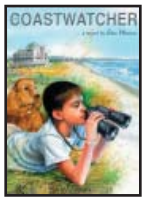




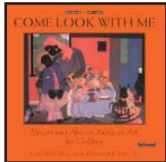
Babymouse: Queen of the World! Jennifer Holm; illus. by Matthew Holm. 0375832297; \$5.95 (paperback). *This funny graphic novel shows how a friend who treats you like a queen is more valuable than a sleeper at a mean school-mate's house.* SG



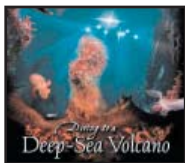
Blue. Joyce Moyer Hostetter. 1590783891; \$16.95. *It's 1944: What's a thirteen-year-old girl to do when her father is called off to war, the fields need to be tended and polio strikes the family? Determination and friendship can make all the difference. Based on the true story of a polio hospital built during the epidemic.* SMH



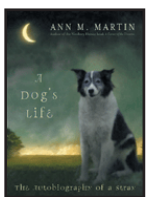
The Coastwatcher. Elise Weston. 1561453501; \$14.95. *Hugh, an inquisitive eleven-year-old living on the South Carolina coast in the summer of 1943, finds clues that point to a German plot to sabotage a nearby naval base. Is it all in his imagination, as his family says? Hugh is determined to prove that it's not.* JM/Essex



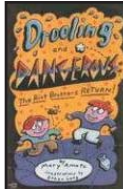
Come Look With Me: Discovering African American Art for Children. James Haywood Rolling, Jr. 1890674079, \$15.95. *A wonderful and succinct tool to introduce readers to different styles of popular and lesser-known Black American artists.* SDH



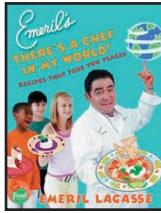
Diving to a Deep-Sea Volcano. Kenneth Mallory. 0618332057; \$17.00. *This tween level book has fantastic facts coupled with extraordinary photos of undersea life. Perfect for the non-fiction lover. Also recommended is Swimming with Hammerhead Sharks by the same author.* DH/Oxford



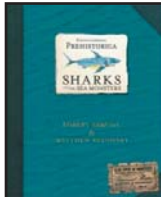
A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray. Ann M. Martin. 0439715598; \$16.99 (HC); 0439717000, \$5.99 (PB). *A dog named Squirrel tells the story of its life and how it made its way in the world - sometimes with sadness, but always with hope.* SG



Drooling and Dangerous: The Riot Brothers Return! Mary Amato. 082341986X, \$16.95. *The second book of funny adventures of two brothers who become spies, star in a movie, and have a "Dwitch Say."* CN



Emeril's There's A Chef in my World! Recipes that Take You Places. Emeril Lagasse. 0060739266, \$22.99. *A glorious compilation of detailed recipes with their histories transports readers and future cooks around the world in a VERY tasty fashion.* DC



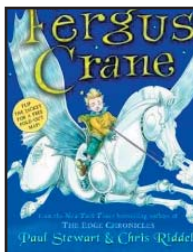
Encyclopedia Prehistorica: Sharks and Other Sea Monsters. Robert Sabuda & Matthew Reinhart. 076362229X, \$27.99. *An awesome pop-up book of sea creatures guaranteed to excite children of all ages!* SP



The End (A Series of Unfortunate Events, #13). Lemony Snicket. 0064410161, \$12.99. *Will the Baudelaire orphans have all their questions answered and live "happily ever after?" Find out in this astonishing finale to their adventures.* GD, SM1



Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg. Gail Carson Levine; illus. by David Christiana. 0786834919, \$16.99. *The fairies on Neverland have a story of their own. While readers remember Tinkerbell, now we meet Prilla, Neverland's newest fairy. Join her quest to save Neverland, and discover her hidden talent!* JR



Far Flung Adventures: Fergus Crane. Paul Stewart and Chris Ridell. 0385750889; \$14.95. *This book has pirates, penguins, flying mechanical horses, islands, and buried treasure. Combine that with a plucky hero and a heartwarming story and you have a great recipe for a fun read-aloud.* KAF



Fly By Night. Frances Hardinge. 0060876271, \$16.99. *An imaginative adventure about orphaned book-lover Mosca Mye, who crosses paths with smugglers, spies and other shady characters. Mosca's secret weapon: her ability to read, a rarity in her world. A brilliant, highly original tale for everyone who loves the written word.* JN



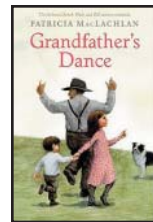
Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich. Adam Rex. 0152057668; \$16.00. *This wondrously funny collection of short stories featuring favorite monsters of lore will be read and laughed with for years to come.* DC



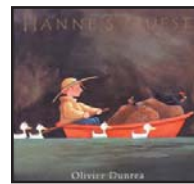
Goha the Wise Fool. Denys Johnson-Davies; illus. by Hag Hamdy & Hany. 0399242228, \$16.99. *Meet Goha, a Turkish folk character who is by turns fool, wise man and trickster. This collection of 15 succinct Goha stories is witty, funny, great for reading aloud, and beautifully illustrated with Egyptian tapestries.* HE



Gossamer. Lois Lowry. 0618685502; \$16.00. *One novice dream giver uses her special talents to save a young boy from evil nightmares. This deceptively simple tale will please many young readers.* CA/Darien



Grandfather's Dance. Patricia McLachlan. 006027560X, \$14.99. *Especially for fans of Sarah, Plain and Tall, this fifth and final volume of the historical fiction series about the Witting family is a quick read and a heartwarming family story.* AO

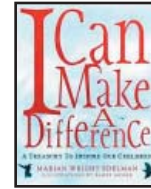


Hanne's Quest. Olivier Dunrea. 0399242163, \$16.99. *Set on the isle of Skye, this gentle adventure story chronicles the bravery of Hanne the hen as she attempts to save her beloved farm from foreclosure.* CA/Darien



Hey There, Stink Bug! Leslie Bulion; illus. by Leslie Evans. 158089304X; \$12.95. *A collection of poems from the insect world, both funny and factual. A little "gross-out drama" will keep those budding entomologists thoroughly en-grossed!* EW

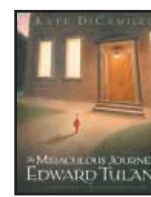
I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children. Marian Wright Edelman; illus. by Barry Moser. 0060280514, \$19.99. *Edelman, Children's Defense Fund champion, offers a collection of art, poems, proverbs, quotes and stories from around the world to teach courage, self love and respect for others.* SDH



The Liberation of Gabriel King. K.L. Going. 039923991X, \$15.99. *Entering 5th grade is hard for Gabriel. Lucky for him, his best friend Erita is around to help. While they face some silly fears, they also confront serious issues such as bullying and prejudice. A book you can cheer for.* KAF



Miracle on 49th Street. Mike Lupica. 0399244883; \$17.99. *After her mother's death, Molly sets out to prove that the star player for the Boston Celtics (and former UConn standout) is her father. A great Christmas story!* MS



The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Kate DiCamillo; illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. 0763625892, \$18.99. *A proud, cold-hearted china rabbit, separated from the little girl who adores him, endures desperate trials while traveling across the country. This story of love, loss, friendship and transformation will touch the hearts of children and adults alike.* CA/Waterford, JJ, MJC, NM, TB



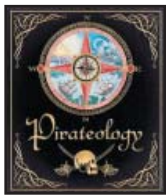
Nanny McPhee: Based on the Collected Tales of Nurse Matilda. Christianna Brand; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. 1582346712, \$7.95 (paperback). *The numerous and incredibly naughty Brown children wreak havoc until the no-nonsense nanny, Nurse Matilda, enters their lives. First published nearly fifty years ago; recently released as a motion picture.* DH/Danbury



Peter and the Shadow Thieves. Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson. 078683787X, \$18.99. *Peter and Tink travel to London and enlist Molly's help in recovering the magical Starstuff. A full cast of swarthy pirates and other undesirables keep readers entertained all the way to the finish!* Sequel to Peter and the Starcatchers. JR

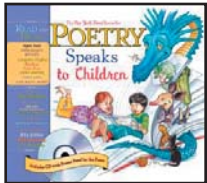


Peter Pan in Scarlet. Geraldine McCaughrean; illus. by Scott M. Fischer. 1416918086, \$17.99. *Peter Pan lives! Magic and adventure abound in this strikingly illustrated sequel to the classic Peter Pan. An exciting family read.* DC



Pirateology: The Pirate Hunter's Companion. William Captain Lubber & Dugald A. Steer, eds. 0763631434, \$19.99. *Yo ho ho and a book of pirate fun! Kids love this series, which includes Egyptology, Wizardology, Fairyopolis and Dr. Drake's Dragonology.*

Each book is chock-full of "artifacts," things to touch, and tidbits of fascinating information. DE, LL



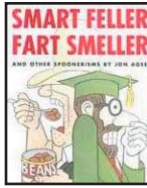
Poetry Speaks to Children. Elise Paschen, ed. 1402203292, \$19.95. *This collection offers the work of many poets including Rita Dove, Robert Frost, X.J. Kennedy, Roald Dahl, J.R.R. Tolkien, etc., and includes a CD with poems read by the poets.* SDH



The Scarecrow and His Servant. Philip Pullman. 0375815317, \$15.95. *A scarecrow whose head is made of a turnip comes to life and adopts an orphan boy as his servant in this light-hearted comic fantasy.* JR



Shakespeare's Secret. Elise Broach. 0805073876, \$16.95. *When an elderly and intriguing neighbor tells Hero (named after a character in Much Ado About Nothing) about a 600-year-old Shakespearean mystery involving a giant diamond, she forgets her troubles as she works to solve the puzzle.* HB



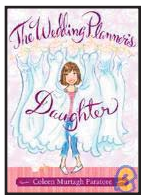
Smart Feller Fart Smeller, and Other Spoonerisms. Jon Agee. 078683692X, \$14.95. *Learn how easy it is, with just the slip of a sound, to say the wrong thing and make everyone laugh with this introduction to Spoonerisms. Silly, naughty and educational.* CS/New London



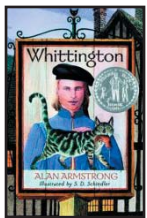
The Star-Spangled Banner. Catherine A. Welch. 1575055902, \$25.26 (HC); 1575056976, \$5.95 (PB). *Welch deftly reveals our national anthem's compelling story in clear, straightforward prose. Readers will never sing it absent-mindedly again.* SDH



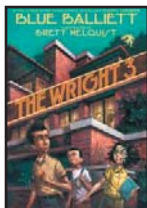
Star Wars: The Ultimate Visual Guide. Ryder Windham. 0756614201, \$24.99. *Full-page color photos remind young readers of the magic of the Star Wars films in this rich title from Dorling Kindersley publishers.* CA/Darien



The Wedding Planner's Daughter. Coleen Murtagh Paratore. 0689873409, \$15.95 (HC); 141691854X, \$5.99 (PB). *To guarantee the success of her mother's wedding planning venture, Willa takes things into her own hands. When a famous diva comes to town and hires Willa's mom to plan her extraordinary wedding ... well, that's when things get very interesting.* VL



Whittington. Alan Armstrong. 0375828648, \$14.95. *This animal fantasy blends 3 stories - a battered tomcat's arrival on the farm, the legend of its 14th century namesake, and the struggle of the farmer's grandson who overcomes dyslexia to learn how to read. A Newbery honor book.* SG



The Wright 3. Blue Balliett. 0439693675, \$16.99. *Sixth graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy try to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's house from being demolished in this book of codes and mystery.* CN

Contributors

- **AO** - Annette Ouellet, Somers Public Library
- **CA/Darien** - Caitlin Augusta, Darien Library
- **CA/Waterford** - Christine Angeli, Waterford Public Library
- **CN** - Cathy Nelson, Berlin-Peck Memorial Library
- **CS/New London** - Cris Staubach, Public Library of New London
- **DC** - Daria Cesario, Scoville Memorial Library, Salisbury
- **DF** - Deborah Fleet, Voluntown Public Library
- **DH/Danbury** - Dymphna Harrigan, Danbury Library
- **DH/Oxford** - Dawn Higginson, Oxford Public Library
- **EW** - Eileen Washburn, Richmond Memorial Library, Marlborough
- **GD** - Geri Diorio, The Ridgefield Library
- **HB** - Heather Baker, Harwinton Public Library
- **HE** - Helena Estes, Case Memorial Library, Orange
- **JJ** - Jacqueline Juhasz, St. Mary School, Ridgefield & Our Lady of Fatima School, Wilton
- **JM/Essex** - Judie McCann, Essex Library Association
- **JN** - Jennifer Needham, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry
- **JR** - Judy Rabin, Woodbridge Town Library
- **KAF** - Kim A. Flynn, Thompson Public Library
- **LL** - Laura Larsen, Russell Library, Middletown
- **MJC** - Mary-Jane Carle, Bill Memorial Library
- **MS** - Martha Simpson, Stratford Library Association
- **NM** - Nancy McNicol, Ora Mason Branch Library, West Haven
- **RMZ** - Rose Marie Zaharek, New Canaan Library
- **SDH** - S.D. Harris, South Norwalk Branch, Norwalk Public Library
- **SG** - Stephanie Gwiazda, Otis Library, Norwich
- **SM1** - Sheila McCallum, Burlington Public Library
- **SMH** - Susan M. Hansen, West Hartford Public Library
- **SP** - Sue Palmieri, Groton Public Library
- **TB** - Tess Beck, Stratford Library Association
- **VL** - Vida Lashgari, Farmington Library



The Connecticut Library Consortium, the Connecticut Library Association, the Connecticut State Library and the Friends of Connecticut Libraries are partnering with Barnes & Noble Booksellers to "Love Your Library" this holiday season. On Friday, December 1 through Sunday, December 3, 2006, Barnes & Noble will donate 10-20% of every sale at Connecticut store locations to Connecticut's libraries! To qualify, purchases must be accompanied by a "Love Your Library" voucher - get yours at your local library, ask at Barnes & Noble on your shopping day, or visit www.LoveYourLibrary.com.

Best Books for Middle Readers

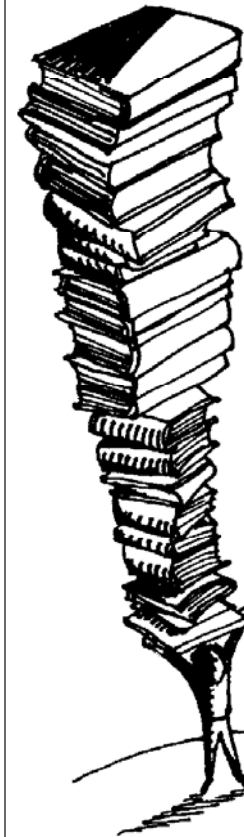
(ages 8-12)

A list for holiday giving



Recommended by
Connecticut's
Children's Librarians

November 2006



CT Library Consortium
234 Court Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860-344-8777
clc@ctlibrarians.org
www.ctlibrarians.org