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## Bookpourri: Reviews of Books for Children

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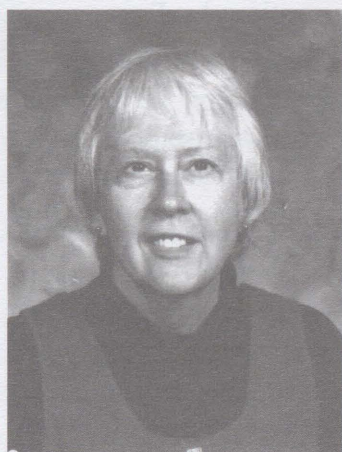
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# Bookpourri: Reviews of Books for Children

*Vera Milz is newly retired from teaching second grade at Conant Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She is a past president of the Oakland County Reading Council.*

As I write these words, I am in the midst of packing up my classroom in preparation for my retirement at the end of the 2001/2002 school year. It was a hard decision, but I believe it is the right one. I also know that it will be a big change, as teaching has been a major part of over two-thirds of my life. I am looking forward to new challenges, and yet I know that children and books will always be a part of whatever paths I travel.



Milz

Have you seen the new **Mem Fox** book, *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever* (Illustrations by Judy Horacek, Harcourt Harvest Original, 2001, \$12.00, ISBN 0-15-601076-3)? Mem retired from her teaching position and is now out spreading the word about the importance of reading aloud to children by teachers and parents. I don't expect to travel the world as Mem does, but I hope to make my own personal contribution in bringing wonderful books to children.

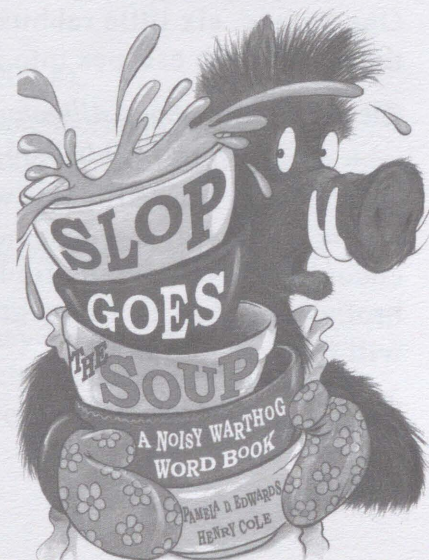
It has been fun, as always, sorting and reading through the books for this column. I especially enjoy sharing them with children. I hope that these new books will provide your students and your own children, your patrons if you are a librarian or media specialist—and *you*—with hours of pleasure during summer's sunny days at the beach, in the shade of a sprawling old tree, or in the cozy of your own room during a sudden afternoon shower.

If you wish to provide information or review copies for future issues, please write to me at 1750 Woodgate Dr., Troy, MI 48083, or email me at [VEMILZ@concentric.net](mailto:VEMILZ@concentric.net). Happy reading!

## Books for the Youngest Readers

**Edwards, Pamela E.** *Slop Goes the Soup: A Noisy Warthog Word Book*. Illustrations by Henry Cole. (Hyperion, 2001, \$14.99, ISBN 078680469-6).

As a warthog carries a bowl of soup to the table, he sneezes and starts an onomatopoeic chain of events that will have listeners and young readers rolling around with laughter. However, when company arrives for a potluck dinner, everything is under control, until one of the guests sneezes. Children are invited to continue the story on the final page of the book.





**Harvey, Amanda.** *Dog Eared.* (Doubleday, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-385-72911-1).

Otis, the dog, is happily walking in the park one day when he is pushed aside by a large dog that calls him "Big Ears." Though he had never noticed a problem, now he begins to worry. They *are* big, but what can he do about them? He tries various solutions, but finally accepts himself when his owner tells him how much she loves his large, silky, fabulous ears.



**Hutchins, Pat.** *We're Going on a Picnic.* (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-688-16799-3).

Hen, Duck and Goose decide to go on a picnic, but can't find the perfect spot to stop and eat their goodies. Each time, when they set their picnic basket down to check out a place, woodland animals sneak a taste. Finally, the three friends realize that they have returned home and their basket is empty. They repack their basket and start out again. Young readers will have plenty of suggestions as to what is going to happen.

**McMullan, Kate.** *I Stink!* Illustrations by Jim McMullan. (Joanna Cotler/HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-06-029848-0).

The most fascinating truck in a young child's life is the subject of this book! A big city garbage truck makes its rounds eating up trash along the way. The alphabet soup recipe will happily gross out readers and listeners. Thank goodness, this truck loves eating your garbage while enjoying every stinky second of it.

**Walsh, Ellen Stoll.** *Dot and Jabber and the Great Acorn Mystery.* (Harcourt, 2001, \$15.00, ISBN 0-15-202602-9).

Two mice are bored, and decide they need a mystery to solve. Dot notices that an oak tree is growing near them, but there is no oak tree nearby. They track down a big oak tree with lots of acorns under it on the other side of the meadow. While they are watching, a squirrel comes, grabs an acorn, carries it away, and buries it. Mystery solved by these clever detectives, and the final page gives a few more possibilities for curious readers.

**Williams, Sue.** *Dinnertime.* Illustrations by Kerry Argent. (Harcourt, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-15-216471-5).

One by one, six little rabbits run from a hungry fox. As they play, the fox tries to sneak up on them, but each escapes into its burrow. All are home in time for their dinner, but not the foxes.

**Ziefert, Harriet.** *Egad Alligator!* Illustrations by Todd McKie. (Walter Lorraine/ Houghton Mifflin, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-618-14171-5).

An innocent little alligator wants to go exploring. He tries to make friends with some people on a picnic, some birds, and some baseball players, but they all run away. Finally, when little alligator encounters a python, he finds himself running away. When little alligator returns home, his brother suggests that they go exploring together. How should the story continue? Young readers will have plenty of ideas.



## Morning, Midday, or Midnight Treats

**Auch**, Mary Jane and Herm. *The Princess and the Pizza*. (Holiday House, 2002, \$16.95, ISBN 0-8234-1683-6).

In this original fairy tale, Princess Paulina's father has given up his throne and become a wood-carver. Paulina misses princessing, so when Prince Drupert advertises for a bride, she decides to try for the job. She faces 11 other princesses, including one with seven strange men and another with an incredibly long braid that Paulina keeps tripping over. Will she win the prince's hand in marriage, or will she even want it? This is a hilarious book with lots of familiar, yet different, twists and turns.

**Cocco-Leffler**, Maryann. *Bravery Soup*. (Albert Whitman, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-8075-0870-5).

Carlin is afraid of everything. Then he meets Big Bear, who is making bravery soup. There is a secret ingredient that he needs, and if Carlin will make the journey to get it, he will become brave. Carlin is scared, but determined to try. He faces the dangers of Skulk Mountain and Forbidden Forests before he finally reaches the monster's cave where the box of ingredients is hidden. When he returns with the box, he finds that becoming brave is more than surprising than he expected.

**George**, Jean Craighead. *Cliff Hanger*. Illustrations by Wendell Minor. (HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-06-000260-3).

Set in the Teton Mountains, this is the story of a father and son, two experienced mountain climbers, who defy a storm to rescue their dog that is stranded on the mountain. In an effort to beat the storm, the boy climbs a shaft of rock and rescues the dog. The book is aptly named and is a real page-turner.

**Pinczes**, Elinor J. *Inchworm and a Half*. Illustrations by Randall Enos. (Houghton Mifflin, 2001, \$15.00, ISBN 0-395-82849-X).

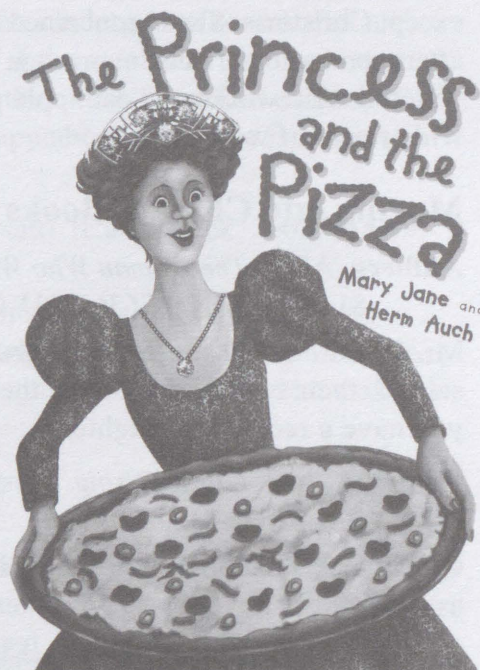
Inchworm loves to measure all the vegetables in her garden. When she finds that her measurements are off a bit, she enlists the help of half-inchworm, third-inchworm, and even fourth-inchworm to solve her problem. The inchworms are quite a team and really help young children to meet the challenges of measuring with fractional parts.

**Ringgold**, Faith. *Cassie's Word Quilt*. (Knopf, 2002, \$13.95, ISBN 0-375-81200-8).

The heroine of Ringgold's *Tar Beach* returns to take readers on a tour of her neighborhood. The places, people, and things that make her New York apartment, school, and neighborhood special are featured in this clearly labeled and lushly illustrated volume.

**Shields**, Carol Diggory. *The Bugliest Bug*. Illustrations by Scott Nash. (Candlewick, 2002, 15.99, ISBN 0-7636-0784-3).

The bugs are invited to compete to see who is the bugliest bug of them all. They are busy showing off all their many talents and body features when Dilly notices that the judges have eight legs and wings tied on with strings. With Dilly's leadership, each bug does what it does best to overcome the spider's dinner plans. Damsel fly Dilly saves the day!





**Wong, Janet S.** *Apple Pie Fourth of July*. Illustrations by Margaret Chodos-Irvine. (Harcourt, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-15-202543-X).

The young girl in the story is the daughter of Chinese immigrants who own a store that is open every day except Christmas. She is concerned that no one will want Chinese food on the Fourth of July, yet by late afternoon customers begin arriving. When the store closes, the girl and her family climb to their roof top to watch the fireworks and eat apple pie. What a gentle reminder that the Fourth of July menu includes a wide range of wonderful foods.

## Moving into Chapter Books

**Ahlberg, Allan.** *The Woman Who Won Things*. Illustrations by Katharine McEwen. (Candlewick, 2002, \$14.99, ISBN 0-7636-1721-0).

Mr. Gaskitt keeps getting new jobs, while his wife keeps winning amazing prizes. In the meantime, at school, their two children have the most unusual substitute. Add in the family cat and his friends, and you have a recipe for laughter.

**Cameron, Ann.** *Gloria Rising*. Illustrations by Lis Toft. (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2002, \$15.00, ISBN 0-374-32675-4).

Gloria meets a woman astronaut at her local grocery store, but no one believes her. Gloria writes to the astronaut, but never hears from her. At school, things have gone from bad to worse; the whole class is constantly in trouble with their teacher. One day, the school has a visit from a famous person—the same astronaut that Gloria had met. Newly independent readers will enjoy discovering how this visitor helps Gloria and her classmates rise above their difficulties to accomplish greater things.

**King-Smith, Dick.** *Funny Frank*. Illustrations by John Eastwood. (Knopf, 2001, \$14.95, ISBN 0-375-81460-4).

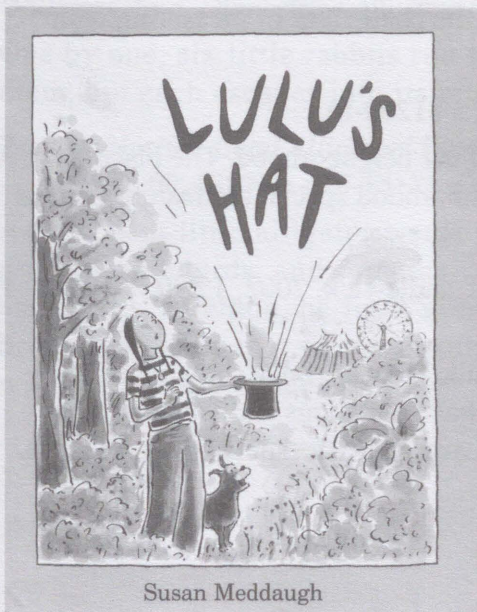
As a newly laid egg, Frank the chicken was misplaced in a duck's nest. Naturally, when he hatches, he wants to be like his brothers and sisters. All he dreams of are webbed feet, waterproof feathers, and swimming in the cool water of the pond. He tries to swim, but nearly drowns. Fortunately, his human friends have a solution, a custom-made wet suit and a pair of flippers. Frank thinks he is one lucky duck, until he meets a sweet young chick and being a rooster begins to look a bit more appealing.

**Marsden, Carolyn.** *The Gold-Threaded Dress*. (Candlewick, 2002, \$13.99, ISBN 0-7636-1569-2).

Oy is a Thai girl who is having difficulty adjusting to her first school experience in America. The boys tease her, and the girls refuse to play with her. However, when one of the girls sees a picture of Oy in her Thai dancing dress, she says that they will let her play if she brings the dress to school. Problems arise when all the girls want to try it on and end up in the principal's office. The dilemma of finding friends and fitting in is poignantly captured in this sensitive story.

**Meddaugh, Susan.** *Lulu's Hat*. (Houghton Mifflin, 2002, \$15.00, ISBN 0-618-15277-6).

Traditionally, Lulu's family produces one *stupendous* magician per generation. However, Lulu knows that since she is adopted, she won't be the lucky one. Uncle *Jerry the Great* insists that Lulu serve her appointed summer as his assistant, regardless of her magician potential. Strange things start to happen when she discovers a special hat, and suddenly, Lulu's life is transformed. Could magic be the key?



Susan Meddaugh



**Park, Barbara.** *Junie B., First Grader: Boss of Lunch.* Illustrations by Denise Brunkus. (Random House, 2002, \$11.95, ISBN 0-375-81517-1).

Junie B. is now in first grade and gets to carry her lunch to school in a very special lunchbox. However, she misses her friend Mrs. Gutzman who used to deliver cookies to the kindergarten rooms. Soon she discovers that Mrs. Gutzman is in charge of the school cafeteria, and she wants Junie B. to assist. Maybe Junie B. will be so helpful that she will be asked to take over the entire operation of the cafeteria. Unfortunately, Junie B.'s dreams are far from reality. Whatever happens, feisty Junie B. Jones always provides plenty of laughs for her reading public.

**Wojciechowski, Susan.** *Beany Goes to Camp.* Illustrations by Susanna Natti. (Candlewick, 2002, \$15.99, ISBN 0-7636-1615-X).

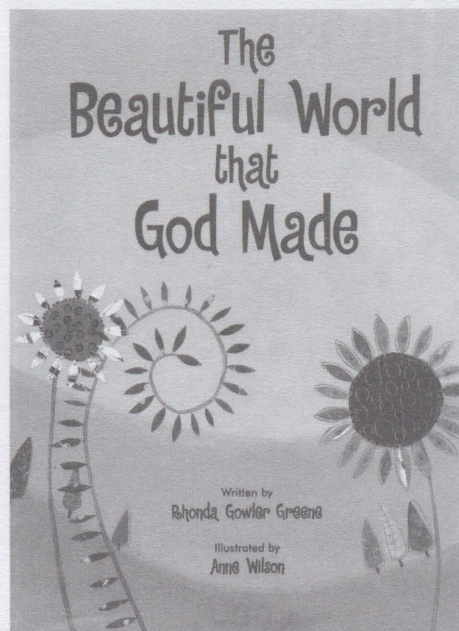
Worrywart Beany does not want to go to camp, even though her parents and brother do their best to convince her that she will have a great time. Her best friend loves Camp Onondaga and wants her to come. Begrudgingly, Beany heads off to camp and discovers that it's not so bad after all. She makes a new friend, learns to dive, and has a pretty-good time.

## Michigan Connections

**Crane, Carol.** *L is for Last Frontier: An Alaska Alphabet.* Illustrations by Michael Glenn Monroe. (Sleeping Bear Press, 2002, \$17.95. ISBN 1-58536-020-1).

Alaska is added to the list of state alphabet books produced by Sleeping Bear Press. Through words and illustrations, the reader is transported to this state of spectacular scenic beauty, diverse peoples, and unique animal life. Facts about the state are listed in question-answer form in the back, and a bibliography allows readers to extend their knowledge of the state. The illustrator lives in Brighton.

**Greene, Rhonda Gowler.** *The Beautiful World that God Made.* Illustrations by Anne Wilson. (Eerdmans, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-8028-5213-0).

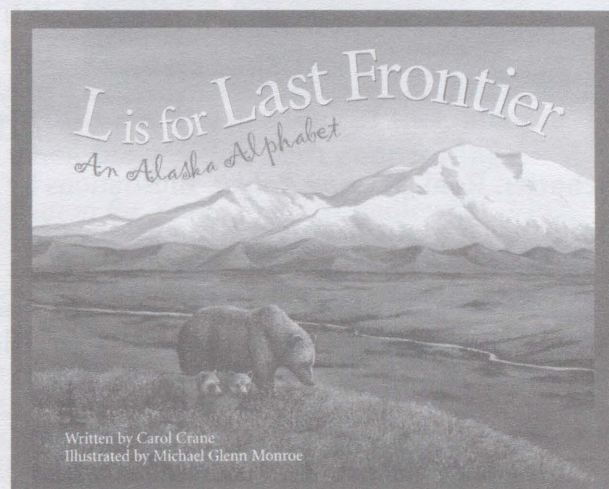


Here is a retelling of the Creation story in words that

young children will understand. The lush illustrations capture the beauty and splendor of creation as the text reveals relationships among those who inhabit the earth. The author lives in West Bloomfield.

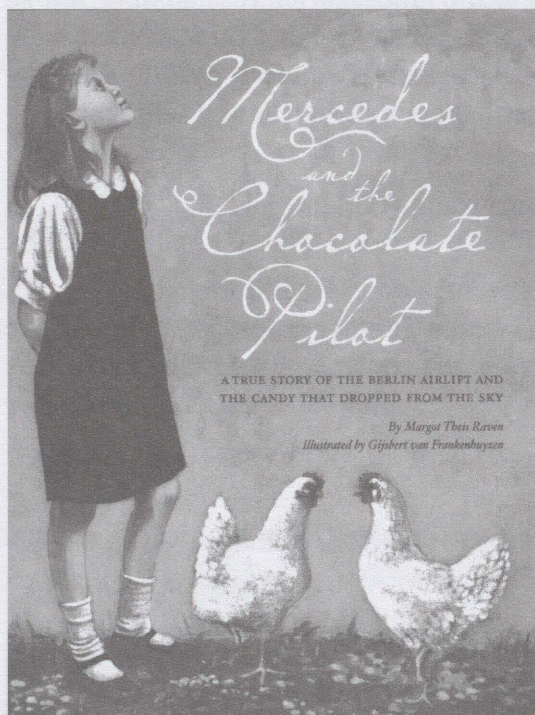
**Neitzel, Shirley.** *Our Class Took a Trip to the Zoo.* Illustrations by Nancy Winslow Parker. (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-688-155543-X).

Cumulative verses and picture rebuses show the mishaps that befall a young boy when his class goes to the zoo. Despite all the disasters, he has a wonderful day and hopes that someday he will be a zookeeper who permanently hangs his hat at the zoo. Grand Rapids is the home of the author of this book.





**Raven, Margot Theis.** *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot: A True Story of the Berlin Airlift and the Candy That Dropped from the Sky.* Illustrations by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. (Sleeping Bear Press, 2002, \$17.95, ISBN 1-58536-069-4).



From June 26, 1948, to September 30, 1949, British and American forces flew more than 277,000 missions to deliver 2.3 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin. The "Chocolate Pilot" took it upon himself to air-drop candy to the German children. This book is the true story of Mercedes, a 7-year-old girl who never managed to catch that candy. She wrote to Colonel Halvorsen and despite the odds, he was able to find a way to bring candy—and great joy—to Mercedes. She never forgot his kindness. The illustrator lives on a farm in Bath.

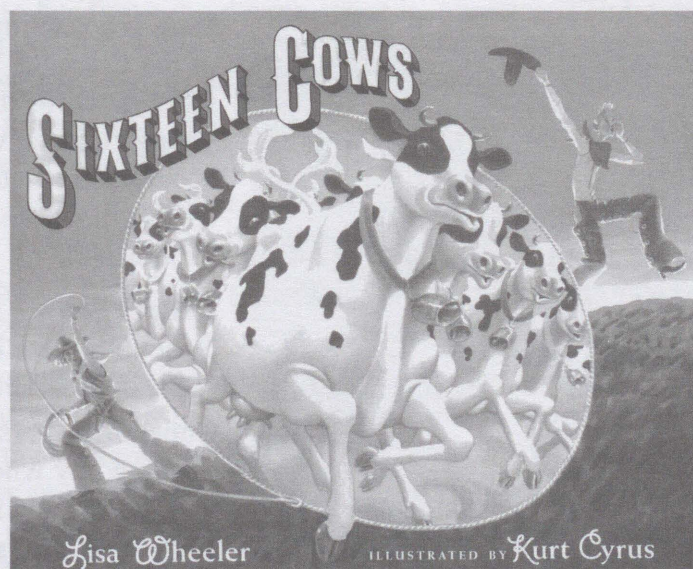
**Scillian, Devin.** *One Nation: America by the Numbers.* Illustrations by Pam Carroll. (Sleeping Bear Press, 2002, \$19.95, ISBN 1-58536-063-5).

Important numbers relating to the history of the United States are considered in this unusual counting book. Did you know that eight states start with M? Ten amendments make up the Bill of Rights. It took 15 years to plan, construct, ship, and build the Statue of Liberty. Check out the other numbers that play a part in our nation's past and present. The author lives in Grosse Pointe Park.

**Schotter, Roni.** *Missing Rabbit.* Illustrations by Cyd Moore. (Clarion, 2002, \$15.00, ISBN 0-618-03432-3). After her parents divorce, Kara divides her time shuttling between their separate houses. She is comforted by the stuffed rabbit that travels with her. Even though Kara wants to be with both of her parents all of the time, she has to face the reality of their divorce. This is a tender story of a little girl adjusting to a new life with two parents who live in different places. The illustrator lives in Birmingham.

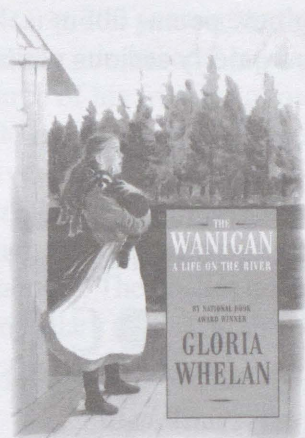
**Wheeler, Lisa.** *Sixteen Cows.* Illustrations by Kurt Cyrus. (Harcourt, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-15-202676-2).

Cowboy Gene has eight cows, and Cowgirl Sue has eight cows. They each have their own pasture with a fence between. Then one day a tornado blows through, and the cows get all mixed up. The 16 cows have their own ideas about returning to separate pastures—with surprising results. There are lots of laughs to be had while looking at these high-stepping, dancing heifers! The author lives in Brownstown.





**Whelan, Gloria.** *The Wanigan: A Life on the River.* (Knopf, 2002, \$14.95, ISBN 0-375-81429-9).



In 1878, 11-year-old Annabel and her parents join a team of loggers who float trees downriver to the lumber mills in Oscoda, Michigan. For the 3 months it takes to make the journey, Mama cooks, and Annabel helps her in the floating cook shack called a wanigan. Papa and the other loggers guide the timber, a dangerous job with the constant threats of forest fires, river pirates, and log jams. It is quite an adventure on the treacherous river and a fascinating look at Michigan's 19<sup>th</sup> century lumber industry. The author lives in the woods of northern Michigan.

## Poetry Time

**Eastwick, Ivy O.** *Some Folks Like Cats and Other Poems.* Compiled by Walter B. Barbe. Illustrations by Mary Kurnick Maas. (Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 1-56397-450-9).

Ivy Eastwick wrote the poems in this book while she served in the British Diplomatic Service all over the world. Over the years, she sent them to Walter Barbe who now shares them with us. The poems are lighthearted and quite funny in many instances. Topics include "Nonsense and Humor," "Nature's World," "Seasons and Weather," and "Wishes, Dreams and Fancy."

**Florian, Douglas.** *Summersaults.* (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-06029267-9).

All those things you like and dislike about summer emerge on the pages of this book. Fireflies, Double Dutch jump rope, swings, green things, planting, weeds, bees, dog days, things to do on a sidewalk, and much, much more find their way into the words and illustrations of this talented poet-artist. It's a great book to trigger a summer mood when the weather isn't cooperating!

**Janeczko, Paul B.** *Seeing the Blue Between: Advice and Inspiration for Young Poets.* (Candlewick, 2002, \$17.99, ISBN 0-7636-0881-5).

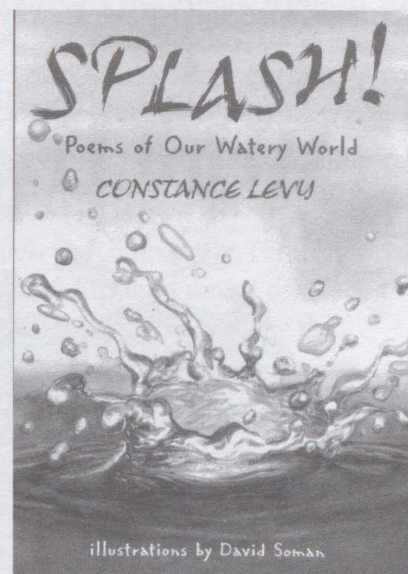
Letters of advice and support are written to beginning poets from those who have made a name in the field. The letters are accompanied by these artists' poems. A few of the people who took the time to share their thoughts on the creative process are Joseph Bruchac, Georgia Heard, Mary Ann Hoberman, Karla Kuskin, J. Patrick Lewis, Jack Prelutsky, and Jane Yolen.

**Levy, Constance.** *Splash! Poems of Our Watery World.* Illustrations by David Soman. (Orchard Books/Scholastic, 2002, \$16.95, ISBN 0-439-29318-9).

The mystery and magic of water in its many forms—ice, dew, fog, rain, snow, sleet, and mist—are considered in the poems in this book. I especially liked "The Body of Water," which notes that our bodies are mostly composed of water, as well as "A Watched Pot Never Boils" by a hungry chef who is eager to boil the spaghetti.

**Lewis, J. Patrick.** *Arithme-tickle: An Even Number of Odd Riddle-Rhymes.* Illustrations by Frank Remkiewicz. (Silver Whistle/Harcourt, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-15-216418-9).

Using rhyming text, the poet presents a series of math problems for readers to solve. In the first poem problem, a mailman delivers mail in a 92-story building. He travels from office to office, and finally ends up at the cafeteria. Using addition and subtraction, students can enjoy the poem and find the solution. The answers are given in mirror images.





**Prelutsky, Jack.** *The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders.* Illustrations by Petra Mathers. (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2002, \$16.95, ISBN 0-688-16719-5).

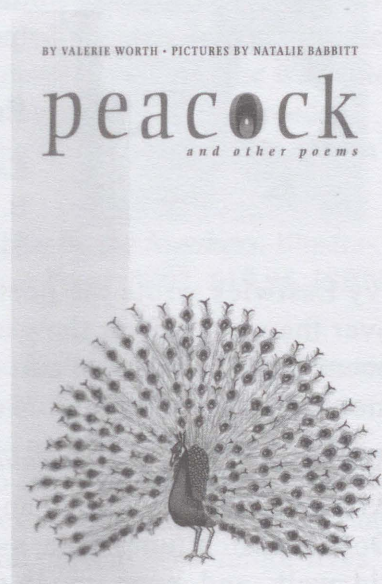
Wildly imaginative Jack Prelutsky, my students' favorite poet, presents engaging new poems about unusual people and animals coast-to-coast. Some poems, like "One Old Owl," are quietly serious while others, like "In Tuscaloosa," bring a smile to the reader's face.

**Worth, Valerie.** *Peacock and Other Poems.* Illustrations by Natalie Babbitt. (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2002, \$15.00, ISBN 0-374-35766-8).

The team that brought us six different varieties of *Small Poems*, from the first volume in 1972 to the most recent, *All the Small Poems and Fourteen More* (1994, Farrar Straus Giroux), reunites to publish a slender volume of Worth's final writings. Here are 26 poems about things as varied as pandas, onions, peacocks and blue jeans. Looking at everyday events through Worth's special lens of free verse and Babbitt's understated illustrations is a treat for all readers.

**Zolotow, Charlotte.** *Seasons: A Book of Poems.* Illustrations by Erik Blegvad. (HarperCollins, 2002, \$14.95, ISBN 0-06-026698-8).

Writing with the beginning reader in mind, the author creates poems that highlight the special times in a child's year. "Winter Bits," "Spring Things," "Summer Thoughts," and "The Feel of Fall" provide a framework for the forty poems. I especially liked "Fallen Star" in which a child discovers a firefly in his garden.

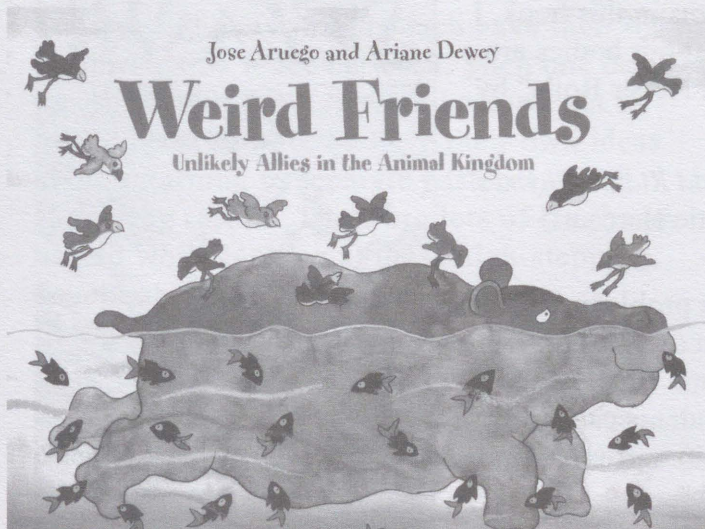


## Full of Information

**Arnosky, Jim.** *Field Trips: Bug Hunting, Animal Tracking, Bird-Watching, and Shore Walking with Jim Arnosky.* (HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-688-15172-8).

Each chapter in this book is a "How-To" for a trip in the great outdoors. Over 300 of Arnosky's drawings help you identify the animal life that you find. For example, the first chapter gives tips on identifying bugs, suggests where to find them, and tells how to record your findings in a field notebook. He describes night hunting with a warning to protect yourself against tick bites. After reading this book, you will want to grab a pair of binoculars, pull on hiking boots, get a notebook and pencil, and take off!

**Aruego, Jose and Ariane Dewey.** *Weird Friends: Unlikely Allies in the Animal Kingdom.* (Gulliver/Harcourt, 2002, \$16.00, ISBN 0-15-202128-0).



Relationships in the animal kingdom can seem strange because two very different creatures may do things to help each other survive. For example, ostriches look with their strong eyes, and zebras listen with their terrific sense of hearing. When one senses danger, they warn each other and are able to escape most predators. Red ants tickle a particular caterpillar that oozes honeydew they love to sip. In return, the ants feed the caterpillar all it can eat for the 11 months it needs to develop into a large blue butterfly. This book has a fascinating collection of these real life companions who exhibit some rather weird behavior.



**Lourie, Peter.** *On the Trail of Lewis and Clark: A Journey up the Missouri River.* (Boyds Mills, 2002, \$19.95, ISBN 1-56397-936-5).

Nearly 200 years after the historic exploration of the newly purchased Louisiana Territory, the author and three of his friends follow the path of Lewis and Clark along the Missouri River. Much has changed, yet the river remains massive and beautiful. Lourie compares present day happenings to the original notes and mixes modern photographs with artifacts of the original journey. The book is an interesting look into what Lewis and Clark might have seen those many years ago.

**Meltzer, Milton.** *Ten Kings and the Worlds They Ruled.* Illustrations by Bethanne Anderson. (Orchard/Scholastic, 2002, \$21.95, ISBN 0-439-31293-0).

Milton Meltzer, renowned for his excellent informational books, brings together biographies of 10 kings who changed the world into which they were born.

They were powerful and complex human beings who could be cruel, kind, brilliant, and even stupid. The lives of Hammurabi, David, Alexander the Great, Attila, Charlemagne, Kublai Khan, Mansa Musa, Atahualpa, Louis XIV, and Peter the Great unfold in the various chapters.

**Simon, Seymour.** *Destination: Space.* (HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-688-16289-4).

The Hubble Telescope has opened new vistas into outer space. This book details some of the discoveries that were previously invisible to the human eye. It includes one of the first pictures of a black hole, ending more than 100 years of debate over their existence. Stunning photographs, which accompany the text, will amaze you with their beauty and information.

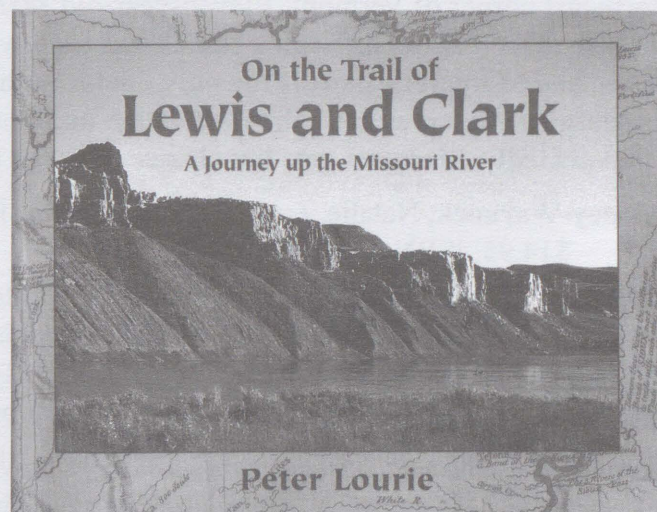
## Historical Fiction for Older Readers

**Bornstein, Ruth Lercher.** *Butterflies and Lizards, Beryl and Me.* (Marshall Cavendish, 2002, \$14.95, ISBN 0-7614-5118-8).

The year is 1936, and the country is still reeling from the Great Depression. Eleven-year-old Charley's father deserted the family, so she has to move to rural Missouri where her mother has found work. It is summer, and the only girl in the nearby small town has rejected her. Unexpectedly, Charley finds friendship and comfort with a "crazy" old woman who "grows" butterflies and a vegetable garden. This is a wonderful story of learning to love despite great differences and becoming your own person while overcoming terrible odds.

**Gilson, Jamie.** *Stink Alley.* (HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.95, ISBN 0-688-17864-2).

The year is 1614, an era that nurtured the Mayflower Pilgrims and painters such as Rembrandt. Twelve-year-old Lizzy Tinker is a member of a group of religious refugees who have fled England under the leadership of Master William Brewster. Her father and stepmother have died, and she is taken in by the Brewsters, although her undisciplined ways seem always to get her in trouble with them. She has a talent for cooking and lands a job cooking for a Dutch family with a precocious, artistic son. This book is a look at the hardships suffered by the Pilgrims even before they made their historic journey to the New World.





**Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie.** *A Doctor Like Papa*. Illustrations by James Bernardin. (HarperCollins, 2002, \$14.95, ISBN 0-06-029319-5).

The years are 1918 and 1919 when a terrible influenza outbreak swept the world and devastated the northeast corner of Vermont. Eleven-year-old Margaret has always wanted to become a doctor, but her mother feels it is too difficult a profession for a woman. Suddenly, entire families are overcome by the virus, and Margaret's papa is the only doctor in the area. Her mother's biases become more compelling as Margaret observes her exhausted father and grasps the risks he faces as he battles the epidemic. Unexpectedly, Margaret gets her chance to prove that she is capable of making her dream come true.

**Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie.** *Lumber Camp Library*. Illustrations by James Bernardin. (HarperCollins, 2002, \$14.95, ISBN 0-06-029321-7).

Set in the 1920s, this is the story of Ruby, the oldest daughter of a lumberman. Ruby has always wanted to be a teacher, but when her father is killed she must quit school to help care for her 10 brothers and sisters. A chance meeting with a blind lady in town changes her life. This is a heartwarming story of a determined young lady who is able to overcome some difficult happenings in her life.

**Koller, Jackie French.** *Someday: A Novel*. (Orchard/Scholastic, 2002, \$16.95, ISBN 0-439-29317-0).

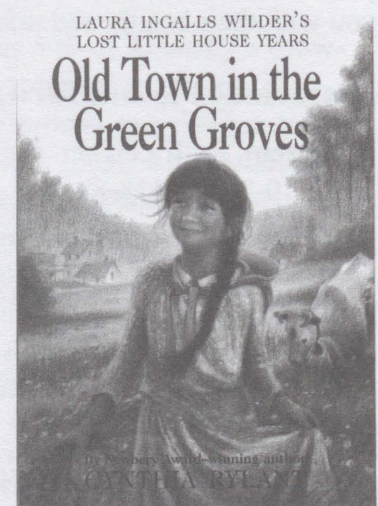


The year is 1938. All the towns in the Swift River Valley, including Enfield, will soon be flooded to create Boston's massive new reservoir. Fourteen-year-old Celie Wheeler knew it would happen someday, but her town is now in its final days. Three generations of women—Celie, her widowed mother, and her grandmother—must cope with the loss of the only home the family has ever lived in. The book captures the emotions and feelings of people forced to leave a place they deeply love.

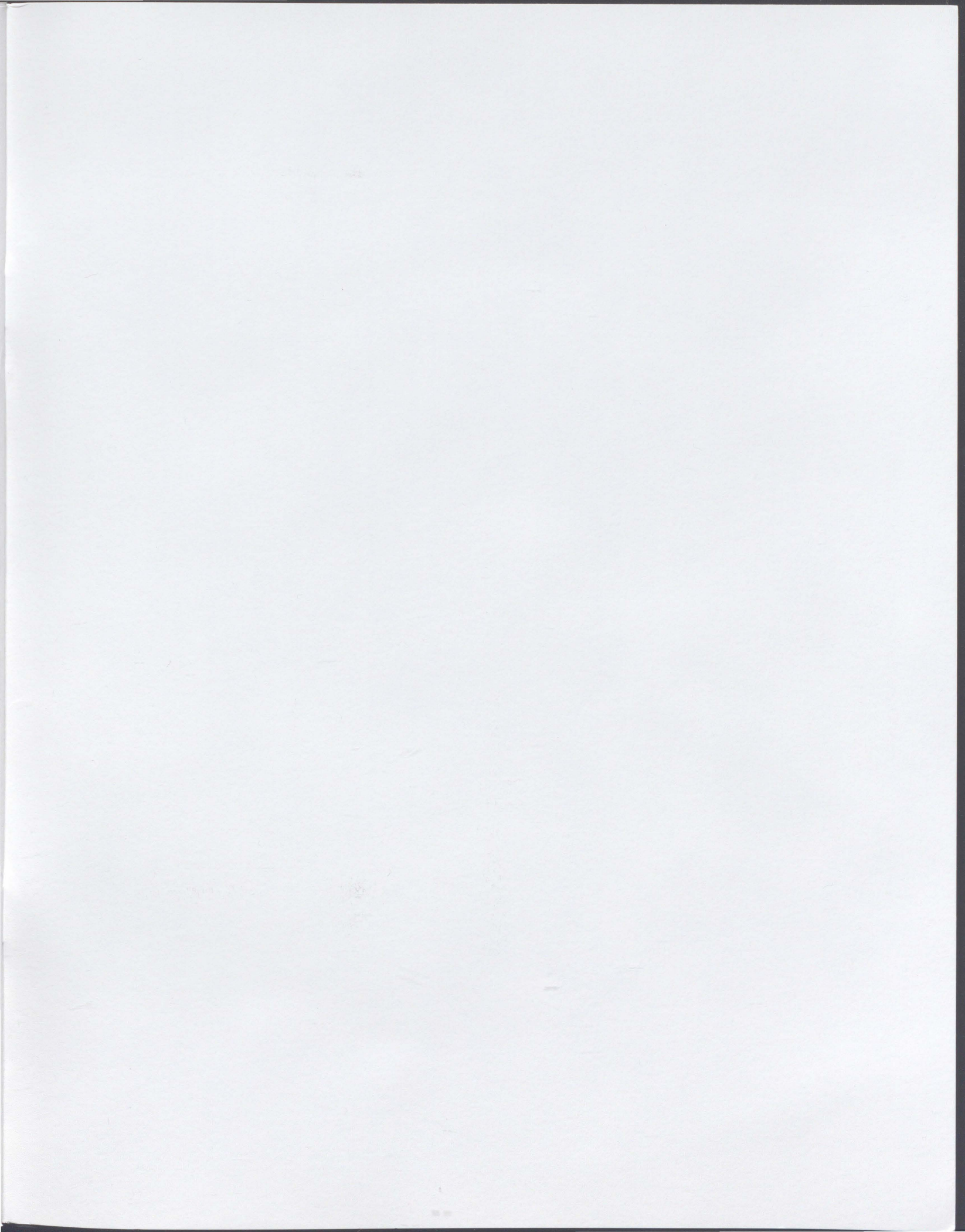
**Rylant, Cynthia.** *Old Town in the Green Groves: Laura Ingalls Wilder's lost little house years*. Illustrations by Jim LaMarche. (HarperCollins, 2002, \$15.99, ISBN 0-06-029561-9).

Inspired by an unpublished manuscript of about a dozen pages, this book details what might have happened between the winter of 1875 and the fall of 1877. Laura is 8 years old when the story begins. Her family has

had to leave their prairie home on Plum Creek after grasshoppers destroyed their crop for a third consecutive year. A baby brother, born at Plum Creek, dies before they reach their new home in Burr Oak, Iowa. This is where Pa will manage a hotel until he can save enough money to return to farming. Baby sister Grace is also born during these years, missing from the Little House series.









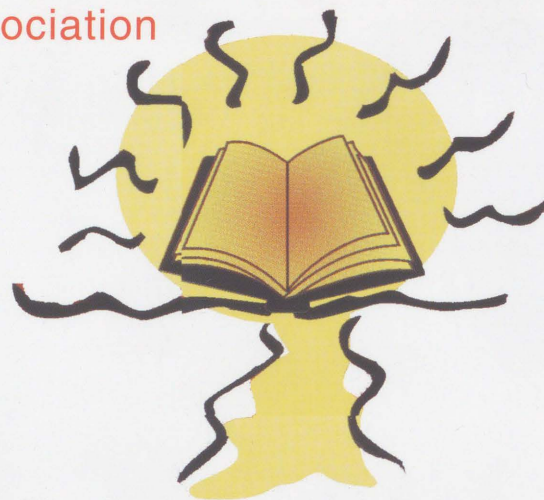


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