Lucy Whipple JC, ED
Random House 1996 \$13.95 195 p. 0-395-72806-1

Lucy, also known as California Morning, tells her impressions of a gold-mining town in northern California during the gold rush. The stories are lively, as are her supporting characters.

ES/MS/HS Davies, Dorian Spencer The Ultimate Book of Cross Sections
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$29.95 304 p. LM, ED 0-7894-1195-4 Cross Section
Series

This book shows the fascinating inside of cars, trains, trucks, rescue vehicles, ships, planes, jets, space craft, etc. This book will supply many interesting hours of delight.

MS/HS Deem, James M. The Very Real Ghost of Christina Rose MD, JC
Houghton Mifflin 1996 \$14.95 158 p. MD, JC 0-395-76128-X

Christina's mom is on her way to visit a friend, when she dies in a plane crash. Christina sees her mother the night of the crash, in which her mom came to her room, and handed Christina the locket she was wearing - or was it her mom's ghost that night. An interesting book about ghost stories that will delight kids.

MS DeFelice, Cynthia The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker ED, LM
Farrar, Straus, & Giroux 1996 \$15.00 151 p. 0-374-34669-0

The story is based on the spread of consumption during the mid-1800's in New England. Twelve-year old, Lucas Whitaker is left without a family and strikes out to find a new life in Southwick, Connecticut.

MS/HS Dorling Kindersley A Practical Step-by-step Guide to Sewing
Techniques DK 1996 \$39.95 320 p. JS, SR 0-7894-0419-2

DK's usual format works beautifully for this how-to-do-it book, where you need illustrations at every step. They wisely layout the photos horizontally so that the reader can easily ascertain the correct reading order.

MS/HS Dorling Kindersley Chronicle of the Olympics 1896-1996 ED, LM
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$29.95 310 p. ED, LM 0-7894-0608-X Chronicle
Series

A concise, visually appealing coverage of the Olympics.

MS/HS Dorling Kindersley Multimedia: The Complete Guide SZ, LM
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$24.95 192 p. 0-7894-0422-2

A visually appealing and informative book that relates the basics of the multimedia world.

MS/HS Doyle, Debra & MacDonald, James D. Groogleman ED, SR
Harcourt Brace 1996 \$15.00 113 p. ED, SR 0-15-200235-9

A very spellbinding, at times depressing, depiction of the future world and the people trying to survive in it. Dan and Leezie are kidnapped, then taken to Dead Lands where the googlemen live. The characters are well-drawn and multidimensional; and the quick pace keeps readers interested.

MS/HS/Adult Duncan, Dayton An Illustrated History for Children ED, LM, JC
Little, Brown 1996 \$10.95 120 p. 0-316-19632-0 The West Series

A three-book series contains biographies of some well-known, and some not so well-known, early explorers and settlers of Western US. The other two titles in the series include: People of the West (author Dayton Duncan) and The Gold Rush (author Liza Ketchum).

MS/HS Dunlap, Eileen The Ghost by the Sea MD, SR
Holiday 1996 \$15.95 150 p. 0-8324-1264-4

Robin's family is in turmoil, and she feels in the way. Despite having seen her paternal grandmother once in nine years, Robin is invited to stay with her. At grandma's she meets her cousin, who tells her about the ghost in the house. The story then takes unpredictable twists, which keeps the reader interested.

MS Durrant, Lynda Echohawk ED,
SR

Random House 1996 \$14.95 175 p. ED, SR 0-395-74430-X

After the Mohicans kill his family, Echohawk (Jonathan), at age four, is adopted by a Mohican family that lost their own child. Now, at age twelve his Indian mother dies, and with the tribe becoming smaller, some resent his presence. His father sends him back to the English settlement to learn the language, where he discovers some disturbing facts about his biological family.

MS/HS Ewing, Lynne Drive-By MD,
TG

HarperCollins 1996 \$13.95 84 p. 0-06-07125-6

Tito and his sister Mina watched as Jimmy was gunned down right in front of them. They tried to describe the car and the shooters, but it all happened too

quickly. Gangsters have taken over his home and Tito must unravel the mystery and save his family.

MS Farmer, Nancy A Girl Named Disaster JS, JR
Orchard Books 1996 \$19.95 309 p. JS, JR 0-531-09539-8

This stunning survival story, set in Zimbabwe, presents the wrenching and heartwarming adventures of eleven-year old Nhamo, who runs away from a marriage to an elderly man and travels by herself along the Musengexi River.

MS/HS/Adult Fogle, Bruce Cocker Spaniel TG, LM
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$14.95 80 p. TG, LM 0-7896-1065-6

Dog Breed Handbooks Series

Each book in the Dog Breed Handbooks series highlights the basics of pet owning. These short, yet comprehensive, books will be a welcome addition to school libraries. Other breeds in this series are: German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, and Labrador Retriever.

MS/HS Freedman, Russell The Life and Death of Crazy Horse JR, EB
Holiday 1996 \$19.95 162 p. 0-8234-1219-9

A character and an era from the American past come alive as Freedman recounts the life of the fearless Oglala Sioux Indian. Moving, appropriate drawings by a tribal historian of Crazy Horse's era accompany the text.

MS/HS Garden, Nancy Good Moon Rising TG, JC
Farrar, Straus, & Giroux 1996 \$16.00 230 p. 0-374-32746-7

Two girls "come out" and affirm their feelings for each other, but not without first going through the problematic social interactions that many gay teens have to endure. The fact the play they are performing is about a witch hunt plays well with the story line.

MS/HS Glenn, Mel Who Killed Mr. Chippendale? TG, MD
Dutton 1996 \$14.99 100 p. TG, MD 0-525-67530-2

A unique mystery about the murder of an English teacher who is shot while running on the school track. It is told entirely in free verse so the reader gains insight into most of the main characters.

MS/HS Goldman, Martin S. Crazy Horse: War Chief of the Oglala Sioux Watts
1996 \$22.00 208 p. SR, JR 0-531-11258-6 American-Indian Experience Series

This is a detailed and thoughtful examination of the life of Crazy Horse and the times in which he lived. Using authentic quotes and primary source material from the era under examination, Goldman gives the reader the depth of differences between the native Americans and the white settlers.

HS Gottfried, Ted Capital Punishment JR, DK
Enslow 1997 \$18.95 128 p. 0-89489-899-5

A dispassionate and balanced account of the history behind and the the controversies surrounding the use of the death penalty in the US, this book

emphasizes the irregularity with which the penalty is carried out and how that reflects the changing values of society.

MS Hahn, Mary Downing Following My Own Footsteps LM, ED
Random House 1996 \$13.95 186 p. 0-395-76477-7
The book, set during World War II, details how Gordy's alcoholic father abuses both his wife and children. Escape is at the forefront of everyone's mind when their father jailed. Mother then moves them to their grandmother's house, where Gordy discovers a new home does not mean that problems go away.

MS/HS Hanmer, Trudy J. The Gender Gap in Schools JR, SR
Enslow 1996 \$17.95 112 p. 0-89490-718-2
This book presents specific examples that demonstrate the continuing disparity between the treatment of males and females in schools, from kindergarten through post-graduate school.

MS/HS Harris, Jacqueline Tuskegee Airmen: Black Heroes of World War II
Silver Burdett 1996 \$13.95 128 p. DK, TG 0-382-39215-9
A sure-to-excite selection for those students interested in both the history of aviation and the achievements of African Americans -- great photos and a wealth of information.

MS/HS Hatrick, Gloria Masks MD, JS
Orchard Books 1996 \$14.95 120 p. MD, JS 0-531-09514-2
Pete helps his brother Will, who suffers from Guillain-Barre syndrome, deal with the horrifying reality of the disease by encouraging him to escaping into the realm of the masks. A story filled with compassion, brotherly love and hope.

MS Heisel, Sharon E. Eyes of a Stranger
MD, LM
Delacorte 1996 \$15.95 168 p. 0-385-32229-1
Since the death of her parents, the heroine, a handicapped teenager, lives with her uncle, a kindly soul who runs the town carousel. Marissa dreams of having a normal life, meets a handsome stranger, and what follows is a nightmare come true.

MS/HS Henbest, Nigel & Heather Couper Black Holes JS, JR
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$16.95 45 p. JS, JR 0-7894-0451-6
Despite somewhat a confusing layout, this gorgeous book manages to very briefly explain black holes and give some of the newest theories about them. The book reads like a fantastic science-fiction.

MS/HS Herb, Angela Beyond the Mississippi: Early Westward Expansion of the US DK, LM
Penguin, USA 1996 \$16.99 138 p. 0-525-67503-5
History told through the eyes of those who lived it. Richly illustrated with lots of detail adding personal appeal, this book is illustrated with a nice mix of paintings, photos, maps, journal excerpts, etc.

MS/HS Hewett, Lorri Soulfire JR, DK

Dutton Children's Books 1996 \$15.99 231 p. 0-525-45559-0
A realistic, convincing look at life in the projects. Todd, without an affective father, copes with older brother Marcus, a gang leader, and a cousin who acts recklessly to prevent recruitment of others into the gang.

MS/HS Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas The Japanese Family Album JS, JR
Oxford University Press 1996 \$22.95 128 p. 0-19--508131-5 Series
An excellent series on American immigration by various ethnic groups, each book is divided into similar sections that contain an introduction by the authors and composition of quotes from letters, memoirs and other primary documents of actual immigrants.

MS/HS Ingold, Jeanette The Window MD, JR
Harcourt Brace 1996 \$12.00 181 p. MD, JR 0-15-201265-6
Mandy survived a car accident that left her blind and struggling. She moves in with an estranged grandmother, and thus learns about her own mother's anguish and desire to learn more about the family she never had. A warm story about mothers and daughters, blindness, and family life.

MS James, Elizabeth and Carol Barkin Social Smarts: Manners for Today's Kids LM, ED
Random House 1996 \$14.95 103 p. LM, ED 0-395-66585-X
This book offers teens advice on how to handle personal interactions in ten different social situations. Each chapter includes letters from teens and an advice columnist's replies. Small black and white sketches are strategically placed to emphasize the content around it.

MS Jones, Tim Wynne The Maestro JS,
TG
Orchard Books 1996 \$16.95 231 p. 0-531-09544-4
Fourteen-year old Burt Crow, runs away from an abusive relationship with his father to a strange but rewarding friendship with a famous orchestra conductor who is hiding in the woods to escape the public.

MS/HS Keller, Beverly The Amazon Papers JR, ED, TG
Harcourt Brace 1996 (pbk.) \$5.00 150 p. 0-152-01346-6
A fifteen-year old girl becomes involved in a hilarious comedy of errors when left in charge of two preschool children for a week.

MS/HS Kramer, Barbara Toni Morrison JR, SR
Enslow 1996 \$18.95 112 p. 0-89490-688-7
The book examines the life and work of this extraordinary woman who has been successful as editor, teacher and author. Also provides insight into how she chooses and researches the stories she writes.

ES/MS/HS Larroche, Caroline Corot from A to Z LM, ED
Peter Bedrick Books 1996 \$14.95 58 p. 0-87226-477-7 Artists A to Z Series

In creating a format that intersperses text with visuals, the series has created a non-threatening approach for young readers. This book is one in the Artists from A to Z series. The series consists of 4 books at this time, with a general theme of art history.

MS/HS Lawson, Julie Danger Game MD, TG, SR
Little, Brown 1996 \$15.95 213 p. 0-316-51728-3

After a particularly bad fight with her mother, Chelsea is sent to live with her father in Hawaii. Just when she is developing an understanding with her dad, an awful accident puts him in a coma. Chelsea is sent to her uncle's house. Here she is forced to face a new truth about herself, her life and her parents.

MS Lee, Marie Necessary Roughness SR, ED
HarperCollins 1996 \$14.95 228 p. 0-06-025124-7

The story of Korean twins and how they react differently to racism in a small Minnesota town.

MS/HS London, Jack The Call of the Wild LM, ED
Penguin, USA 1994 \$21.99 126 p. 0-670-86916-x The Whole Story Series

This book is one in the Whole Story series with a general theme of classics made available to young readers. This nicely illustrated series contains side notes that make this a good addition to any school library. Other books in the series include: Treasure Island and The Jungle Book.

HS Lowenstein, Felicia Abortion Battle: Looking at Both Sides ED, LM
Enslow 1996 \$17.95 128 p. 0-89490-724-7 Issues and Focus Series

An excellent and unbiased rational discussion of the two sides to the abortion issue.

MS MacDonald, Amy No More Nice ED, LM
Orchard Books 1996 \$14.95 123 p. 0-531-09542-8

Inspired by Aunt Mattie and Uncle Philbert, Simon learns about manners and "un-lessons". With the help of a parrot named Runcible and a trio of llamas, Simon is on his way to learning the art of being a kid and at the same time thinking for himself.

ES/MS/HS MacQuitty, Miranda Inside Guides: Amazing Bugs LM, ED
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$15.95 44 p. LM, ED 0-7894-1010-9 Inside Guides Series

This book explains fascinating facts while using clear, super realistic, three-dimensional models. The book is one in the Inside Guides series, which delves into the "inner works" of a wide range of topics. Other titles in this series include: Animal Homes, Incredible Earth, and Super Structures.

HS Maraire, J. Nozipo Zenzele: A Letter for my Daughter JR, JS
Crown 1996 \$20.00 194 p. 0-517-70242-8

When Zenzele goes off to university in America, her mother keeps the Zimbabwean culture and its values alive in Zenzele's mind through this long, loving letter, which offer us a glimpse into middle-class life in that African country.

MS/HS Mariotti, Steve Young Entrepreneur's Guide to Starting and Running a Business JS, LM

Random House 1996 \$15.00 322 p. 0-8129-2627-7

The author discovered that he could teach inner city teenagers if he presented the lessons in terms of running their own business.

> MS Martell, Hazel Mary Food and Feast: With the Vikings LM, JC
Silver Burdett 1996 \$14.95 32 p.

The Food and Feast is a well written, beautifully illustrated, and nicely formatted series. The selection of topics and illustrations are varied and capture the interest of young readers. Other titles include: In the Middle Ages, In Ancient Rome, In Ancient Egypt, Between Two World Wars, In Tudor Times, With the Aztecs, and In Ancient Greece.

> MS/HS McCaffrey, Anne Black Horses for the King JC, JS
Harcourt Brace 1996 \$16.00 217 p. 0-15-227522-0

The author has imagined, and written about, how King Arthur got strong mounts for his warriors to ride, in order to swiftly strike the Saxons. The motif of the book is "no hoof, no horse," and this book is an eloquent tribute to early blacksmiths. It is an excellent addition to the Arthur canon, and an excellent portrait of Galwyn, Arthur, and Celtic Britain.

MS McComb, David G. Texas: An Illustrated History JS, JC
Oxford University Press 1996 \$23.95 142 p. 0-19-509247-3

This book, accompanied by a wealth of illustrative material, is an honest portrayal of the sorry relationship that developed between settlers and Native Americans, the work of the Ku Klux Klan, Mexico's and Spain's interests. and more modern aspects of Texas' history.

MS/HS Melton, H. Keith The Ultimate Spy Book ED, LM
Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$29.95 176 p. 0-7894-0443-5

Visual presentation of a popular topic that appeals to young readers.

ES/MS/HS Menzel, Peter Material World: A Global Family Portrait SR, LM
Random House 1994 (pbk) \$20.00 255 p. 0-87156-430-0

This unusual, expressive, informative book features photo-essays about typical families from thirty countries around the world. Even though the facts show the enormous contrasts in life styles around the world, the photographs remind us of the similarities.

MS Meyer, Carolyn Gideon's People SR, JS
Harcourt Brace 1996 \$12.00 297 p. 0-15-200303-7

When Isaac Litvak, an immigrant Russian Jew, is injured in a buggy accident, he stays with Gideon's Amish family. The way the characters help and understand each other is a positive model for young readers to use in dealing with cultural differences.

MS/HS Murphy, Jim A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced
by One Boy JC, LM
Random House 1996 \$15.95 101 p. 0-395-60523-7
Joseph Martin records his fresh and honest impressions of the American
Revolution. He served in New York, Valley Forge, Germantown, and Fort Mifflin,
usually without enough food, warm clothes, or shoes.

MS/HS Napoli, Donna Jo Zel JC,
ED
Penguin, USA 1996 \$15.99 227 p. 0-525-45612-0
This retelling of Grimm's tale of Rapunzel is a dark, psychological novel that
focuses on why Zel was locked in her tower, what her mother's influence was, and
how Prince Konrad entered their life. Wow!

MS Nathan, Joan The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen JS, TG
Schocken 1995 \$18.00 157 p. 0-8052-1056-3
How can a cookbook that shows how to make a gingerbread dreidle (like a
gingerbread house of course) be anything but super? The joy evident in these
mostly simple recipes and ideas for holiday activities is contagious.

MS/HS Neil, Philip Earth Always Endures: Native American Poems DK, ED
Penguin, USA 1996 \$19.99 93 p. 0-670-86873-6
The historic photos by Edward S. Curtis and the lovely songs and poems combine
to make a very evocative whole. Some are very short, conveying worlds of
meaning in just a few words, while others are longer and more chorus-like.

MS/HS Nix, Garth Sabriel JS, SR
HarperCollins 1995 \$15.95 292 p. 0-06-027322-4
Sabriel is about to finish school when a message informs her that her father is
dead somewhere in the Old Kingdom. Alone she sets out to find his body and
bring him back from the "land of the dead".

MS/HS Nixon, Joan Lowery Search for the Shadowland ED, LM
Delacorte 1996 \$15.95 149 p. 0-385-32203-8
Andy Thomas' genealogy report is not so interesting until he discovers a
shameful incident that prompted his family to disown one of his ancestors. Andy
uses brains and ingenuity to show it's never too late to seek justice.

MS/HS Oldham, June Found JC, JS
Orchard Books 1995 \$16.95 199 p. JC, JS 0-531-08893-6
Set in the 21st century, when the deserted countryside is home to some abandoned
children, a group of children band together to survive and to help the baby
named Found.

MS Oxford University Press The Young Oxford History of African Americans
TG
Oxford University Press 1996 \$25.00 160 p. TG
The series looks at history, chronologically, through the African-Americans'
eyes, and discusses how they shaped US history. The three volumes reviewed (vol.

2 - Strange New Land [1617-1776], vol. 5 - Break Those Chains at Last [1860-1880], and vol. 10 - Into the Fire [since 1970]), tackle issues in a scholarly manner.

MS Paterson, Katherine Jip: His Story SR, TG
Penguin USA 1996 \$15.99 181 p. 0-525-67543-4

Paterson creates a fresh and real character in pre-Civil War New England. Jip, an orphan, is growing up on a poor farm, yet has developed a self-reliance and a knack for relating to animals and people. When a chained, caged lunatic is brought to the farm, Jip is the only one with the courage and ability to find humanity in him.

MS Peck, Richard The Great Interactive Dream Machine LM, ED
Penguin, USA 1996 \$14.99 149 p. 0-8037-1989-2

Josh is unwillingly drawn into Aaron's computer experiments. The two boys find themselves uncontrollably transported through space and time. The most important enemy could just be those infamous power surges.

MS/HS Pierce, Meredith Ann The Son of Summer Stars JS, JR
Little, Brown 1996 \$17.95 250 p. 0-316-70755-4

Third in a trilogy that features unicorns as heroes, this novel can be read on its own. Its main character is Jan, who is destined to lead the band back to its ancestral homeland.

MS Platt, Richard Incredible Explosions: Exploded Views of Astonishing Things LM, ED

Dorling Kindersley 1996 \$19.95 32 p. 0-7894-1024-9

The author has created a book with incredible cross-sections of a steam tractor, a windmill, a space station, an airport, a fire, a city, an Antarctic base, a movie studio, the Grand Canyon, a human body, Venice, and the Tower Bridge.

HS Reef, Catherine John Steinbeck JR, JC
Random House 1996 \$17.95 163 p. 0-395-71278-5

This is an excellent biography of author John Steinbeck. The reader learns of his sympathy with dust bowl farmers, poor cannery workers, and WW II soldiers, as well as learning details of the ups and downs of his private life.

MS/HS Rinaldi, Ann Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons JR, JC
Harcourt Brace 1996 \$12.00 336 p. 0-15-200876-4

This moving story of a young girl's struggle to prove herself fictionalizes the life of Phillis Wheatley. As a young girl, she is kidnapped in Senegal, brought to the US as a slave, purchased by the kind Wheatley family who raise her, teach her to read and write, and tutor her in the classics.

MS/HS Rosenberg, Liz Heart and Soul TG, MD
Harcourt Brace 1996 \$11.00 223 p. 0-15-200942-6

Willie longs to be a composer, has few friends, and is in a state of lethargy. When a semi-friend from school asks Willie to house another student from school for the event -- Willie transforms.

HS Savage, Candace Bird Brains: The Intelligence of Crows, Ravens, Magpies, and Jays DK, LM

Random House 1995 \$24.00 134 p. 0-87-156-3797

You will never look at a crow the same way again. Great photos accompany a text that is lively and humorous. Every facet of a penguin's life is presented.

MS/HS Savage, Candace The World of the Wolf SR, LM

Random House 1996 \$27.50 114 p. SR, LM 0-87156-899-3

While the text covers the specifics of anatomy, physiology, behavior, ecology, and history, including the recent reintroduction efforts of wolves in the wild, the pictures offer an intimate perspective for browsers of any age.

MS Schmidt, Gary D. The Sin Eater ED,
LM

Dutton 1996 \$15.99 184 p. ED, LM 0-525-67541-8

After the death of his mother, Cole and his dad move to New Hampshire to be close to her grave and her family. Cole's father commits suicide at Christmas. However, by then Cole has a solid base of friends and a strong and loving relationship with his grandparents.

ES/MS/HS Sellier, Marie Cezanne from A to Z LM, ED

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