

2008 BOOKS FOR PRESCHOOL—PRIMARY

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INFORMATION

- Barry, Frances. **BIG YELLOW SUNFLOWER; LITTLE GREEN FROGS.** Candlewick. \$5.99.
These “fold out and find out” books have layers of pages that fold out to reveal the growth of a sunflower and the development of a frog. The final flap opens to suggest how children can grow sunflowers and raise tadpoles themselves.
- Campbell, Sarah C. **WOLFSNAIL: A BACKYARD PREDATOR.** Boyds Mills. \$16.95.
Close-up photographs and a simple storyline show how a wolfsnail, which only eats snails and slugs, finds its prey on a hosta leaf. *2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor.*
- Guiberson, Brenda Z. **ICE BEARS.** Ill. Ilya Spirin. Henry Holt. \$16.95.
In this dramatic book, a mother polar bear struggles through the seasons to find food and keep herself and her two cubs alive. Numerous websites for organizations working to help the environment are given at the end. A book that focuses on the melting of the ice in the Arctic and its impact on the survival of the polar bears is Robert E. Wells’ **POLAR BEAR, WHY IS YOUR WORLD MELTING?** (Albert Whitman, 2008).
- Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **WHEN THE WOLVES RETURNED: RESTORING NATURE’S BALANCE IN YELLOWSTONE.** Photog. Dan and Cassie Hartman. Walker. \$17.95.
This is one of several recent books about re-populating Yellowstone with wolves, which had disappeared by 1926. Dual texts and historical and recent photos illustrate the importance of the wolves to the balance of nature. Jean Craighead George’s **THE WOLVES ARE BACK** (Dutton, 2008) is illustrated with paintings by Wendall Minor. Use with Tracey E. Fern’s **BUFFALO MUSIC** (Clarion, 2008), a picture storybook based on the true story of the woman who brought the buffalo back from the brink of extinction, including starting a herd in Yellowstone in 1896.
- Raczka, Bob. **THE ART OF FREEDOM: HOW ARTISTS SEE AMERICA.** Millbrook. \$9.95.
One sentence phrases about America appear opposite a piece of art work that illustrates an often abstract concept, such as “America is an idea” opposite Trumbull’s painting of “The Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776.”
- Schulman, Janet. **PALE MALE, CITIZEN HAWK OF NEW YORK CITY.** Ill. Meilo So. Knopf. \$16.99.
There have been several fine books about this red-tail hawk who built his nest near the top of one of Fifth Avenue’s most exclusive apartment buildings, with a view of Central Park. While the birdwatchers of the Park were thrilled, the owners of the apartments were less enthused. This can be used with other books about Pale Male, about wildlife in cities (Barbara Bash’s *Urban Roosts*), or with other books about Central Park (Frieda Wishinsky’s *The Man Who Made Parks*).
- Walsh, Melanie. **10 THINGS I CAN DO TO HELP MY WORLD.** Candlewick. \$15.99.
The Reader can turn these odd-shaped pages to complete statements about what can be done to save resources, such as “I use. . . both sides of the paper.” A secondary text states why this is good for the earth.

FASCINATING PEOPLE (AND ONE HORSE)

- Hopkinson, Deborah. **ABE LINCOLN CROSSES A CREEK: A TALL, THIN TALE (INTRODUCING HIS FORGOTTEN FRONTIER FRIEND)**. Ill. John Hendrix. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. \$16.99.
Hopkinson uses her voice as narrator to tell how Abe Lincoln was rescued from drowning in a Kentucky creek by his childhood friend, Austin Gollaher. But, since the truth isn't known, she presents several possible scenarios, "talks" to the illustrator—whose hands are often seen—and teaches the reader a little about how history is recorded. One of many, many new books about Lincoln, but one of the most original.
- Kerley, Barbara. **WHAT TO DO ABOUT ALICE?** Ill. Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic. \$16.99.
A cleverly designed biography about the antics of Alice Roosevelt, the daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, about whom the President famously said "I can be President of the United States or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both." Alice and her pet snake, along with the rest of the Roosevelt family, can also be seen in Barbara McClintock's **ADELE & SIMON IN AMERICA** (Farrar, 2008).
- McCarthy, Meghan. **SEABISCUIT, THE WONDER HORSE**. Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster. \$15.99.
The story of the underdog horse who, during the Depression, beat War Admiral, the Triple Crown champion.
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. **BOYCOTT BLUES: HOW ROSA PARKS INSPIRED A NATION**. Ill. Brian Pinkney. Amistad/Greenwillow. \$16.99.
A guitar-playing, blues singing hound dog tells of Rosa Parks and the determination of the people of Montgomery who boycotted the buses for 382 days until the Supreme Court struck down the segregation laws of Jim Crow.
- Shulevitz, Uri. **HOW I LEARNED GEOGRAPHY**. Farrar. \$16.95.
A small boy and his parents are war refugees and struggling to survive when the boy's father brings home not bread to eat, but a huge world map for the colorless wall. This map feeds the boy's imagination as he escapes his terrible living conditions by traveling in his mind. Based on the author's WWII experience. *2009 Caldecott Honor*
- Stone, Tanya Lee. **SANDY'S CIRCUS**. Ill. Boris Kulikov. Viking. \$16.99.
Sandy is Alexander Calder, the inventor of the mobile. But this picture book biography focuses on his precursor to the mobiles, the little animated circus creatures that he created. This is a good book to use with the video of Calder operating the circus that can be found at <http://www.rolandcollection.com/films/>
- Winter, Jeanette. **WANGARI'S TREES OF PEACE: A TRUE STORY FROM AFRICA**. Harcourt. \$17.00.
A picture book biography of Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan woman who started the Green Belt Movement that was responsible for planting over thirty million trees in Kenya, and who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. See also Claire Nivola's **PLANTING THE TREES OF KENYA** (Farrar, 2008) and Jane Ray's fairy tale, **THE APPLE-PIP PRINCESS** (Candlewick, 2008).

LOOKING BACK: HISTORICAL FICTION

Aston, Dianna Hutts. **THE MOON OVER STAR**. Ill. Jerry Pinkney. Dial. \$17.99.

A little girl named Mae eagerly follows the Apollo 11 flight to the moon which inspires her to dream of being an astronaut some day. Perhaps the Mae in this story is modeled after the astronaut Mae Jamison. In any event, this book celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first moon walk and the power of dreaming.

Crisp, Marty. **TITANICAT**. Ill. Robert Papp. Sleeping Bear. \$17.95.

Based on a possibly true incident of how the Titanic's ship's cat and her kittens saved the life of a young Irish cabin boy. The oil paintings are exquisite.

Henson, Heather. **THAT BOOK WOMAN**. Ill. David Small. Atheneum. \$16.99.

Set in the Appalachian Mountains during the Depression, a boy marvels at the Pack Horse Librarian who makes the long, hard journey to bring his family books, eventually turning him into a reader.

Kerby, Mona. **OWNEY THE MAIL-POUCH POOCH**. Ill. Lynne Barasch. Frances Foster/Farrar. \$16.95.

Based on the true story of a stray dog who wandered into a post office in Albany, NY in 1889 and became their mascot. Eventually Owney traveled not only around the country on mail trains, but also around the world on mail boats. There are several curricular connections with this book, but it will also appeal to dog fans. It also opens up opportunities for some pretty shocking research. Another story based on a true story that features a dog is the slavery story, **NIGHT RUNNING**, by Elisa Carbone, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Knopf, 2008).

FUN WITH LANGUAGE: LETTERS, WORDS, POETRY

Bataille, Marion. **ABC3D**. Neal Porter/Roaring Brook. \$19.95.

As the reader turns the page, each letter of the alphabet pops out or twists out or slides out and off the page in an interesting way. An elegant 3D alphabet book for all ages.

Elliott, David. **ON THE FARM**. Ill. Holly Meade. Candlewick. \$16.99.

Short poems about the animals on the farm, illustrated with woodblock prints and watercolors.

Franco, Betsy. **BEES, SNAILS, & PEACOCK TAILS; PATTERNS & SHAPES. . . NATURALLY**. Ill. Steve Jenkins. McElderry. \$16.99.

Poems about animals that explore the patterns of shapes in nature, such as the hexagons within beehives or the symmetrical patterns in the wings of moths.

Hills, Tad. **WHAT'S UP, DUCK?** and **DUCK & GOOSE, 1, 2, 3**. Schwartz & Wade. \$6.99.

The stars of Hills' picture books are now featured in these two board books, the first a book of opposites and the latter a counting book for 1 through 10. Another counting book for the very young is Anna Grossnickle Hines' **1, 2, BUCKLE MY SHOE** (Harcourt, 2008), which features her quilted art work.

Martin, Bill, Jr. and Michael Sampson. **THE BILL MARTIN JR. BIG BOOK OF POETRY**. Simon & Schuster. \$21.00.

Collected by Bill Martin, this anthology is arranged by topics such as World of Nature and People and Places. Illustrations are by Lois Ehlert, Chris Raschka, Steven Kellogg, and others.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **ONE BOY**. Neil Porter/Roaring Brook. \$14.95.

This counting book is also a vocabulary book as words within words are revealed by die cuts. In the end, we see there's a slight story being told as well. **2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor**

Spinelli, Eileen. **THE BEST STORY**. Ill. Anne Wilsdorf. Dial. \$16.99.

A little girl is determined she is going to win a story writing contest, but her story gets very muddled as she listens to everyone's advice about what makes a good story.

Thomas, Patricia. **RED SLED**. Ill. Chris L. Demarest. Boyds Mills. \$16.95.

Two word rhymes tell the story of a boy and his father and the fun they have on a winter's night. The author's note explains that the structure of this story-poem is adapted from a structure called "chiasmus."

Ziefert, Harriet. **THE BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST BOOK**. Ill. SAMi. Blue Apple. \$14.95.

Jumbo sized flaps on every page reveal what is tall, taller, tallest and high, higher, highest, along with other superlatives.

FOLKLORE, FOLKLIKE

Alley, Zoe B., ret. **THERE'S A WOLF AT THE DOOR**. Ill. R. W. Alley. Roaring Brook. \$19.95.

This oversized book uses cartoons to retell five wolf tales but they all feature the same wolf who is always being tricked out of his dinner. As the Wolf departs one story, such as *The Three Little Pigs*, he enters the next story, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, until he has worked his way through five familiar tales.

Horowitz, Dave. **HUMPTY DUMPTY CLIMBS AGAIN**. Putnam. \$16.99.

Funny tale in which Humpty is put back together, warned by his Doctor to be more careful, and stops climbing walls and mountains. Living a sedentary life throws him into a complete funk until he rescues the King's favorite horse. Humpty sitting around in his underwear is quite a sight.

Kimmel, Eric A. **ANANSI'S PARTY TIME**. Ill. Janet Stevens. Holiday House. \$16.95.

This begins as a follow-up to *Anansi Goes Fishing*, with Anansi coming up with a scheme to trick Turtle by inviting him to a party. Turtle, as usual, is able to get the last laugh.

Kimmel, Eric A. **LITTLE BRITCHES AND THE RATTLERS**. Ill. Vincent Nguyen. Marshall Cavendish. \$16.99.

In this cowgirl version of "Little Black Sambo," Little Britches sets off on her horse to compete in the calf-roping contest at the rodeo, wearing her best rodeo clothes. However, her journey is threatened by a series of rattlesnakes who threaten to "s-s-swaaler" her up.

McGill, Alice. **WAY UP AND OVER EVERYTHING**. Ill. Jude Daly. Houghton. \$16.00.

This is a picture book version of the slave story, "The People Could Fly," told as a story passed down from generation to generation. The simple folk art quality of the illustrations undercuts the drama, and the detail of a red bandana—not mentioned in the text but an object that can be followed throughout the story—is a nice touch.

Rinck, Maranke. **I FEEL A FOOT!** Ill. Martijn van der Linden. Lemniscaat. \$16.95.

Five creatures sleeping in a hammock together wake up during the night when they hear a mysterious noise. As each one feels the creature making the noise in the dark, they each perceive it to be a different animal. This variant of *The Blind Men and the Elephant* was originally published in the Netherlands. The illustrations, bright, bold patches of color against a black background, are a knock-out.

ANIMAL FANTASY

- Becker, Bonny. **A VISITOR FOR BEAR.** Ill. Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick. \$16.99.
 Bear's sign, "No Visitors Allowed," does not seem to discourage the small, gray, and bright-eyed mouse, who is determined to sit in front of the fire over a cup of tea with Bear. The cozy house is the perfect background for these new friends, and listeners will enjoy the slightly formal language of Mouse and all the ways Bear tries to say "get out." My favorite book of the year. Use with Sandy Asher's *Too Many Frogs* and Suzanne Bloom's *A Splendid Friend Indeed*.
- Billingsley, Franny. **BIG BAD BUNNY.** Ill. G. Brian Karas. Richard Jackson/Atheneum. \$16.99.
 A tiny mouse wearing a rabbit costume is outside playing at being a brave, big bad bunny while her mother is putting her siblings to bed. But when Big Bad Bunny realizes she is lost, her mother quickly comes to her rescue. The contrast between Baby Boo-Boo's imaginative play and reality is revealed at the end. Great fun. Another loud, brave little one facing bedtime can be seen in Bob Shea's **DINOSAUR VS. BEDTIME** (Hyperion, 2008), which contains lots of roaring for story time attendees.
- Cowley, Joy. **SNAKE AND LIZARD.** Ill. Gavin Bishop. Kane Miller. \$14.95.
 In this series of short stories, Snake and Lizard have a rough start but quickly become best friends. These stories are funny and touching and make perfect read-alouds.
- Elliott, David. **KNITTY KITTY.** Ill. Christopher Denise. Candlewick. \$16.99.
 As Knitty Kitty makes hats and mittens and scarves to keep the kittens cozy, the kittens take their new accessories outside to keep the snow person cozy, too.
- Fagan, Cary. **THING-THING.** Ill. Nicholas Debon. Tundra. \$18.95.
 A spoiled boy with too many toys throws a new stuffed toy out a hotel window. As Thing-Thing falls, he observes—and is observed by—the occupants of the rooms, but eventually lands in a baby stroller. Many interesting angles and perspectives are seen during this long fall. Use with Tedd Arnold's *No Jumping on the Bed*. Another book about a boy with too many toys is David Shannon's **TOO MANY TOYS** (Blue Sky, 2008).
- Gorbachev, Valeri. **CHRISTOPHER COUNTING.** Philomel. \$15.99.
 Christopher Rabbit learns how to count and takes great joy in counting everything he sees, until his attempt to count the stars overwhelms him.
- Gorbachev, Valeri. **TURTLE'S PENGUIN DAY.** Knopf. \$16.99.
 When Father Turtle reads a story about penguins to Little Turtle, Little Turtle dresses up like a penguin, inspiring his entire class at school to pretend they are penguins, too.
- Gravett, Emily. **THE ODD EGG.** Simon & Schuster. c2008, 2009. \$15.99.
 All the birds have an egg to hatch except for Duck, who finds a very odd egg to sit on. The pages where the eggs all hatch—leading up to the surprising contents of the odd egg—are designed similarly to Carle's *Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Unfortunately, the last joke of the story gets lost in the final dust jacket flap. Use with Justin Richardson's *And Tango Makes Three* and Chih-Yuan Chen's *Guji Guji*.
- Henkes, Kevin. **OLD BEAR.** Greenwillow. \$17.99.
 As Fall turns to Winter, Old Bear sleeps and dreams of spring, summer, fall and winter, each season with its own beauty. But when he wakes up on a lovely spring day, it takes him awhile to realize that he isn't dreaming.
- Nedwidek, John. **DUCKS DON'T WEAR SOCKS.** Ill. Lee White. Viking. \$15.99.
 A very serious little girl learns to be a lot less serious when faced with a duck doing something ridiculous every day. Another humorous book about a sock wearing duck is Lisze Bechtold's **SALLY AND THE PURPLE SOCKS** (Philomel, 2008).

Pinkwater, Daniel. **BEAR'S PICTURE**. Ill. D. B. Johnson. Houghton. \$16.00.

While two very proper gentlemen try to tell Bear that he isn't the sort of fellow who can paint a picture, Bear feels quite differently. Give this to your art teachers to read to encourage creativity. This is also a fine companion to Peter Reynolds' *The Dot*.

Rohmann, Eric. **A KITTEN TALE**. Knopf. \$15.99.

Four little kittens discuss the approaching winter and what they have heard about it. As three of the kittens state why they are afraid of the approaching season, the fourth kitten replies, "I can't wait." When the snow finally comes, the kittens discover that their fears were unfounded after all. The uncluttered, heavy black-lines illustrations and the opportunity for listener participation makes this ideal for preschool storytime.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **LITTLE HOOT**. Ill. Jen Corace. Chronicle. \$12.99.

In this reversal of the usual story of the child who doesn't want to go to bed, Little Owl complains to his parents that his forest friends get to go to bed early, while he is forced to stay up "late, late, late. That's just the way it is."

Schwarz, Viviane. **THERE ARE CATS IN THIS BOOK**. Candlewick. \$16.99.

The reader is invited to play with the three cats in this book, where each page is cut differently, and where the reader is asked to turn pages, opens boxes, blow on the cats to dry them off, and tuck them in.

Thomas, Jan. **THE DOGHOUSE**. Harcourt. \$12.95.

In a story that starts and ends on the endpapers, Cow accidentally kicks a ball into the doghouse. Who is brave enough to go in after it?

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Baek, Matthew J. **BE GENTLE WITH THE DOG, DEAR!** Dial. \$14.99.

A dog's life is made difficult by the baby in the house who can't resist squeezing Tag and pulling his tail. But when Elise takes Tag's favorite toy, things get nasty.

Calmenson, Stephanie. **LATE FOR SCHOOL**. Ill. Sachiko Yoshikawa. Carolrhoda. \$16.95.

Mr. Bungles, the teacher, has overslept and tries to get to work on time by jumping on various forms of transportation. Using rhyming words, listeners can guess what the next mode will be just before they turn the page. Lots of silliness here.

Clement, Nathan. **DRIVE**. Front Street. \$16.95.

A boy tells of his semi-truck driving father.

DiPucchio, Kelly. **GRACE FOR PRESIDENT**. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Hyperion. \$15.99.

When Grace learns there has never been a woman President of the U.S., she campaigns in a mock election against a popular boy. This book does a great job of explaining the electoral college. Use with books about the history of voting such as Linda Arms White's *I Could do That: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote*, Kathleen Krull's **HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: DREAMS TAKING FLIGHT** (Simon & Schuster, 2008), and Lane Smith's **MADAM PRESIDENT** (Hyperion, 2008).

Frazer, Marla. **A COUPLE OF BOYS HAVE THE BEST WEEK EVER**. Harcourt. \$16.00.

James visits his friend Eamon at Eamon's grandparents' home where the main event is attending Nature Camp. Part of the fun of this book is how the text will often be contradicted by the illustrations. Another fine book about friendship is Lynne Rae Perkins' **THE CARDBOARD PIANO** (Greenwillow, 2008), in which two girls who do everything together learn that it is also okay to have separate interests. *Caldecott Honor*.

- Graham, Bob. **HOW TO HEAL A BROKEN WING**. Candlewick. \$16.99.
In an urban setting, a little boy is the only one to notice that a bird has flown into a building and broken a wing. The family takes it home, the bird heals and then flies away. Told with many wordless sequences, this story about caring in a crazy world is quite touching.
- Harris, Robie H. **MAIL HARRY TO THE MOON!** Ill. Michael Emberley. Little, Brown. \$16.99.
Big brother complains mightily about the new baby in the house until one day he can't find that little nuisance of a brother. Little Rabbit would relate in Harry Horse's **LITTLE RABBIT'S NEW BABY** (Peachtree, 2008).
- Hest, Amy. **THE DOG WHO BELONGED TO NO ONE**. Ill Amy Bates. Abrams. \$15.95.
The dog who belonged to no one, and the wisp of a girl named Lia, find each other in this tender, old-fashioned story.
- Hole, Stian. **GARMANN'S SUMMER**. Trans. Don Bartlett. Eerdmans. \$17.50.
Six-year-old Garmann is worried about starting school but when his three very old aunts visit, he discovers that everyone is afraid of something. The surreal collage illustrations will put off some readers but fascinate others. First published in Norway, this won the 2007 Bologna Ragazzi Award. Another book about facing the unknown is Carin Berger's **THE LITTLE YELLOW LEAF** (Greenwillow, 2008). For a book about a child who isn't afraid of anything, see Bob Shea's **BIG PLANS** (Hyperion, 2008) illustrated by Lane Smith. *2009 Batchelder Honor Book*
- Hutchins, Hazel and Gail Herbert. **MATTLAND**. Ill. Dusan Petricic. Annick. \$8.95.
When Matt and his family move to a newly developing neighborhood, he takes a stick and starts creating his own little world in the mud and unexpectedly makes new friends.
- McClements, George. **NIGHT OF THE VEGGIE MONSTER**. Bloomsbury. \$14.95.
A boy tells of the terrible things that happen to him every Tuesday night when he is faced with peas on his dinner plate. Asides by his knowing parents, predicting his reactions, add another level of humor.
- Rylant, Cynthia. **SNOW**. Ill. Lauren Stringer. Harcourt. \$17.00.
Lyrical, quiet text celebrates both the "snow that comes softly in the night, like a shy friend afraid to knock," and the snow that "begins to fall in fat, cheerful flakes while you are somewhere you'd rather not be." The illustrations show a girl being let out of school because of the snow and spending the day enjoying the snow with her grandmother and a friend.
- Schories, Pat. **JACK WANTS A SNACK**. Front Street. \$13.95.
In this third wordless book about the dog Jack, very young children can follow the illustrations and see that both Jack and a chipmunk are determined to join an outdoor tea party.
- Swanson, Susan Marie. **THE HOUSE IN THE NIGHT**. Ill. Beth Krommes. Houghton. \$16.00.
A simple cumulative bedtime tale that follows a little girl turning the key in the lock of her house as the sun sets, flying through the night sky on the back of a bird, and ending with her tucked in bed. Black and white scratchboard illustrations with gold highlights. Another quiet bedtime book is Jim Averbeck's **IN A BLUE ROOM** (Harcourt, 2008), illustrated by Tricia Tusa. *2009 Caldecott Medal*

BEGINNING AND EMERGING READERS

- Arnold, Tedd. **FLY HIGH, FLY GUY!** Scholastic. \$5.99.
Fly Guy sneaks into the car when Buzz and his family go on a trip and comes to the rescue when the family gets lost.
- Cammuso, Frank and Jay Lynch. **OTTO'S ORANGE DAY.** Little Lit/RAW. \$12.95.
When Otto is given the gift of a magical lamp complete with genie and one wish, he wishes that everything will turn orange, his favorite color.
- Hayes, Geoffrey. **BENNY AND PENNY IN JUST PRETEND.** Little Lit/RAW. \$12.95.
Cartoon book in which Benny, a mouse, is tired of being bothered by his pesky little sister, Penny.
- Hazen, Lynn E. **CINDER RABBIT.** Ill. Elyse Pastel. Henry Holt. \$16.95.
Zoe, a rabbit, is the star of the class play and is to lead the actors in the bunny hop at the end. But one of her classmates has made fun of Zoe's hopping, and now Zoe freezes when she even thinks about the play's finale.
- Howe, James. **HOUNDSLEY AND CATINA AND THE QUIET TIME.** Ill. Marie-Louise Gay. Candlewick. \$14.99.
Houndsley attempts to help Catina enjoy spending quiet time together during a snow storm.
- Jacobson, Jennifer. **ANDY SHANE AND THE QUEEN OF EGYPT.** Ill. Abby Carter. Candlewick. \$13.99
Andy has to figure out how to work with bossy Delores on a culture fair project about Egypt.
- O'Neill, Catharine. **ANNIE AND SIMON.** Candlewick. \$15.99.
Big brother Simon puts aside his reading time and time again to listen patiently to and play with his chatty little sister.
- Ormerod, Jan. **BALLET SISTERS: THE NEWEST DANCER.** Scholastic. \$5.99.
Little Sister Sylvie is invited to join a beginning dance class, much to her older sister's delight.
- Willems, Mo. **ARE YOU READY TO PLAY OUTSIDE?** Hyperion. \$8.99
In this Elephant and Piggie book, the usually upbeat Piggie becomes despondent when it starts to rain. Other 2008 Elephant and Piggie titles are **I WILL SURPRISE MY FRIEND** and **I LOVE MY NEW TOY.** *2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal*

NOVELS

- Barrows, Annie. **IVY & BEAN.** Ill. Sophie Blackall. Chronicle. \$14.99.
Bean is not happy when her older sister baby sits her, but Bean and her friend, Ivy, end up having quite the adventure.
- Dowell, Frances O'Roark. **PHINEAS L. MACGUIRE. . . BLASTS OFF!** Atheneum. \$16.99.
When Mac has to earn money to go to space camp, he turns dog walking into a scientific study on dog slobber.
- Friedman, Laurie. **CAMPFIRE MALLORY.** Ill. Jennifer Kalis. Carolrhoda.
Mallory has to deal with being away at camp for the first time, her unhappiness over her cabin mate, and jealousy over her best friend's cabin mate.
- Harper, Jessica. **UH-OH, CLEO.** Ill. Jon Berkeley. Putnam. \$14.99.
Eight-year-old Cleo, one of six children, is injured when her twin brother knocks a book case on top of her, leading to a "Stitches Saturday."

Kerrin, Jessica Scott. **MARTIN BRIDGE IN HIGH GEAR!** Kids Can. \$14.95.

Two stories, one where Martin learns about teamwork and working with a classmate who doesn't do his share, and another where his new bike is stolen and he becomes a volunteer for Bicycle Recycle.

McDonald, Megan. **STINK AND THE GREAT GUINEA PIG EXPRESS.** Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick. \$12.99.

Stink and his friends try to find homes for over a hundred guinea pigs that have been rescued from a Lab that used them to test shampoos and perfumes.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **SIMPLY SARAH: EATING ENCHILADAS.** Ill. Marcy Ramsey. Marshall Cavendish. \$14.99.

When 3rd grader Sarah has to do a report on a country, she takes her new friend, Mercedes, to school to help her present Mexico to the class.

Pennypacker, Sara. **CLEMENTINE'S LETTER.** Ill. Marla Frazee. Hyperion. \$14.99.

When Clementine learns her beloved teacher may be gone to Egypt for a year to participate in a research program, she decides to sabotage his application by writing an unkind letter of recommendation.