

# EDITOR'S CHOICE—VOLUME 29 (AUG/SEPT 2010-MAY/JUNE 2011)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

LIBRARY MEDIA CONNECTION

## HERE IT IS—JUST WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

The selection of the best of all the exceptional titles reviewed in LMC the previous publishing year. Not all of these titles are award winners or were rated Highly Recommended by our reviewers, but in our opinion all deserve special recognition. They were selected because of their significance and value in the school setting. Some cover important or controversial topics or issues; some cover unusual topics not previously explored in the K-12 market; some offer a different approach to a familiar topic or reflect a new trend. If they are not already in your collection or on your “to be purchased” list, we suggest you take another look at them.

### PICTURE BOOKS



**Ahern, Janet Reed.** *Don't Call Me Pruneface!* Disney-Hyperion, 2010. 978-1-4231-1918-0.

All young children, but especially those who are victims of name-calling, can relate to the two characters in this read-aloud. Grades K-3. (November/December, p. 68)

**Marino, Gianna.** *One Too Many: A Seek & Find Counting Book.* Chronicle Books, 2010. 978-1-8118-6908-9. With beautiful illustrations of farm animals with personality, several mathematics connections can be made in this almost wordless book. Grades K-2. (October, p. 64)

### FICTION K-5



**Atinuke.** *Anna Hibiscus* (series). Kane Miller Books, 2010. Easy reader chapter books that take place in Africa, with illustrations that give insight into Anna's life. Grades 1-3. (January/February, p. 71)

**Rhodes, Jewell Parker.** *Ninth Ward.* Little, Brown & Company, 2010. 978-0-316-04307-6. Told from the point of view of a young girl who rides out the storm, readers get a personal look at Hurricane Katrina. Grades 3-5. (October, p. 70)

### FICTION 6-8

**Tashjian, Janet.** *My Life as a Book.* Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2010. 978-0-8050-8903-5. A realistic story of a preteen boy's transformation from reluctant reader; librarians will be happy to see this in the hands of students. Grades 4-8. (August/September, p. 79)

**Wiles, Deborah.** *Countdown.* Scholastic, Inc., 2010. 978-0-545-10605-4. Set during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, supplementary materials such as archival photos and song lyrics are interspersed to heighten readers' understanding. Grades 5-7. (October, p. 76)

### FICTION 9-12

**Butcher, Kristin.** *Cheat.* Orca Book Publishers, 2010. 978-1-55469-274-3. A well-written novel and realistic portrayal of high school students' attitudes toward cheating. Grades 6-12. (January/February, p. 81-82)

**Dogar, Sharon.** *Annexed.* Houghton Mifflin, 2010. 978-0-547-50195-6. Life in Anne Frank's Secret Annex told from the point of view of Peter Van Pels, a completely new perspective for readers of the diary. Grade 9 & Up. (March/April, p. 72)

### GRAPHIC NOVELS

**Dunning, John Harris.** *Salem Brownstone: All along the Watchtowers.* Candlewick Press, 2010. 978-0-7636-4735-3. Originally published in England, this quirky gothic tale will appeal to readers with a taste for the offbeat. Grade 9 & Up. (November/December, p. 86)

### SPANISH LANGUAGE OR BILINGUAL

**Ada, Alma Flor.** *Let Me Help!/¡Quiero Ayudar!* Children's Book Press, 2010. 978-0-89239-232-2. Younger students will enjoy the adventures of Perico, a pet parrot, while older readers will take note of cultural differences. Grades K-5. (November/December, p. 100-101)



**Byrd, Lee Merrill.** *Juanito Counts to Ten/Johnny Centa hasta Diez.* Cinco Puntos Press, 2010. 978-1-933693-12-5. A delightful bilingual counting book, appropriate

for all younger children and for older ELL or Spanish language students. Grades PreK-2. (November/December, p. 101)



## ANIMALS

**McAllister, Ian & Nicholas Read.** *The Sea Wolves: Living Wild in the Great Bear Rainforest.*

*Orca Book Publishers, 2010. 978-1-55469-206-4.*

Readers are introduced to coastal wolves that swim proficiently and eat salmon; stunning photographs complement the text. Grades 6-12. (March/April, p. 78)



**Schaefer, Lola.** *Just One Bite.*

*Chronicle Books, 2010. 978-0-8118-6473-2.* Life-size pictures of several animals are used to show amounts and what they eat; a wonderful

browsing book for young children. Grades K-2. (January/February, p. 89)

## BIOGRAPHY



**Angel, Ann.** *Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing.* *Amulet Books/Abrams, 2010. 978-0-8109-8349-6.*

This sympathetic biography introduces a music icon and her era to a new generation of teens. Grades 7-12.

(January/February, p. 89)

**Silvey, Anita.** *Henry Knox: Bookseller, Soldier, Patriot.* *Clarion Books, 2011. 978-0-618-27485-7.*

Bold, artful illustrations bring this lesser-known patriot's story to life; valuable as a teaching tool and research source. Grades 4-8. (January/February, p. 90)

## CAREERS

**New Careers for the 21st Century: Finding Your Role in the Global Renewal (series).** *Mason Crest Publishers, 2011.*

Focusing on a wide variety of related green careers, the series offers an introduction to newer areas not covered in most collections. Grades 5-8. (January/February, p. 90-91)

**What Can I Do Now? Exploring Careers for Your Future (series).** *Ferguson Publishing (Infobase Publishing), 2010.*

Readable and attractively arranged, personal narratives found in each title make the text more relevant to students. Grades 6-12. (November/December, p. 92)

## COUNSELING

**Fallon, Michael.** *Who Are These People? Coping with Family Dynamics.* *ABDO Publishing Company, 2011. 978-1-61613-545-4.*

Part of a series for boys, this title addresses family problems that may impact teens. Readers can communicate through Twitter, Facebook, and the author's blog. Grades 6-12. (May/June, p. 83)

**Let's Work It Out (series).** *PowerKids Press (Rosen Publishing Group), 2010.*

A timely series for younger readers, written in a reassuring tone, dealing with families trying to cope in these tough economic times. Grades 2-5. (October, p. 87-88)

## FOLK LITERATURE

**Gidwitz, Adam.** *A Tale Dark and Grimm.* *Dutton Children's Books (Penguin Young Readers Group), 2010. 978-0-525-42334-8.*

A tale told in nine interrelated chapters in the bloody and violent tradition of the Brothers Grimm, with the assistance of a loquacious narrator. Grades 4-8. (January/February, p. 91)

**Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection.** *Fulcrum Publishing, 2010. 978-1-55591-724-1.*

This collection of trickster tales is a wonderful way to introduce Native American folklore to students. Grades 3-12. (November/December, p. 93)

## GEOGRAPHY

**Fact & Fable: State Stories (series).** *ABDO Publishing Company, 2010.*

Each fiction adventure features the state bird or animal; factual information is supported with maps, photographs, and text boxes. Grades K-4. (October, p. 88)

**Walker, Sally M.** *Frozen Secrets: Antarctica Revealed.* *Carolrhoda Books (Lerner Publishing Group), 2010. 978-1-5801-3607-5.*

Explores historical and modern-day scientific expeditions; the scholarly text is age-appropriate and entertaining. Grades 4-8. (November/December, p. 93)

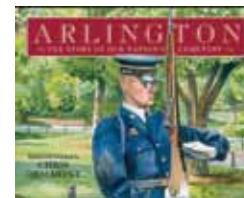
## HEALTH

**Cleary, Brian P.** *Food Is CATegorical (series).* *Millbrook Press (Lerner Publishing Group), 2011.*

Makes learning about nutrition and exercise fun

with cartoon-like illustrations and rhyming verse imparting detailed information. Grades K-3. (November/December, p. 93-94)

## HISTORY



**Demarest, Chris L.** *Arlington: The Story of Our Nation's Cemetery.* *Flash Point (Roaring Brook Press), 2010. 978-1-59643-517-9.*

Beautiful watercolor illustrations and attention to detail present the rich history of Arlington National Cemetery. Grades 3-6. (March/April, p. 59)

**Preus, Margi.** *Celebritrees: Historic and Famous Trees of the World.* *Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2011. 978-0-8050-7829-9.*

A new take on world history; simple text describes famous trees and the stories behind them. Grades 1-5. (March/April, p. 60)

## LITERATURE

**Backgrounds to American Literature, Second Edition (series).** *Chelsea House (Infobase Publishing), 2010.*

Arranged chronologically, each volume focuses on major movements, authors, and literary works; helps students understand literature in its historical and social context. Grades 9-12. (November/December, p. 94)

## MATHEMATICS

**Data Mania (series).** *First Facts (Capstone Press), 2011.*

An excellent introduction to elementary statistics and statistical methodology; supports the mathematics curriculum standards. Grades 3-6. (March/April, p. 86)

## MULTICULTURAL

**American Indian Art and Culture (series).** *Weigl Publishers Inc., 2010.*

Focusing on American Indian traditions, this outstanding overview of the art and culture of specific tribes highlights their diversity. Grades 2-4. (January/February, p. 94)

**A World of Food (series).** *Clara House Books (The Oliver Press, Inc.), 2010.* Explores not only food and recipes, but related cultures, customs, religions, and history. Grades 3-7. (October, p. 92)

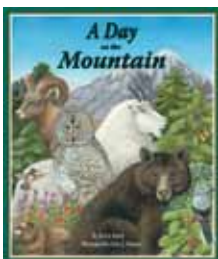
## MYTHOLOGY

Barrett, Tracy. *King of Ithaka*. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2010. 978-0-8050-8969-1. This action-packed tale of Telemachos, son of Odysseus, is a wonderful complement for readers of *The Odyssey*. Grades 5-9. (November/December, p. 95)

Townsend, Michael. *Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders*. Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin Young Readers Group), 2010. 978-0-803-73308-4. A graphic rendition of several well-known Greek myths; humorous touches will attract reluctant readers. Grades 2-7. (November/December, p. 96)

## NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

*Food Chain Reactions* (series). Picture Window Books, 2011. Each title takes a look at the harsh reality of what would happen if a key species disappeared from an ecosystem. Grades 3-6. (March/April, p. 87-88)



Kurtz, Kevin. *A Day on the Mountain*. Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2010. 978-1-60718-073-9. Using detailed illustrations and rhyming text, readers are taken through various mountain habitats

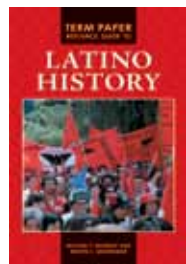
focusing on a specific animal or plant within that elevation's ecology. Grades PreK-2. (January/February, p. 95)

## POETRY

Raczka, Bob. *Guyku: A Year of Haiku for Boys*. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. 978-0-547-24003-9. Haiku that captures outdoor activities of interest to boys; a link is provided to a dedicated website with samples of haiku and animated illustrations. Grades 2-7. (May/June, p. 92)

Seibold, J. Otto. *Other Goose: Re-Nursried and Re-Rhymed Classics*. Chronicle Books, 2010. 978-0-8118-6882-2. Younger children will laugh at Seibold's new takes on classic nursery rhymes; older children can use them as inspiration for creating their own. Grades 1-4. (January/February, p. 62)

## REFERENCE



Moreno, Michael P. & Kristin C. Brunner. *Term Paper Resource Guide to Latino History*. Greenwood Publishing, 2010. 978-0-313-37932-1.

A comprehensive resource for students researching Latino history; websites, and multimedia are some of the support tools provided. Grades 9-12. (May/June, p. 92)

## SCIENCE



Cyrus, Kurt. *Big Rig Bugs*. Walker and Company, 2010. 978-0-8027-8674-6. A sure hit with younger boys especially, equating the "work" of bugs to heavy construction equipment

as they clean up a discarded sandwich. Grades K-2. (August/September, p. 100)

Lessem, Don. *The Ultimate Dinopedia: The Most Complete Dinosaur Reference Ever*. National Geographic Society, 2010. 978-1-4263-0164-3. Richly illustrated, each dinosaur is given a double-page spread that includes comparisons and charts; includes a Dino Dictionary of quick facts. Grades 1-8. (May/June, p. 95)

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Hartland, Jessie. *How the Sphinx Got to the Museum*. Blue Apple Books, 2010. 978-1-609050-32-0. Explains the process by which exhibits get to a museum; a complex topic of interest to children and adults. Grades K-5. (March/April, p. 60)

*Words That Changed the World* (series). Rosen Publishing Group, 2011. Informative for students studying the history of the writings covered; each volume connects its work to contemporary times. Grades 7-12. (May/June, p. 99)

## SPORTS & GAMES

*Girls Play to Win* (series). Norwood House Press, 2011. Each title focuses on a particular sport and the role played by its female athletes. Grades 6-9. (March/April, p. 100)

## PROFESSIONAL READING

(Linworth and Libraries Unlimited titles excluded)

De Ramirez, Lori Langer. *Empower English Language Learners with Tools from the Web*.

Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-7243-7. Fills a niche for technology rich communities striving to meet the instructional and social needs of ELL students. Professional (Grades K-12). (August/September, p. 61)

Parker, Jessica K. *Teaching Tech-Savvy Kids: Bringing Digital Media into the Classroom, Grades 5-12*. Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-7150-8.

For educators who are unfamiliar with the technology their students use at home, and how it can be applied in the classroom. Professional (Grades 5-12). (November/December, p. 102)

## FREE WEB

*Seek Your Own Proof*. Rocketfuel Productions, 2010. An online video game (presented by Discovery Kids) which challenges students to investigate history and science. Grades 3-6. (March/April, p. 103)

## MOBILE LEARNING (APPS)

*The Elements: A Visual Exploration*. Touch Press, 2010. Allows the user to see what each element looks like and its uses in everyday life. (iPad & iPhone 4). Grade 5 & Up. (May/June, 102)

## SUBSCRIPTION WEB

*English Language Learner Reference Center*. EBSCO Publishing, 2010. An excellent resource for ELL students needing assistance in the research process. Grade 6 & Up. (August/September, p. 102)

*Science Power*. World Book, Inc., 2010. Design and graphics will attract students, features will keep them coming back. A perfect fit for the elementary science curriculum. Grades K-5. (May/June, p. 103)

## VIDEO

*Discovery Atlas* (series). Discovery Education, 2010. Viewers enter the lives of people of various cultures in diverse regions of the world. Grade 7 & Up. (October, p. 102)

*The Sign Language Storytelling Series*. Weston Woods (Scholastic, Inc.), 2010. Quality storytime videos using American Sign Language; online activity guides and lesson plans. Grades K-2. (November/December, p. 103)