

Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer

By John Grisham

Theo Boone may only be 13 but because of his lawyer parents and the amount of time he spends in their offices and round the courthouse his knowledge of law is quite in-depth. Many of Theo's acquaintances approach him for advice on how to handle incidence the legal way. Theo, who maintains an "office" in the building his parents' offices are located arrives each afternoon after school to do his homework, scope out what is going on in the world of law and hand out free advice if called to do so. Theo's world becomes exciting as he make arrangements for his Government Class to view the opening day of a murder trial that is going on at the Courthouse. As the characters in the book discuss the case and life continues on in the world of 8th graders, Theo soon finds himself in possession of some vital information that will change the verdict of the murder trial. Grisham has succeeded in crossing over into writing for the young reader with this book. True to Grisham practice the story does not conclude with a neat wrap-up of events and leaves way for the next adventure to be written. Grisham has expressed a desire for the reader to learn something about the legal system and that would be that all are innocent until proven guilty. His book will also help to encourage reading as an enjoyable habit. Written for 7th grade and up, I believe that all who pick up the volume will enjoy the story especially the reluctant male reader. I will be buying this book for my grandsons and would recommend it for any library.

Pat Thompson WSC

The Little Seal

By Sue Harris

This is an adorable story of a little seal that makes friends but has to leave them and ends up on an adventure when he decides to do his own thing. The illustrations with texture are very intriguing for Pre-K and Kindergarten. And the lesson applies to any little one who has to decide to obey. I recommend this book for any library collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Skippyjon Jones 1-2-3

By Judy Schachner

This is a little board book full of numbers in Skippyjon style with some Spanish thrown in. Little ones would love this fun book which could be a part of any collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Skippyjon Jones Shape Up

By Judy Schachner

This is a little board book full of fun shapes in Skippyjon style with some Spanish thrown in. Little ones would love this fun book which could be a part of any collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Emperors of the Ice

By Richard Farr

It's 1909 and Robert F. Scott announces plans for a scientific expedition to Antarctica, the only continent that has not been thoroughly explored. Told through the recreated voice of Apsley Cherry-Garrard, a twenty-three-year-old member of the group, this is an account of that expedition. Can you imagine unrelenting cold, -77°F, crevasses large enough to swallow an entire dog team and more, hundreds of miles of ice and snow, sleeping in tents in this intense cold and the lure of investigating the Emperor penguin? This is an extraordinary recreation of what the explorers endured and accomplished during this expedition. I recommend this book for junior high students and any library collection. Actual photographs and material from the expedition are a few unique features of this book. A trip chronology and sources for additional research are also included. Photographs and other material from the actual expedition are used to blend this historical event. I was surprised at how good the photos were. It's hard to imagine men undertaking this perilous journey over 100 years ago especially in a day when most of us can't leave our cell phones behind for five minutes. Students who enjoy research, history, or adventure will find this quite a story.

Deb Daehnke

Ascendant

By Diana Peterfreund

In this sequel to *Rampant*, Astrid's story continues. Now that the world has accepted that killer unicorns are among them, the trained unicorn hunters at the Cloisters are in even higher demand. However, with even less funding than before and recruitment not going well, stress is piling up. Astrid just wants to be a normal girl, with normal dreams to finish high school and to go to college. Plus, now that the church has decided to start funding the Cloisters, she has to wear a ridiculous camouflage habit and limit her contact with her boyfriend. So, when Astrid is offered an opportunity to guard a unicorn enclosure for Gordian Pharmaceuticals to find the Remedy to unicorn "poison" in return for schooling and more modern life away from hunting, she jumps at the chance. However, soon Astrid begins to question everything she has ever known. What is the purpose of a unicorn hunter? Should she give it all up? Or, should she return to saving the world from the killer unicorns? Or, maybe it is the unicorns that need the saving? Just as enjoyable as the first, this book delves more deeply into complex issues such as animal conservation and animal testing and the moral dilemmas associated with such topics. This unique approach in a modern fantasy makes you think twice about what you thought you knew about unicorns and how you would react to some very current issues in society. It is best suited for the high school audience and more mature middle school students.

Valerie Knight, WSC Library

The Silver Blade

By Sally Gardner

This story occurs during the French Revolution and the ensuing Reign of Terror. Everyone is fearful they will be the next person charged with an unsubstantiated crime and sent to the guillotine. In the midst of the fear rises Yann Margoza who has perfected his magic skills and uses them to help citizens escape from France. When his true love, Sido, is kidnapped, Yann is exposed to many dangers while trying to save her. I recommend this book for Junior High readers and any library collection. It is dark and foreboding at times when describing the Reign of Terror and how the French people are suppressed. But it has a love story, adventure, magic, and mystery. Yann works with an unlikely group of people as they help refugees flee France.

Deb Daehnke

Virals

By Kathy Reichs

If you are looking for a book that is fast paced, with a lot of suspense, mystery and action, then this is the book for you. Tory Brennan is a 14-year old girl, who, due to losing her mom in an accident, is living with her famous forensic anthropologist father, who she has not known before her mom's death. Tory is known as the "science geek" at school, but has found 3 other "science geeks" to hang out with. They live on an island off the shore of South Carolina, where Tory discovers a wolf-dog pup. When the pup suddenly disappears, Tory and her friends try to find him. He has been captured and is a key element in some research. Tory and her friends decide to rescue the pup and trouble soon follows. The kids are involved in trespassing, stealing, finding a dead corpse, getting shot at, and working hard to stay one step ahead of their pursuers. They come in contact with a virus that alters their DNA and empowers them with a skill that increases their senses. I highly recommend this book for any library that wants to have a book that young adults will enjoy. Tory, has the brains of the group, but each of the other three guys all contribute to the action, suspense and dare feats they go through.

Marilyn Quance, WSC

Fancy Nancy Poet Extraordinaire

By Jane O'Connor

This is a very typical Fancy Nancy book...full of all kinds of fancy words. This story is about how Nancy and her friends are learning about all kinds of poetry in school and take a stab and trying some on their own. It's a great book for building vocabulary and learning about poetry and the cute illustrations add to the fanciness and learning too. This book is highly recommended for little girls (and little boys who want to listen) who are just learning to read and are starting to read on their own. It could be a "magnifique" part of any collection. Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Fancy Nancy Explorer Extraordinaire

By Jane O'Connor

This is a very typical Fancy Nancy book...full of all kinds of fancy words. This story is about how Nancy and her friends form a club for exploring nature and after a few issues, finally allows their younger siblings to join. It's a great book for building vocabulary and learning about nature study and the cute illustrations add to the fanciness and learning too. This book is highly recommended for little girls (and little boys who want to listen) who are just learning to read and are starting to read on their own. It could be a "terrific" of any collection.
Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Fancy Nancy and the Delectable Cupcakes

By Jane O'Connor

This is a very typical Fancy Nancy book...full of all kinds of fancy words, but it's toned down to be a level 1 I CAN READ! Book. This story is about how Nancy attempts to make cupcakes for a school bake sale and finally succeeds. It's a great book for building vocabulary and industriousness with perseverance and the cute illustrations add to the fanciness and learning too. This book is highly recommended for little girls (and little boys who want to listen) who are just learning to read and are starting to read on their own. It could be a "delectable" part of any collection.
Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Fancy Nancy and the Fabulous Fashion Boutique

By Jane O'Connor

This is a very typical Fancy Nancy book...full of all kinds of fancy words. This story is about how Nancy tries to solve a problem of raising money for her newest "fancy" accessory, while trying to be generous to her sister for her birthday. She decides to have a Boutique (yard sale) to raise the funds and learns plenty. It's a great book for building vocabulary and learning about poetry and the cute illustrations add to the fanciness and learning too. This book is highly recommended for little girls (and little boys who want to listen) who are just learning to read and are starting to read on their own. It could be a "fabulous" part of any collection.
Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Sitting Duck

By Jackie Urbanovic

Who can't love a Jackie Urbanovic book? Her great illustrations and story lines are attention grabbers for the younger group, confirmed librarians, or story tellers. Puppy Anabel is coming to visit her Uncle Brody. All this crazy animal group has to do is to keep an eye on the young pup. Read the hilarious situations Anabel gets them all in and laugh along. This is a great book!
Carol Tramp- Wynot Public School

Jackie's Gift

By Sharon Robinson

A story based on the true account of the Robinson's first Christmas while living in Brooklyn, NY and told by Jackie Robinson's daughter Sharon. During the late 1940's the Robinson family was not eagerly welcomed into the neighborhood. However, the Satlows, remembering the prejudice of their parents, became friends with the Robinsons quickly and enjoyed many good times together including attending baseball games to watch Jackie play. As Christmas preparations started, young Steve was at the Robinson home and helped decorate the Christmas tree something he had not done before because his family was Jewish. When Jackie, not knowing of the family's beliefs, brought them a Christmas tree, it presented an awkward moment, but friendship transcends differences and the story has a most enjoyable ending. Written for K-3rd grade, the author has added some family details and items of interest at the end of the book. Mr. Lewis has done a superb job in illustrating the story. This delightful book about Christmas, but also about friendships, would be a good addition to any public or school library.

Pat Thompson WSC

Threads and Flames

By Esther M. Friesner

The adventures start when Raisa, a 13-year-old Jewish girl, leaves Poland to join her sister Henda in America. The reader learns of the trials of crossing the ocean, entering the country, and trying to find ones way amidst language barriers, a huge city life, and a shortage of decent jobs. When Raisa discovers that her sister thinks Raisa is dead and Henda can't be found it is only the compassion of fellow Jews that help Raisa and her little ward Brina survive coming to America. The story continues as Raisa finds jobs sewing first by hand and then by machine and ends up with a job at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Raisa has to learn English and many new ways to adjust to living in America. The story covers several years so as Raisa adjusts to life in America she also becomes very close to Gavrel, her landlord's son, and they consider marriage after he becomes a rabbi and she becomes a teacher. As life seems to be smoothing out the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire happens and Raisa's world is turned upside down. Readers get accurate details of the fire and the aftermath of walking through the makeshift morgue to try and identify bodies. Raisa struggles to overcome her grief of losing so many friends and keep on living, even with the guilt of having survived. The author has brought the story to an unexpected conclusion which was a delight for me to read. This story was written for 7th grade and up, but anyone who picks it up will find it most interesting to learn more of immigration travels, factory work, and life in the early 1900's. A great selection for the historical fiction area of public and school libraries

Pat Thompson WSC

Fancy Nancy Ooh La La, It's a Beauty Day

By Jane O'Connor

This is a typical Fancy Nancy book full of great words and fancy things: in this case—a spa day for Mom before she goes out on a date with Dad. Of course, not everything turns out great, but Nancy finds a way to save the day. Little ladies in preschool and early elementary grades will read this over and over so it would be a well used part of any collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Sputter, Sputter, Sput!

By Babs Bell Hadjusiewicz

This is a WONDERFUL book for many reasons. There's a cute, clever story full of car troubles, colorful, fun illustrations, lots of onomatopoeias and even a story that copies itself from beginning to end backward. Little ones through early elementary will enjoy this book and it would be a fun addition to any collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

By Marion Dane Bauer

The delightfully illustrated book, based on the proverb about the month of March, tells of March coming in like a lion, but succumbing to spring and the gentle lamb-like weather that brings colorful flowers and baby animals. The detailed color illustrations bring the story to life on each page. Written for preschool through 2nd grade children will be delighted to hear the story while pouring over the illustrations. This book would be an excellent addition to school and public libraries.

Pat Thompson WSC

Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words

By Jane O'Connor

This is a very typical Fancy Nancy book, full of all kinds of fancy words. It's a great book for building vocabulary and the cute illustrations add to the fanciness and learning too. This book is highly recommended for little girls (and little boys who want to listen) who are just learning to read and are starting to read on their own. It could be a "spectacular" part of any collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Knuffle Bunny Free

By Mo Willems

The photography and illustrations are slightly different in this book. The illustrations are imposed over photographs and that is really neat. A little girl and her parents fly to Holland to visit her grandparents. While in flight she misplaces her favorite bunny. Read what the family goes through to help deal with the loss, and the surprising ending in which she is faced with a decision that will affect Knuffle Bunny's future. This book is recommended for third graders in any library.

Carol Tramp- Wynot Public School

Blast Off to the Moon!

By Paul Nicholls

This is a fun board book that introduces preschoolers to the concept of space travel. It's full of fun facts that would interest little guys. This would be good to whet appetites for more study. The illustrations are cute and fun to look at. I would recommend this book for any library collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Star Wars the Clone Wars: Defenders of the Republic

By Rob Valois

This book has three stories about a clone's life and training. It's good for Star Wars lovers who want to know everything about being a clone from day to day life, to weapons to adventures. Recommended for upper elementary students and could be part of any library collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

We Love You, Strawberry Shortcake!

By Sierra Harimann

This is a fun book about the party Strawberry's friends plan for her to show how much they love her. Easy text and fun, cute illustrations will make this a must read for little girls who are just learning to read. Could be a great part of any early literacy collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

What Do We Do with the Baby?

By Rick Walton

This book compares how to take care of a baby but uses bunnies as the characters. I recommend this book for a public library. This book was not a favorite in my opinion. The comparison of babies to bunnies was unusual. It also gives an invalid interpretation of a rabbit's habitat and lifestyle.

Lara Morrow

You

By Charles Benoit

This book begins with talk of cutting by glass and all of the blood. Throughout the book more information about this accident with a piece of glass is added. Kyle Chase is a student who doesn't fit in at school. His parents try to help him get better grades and a job. The story is sad from the beginning. You feel that life is hopeless for the main character. If I was a young person who was questioning my life, I would become more depressed after reading this book. I would NOT recommend this Book! This book was very depressing because the main character was on a losing track in high school. There were signs at the end of the book that he could have changed his life but he did not. The ending was very sad and futile.

Kathy Muller, Gardner Public Library

Dance with Me!

By Megan E. Bryant

This is a Level 1 Reader that introduces all of Strawberry Shortcake and her friends as they practice different dances for a dance show. Strawberry has problems when she wants to do a ballet solo and so does her friend but they find a “berry” friendly solution. Easy text and fun, cute illustrations will make this a must read for little girls who are just learning to read. Could be a great part of any early literacy collection. Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Skippyjon Jones Lost in Spice

By Judy Schachner

This is another story in the zany Skippyjon series about a Siamese cat who loves to pretend his Chihuahua complete with Hispanic accent. It’s a hoot to read aloud and a Spanish lesson as well. This story is about Skippyjon’s adventures pretending he goes to Mars. This is a fun read for anyone preschool to adult and would be a very fun addition to any collection.

Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

Mad at Mommy

By Komako Sakai

We have a severe case of a little rabbit feeling very sorry for himself, and dealing with the anger directed toward his mother. He says, “You don’t clean my clothes, or watch TV, or feed me, and you sleep in late on Saturday’s. So I am leaving.” He knows he is going to get bigger, and he just walks out of the house. Mommy wakes up and knows he is gone, but he comes back and they make up. Overseas books seem to present different viewpoints than American books. This is a cute book recommended for 2nd grade readers.

Carol Tramp- Wynot Public Library

Belinda Begins Ballet

By Amy Young

This is a reflective story about a young girl who is tiny in every way except her feet. Belinda feels bad about her feet. Then Mrs. Rhino arrives, a drama teacher who is insensitive and unwillingly unkind. She decides that Belinda should be a clown in the talent show because of her large feet. Belinda feels bad about this and doesn’t want to do it, because it’s embarrassing. Running out of the room she slips into the auditorium where a beautiful young girl is rehearsing her ballet routine. Belinda continues to watch and then goes home and practices the routine. On the day of the television show Belinda begins her clown routine and gets many laughs from the audience but then she switches it into something else. Read the book to find out how she deals with the talent show.

Carol Tramp- Wynot public library

Always

By Ann Stott

Sometimes children do things that they know their parents approve of and sometimes they don't. This book answers the question "Do you love me, even when I do something bad?" It explains how parents will "Always" love their children. This book is recommended for ages 1-5 and for private and public libraries. This book is a good book to read to babies and toddlers. It has a simple message and gives examples of good things and bad things that children do. And no matter what, mom and dad will still love them.

Lara Morrow

Archie and the Pirates

By Marc Rosenthal

I loved this book, Archie reminds me of Curious George. The pictures are so darn cute, they almost tell the story without words. Archie dreams about drifting and floating and wakes up on an island. He deals with problems with wild animals, lack of food and housing. But reading about him dealing with pirates that arrive is a hoot. Driving away the pirates, Archie sets out with his new friends to build a community that they can live in.

Carol Tramp- Wynot public library

Serendipity Market

By Penny Blubaugh

Mama Inez and Toby are afraid that the world is out of balance and that they need to gather story tellers to share their stories to restore balance. They tell stories of Cinderella, the mer-creature, Jack and the Beanstalk and others. This book is a fantasy book. This story was one which I feel young adults would have a difficult time relating to. I wouldn't recommend this book.

Kathy Muller- Gardner Public Library