

The purpose of Editor's Shelf is to highlight the following: new editions of important previously published works; reissues of significant works that had been out of print; U.S. editions of works published elsewhere in English; additional volumes in a publisher's series that *MultiCultural Review* has reviewed; translations; previously published works that have been reissued in a new form, such as audiocassettes, audio CDs, floppy disks, CD-ROM, or DVD; and online reference sources. Paperback reprints are not included unless the reprint contains at least some new material. The initial releases in a publisher's series and works that have undergone major changes in the course of their republication in new edition or new media will receive full-fledged reviews in *MCR*. The Publisher Directory contains addresses and phone numbers of publishers whose works appear in Editor's Shelf.

#### NEW EDITIONS

Buenker, John D. and Ratner, Lorman A., eds. *Multiculturalism in the United States: A Comparative Guide to Acculturation and Ethnicity*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 435 pp. ISBN 0-313-32404-2, \$75.00.

This new edition is an excellent reference tool for high school and undergraduate students. A collection of engaging essays shows how changes in American society (such as wars, the rise in nativism, or the expansion of certain industries) affect immigration patterns, and how the immigrants have in turn influenced the broader culture. Ethnic groups include African-Americans, American Indians, Arabs, Asian Indians, Chinese, Dominicans, Filipinos, Germans, Haitians, Irish, Italians, Jewish, Koreans, Mexicans, Poles, Scandinavians, and Vietnamese. Included are discussions of tensions and conflicts between U.S.-born Americans and immigrants, the clash between immigrant cultures and the culture of their new home, and how living in the United States has changed immigrant cultures.

This edition contains an in-depth introduction written by the two editors, along with new and updated essays. Bibliographic essays following the main text have also been updated. (KM)

Charles, Ray and Ritz, David. *Brother Ray: Ray Charles' Own Story*. Cambridge, Mass.: Da Capo Press, 2004. 364 pp. ISBN 0-306-81431-5, \$16.95 (pb).

Charles's autobiography, the result of hundreds of hours of conversation with his collaborator, first appeared in 1978. The book is told very much in the musician's own voice, as he takes the reader from his childhood in Georgia (gradually

growing blind between the ages of five and seven) through the ups and downs of his musical career and personal life. Charles talks—it seems more like talking than writing—in explicit and sometimes profane detail about all of it: his 17-year-long heroin habit, almost countless extramarital affairs, paternity suits, drug busts, and more. He insists, for example, that his heroin addiction never cost him financially or professionally, and that he quit without much trouble (other than four days of withdrawal) once he decided it wasn't worth the risk of doing jail time. Though Charles openly describes all of his less admirable qualities and habits, his story is not really a cautionary tale, as he rarely admits to having paid much of a price for his faults.

This edition contains a new afterword by Ritz that relates the conversations he had with Charles in the last months before his death from liver cancer in June 2004. (It is sad to read, a few chapters earlier, where Charles says that the only things he deeply fears are going deaf and finding he has cancer.) An annotated discography covers all of the artist's astounding recorded output, right up to his 2004 *Genius Loves Company* duets album. Also included are eight pages of black-and-white photos (with none after 1987); the book has no index. (LS)

Daniels, Roger. *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2004. 178 pp. Revised Edition. ISBN 0-8090-7896-1, \$12.00 (pb).

This concise history of the internment of Japanese Americans was first published in 1993; its author has published a number of scholarly books on the subject and on other topics in Asian-American and immigrant history, including the recent *Guarding the Golden Door: American Immigration Policy Since 1882*. The new edition has been revised to reflect new scholarship and recent events, mostly in its concluding chapter, "Epilogue: Since 1990," and in an updated section of suggested reading.

Fourteen pages of black-and-white photos are included, most of them from the 1940s. Covering the topic as broadly as it does (the first chapter is titled "Background for a Roundup, 1850-1941"), the book concentrates on the political and legal story of the internment—and of the reparations that followed decades later—more than the particular personal and social aspects. For students of high school age and above, *Prisoners Without Trial* provides a detailed account of the whys and hows of this chapter of American history. (LS)

Garza, Carmen Lomas. *Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2005. 32 pp.

Illus. by the author. Introduction by Sandra Cisneros. ISBN 0-89239-206-1, \$16.95 (cl); 0-89239-207-X, \$7.95 (pb).

This bilingual picture book, now being released in a fifteenth anniversary edition, includes a new, very appropriate illustration of a girl arriving at her fifteenth birthday celebration (*quinceañera*) to meet fourteen of her friends, all in matching pink dresses. In English and Spanish text, the book's author and illustrator describes how she was inspired to paint the scene, and how she placed a portrait of herself as a young girl among the crowd.

Other illustrations in the gallery of pictures here include a girl swinging at a piñata, a kitchen full of people working together to make tamales, and a family sharing a watermelon on a porch one summer's night. In a new introduction, Cisneros writes that no matter where we are from, these are our family's pictures, too. (LS)

Engdahl, William. *A Century of War*. Ann Arbor: Pluto Press; dist. by Univ. of Michigan Press, 2005. 303 pp. ISBN 0-7453-2309-X, \$24.95 (pb).

This well-researched new edition of a book first published in 1992 is appropriate for middle school, high school, and undergraduate students and other interested readers. On first glance, it might seem far too technical for students in middle school, but the writing is clear, concise, and insightful with well-documented information and dissenting perspectives that will help young people draw their own conclusions about U.S. motivations for going to war. The volume begins with the Spanish-American War and ends, in this updated edition, with the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The author, an expert on issues of energy, politics, and economics for over 30 years, writes that the decision of President George W. Bush to go to war against Iraq had little to do with the threat of weapons of mass destruction and efforts to bring democracy to Iraq. He sees control of oil resources as the primary motivation. Engdahl guides the reader through the oil industry's history and stronghold on the world economy. He concludes that oil is and has long been the motivating factor in international policy and conflicts. Geopolitics and oil were behind the collapse of the Soviet Union, the breakup of Yugoslavia, and the rise and fall of the Taliban. He states that the decision to go to war in Iraq was not just corporate greed, but a strategic move to control the world economy for the next half-century or more.

The book is divided into 13 chapters, with detailed notes in the back of the book documenting Engdahl's findings, chapter by chapter. Also included are the full text of several relevant primary sources and an extensive index. (KM)

Hayes, Joe. *La Llorona/The Weeping Woman*. El Paso, Tex.: Cinco Puntos Press, 2004. 32 pp. Illus. by Vicki Trego Hill and Mona Pennypacker. ISBN 0-938317-86-5, \$16.95.

The author of this version of a traditional Hispanic folktale grew up in southern Arizona and, before writing

children's books, began his career as a storyteller. The story he tells here is of a woman named María who grows up in a small village, marries a high-born ranchero, and has two children. When the ranchero spurns María and takes up with other women, she becomes furious and drowns her two children in a river. Immediately regretting her act, she lies down next to the river and dies from grief. The ending of the story tells how her howling spirit can still be heard at night as she searches for her children, and it warns children to make sure she doesn't catch them to take away as her own.

The text is given in short paragraphs in English followed by the same in Spanish, accompanied by colorful drawings. In an afterword, Hayes states that, unlike some other tales, many people believe this story to be true, or at least to have some basis in fact, and it is therefore more of a legend than a tale. He also notes that he avoids telling this tale to children younger than nine or ten, unless they are already familiar with its gruesome conclusion and request that he tell it. (LS)

Hémon, Louis. *Maria Chapdelaine*. Toronto, Ont.: Tundra Books, 2004. 40 pp. Illus. by Rajka Kupesic. ISBN 0-88776-697-8, \$15.95.

This story of a young French-Canadian woman was first published as a serialized novel in France in 1914. Tundra Books published a French and English version of the text in 1989, and the present volume is an abridged version of the English text with illustrations. The story, written at a level suitable for second to fourth graders, is accompanied by illustrations painted in a folk-art style; those that depict crystalline winter scenes are especially striking.

The heroine lives with her family in an isolated Quebec village. In the course of the story, she has three suitors, though she truly loves the first and is heartbroken when he dies in a snowstorm. She then must choose between one suitor, Eutrope, who offers her an honest but difficult country life on a farm near her family, and another, Lorenzo, who can take her away to the excitement and uncertainties of a city in the United States. (Eutrope is not the only unusual name here; Maria's brothers are named Esdras, Da'Bé, and Ti'Bé.) After her mother dies, Maria decides that family is most important, and she chooses to marry Eutrope. (LS)

Lanier, Alison R. *Living in the USA*. Boston: Intercultural Press, 2005. 266 pp. Sixth Edition. Revised by Jef C. Davis. ISBN 1-931930-19-8, \$24.95 (pb).

This guide for new immigrants or long-term visitors on the culture, manners, and everyday practicalities of living in the United States was first published in 1973 and last updated in 1996. The new edition is updated throughout, and it includes several new sections; the chapter on food, for example, has new entries on the rise of obesity in America and on health food, and the section on communication has advice on choosing cell phone plans and Internet service providers. An occasional reference, such as going to "floor shows" at nightclubs, does seem to be left over from an ear-

lier edition, but the updating is mostly thorough.

With 22 chapters on such subjects as American values, minority groups, the political system, medical care, transportation, shopping, and education, *Living in the USA* provides a broad introduction to its large subject. Any reader of the book who is native to the United States will probably be struck most by the author's manner of directly addressing his foreign-born audience with accounts of American habits as being perhaps unfamiliar and even a little odd, but essentially well-intended. Yes, an American reader may think, we *do* often leave a social gathering with a cheerful "So long, everybody," rather than individually saying a formal good-bye to each person. Some of the author's assessments of American ways may not ring true with all readers, but the value of this book is not in telling those from other countries exactly what they will encounter in the United States, but instead what they might—and also that we really are a pretty nice group, once you get to know us. (LS)

#### REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Ballard, J. G. *Empire of the Sun*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005, 1984. 279 pp. ISBN 0-7432-6523-8, \$13.00 (pb).

High school and undergraduate students will want to read or reread this award-winning novel first published in 1984. Later, the book was made into a feature film directed by Steven Spielberg. Students today, experiencing the war

in Iraq, will most likely identify with Jim as he thinks about the devastating effects of war. They probably will understand why Jim renounced war and heroism for the values of courage, tenacity, faith, and the strength of the human spirit.

Regarded by many as one of the finest war novels ever written, the story is based on events Ballard personally witnessed while interned in the Lunghau Civilian Assembly Center when the Japanese occupied Shanghai just before World War II. Readers see the Japanese invasion of China through the eyes of an 11-year-old European boy lost in Shanghai after being separated from his parents. Ballard portrays the devastating effects of war and the psychology of survival as experienced by his young protagonist, Jim. After the war ends, Jim watches a newsreel that distorts what actually happened, and he comes to realize how the truth is manipulated to accommodate those in power. This reprint edition includes a foreword by the author. (KM)

Bess, Clayton. *Story for a Black Night*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 108 pp. Afterword by Hazel Rochman. ISBN 0-618-49483-9, \$6.99 (pb).

This short novel is written in the voice of a 40-year-old African man who is telling a bedtime story about the tragic events that happened to his family when he was ten. The book's author once served as a teacher in the Peace Corps in Liberia, where the story is set, and in the book's afterword he notes that a similar story told by the mother of one of his

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students was the starting point for this novel.

The story's narrator, Momo, lived as a child on a poor farm with his mother, grandmother, and baby sister. Late one night, two women knock on their door. One is carrying a baby, and Momo's mother reluctantly lets them in to spend the night. In the morning the women are gone, leaving the baby behind, and Momo's mother and grandmother discover the baby is infected with smallpox, and that their family may be infected as well. (The grandmother was already blinded years before from the disease.) Momo's mother insists that they cannot abandon the baby, as the grandmother suggests they do, and eventually Momo's baby sister dies of the disease. Momo and his mother undergo a terrible bout of it but survive; he is mildly scarred, while his mother is terribly disfigured and loses one eye.

The focus of the book is on the moral choices each person must make—whether to care for a stranger or watch out only for one's own. The mother's decision is said to be determined by her embrace of the Christian religion (she refers to how she has changed since reading "the book"). Besides the creative narrative style, young readers may be interested in the moral questions raised. It should be noted, though, that the description of the terrible effects of smallpox is quite detailed. (LS)

Geras, Adèle. *Other Echoes*. New York: Random House, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-385-75054-5, \$15.95 (c); 0-385-75055-2, \$17.99 (rlb).

First published in 1982, this young adult novel is narrated by a 17-year-old girl named Flora, who is recuperating in the sanatorium of her English boarding school. (The book's spelling and punctuation, and most of its characters, are British.) The majority of the book is taken up by Flora's reminiscences about the time seven years earlier when she came to live with her family in a community of British and Europeans in Borneo.

The novel's main interest lies in its narrator's evocation of what it was like to be ten years old in the exotic setting of an expatriate community in the 1950s. (The short passages about the older Flora are relatively unimportant and uninteresting.) Flora is a self-aware girl, enamored with the idea of creating stories (she wins a newspaper contest for a fanciful tale she creates), and crushed to find out that several of the other children her age consider her to be a "drip." A subplot of a mysterious, possibly haunted house on a hill leads Flora to discover the tragic story behind the life of an odd man she meets in a local store early in the novel. A refreshing aspect to the story's end is that, even after Flora manages to prove that she is brave enough to go up to the haunted house and is not quite a drip, nothing changes too dramatically. She learns that, as much as we might like to create better, more exotic stories, we really can only be ourselves, though we can sometimes feel the echoes of our past, and even those of the pasts of others. (LS)

Hulme, Keri. *The Bone People*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2005, 1984. 450 pp. ISBN 0-9071-3072-9, \$26.95.

Hulme's first novel, published in 1984, will attract high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. The story is about three outcasts of mixed European and Maori heritage in New Zealand, all of whom fear attachment. The ending is revealed first, and unusual line breaks and punctuation (more characteristic of poetry) along with the Maori vocabulary, are interwoven with modern-day British, Australian, and American idioms. Hulme vividly evokes the New Zealand landscape and setting. The book features themes of violence, love, death, magic, and redemption.

An introduction new to this edition reveals the novel's convoluted publishing history. It took Hulme, who is of Maori, Scottish, and English ancestry, 13 years to write *The Bone People*. The manuscript was rejected by four publishers before a New Zealand feminist publishing collective near the author's home published the book in 1984. Word spread quickly, and the book went on to win the 1985 Booker Prize, given to the best writing in English from the Commonwealth. Soon mainstream publishers started a bidding war. Today, almost 25 years later, this book has been reissued by a publishing house in the United States. (KM)

Lai, Larissa. *When Fox Is a Thousand*. Vancouver, B.C.: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2004. 240 pp. ISBN 1-55152-168-7, \$16.95. (pb).

This novel (the author's debut, originally published in 1995) interweaves stories from three different points of view, with each indicated by its own recurring symbol. The most prominent story is that of Artemis Wong, a young gay woman living in Toronto. Another story is that of the real ninth-century Chinese poet Yu Hsuan-Chi, who was accused, possibly wrongly, of killing her maidservant. Linking the two stories are sections narrated by an ancient fox spirit, who has haunted Yu Hsuan-Chi, and now has come to Vancouver to do the same to Artemis.

In a 2004 afterword to this edition, the author notes that her goals in writing this novel were to "give materiality to the complexities of being young, brown, and female at the present time"; to present the mythology of the fox to North American readers; and to take that mythology apart to play with its gender and class biases. This complex novel is a thought-provoking mixture of contemporary urban life and ancient stories. (LS)

#### TRANSLATIONS

Krull, Kathleen. *Cosechando esperanza: La historia de César Chávez*. New York: Libros Viajeros/Harcourt, 2004. 48 pp. Trans. by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada. ISBN 0-15-205169-4, \$7.00 (pb).

Intended for students in the early elementary grades, this

lavishly illustrated biography of the civil rights leader is a translation of *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. The story focuses on Chávez's life from the age of ten, when he lived on an Arizona ranch, to the age of 38, when he led a peaceful protest against conditions for migrant workers in California. An author's note at the end tells more about his life and work. Each two-page spread has a few paragraphs of text, but it is the large, colorful, and often dramatic illustrations (one fully covering each spread) that are most likely to attract young readers to this story. (LS)

Limón, Graciela. *El Día de la Luna*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2004. 240 pp. Trans. by María de los Angeles Nevárez. ISBN 1-55885-435-5, \$14.95 (pb).

Arte Público Press has previously published five novels by this writer (who is also a professor of U.S. Hispanic literature) in their original English. The current volume is a translation of her 1999 novel *The Day of the Moon*. Her other works include *Erased Faces*, *Song of the Hummingbird*, and the American Book Award-winning *In Search of Bernabé*.

*El Día de la Luna* is a sprawling tale that takes places in the Southwestern United States, Mexico, and Los Angeles. It focuses on the Betancourt family, headed by the harsh Don Flavio; another significant character is Jerónimo Santiago, a Tarahumara whose family works on the Betancourts' hacienda. The novel's story involves family secrets, murder, and the connections between the world of the spirits and our own. (LS)

#### NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

#### A to Z Guides

Amoia, Alba and Knapp, Bettina L., eds. *Multicultural Writers Since 1945*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 610 pp. ISBN 0-313-30688-5, \$119.95.

Lockhart, Darrell B., ed. *Latin American Science Fiction Writers*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 230 pp. ISBN 0-313-30553-6, \$89.95.

Lockhart, Darrell B., ed. *Latin American Mystery Writers*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 225 pp. ISBN 0-313-3055-4, \$89.95.

This series is intended as a reference tool for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. The two volumes edited by Lockhart are also recommended for academic and public libraries serving Latin American studies programs; *Multicultural Writers Since 1945* is suitable for more general collections. The Lockhart volumes include entries of Latin American writers of science fiction and mystery, with biographical and critical information. Students will learn that Latin America has a rich literary tradition, spanning multiple genres, which is receiving more and more attention each

year.

Latin American science fiction had its roots in the eighteenth century and has flourished ever since. Well liked in Latin American popular culture, science fiction has come to reflect the cultural and social concerns of contemporary society. This reference volume offers an overview that includes 70 Latin American science fiction writers listed in alphabetical order.

*Latin American Mystery Writers* traces the history of that genre and is an informative reference work as well. Again, because mysteries are part of the Latin American popular culture, they reflect many of the social and cultural concerns of that region. Fifty-four writers, predominantly from Argentina, Cuba, and Mexico, are included and listed in alphabetical order.

The volume on multicultural writers since 1945 has a global scope and a more general focus in terms of genre. In all, 102 writers are included; many of the biographies feature quotes where the writers discuss their work and its impact on their own society and the world as a whole in the last half of the twentieth century.

For all three volumes, each entry includes a short biography and a discussion of the writer's works by an expert contributor. All the volumes include an introduction, a table of contents, and a general bibliography of anthologies and criticism. (KM)

#### Biography

Butts, Ellen R. and Schwartz, Joyce R. *Fidel Castro*. Minneapolis: Lerner/A & E, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-2371-X, \$27.93.

For more than four decades Castro has led the Communist government of Cuba. Older elementary and middle school children will learn about this powerful dictator who has imprisoned and/or executed many and sent countless others into exile. At the same time, he has provided all Cubans with free education and health care. This in-depth, even-handed biography tells the story of Castro from birth to when he became the most important man in Cuba.

Included are sources, selected bibliography, further reading, web sites, an index, some black-and-white photos, and sidebars that place Castro's life in a larger historical, political, and social context. (KM)

#### Childhood of World Figures

Ashby, Ruth. *Anne Frank: Young Diarist*. New York: Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, 2005. 192 pp. ISBN 0-689-87468-5, \$6.99 (pb, list); \$4.99 (pb, library).

Anne Frank's famous diary, now examined in a new book series, is intended for children ages 8-12. The small paperback is divided into 15 chapters, each with clear and concise headings that guide the reader through the diary Frank

wrote when she was a young girl. Students will learn how Frank and her family hid above her father's office during the German invasion of the Netherlands and how, when they were discovered, they were taken to a concentration camp.

This series is a companion to the venerable *Childhood of Famous Americans*, first introduced in 1932. Included in this volume is a further reading list and lists of videos, CD-ROMs, and Web sites. (KM)

#### Companions for the Journey

*Backroads to Far Towns: Basho's Travel Journal*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2004. 88 pp. Trans. by Cid Corman and Kamaike Susumu. Illus. by Hide Oshiro. ISBN 1-893996-31-X, \$14.00 (pb).

Goll, Yvan and Claire. *10,000 Dawns: Love Poems of Yvan & Claire Goll*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2004. 88 pp. Trans. by Thomas Rain Crow and Nan Watkins. ISBN 1-893996-27-1, \$14.00 (pb).

Yang Wan-Li. *Heaven My Blanket, Earth My Pillow: Poems from Sung Dynasty China*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2004. 128 pp. Trans. and with an introduction by Jonathan Chaves. ISBN 1-893996-29-8, \$14.00 (pb).

*A Zen Forest: Zen Sayings*. Buffalo, N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2004. 120 pp. Trans. by Seiku Shigematsu. Foreword by Gary Snyder. ISBN 1-893996-30-1, \$14.00 (pb).

These four titles are volumes 3 through 6 in a series of compact paperbacks that present inspirational works from a variety of cultures. *Backroads to Far Towns* is a translation of the journal of a renowned seventeenth-century Haiku poet. Many of the entries are, as with any personal journal, unremarkable daily accounts; however, the text does include occasional haiku, is interspersed with evocative Japanese drawings, and is followed by extensive explanatory notes. The collection *10,000 Dawns* (previously published only in French and in German) is named for the number of days in the 30-year marriage of its two authors. In alternating poems, the two declare their love for each other. The first poem by Yvan is presented in both French and English, while the first by Claire is given in both German and English (all others are in English). Several drawings by Marc Chagall accompany the text.

Yang Wan-Li (1127–1206), a poet of the Sung Dynasty, is lesser known than some of the Chinese poets of the earlier T'ang dynasty. (Though it is remarkable how much, as described in the book's thorough introduction, is still known about this twelfth-century poet—more than is known about some much later Western figures such as Shakespeare.) His poems, ranging from four to twenty lines, are mostly autobiographical responses to his experiences and to nature. The fourth volume above, *A Zen Forest*, contains selections from two traditional Japanese collections of Zen sayings. The book's

introduction notes that for Zen students a word is a finger that points at the moon, while the student's concern is the moon itself. A number of these brief, striking sayings paradoxically emphasize this inadequacy or lack of substance of mere words, as in, for example, this saying: "Saying 'fire' won't burn your mouth; saying 'water' won't drown you." (LS)  
Culture and Customs of the Middle East

Farsoun, Samih K. *Culture and Customs of the Palestinians*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 160 pp. ISBN 0-313-32051-9, \$45.00.

This series is appropriate for students in middle school through college and general readers. It provides information on countries in diverse regions and is written by experts in each region. The volume on Palestinians discusses the need for Palestinian independence, justice for the refugees, and the spread of religious fundamentalist violence and repression. Its author is dean of Academic Affairs and the College of Arts and Sciences at the American University in Kuwait.

The seven chapters are as follows: Context and History; Society and Social Customs; Gender, Marriage, and the Family; Traditional Dress and Cuisine; Religion and Religious Customs; Literature; and Art, Performing Arts, and Cinema. While the current historical and political situation of the Palestinians forms a larger share of this volume than some of the others in the Culture and Customs series, the book offers the kind of cultural information that tends to receive short shrift in other series for teenage and adult readers.

The volume contains an appendix, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. (KM)

#### Cultures of the World

Cottfried, Ted. *Slovakia*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1856-3, \$25.95.

Cottfried, Ted. *Slovenia*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1857-1, \$25.95.

King, David C. *Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1853-9, \$25.95.

King, David C. *Serbia and Montenegro*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1855-5, \$25.95.

Knowlton, Mary Lee. *Albania*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1852-0, \$25.95.

Knowlton, Mary Lee. *Macedonia*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1854-7, \$25.95.

The six new volumes in this 128-book series are intended for grades six and up. The chapters in each include geogra-

phy, history, government, economy, environment, people, lifestyle, religion, language arts, leisure, festivals, and food (with recipes). Large full-color photos give the books appeal. The entries on Slovakia and Slovenia—spelled similarly, located near one another, and both only ten years old—are authored by the same person. Even though the two nations broke off from different larger countries (Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, respectively), the curious student could easily study both countries simultaneously because the format of each volume is almost identical.

King shows similarities between Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro, and how their histories are interwoven. Both countries had been torn apart by war in the early nineties. Yugoslavia, now called Serbia and Montenegro, is characterized by striking ethnic, religious, and geographic diversity. Bosnia and Herzegovina, once also part of the former Yugoslavia, was also a land of where people of many backgrounds and religions—Muslims, Eastern Orthodox Serbs, and Roman Catholics—lived peacefully together until 1992. Much of that volume examines the war, its causes, and its aftermath.

Fascinating facts are revealed to students; for example, Macedonia is one of the newest nations in the world, but possesses the oldest surviving name of a country in Europe. Albania never had a national government until the twentieth century.

An introduction in each volume includes a detailed overview of the country's history, economy, and culture; a large map; a time line; a glossary; a bibliography; and an index. (KM)

#### Fact Finders Biographies

Healy, Nick. *Harriet Tubman: Conductor of Freedom*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3743-4, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Hoema, B. A. *Langston Hughes: Great American Writer*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3745-0, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Monroe, Judy. *Duke Ellington: Jazz Composer*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3741-8, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Monroe, Judy. *Jesse Owens: Track-and-Field Champion*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3744-2, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Schoeneberger, Megan. *Ella Fitzgerald*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3742-6, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Shores, Erika L. *Rosa Parks: Civil Rights Pioneer*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3746-9, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

The biographies in this series, tailored for students in second through fifth grade, show how African-American men and women changed the world.

The books are also designed for new and struggling readers of all ages. Sentences have simple structure and paragraphs are short. Full-color drawings and photographs throughout each volume help relate the subject's story with historical events of that time frame. For example, students will learn details about the Underground Railroad in *Harriet Tubman* and how she escorted a group of slaves across the frigid river. The "Fact!" boxes reveal little-known information about each subject, such as the fact that Duke Ellington owned over 150 suits and 1,000 neckties—and not one was green.

The first chapter of each book gives detailed information about each subject in a way that hooks the reader. The volume on Jesse Owens describes how he almost did not qualify for the long jump in the 1936 Olympics. After two failed jumps, Owens received a suggestion from Germany's star long jumper that he start a few steps earlier. Owens took the German's advice and became the first African American to win four gold metals in Berlin. When Ella Fitzgerald first stood on stage at the Apollo Theatre for a contest, her voice cracked and she was booed. She started the song again and won the contest. These stories will encourage young readers to work hard and not give up.

All the books in this series include a table of contents; "Fast Facts"; a time line, which contains the life events of the featured subject and key events in U.S. history; a glossary; Internet sites; further reading; and an index. (KM)

#### Fact Finders Social Studies

Bauer, Brandy. *Iran*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3752-3, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Deady, Kathleen W. *El Salvador*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3750-7, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Deady, Kathleen W. *Rwanda*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3759-0, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Deady, Kathleen W. *Saudi Arabia*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3760-4, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Dubois, Muriel L. *Cuba*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3749-3, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Dubois, Muriel L. *Liberia*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3755-8, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Dubois, Muriel L. *Peru*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005.

32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3758-2, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Englar, Mary. *Turkey*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3762-0, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Haberle, Susan E. *North Korea*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3756-6, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Haberle, Susan E. *South Korea*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3761-2, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Olson, Gillia M. *Pakistan*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3757-4, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Olson, Nathan. *Australia*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3747-7, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Olson, Nathan. *India*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3751-5, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Olson, Nathan. *Italy*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3754-X, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Spengler, Kremena. *Chile*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3748-5, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Spengler, Kremena. *Israel*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7368-3753-1, \$22.60 (list); \$16.95 (school/library).

Designed for readers in second through fifth grades, these new volumes in a now 28-book series are written in a pleasing, easy-to-read format. The sentences are short, informative, and to the point. Each book contains information about geography, history, government, housing, transportation, major industries, schools, favorite sports and games, traditional art forms, holidays, foods, and family life.

All chapters in the table of contents are in the form of a question—for example, “Where is Rwanda?” “When did Rwanda become a country?” and “What type of government does Rwanda have?”

Each volume includes vivid full-color photographs of maps, houses, streets, students, sports, art, food, graphs, and much more. A child’s portrait decorates each book cover. Highlighted words throughout the text are defined in the glossary.

Young readers learn about each country’s holidays. For instance, Iran’s biggest holiday is the New Year’s. It is called Nowruz, it takes place the first day of spring, and it lasts for 13 days. Many holidays in El Salvador are religious. An impor-

tant one, the Feast of the Holy Savior, celebrates the country’s patron saint and takes place the first week of August.

Features in each volume include Fast Facts, Money and Flag, Learn to Speak (the specific language of the volume), a glossary, Internet sites, a reading list, and an index.

This series provides detailed information about each country, making it a good tool for report writing. The young reader will most likely be able to complete each book in one or two sittings and feel a sense of accomplishment. (KM)

#### Finding Out About Holidays

Gnojewski, Carol. *Day of the Dead: A Latino Celebration of Family and Life*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1780-X, \$23.93 (list); \$17.95 (library/school).

Leeper, Angela. *Juneteenth: A Day to Celebrate Freedom from Slavery*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2004. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2206-4, \$23.95 (list); \$17.95 (library/school).

These easy-to-read books, written for third and fourth graders, teach elementary school students about important holidays. Large, vivid illustrations and photos are placed throughout.

The main text of *Day of the Dead* describes the celebration, and the many sidebars give additional information about this holiday that Mexicans celebrate the first of November of each year. Students will learn about masks and the raised stone tombs in Mexican cemeteries where families visit their deceased members.

*Juneteenth* highlights an important historical holiday for African Americans—June 19, the day in 1865 when the slaves of Texas learned that they were free. Now, African Americans across the country celebrate their liberation and honor their ancestors’ struggles on that day. Leeper begins with a concise overview of American slavery, describes early Juneteenth celebrations in Texas, and explains how the holiday has taken on aspects of later civil rights struggles.

Each volume includes a list of words to know, a reading list, Internet addresses, and an index. A craft project shows readers how to create an important symbol of the holiday. (KM)

#### Greenwood Biographies

Bruns, Roger. *Jesse Jackson: A Biography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 141 pp. ISBN 0-313-33138-3, \$29.95.

This full-length biography of Jackson traces his family background, education, and personal and professional influences and also deals with his struggles, accomplishments, and contributions. It is designed for high school students and public libraries. Written in a reader friendly format, it is ideal for secondary school assignments and research projects. The volume includes black-and-white photos with a large full-color portrait of Jackson on the cover, a table of contents, a series foreword, an introduction, and an in-depth

time line of events, along with a historical perspective, a bibliography, and an index. (KM)

#### The Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations

Kim, Djun, Kil. *The History of Korea*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 208 pp. ISBN 0-313-33296-7, \$45.00.

This new volume in the now 32-book series provides middle and high school students and interested adult readers with comprehensive coverage of Korea's history, going back to its roots in Neolithic civilization. Kim discusses everything from tradition and the challenges of building a nation in the East Asian world system to Korea's global setting today.

The author served in the Korean government for more than two decades and recently taught Korean history as a visiting professor in an American university. This book focuses on helping students to understand the ways in which nations are interdependent.

*The History of Korea* contains an overview of the country's geography, political institutions, economic structure, and cultural attributes. Students will be able to picture the nation as it exists today. Individual chapters cover early history, the formation of Korean identity, medieval Korea, modernization, Japanese domination, and the civil war (with geopolitical implications) that left Korea a divided nation.

A comprehensive biographical section highlights Korean historical figures. The book also features a time line from 8000 B.C.E. to June 2000, a glossary of Korean terms, a bibliographical essay, suggested further readings, and an index. (KM)

#### The Greenwood Press "Literature in Context" Series

Domina, Lynn. *Understanding Ceremony: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 167 pp. ISBN 0-313-32859-5, \$45.00.

This volume, geared toward high school and college, will help students understand and appreciate Leslie Marmon Silko's 1977 *Ceremony* in light of the larger social and cultural issues the novel addresses. The Native American writer's novel is called a masterpiece of American fiction by many and is acknowledged for its contributions to Native American literature. Domina identifies the main theme of her novel as traditional healing ceremonies. The chapters are Literary Analysis; Historical Context; Traditional Native American Spirituality and Western Medicine; and Native Americans, Alcohol, and Social Welfare.

Readers will be able to consider the different perspectives presented by experts and those who have directly experienced the events described in the novel. Each chapter includes "Topics for Written or Oral Exploration," and suggested topics and questions for educational applications. Also included are further recommended readings. (KM)

#### I Like Biographies!

Feinstein, Stephen. *Read About Crazy Horse*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2590-X, \$15.95 (list); \$21.26 (library).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Harriet Tubman*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2591-8, \$15.95 (list); \$21.26 (library).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Jackie Robinson*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2592-6, \$15.95 (list); \$21.26 (library).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Tiger Woods*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2594-2-X, \$15.95 (list); \$21.26 (library).

This biography series of famous Americans past and present is designed for elementary school children, grades one through three. The subjects are sure to be role models for the young students.

A portrait of each subject decorates the cover of the pastel-color volumes and invites the young student to open the pint-size book to investigate it further.

The four fact-filled and appealing books describe Americans who fought for what they believed and did not give up. The volumes have time lines, reading lists, Internet addresses, indexes, illustrations, and historical photos. The glossary, located at the beginning of each book, helps prepare students for the new topics they are going to read about. For instance, the defined words "plantation" and "slave" in the Harriet Tubman volume will help the young child understand more about slavery and why Tubman risked her life to fight for freedom. In Tiger Woods's biography, Feinstein engages young readers through stories about his early success in golf and his determination to become a champion. (KM)

#### Journey to Freedom: The African-American Library

Cunningham, Kevin. *Arthur Ashe: Athlete and Activist*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2005. 40 pp. ISBN 1-5929-6228-9, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (library).

Somervill, Barbara A. *Brown v. Board of Education: The Battle for Equal Education*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2005. 40 pp. ISBN 1-5929-6229-7, \$28.50 (list); \$19.95 (library).

This reader-friendly series provides heroic stories of African-American political leaders, scientists, entertainers, teachers, and sports figures who have had great influence in shaping American history. These leaders will inspire and motivate young students in elementary and middle school. Vintage photographs capture the strength and determination of people like Alice Walker, George Washington Carver, and Arthur Ashe.

Students will learn that the largest tennis stadium in the world was named after Ashe. He was not only a famous ten-

nis player, but also a civil rights activist, an advocate for African Americans in sports, and a crusader against AIDS (which he contracted after receiving a tainted blood transfusion during open heart surgery). In 1966 Ashe was invited to Richmond, Virginia, his hometown, to play in a tournament set up especially for him. Only five years before, he had not been allowed to play against whites in the same park.

*Brown v. Board of Education*, named for the lawsuit brought about by a group of black parents in Topeka, Kansas, puts the case that outlawed segregation in public schools in a larger contest. After three years of fighting against segregation, the parents won the lawsuit in 1954. However, the author points out, 90 percent of the Southern schools were still segregated more than ten years later. In the end, it took 40 years for Topeka schools to be integrated. The book also discusses related contemporary controversies, such as affirmative action.

The two volumes in this series include full-color illustrations and historical photos, a table of contents, a time line of key events, a glossary of key words and phrases, a comprehensive index, sources for further research, and web sites. (KM)

#### Literature as Windows to World Cultures

Ocasio, Rafael. *Literature of Latin America*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 230 pp. ISBN 0-313-32001-2, \$49.95.

This new volume in the three-book series is intended for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. It examines popular works of literature in Latin America and also introduces lesser-known Latin American writers whose works are beginning to appear elsewhere in translation. In-depth analysis, using easy-to-understand concepts with all terms defined, will assist students interested in using this volume as a tool for research.

This entry includes a comprehensive introduction, a bibliography and suggested reading at the end of each chapter, suggested anthologies on Latin American literature in translation, and a chronology of significant Latin American historical events. (KM)

#### On My Own Biography

Swain, Gwennyth and Archambault, Matthew. *Sojourner Truth*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Carolrhoda, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-57505-651-8, \$24.25.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Cesar Chavez*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Carolrhoda, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-57505-652-6, \$24.25.

With ample white space, copious photos, and a large easy-to-read font, these two new biographies in the now 34-book series are designed for early elementary school students. The skillfully crafted stories with simple sentences make it easier for young students to understand the concepts of slavery and migrant farm work.

Illustrations and text in each book work well together

and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the stories. In *Sojourner Truth*, young readers learn about the day-to-day life of slaves in New York under the Dutch and British. Families were split apart because slaves had no rights. Born in the late eighteenth century, Sojourner Truth became a preacher and worked hard to change life for slaves and for all women who were oppressed.

In *Cesar Chavez*, students learn that migrant farm workers had few rights and were forced to work in substandard environments for a small wage. Often they had to work long hours and became sick because of the poisons sprayed on the fruits and vegetables. In the 1960s and '70s Chavez, himself a migrant farm worker, helped form a farm workers union. He led strikes and marches that eventually forced landowners to increase wages and improve working conditions. Like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he never resorted to violence to produce change, and he inspired others to follow his lead.

The volumes include an afterword with additional information about the subjects, and a chronology of important dates. (KM)

#### On My Own Holidays

Jango-Cohen, Judith. *Chinese New Year*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Carolrhoda, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-57505-653-4, \$23.93.

Lowery, Linda and Knutson, Barbara. *Cinco de Mayo*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Carolrhoda, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 157505-654-2, \$23.93.

The two newest volumes in this 14-book series are designed for elementary school children. Students will learn about holidays people from other countries celebrate and a little about their history, too. They will catch a glimpse into the lives of others previously unknown to them.

Do you know why Cinco de Mayo is celebrated? Most people do not, even though the United States is involved in the history of this Mexican holiday. Lowery and Knutson, writer and illustrator respectively, skillfully guide young readers through this important story in history. They explain in a clear, concise way the fascinating story of the holiday and the role the United States played.

Many readers have heard about Chinese New Year but perhaps are not aware of the significance of this holiday or when it is celebrated. After reading this book, young students, teachers, and parents will have a deeper understanding of the Chinese people and the importance of Chinese New Year.

Included in both volumes are historical and cultural information that will interest everyone. Each has a glossary and vivid full-color illustrations that complement the well-told stories. (KM)

#### Portraits of Black Americans

Miller, Calvin Craig. *A. Philip Randolph: And the African-*

*American Labor Movement*. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 169 pp. ISBN 1-931798-50-8, \$24.95.

Miller, Calvin Craig. *No Easy Answers: Bayard Rustin and the Civil Rights Movement*. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 166 pp. ISBN 1-931798-43-5, \$24.95.

Middle school students will learn important lessons from these two brave men who dedicated their lives to standing up against injustice. Both Rustin, born in Pennsylvania in the early part of the twentieth century, and Randolph, born in Florida at the end of the nineteenth century, took part in the civil rights movement. Both men crossed paths with Martin Luther King Jr. in their efforts to fight racial inequality.

Rustin and Randolph are remembered for their tireless struggles against racism. Peace activist Rustin had a critical role in organizing the historic 1963 March on Washington, and labor leader Randolph gave his last major speech at that same event. The Rustin biography is the more interesting of the two, in large part because of its discussion of nonviolent activism and its admirable handling of Rustin's homosexuality, which prevented him from taking a more visible role in the movement. The volumes are organized by chapters and include a time line, sources (mainly other secondary materials), a bibliography, web sites, and an index. There are several black-and-white photos and illustrations in each volume. (KM)

Positions: Education, Politics, and Culture

Wise, Tim J. *Affirmative Action: Racial Preference in Black and White*. New York: Routledge, 2005. 216 pp. Edited by Kenneth J. Saltman and Ron Scapp. ISBN 0-415-95049-X, \$14.95. (pb).

This volume, intended for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, is the first book in a new Routledge series that integrates education, politics, and culture with commentary by outspoken figures on specific controversies.

Wise, an anti-racism activist, weighs in on the debate about race-based affirmative action. He defends affirmative action against conservatives seeking to end it, arguing that the policy is necessary to move this nation toward racial equity and justice. This volume includes an introduction, an index, and chapter notes. (KM)

A Proud Heritage: The Hispanic Library

Kent, Deborah. *Migrant Farm Workers: Hoping for a Better Life*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2005. 40 pp. ISBN 1-5929-6386-3, \$19.95.

Stein, Conrad. *Spanish Missionaries: Bringing Spanish Culture to the Americas*. Chanhassen, Minn.: The Child's World, 2005. 40 pp. ISBN 1-5929-6387-0, \$19.95.

The two new volumes in this 22-book series are intended for grades three through eight. This series informs students

about the diverse histories of the Hispanic people and their growing influence on the future of the United States.

The full-color and historical photos in these two books capture, respectively, the migrant farm workers in their everyday surroundings and the stately Spanish missions built by missionaries throughout the western United States. Many historical and biographical sidebars are included as well.

The historical narratives highlight the daily lives and contributions of the people covered. *Migrant Farm Workers* introduces young students to the history and struggles of people of Hispanic heritage who travel throughout the United States in order to find work and make a better life for the next generation. *Spanish Missionaries* relates how the Spanish created settlements and spread Christianity and their way of life to indigenous Americans between 1500 and 1800. Both volumes include a time line, a glossary, book lists, web sites, and an index. (KM)

Rough Guides to World Music

*The Rough Guide to Astor Piazzolla*. London: World Music Network, 2005. 1 CD: 65 minutes, 23 seconds. \$14.98.

*The Rough Guide to Central Asia*. London: World Music Network, 2005. 1 CD: 72 minutes, 8 seconds. \$14.98.

*The Rough Guide to Zydeco*. London: World Music Network, 2005. 1 CD: 72 minutes, 19 seconds. \$14.98.

The three musical recordings in this series are geared to students and adult listeners, exposing them to less well-known musical genres. Liner notes enhance the value of the recordings, which introduce the tango, music from the Silk Road civilizations, and the Zydeco music of Louisiana.

Piazzolla is one of the greatest tango musicians—a composer, arranger, and bandleader. He was daring and experimental and not afraid to infuse the Argentine tango with jazz, classical avant-garde, and African percussion.

The lively music of Central Asia brings to life Silk Road travels on camel trains hundreds of years ago. The music ranges from Tajik rap to the National Ensemble of the Presidential Orchestra of Afghanistan, from instrumentals of long-necked lutes to popular singers who have appeared in the West.

The spirited Zydeco dance music of the Louisiana Creoles originated from the French settlers and was influenced by the blues, soul, rap, and hip-hop. The CD features Zydeco legends such as Clifton Chenier and Buckwheat Zydeco.

These diverse types of music will enhance and enrich the lives of young students, teachers, and parents. The CDs can supplement a history or social studies lesson guided by the teacher, adding a new dimension to the unit. (KM)

Signature Lives

Haugen, Brenda. *Frederick Douglass: Slave, Writer, Abolitionist*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-0818-5, \$30.60.

Haugen, Brenda. *Harriet Beecher Stowe: Author and Advocate*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2005. 111 pp. ISBN 0-7565-0822-3, \$30.60.

These inspiring biographies are tailored for elementary and middle school students and are especially useful for research projects. Detailed and well-documented information is presented about the famous nineteenth-century Americans Douglass and Stowe. Both had a deep hatred of slavery, which motivated them to fight hard against it.

Douglass was born into slavery. His passion for freedom propelled him to learn how to read and write and later use these skills. He published an antislavery newspaper that described the ruthlessness and brutality of slavery. Stowe used her gift of writing to fight against slavery in her now classic book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Both volumes include time lines interwoven with world events, "Lives at a Glance," additional resources, a glossary, special notes, a selected bibliography, and an index. (KM)

#### Trailblazer Biographies

Marquez, Heron. *Roberto Clemente: Baseball's Humanitarian Hero*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Carolrhoda, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-57505-767-0, \$27.93 (list); \$20.95 (school/library).

This book for older elementary and middle school students is an in-depth biography of the famous baseball player with a focus on the efforts the athlete made to help others in need. It begins with his childhood in the slums of Puerto Rico and ends with the fulfillment of his dream of opening a sports center open to all children, although his dream was realized 15 years after his early death in a plane crash while flying relief supplies to earthquake survivors in Nicaragua.

The volume includes historical sidebars, numerous black-and-white pictures, a list of "Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award" recipients, career statistics, awards won by Clemente, a comprehensive time line, source notes, a selected bibliography, a list of web sites, and an index. (KM)

#### Undergraduate Companions Series

Straley, Dona S. *Arab Writers and Their Web Sites*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Libraries Unlimited, 2004. 204 pp. ISBN 1-59158-118-4, \$29.95 (pb).

In the age of Google, the necessity for a guide to web sites may seem questionable. However, this listing of 200 writers (limited to those who write in Arabic) has several added features: indices by nationality and time period; a guide to the various spellings of Arabic names; and a selection of research tips. In addition, the one to four web sites (in most cases) given for each author are followed by references for printed translations of their works and selected works of biography and criticism. The other value of the book is that, with a topic as little explored as Arab writers, students would not be

likely to even know the names of writers to search for on the Web, with the exception of a few of the more famous here, such as Kahlil Gibran (included for writing in both English and Arabic) and the Nobel Prize-winning Naguib Mahfouz.

Just as the "Web Sites" in the book's title seems too limited to describe the more general bibliography provided, so, too, the series title could perhaps be expanded from "Undergraduate Companions." Graduate students, and serious readers in the subject, could benefit from the listings here. Few high school students would be studying Arab literature in enough depth to make much use of this volume, but some might be interested in this series' other four entries, those on women poets and women writers, and on English Renaissance and American writers. (LS)

#### Virtual Field Trips

Coleman, Wim and Perrin, Pat. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 49 pp. ISBN 0-7660-5225-7, \$25.26 (list); \$18.95 (library/school).

Written for fourth through eighth grade students, this series offers a unique way to learn. Rather than sitting at a desk, students travel on a virtual field trip to historic landmarks via a book and about 30 linked Internet sites. Through the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, students learn about the life and work of the nation's most famous civil rights leader and visit his childhood home, his neighborhood, and his church. Also covered are locations of major events in the civil rights movement where Dr. King was present.

This volume includes full-color photographs and illustrations; 30 Report Links that provide quality Internet sites for further research, a fast facts page, maps, a time line, chapter notes, a further reading list, and an index. (KM)

#### The Way People Live

Dunn, John M. *Life in Castro's Cuba*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-464-5, \$28.70.

Hall, Eleanor J. *Life Among the Aztecs*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-160-3, \$28.70.

Wukovits, John F. *Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-273-1, \$28.70.

This series for students at the middle school level and above now has more than 50 entries. *Life in Castro's Cuba* depicts everyday life for Cubans, with frequent mention of the problems they face because of widespread poverty and political repression; the book's introduction is titled "Cuba: A Troubled Paradise." The book on Aztec life is divided into chapters on family, government and law, education, architecture and arts, economy, warfare, and religion. *Life in the*

*Negro Baseball Leagues* describes the conditions faced by players excluded from the major leagues because of race, notable teams and players, and the people who played a role in the eventual integration of baseball.

The books are illustrated with a number of black-and-white photos and illustrations. The Aztec entry includes several reproductions of intriguing drawings from a visual history of the Aztecs that was created shortly after the Spanish Conquest. The books also have a number of sidebars with excerpts from books on their subjects. One sidebar is titled "The Aztec Fashion Police," and it describes the strict requirements (in some cases, breaking them was punishable by death) for acceptable dress and accessories among different classes of people in Aztec society. Each volume contains annotated resource lists and an index. Other recently published multicultural entries in this series include *Life Among the Inca* and *Life Under the Taliban*. (KM)

#### We're From

Parker, Victoria. *Australia*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5782-4, \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Parker, Victoria. *Egypt*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5783-2, \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Parker, Victoria. *Greece*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5784-0, \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Parker, Victoria. *India*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5785-9, \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Parker, Victoria. *Japan*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5786-7, \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

Parker, Victoria. *Mexico*. Chicago: Heinemann, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4034-5787-5, \$24.21 (list); \$16.95 (library).

This eye-catching series for students in kindergarten through second grade captures the lifestyle of children in other parts of the world. The text is written in clear, concise sentences with big, bold fonts. Full-color portraits of children decorate each book cover, inviting the young student into a journey to the faraway land.

Three young tour guides who have distinctly different lifestyles take students around each country. Through full-page color photos and graphics, readers learn about each country's geography, culture, history, food, and other aspects of daily life.

This series illustrates the diversity of lifestyles through the eyes of children. For example, Kari, a young boy from Egypt, lives in one of the many modern apartment buildings in Cairo. He attends school and likes to play computer games. In contrast, six-year-old Hamida, who lives in the Sinai Desert, does not attend school. She often stays at a Bedouin camp in the mountains. Choti, seven, lives with her family and extended family in Rajasthan, India, on a small farm with no electricity or running water. The children from Japan have regular earthquake practice with hard hats.

Although the series is written for young children, the information in the volumes deals with reality, as shown in *Australia* where the author reveals the injustices through the years toward the indigenous people. Parker tells how the white people settled in Australia over 250 years ago and took away the Aboriginals' land. A young Aboriginal boy named Dylan is introduced to students. He takes them on a tour through the desert where he lives with his family.

Each book includes a table of contents, a fact file, a full-color map, a language lesson, a glossary, a book list, and an index. All features are user-friendly for young children. (KM)

#### Wonders of the World

Goldhill, Simon. *The Temple of Jerusalem*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 2005. 194 pp. ISBN 0-674-01797-8, \$19.95.

In language understandable to readers high school age and up, Goldhill tells the story of the Jews' Second Temple in a clear, concise fashion. The Temple was built by the Roman Emperor Herod and destroyed a short time later, in 70 C.E., by the Roman emperor Titus, an event that led to the 1,900-year Jewish Diaspora. The area continues to be a sacred place to Jews, Christians, and Muslims and is currently a flash point of conflict in the Middle East. The story of the Temple is important because it continues to directly affect millions of people in that part of the world, and because of the Middle East's geopolitical position, it indirectly affects the world as a whole. The book includes a reading list, an index, an explanation about different calendars and translations, and a comprehensive listing of the black-and-white photos and illustrations placed throughout. (KM)

#### World Art & Culture

Barber, Nicola. *Islamic Art & Culture*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1105-5, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

Bingham, Jane. *Aboriginal Art & Culture*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1106-3, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

Hibbert, Clare. *Chinese Art & Culture*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1107-1, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

January, Brendan. *Native American Art & Culture*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1108-X, \$31.36 (list); \$21.95 (library).

The four oversized volumes in this outstanding eight-book series are designed for students in grades six through eight. Each cover displays a vivid full-color photo of art that reflects an aspect of the particular culture. For example, the Chinese volume shows a large mask painted with vivid colors. Each

color has a specific meaning. For example, red means loyalty and black, bravery. White can mean cunning and yellow, the character acts without thinking.

The World Art & Culture series examines the decorative and functional art and design of each culture. The text explains how the art ties in to the culture. Every kind of art is considered, such as fine art, architecture, music and theater, cookware, clothing, and textiles. Numerous large full-color photos and illustrations throughout each volume will help students to understand how the art reflects culture.

Feature boxes contribute intriguing information on a particular topic. For example, before printing, the Chinese used rubbings to copy words and pictures. The Aborigines created bark panels by stripping a sheet of bark, and the Chinese fashioned cast pots with detailed patterns by using wax molds.

All books in this series include an in-depth table of contents and a comprehensive introduction that consists of history, large photos of art, and maps. For instance, the Native American map shows the locations of the different tribes in the United States and Canada. Also included in these volumes are further reading, web sites, places to visit, an extended glossary, and a detailed index. (KM)

#### A World View of Social Issues

Schmitz, Cathryne L.; Traver, Elizabeth KimJin; and Larson, Desi, eds. *Child Labor: A Global View*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 221 pp. ISBN 0-313-32277-5, \$49.95.

This up-to-date survey will inspire middle through high school students to want to take action against child labor and fight for the rights of children. The book explores conditions and issues of child labor in 15 countries and what can be done to stop this practice. Students will learn that child labor occurs not only in other countries but in the United States, too. Today, a large number of children work around the world; their jobs include prostitution, drug trafficking, and fighting in wars. Child labor is a complex social and political issue that has a long history. Although poverty promotes child labor, other factors such as lack of education, greed, and family size contribute.

The introduction presents an in-depth overview of child labor. The table of contents is organized by country. Each chapter contains its own bibliography. Biographical information on the contributors follows the main text.

Each chapter, written by a child labor expert from the specific country, describes the prevalence and conditions of child labor, the history of the problem, political policies and social aspects, and outlook for the future.

This is an excellent research source for student reports. But while it is written about children, the style is academic and from an adult point of view. Although child labor is an important subject for young people to study, they might not be drawn to this book because of its highly academic/research style and small print. A possible way to introduce the work to teens might be in a classroom setting and/or

under the guidance of parents. (KM)

#### NEW EDITIONS IN OTHER MEDIA

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*. New York: Listening Library/Random House, 2004. 3 audiocassettes; 5 hours, 20 min. Unabridged. Read by the author. ISBN 1-4000-8528-4, \$25.00.

Alvarez, the author of such novels for adults as *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*, emigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States when she was ten, as her family sought to escape the oppression of the last years of the Trujillo dictatorship. She explains in the Author's Note preceding her audio reading of this young adult novel that this story is intended to give testimony for those who stayed behind, and it is based in part on the experiences of her uncle (who spent some months in prison for suspected opposition to the regime) and her cousins and aunt.

The story begins in 1960 and is told by a 12-year-old girl named Anita who goes to an American school in the Dominican Republic. Her uncle has disappeared, her father is under suspicion from the government, and her family eventually must go into hiding. Anita gradually grows more aware of the fearful state of Dominican society at the time, and of the very difficult choices she and her family face. This novel is an affecting and suspenseful portrait of a young girl's life in a terrible time. (LS)

Alvarez, Julia. *Finding Miracles*. New York: Listening Library/Random House, 2004. 4 audiocassettes; 6 hours, 17 min. Read by Daphne Ruben-Vega. ISBN 1-4000-9047-4, \$26.00.

The narrator of this young adult novel is a Vermont teenager named Milly Kaufman, who was adopted from a Central American country (unnamed here), but who is afraid that people will find out about her different heritage and think of her as less than 100 percent American. When Pablo Bolivar, a native of the same country and a fellow ninth grader, moves to town with his family, Milly is forced to confront her own background. Eventually, Milly travels to her native country with the Bolivars, where she learns much about its tragic history and her own origins. Alvarez's writing, and Daphne Ruben-Vega's reading of it here, effectively convey Milly's worries and uncertainties both about being a teenager and about facing difficult questions of identity as a member of two minorities in her Vermont town: an adopted child and a Latina. (LS)

Bordewich, Fergus. *The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005. 5 compact discs; 6 hours. Abridged version of *Bound for Canaan*. Read by the author. ISBN 0-06-076064-8, \$29.95.

This complex, well-researched account brings the Underground Railroad to life for older elementary, middle,

and high school students as well as adult listeners. They will learn that the Underground Railroad was the first racially integrated, religiously inspired movement for social change. In his own voice, Bordewich, a journalist and popular historian, tells the story of how ordinary Americans, black and white, slave and free, created the network to deliver thousands of slaves to freedom in the decades before as well as during the Civil War. They will meet David Ruggles, the man who invented the black underground in New York City, Quakers Isaac Hopper and Levi Coffin, who risked their lives to build the Underground Railroad, and Harriet Tubman, a runaway slave who refused to give up once she attained her own freedom. (KM)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*. New York: Listening Library/Random House, 2004. 5 compact discs; 6 hours, 10 minutes. Unabridged. Read by Michael Boatman. ISBN 1-4000-9097-8, \$30.00.

Luther's trapped in an unhappy life with his mother, the Sarge, a self-centered person with evil ways. He experiences emotional abuse at the hands of the Sarge and her boyfriend but never gives up. Soon he conjures a plan to escape and live out his dreams. At one point, the story refers to Luther's condom, which shows that he takes responsibility for his own actions as he considers safe sex. The award-winning author portrays believable African-American teens facing real-life problems as they struggle toward independence. Boatman, an actor on Broadway and in films and television, delivers a capable reading. (KM)

Dhami, Narinder. *Bindi Babes*. New York: Listening Library/Random House, 2004. 3 cassettes; 4 hours, 21 minutes. Unabridged. Read by Nima Wadia. ISBN 1-4000-8538-1, \$25.00.

The author, a former schoolteacher, creates believable characters and situations through her lively writing style. Television and film actress Wadia's reading is up to the challenges of this dialogue-heavy story, bringing it alive for the older elementary and middle school listener. The main characters, three middle-school-aged sisters, successfully convince their dad and everyone at school (including themselves) that they have adjusted to their mother's death a year earlier. They are perfect in every way—good students, kind, with proper manners, popular, beautiful, and skilled at repressing their feelings. Their illusion unravels, however, when their father invites his sister from India to live with them. Meddling Auntie is the catalyst for the sisters to move forward in their grieving process. (KM)


Ishiguro, Kazuo. *When We Were Orphans*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005. 9 compact discs; 10 1/2 hours. Unabridged. Read by John Lee. ISBN 0-06-082489-1, \$39.95.

This story will intrigue high school and undergraduate students and at the same time educate them about world histo-

ry. Recounting the efforts of celebrity detective Christopher Banks to ascertain the fate of his parents, who disappeared years earlier, Ishiguro recreates the turbulence and political tension of the 1930s. In the course of the novel, listeners follow Britain's involvement in the opium trade, battles between Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists and the Communists, and the Japanese invasion of China. The award-winning writer is a master of narration. The scenes come alive as Lee, the reader, skillfully uses Ishiguro's words to pump life into the characters and advance the story. (KM)

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Becoming Naomi León*. New York: Listening Library/Random House, 2004. 3 audiocassettes; 4 hours, 14 min. Read by Annie Kozuch. ISBN 1-4000-9087-3, \$25.00.

In this novel for students at the middle school level, Naomi Soledad León Outlaw is a fifth grader living with her grandmother and her younger brother Owen (who has a physical disability) in a California trailer park. After seven years away, their mother, Skyla, reappears in their lives. Naomi eventually learns that Skyla would like to regain custody of her (but of not Owen), mainly so that Naomi can be around to babysit the child of her boyfriend, Clive.

As part of the custody battle, Naomi, Owen, and their grandmother travel to Mexico with a neighbor couple to search for the children's biological father, a wood-carver named Santiago. Through her experiences in Mexico, including a well-described arts festival in Oaxaca, Naomi learns much about herself. This audio version's reading of the story is fairly effective, though it does not create a very specific voice for its 11-year-old narrator. (LS) 

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