

## Non-Fiction: Science, Math, History

- Brenner, Barbara. *One Small Place by the Sea*. HarperCollins. 2004. ISBN 0688171826.  
For one afternoon, a child visitor observes the cycle of change within a tide pool, a small place at the edge of the sea.
- Cyrus, Kurt. *Hotel Deep, Light Verse from Dark Water*. Harcourt. 2005.  
Lovely blending of verse and visuals of the creatures of the Pacific Ocean are presented. Cyrus has also written and illustrated *Bug's Garden of Verses*. Look for his illustrations in *Oddhopper Opera*.
- Chigna, Charles. *Animal Tracks, Wild Poems to Read Aloud*. Harry N. Abrams. 2004. ISBN 2003014053.  
This is a collection of simple poems about such animals as lions, humming birds, dogs, alligators, and seagulls. Lines and luminous watercolor washes bring out the high spirits and idiosyncrasies of the creatures in this collection of poems.
- Curlee, Lynn. *Ballpark: The Story of American's Baseball Fields*. Atheneum. 2005.  
This explores both the histories and the cultural significances of America's most famous ballparks. The illustrations communicate not just information, but also excitement and sentiment.
- Dowson, Nick (Jane Chapman). *Tigress*. Candlewick Press. 2004.  
A mother tigress raises two cubs and teaches them all they need to know until they are ready to rely on themselves. The book is in a story format, but each page also includes pertinent information.
- Ellis, Julie. *What's Your Angle, Pythagoras?* Charlesbridge. 2004.  
Told in story format, in ancient Greece, young Pythagoras discovers a special number pattern (the Pythagorean theorem) and uses it to solve problems involving right triangles.
- Egyptology*. Candlewick Press. 2004  
Fantastic hands-on and interactive format of the journal of Miss Emily Sands. This will definitely become a part of my personal collection.
- Florian, Douglas. *Zoo's Who*. Harcourt. 2005. ISBN 0152046399.  
Another fantastic creation in paintings and poems by Florian. Twenty-one different animals.
- Fuchs, Bernie. *Ride Like the Wind: A Tale of the Pony Express*. Blue Sky Press. 2004.  
Dramatic oil paintings by award-winning artist Bernie Fuchs capture the spirit, strength, and stamina of one young rider, Johnny Free, as he and his beloved pony, JennSoo, face an unusually dangerous journey.
- Goodall, Jane. *Rickie and Henri, A True Story*. Penguin Young Readers Group. 2004.  
Rickie is a baby chimpanzee born in the rain forest of Central Africa. This is an unusual story about the bond between two special animals: a dog and an orphaned chimpanzee. Goodall hope this story will inspire those who read it to find new ways to help and protect our animal friends.
- Gibbons, Gail. *The Quilting Bee*. HarperCollins. 2004.  
An introduction to the process of quilt making, including a history of the craft, sample quilt patterns, and directions for creating a children's book authors' and illustrators' quilt.

Holub, Joan. *Geogra-Fleas! Riddles All Over the Map*. Albert Whitman. 2004.  
Riddles for just about anything in geography.

Janeczko, Paul B. *A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms*. Candlewick Press. 2005.  
This is an absolute MUST for any teacher to have if poetry is a part of their curriculum. The watercolor, ink, and torn paper illustrations by Chris Roschka are wonderful.

Johnson, Angela. *A Sweet smell of roses*. Simon & Schuster. 2005.  
The forward by the author is powerful: we remember the great names of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950' and 1960's, but this book is dedicated to the overlooked name of children. The art is stunning.... One spot of bright red in each illustration is dramatically effective.

Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page. *I see a kookaburra!: Discovering Animal Habitats Around the World*. Houghton Mifflin. 2005.  
Once again, this husband and wife team have given us authentic, rich language and art. Six different parts of the world are shown in this book. Each habitat includes eight of the animals that live there. In the back of the book is lots of information on each animal. What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? Actual Size; Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution; The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest. These are a must for your library.

Irving, John. *A Sound Like Someone Trying Not to Make a Sound*. Double Day. 2003.  
Powerful language and muted illustrations identify the feelings and thoughts of every child's nighttime uncertainties.

Katz, Karen. *My First Chinese New Year*. Henry Holt & Co. 2005.  
A girl and her family prepare for and celebrate Chinese New Year. Bold colors in illustrations.

Kerley, Barbara. *You and Me Together: Moms, Dads, and Kids Around the World*. National Geographic. 2005.  
Kerly is interested in showing how a richly diverse world shares much in common, such as the unifying bond of parents' and children's love for each other. Stunning photography.

Koscielniak, Bruce. *About Time A first Look at Time and Clocks*. Houghton Mifflin. 2004.  
Describes the concept of time and how it has been measure throughout history, using water clocks, sundials, calendars, and atomic vibrations. A fairly good use of visual with balance of information on each page.

Kotzwilliam, William, Glenn Murray, & Elizabeth Gundy. *Rough Weather Ahead for Walter the Farting Dog*. Dutton Children's Books. 2005  
Once again we share an adventure with Walter. When an expert on animal gas tries to cure Walter, his farts keep building up until he floats away and blown by the wind to a distant place, where he once again proves himself a hero. Colman's digital and collage techniques are delightfully funny.

Lehman, Barbara. *The Red Book*. Houghton Mifflin. 2004.  
This wordless book is a 2005 Caldecott Honor book. Excellent for imagination and writing prompt.

Lewin, Ted and Betsy. *Top to Bottom Down Under*. HarperCollins. 2005.  
These two authors/illustrators share their adventures while traveling northern and southern Australia, describing the wildlife and landscapes they encountered. Great!

Meyers, Susan. *Puppies! Puppies! Puppies!* Harry N. Abrams. 2005.

Rhyming text follows the life of all sorts of puppies from when they are born with eyes shut tight through moving in with a new family and getting bowls and beds and names to learning how to do things grown-up dogs do.

Morrison, Taylor. *The Coast Mappers*. Houghton Mifflin. 2004.

This chronicles the difficulties encountered by George Davidson and others as they attempted to create nautical charts to complete the U.S. Coast Survey of the West Coast in the mid-nineteenth century. Wonderful illustrations add to the information.

Murphy, Claire Rudolf. *I am Sacajawea, I am York Our Journey West with Lewis and Clark*. Walker Pub. 2005.

The dual stories of these two outsiders earned their way into the inner core of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The unique knowledge and skills of these two shed new light on one of the most exciting and important undertakings in American history.

Park, Linda Sue. *The Firekeeper's Son*. Houghton Mifflin. 2004.

In early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Korea, after Sang-hee's father injures his ankle. Sang-hee attempts to take over the task of lighting the evening fire, which signals the palace that all is well. Includes historical notes.

Prosek, James. *A Good Day's Fishing*. Simon & Schuster. 2004.

The author tells the story of a good day's fishing in this beautiful picture book, illustrated with the author's own gentle watercolors. A comprehensive glossary allows the reader to learn more about how to fish; includes lures and flies, also.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Free at Last! Stories and Songs of Emancipation*. Candlewick Press. 2004.

This unusual book describes the experiences of African Americans in the South, from Emancipation in 1863 to the 1954 Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation illegal. Beautiful format.

Russell, Barbara Timberlake. *The Remembering Stone*. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux. 2004.

As a young girl and her mother watch the flocks of blackbirds preparing for their journey south, the mother dreams of returning to Costa Rica where she was born. Gorgeous, rich illustrations. Glossary pronunciation provided.

Scieszka, Jon and Lane Smith. *Seen Art?* Viking. 2005

They have done it again! Delightful and quirky. It all starts when our intrepid "I" is looking for his friend, Art. We begin our tour of the great works in New York's Museum of Modern Art. There is a section at the end that explains the art seen in the book. Clever odd shaped book, also.

Sis, Peter. *The Train of States*. Greenwillow Books. 2004.

This Sis creation gives information about each state, including capital, motto, state tree, state bird, source of name, and date of statehood. Sis, shares his love for his adopted country with his admiration for antique circus wagons through his art.

Strauss, Rochelle. *Tree of Life. The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth*. Kids Can Press. 2004.

The five branches on the tree of life are presented with carefully selected information and accompanied by a full page of illustrated visuals. Index and notes to adults is included.

Tang, Greg. *Math Fables*. Scholastic Press. 2004.

Once again Tang has made math wonderful and full of life. All his books are a must for the classroom. The author believes this book is for ages 3-6. Numbers are presenting in traditional way of counting,

then they are presented in groups: encouraging children to think more efficiently in groups rather than counting one number at a time. This book is sixth in a series to give students a head start in math and a love for reading and writing. Any parent or teacher of primary needs all six of these books.

Thompson, Lauren. *Mouse's First Spring*. Simon & Schuster. 2005.

A mouse and its mother experience the delights of nature on a windy spring day. Wonderful lively language for each page.

Zane, Alexander. *The Wheels on the Race Car*. Orchard Books. 2005.

This is a read-aloud must with a wonderful rhyming text and hilarious illustrations.

Ziefert, Harriet & Fred M. Ehrlich, MD. *You Can't Take Your Body to a Repair Shop. A Book About What Makes you Sick*. Blue Apple Books. 2004.

This book will engage children emotionally and intellectually as it is chock-full of fascinating facts about the human body. Lots of humor and reassurance.

### Science Series

Read and Wonder Series: Candlewick Books. These are beautifully written and illustrated non-fiction books that provide accurate information in story-like formats.

Davies, Nicola. *Bat Loves the Night. Big Blue Whale*.

Braun, Trudi. *My Goose Betsy*.

King-Smith, Dick. *All Pigs are Beautiful*

Jeram, Anita. *I Love Guinea Pigs*.

Howker, Janni. *Walk with a Wolf*.

Wallace, Karen. *Gentle Giant Octopus. Think of an Eel*.

About...Series books: Peachtree. Each book's format is one sentence with clear, simple corresponding illustrating plate for each creature.

*About Amphibians; About Birds;; About Mammals; About Reptiles; About Insects; About Fish; About Arachnids; About Crustaceans.*

### Another series:

Winer, Yvonne. Same author for all of them, but different illustrators. The language is free verse, illustrations are full of information. Each book ends with identification guides and references. These are wonderful writing models of how to take lots of specific scientific information and turn into gorgeous free verse.

*Frogs Sing Songs; Birds Build Nests; Spiders Spin Webs*

Yet another series: Backyard Books (pre-school)

Allen, Judy and Tudor Humphries. *Are you a Grasshopper?* 2002. Kingfisher.

Large illustrations with just the right amount of information.

### Biography

Appelt, Kathi. *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers*. HarperCollins. ISBN 0060011076.

A biography of Lady Bird Johnson, who, as the wife of President Lyndon Johnson, reminded citizens about the importance of conserving natural resources and promoted the beautification of cities and highways by planting wildflowers. Joy Fisher Hein's colorful wildflowers burst from every page.

- Davies, Jacqueline. *The Boy Who Drew Birds. A Story of John James Audubon*. Houghton Mifflin. 2004.  
The author used Audubon's own account in *Ornithological Biography* and *Audubon: Life and Art in the American Wilderness*. Nearly every detail in this biography is from these two sources. Fantastic illustrations!
- Delano, Marfe Ferguson. *Genius A Photobiography of Albert Einstein*. National Geographic Society. 2005.  
Lots of photos and lots of writing. More of a teacher resource.
- Demi. *Mother Teresa*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 2005.  
Once again Demi has given us a exquisite visual feast for the eyes and has selected wonderful information about Mother Teresa. His *Mohammad* biography is also a superior introduction to Islam.
- Kerley, Barbara. *Walt Whitman Words for America*. Scholastic Press. 2004.  
This is a biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief at Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse. Beautifully illustrated... dramatic. Also, complete poems are listed at the end.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. *Scien-Trickery, Riddles in Science*. Harcourt, Inc. 2004. ISBN 0152166815.  
A collection of poems that describes people, places, and things associated with science, including oxygen, the ocean, and germs. Told as riddles.
- Shange, Ntozake. *Ellington was not a street*. Simon and Schuster. 2004.  
Powerful illustrations of the poem, *Blue Indigo*, have given the reader a luscious and informative picture book about talented Black Americans.
- St. George, Judith. *You're on Your Way, Teddy Roosevelt*. Philomel Books. 2004.  
As a young boy, "Teedie" Roosevelt was frequently ill, but worked hard to become strong and fit while also avidly reading and pursuing his love natural history. Includes bibliographical references.
- St. George, Judith. *Take the Lead, George Washington*. Philomel Books. 2005.  
As with Teddy Roosevelt biography, this is a "turning point" book.... where in young lives is there the cause or influence that sets these people on a path that will lead them to the White House. Both of these are appropriate for ages 8-11.
- Yolen, Jane. *The Perfect Wizard: Hans Christian Anderson*. 2004. ISBN 0525169559.  
This is a biography of the famous Danish write of fairy tales and is interspersed with excerpts from his stories. Yolen's lyrical text and Nolan's beautiful illustrations present an astounding piece of literature in itself. Wonderful book for Anderson's 200 year-old birthday