

Editor's Shelf

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by Kathryn Mora

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

Bloom, Suzanne. *Nuestro autobús/The Bus for Us*. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2001, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. by the author. Bilingual (Spanish-English) ed. Spanish translation by Aída E. Marcuse. ISBN 978-1-59078-629-1, \$7.95 (pb).

In this energetic and delightful bilingual edition of a picture book first published in English in 2001, Bloom creates bigger-than-life characters. Her lively text and colorful, eye-catching illustrations bring the characters to life. This story will excite the young as a read-aloud book as well as a book for learning Spanish and English. It will also help them feel more comfortable about their first ride on a school bus.

Kantor, Martin. *Homophobia: The State of Sexual Bigotry Today*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2009. 190 pp. Second ed. ISBN 978-0-313-35925-5, \$44.95

Ten years ago psychiatrist Kantor wrote this ground-breaking book about homophobia that showed the harmful effects of sexual bigotry. This new volume focuses on the state of sexual intolerance today. Also included in this volume are insights for gays and lesbians that will help them understand homophobia in order to protect themselves, cope, and work together toward change. Parents, other family members, and friends will also find the book beneficial.

In the new edition, Kantor explores incidents of hatred, prejudice, and discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons in the United States. He explores how little attitudes have changed from when Matthew Shephard was beaten and left to die because of his sexual orientation. Kantor concludes that today's changes are only on the surface. He takes the reader through the city streets to hospitals and schools, radio and television stations, churches and police departments, to show that homophobia still exists. Education alone will not change people's attitudes and suggests that the psychoneurotic dimension of "homohatred" also needs to be

revealed and explored.

Kantor, a retired staff psychiatrist for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey, is the author of 13 other books.

Lee, Stacey J. *Unraveling the "Model Minority" Stereotype: Listening to Asian American Youth*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2009. 176 pp. Second ed. Foreword by Christine Sleeter. ISBN 978-0-8077-4973-9, \$24.95 (pb).

In this new volume Lee expands her research on the educational experiences and achievement of Asian-American teens. A comprehensive update of social science research reveals the ways that the large structures of race and class affect the lives of the Asian-American high school students she interviewed for the original edition. Lee focuses on the experiences of Korean, Chinese, and Hmong students as they offer their perspective on identity and interethnic relations in their own words. For anyone who is interested in Asian-American youth and their experiences in United States schools, this is a must read.

Reyes, David, and Waldman, Tom. *Land of a Thousand Dances: Chicano Rock 'n' Roll from Southern California*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2009. 200 pp. Revised ed. ISBN 978-0-8263-4722-0, \$21.95 (pb).

Land of a Thousand Dances was inspired in fall 1978 in West Covina, California, when Reyes and Waldman listened to "We Belong Together" by Robert & Johnny and "Sincerely" by the Moonglows at Tower Records. They discussed the Chicano audience in Southern California, especially in East Los Angeles, and asked how Chicanos came to know about obscure R&B groups during the fifties and sixties. The two friends began to explore what it was about Chicano fans that made them care about those records more than most Black or White fans.

A new introduction and additional photos enhance this edition, along with a new preface. The volume is divided into two parts, "Corridos, Boleros, and R&B: Early Rockin' Days in East LA" and "Rock and Revolutions: Rockin' in LA, 1970."

Reyes is an activist and a historian of Chicano music, a classical music composer, and a musician. Waldman is author of *Not Much Left: The Fate of Liberalism in America* (2008). Both men are noted authorities on the history of Chicano rock 'n' roll.

Tafolla, Carmen. *What Can You Do with a Paleta?/¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* Berkeley, Calif.: Tricycle Press, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by Magaly Morales. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. ISBN 978-1-58246-289-9, \$14.99.

This delightful bilingual story is accompanied by vivid jewel-toned illustrations. The main character is a little girl who uses her vivid

imagination to explore all the things she can do with her *paleta*, an icy fruit popsicle treat in Mexico. They are sold from a wagon with a “tingling” bell that attracts children from neighborhoods far and wide. “Pale-ta-a-a-as,” the man yells. Children will love this whimsical tale.

Tafolla, Carmen. *What Can You Do with a Rebozo?/¿Qué puedes hacer con un rebozo?* Berkeley, Calif.: Tricycle Press, 2008, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. by Amy Córdova. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. ISBN 978-1-58246-270-7, \$14.99.

First published in 2008 in English and now in a bilingual edition, this endearing story is about a spunky Mexican-American girl who learns about the many uses of her mother’s long scarf, called a *rebozo*. The vibrant illustrations dance with the text and will make this book attractive to all young children and their parents who read to them too. Córdova’s illustrations received a Pura Belpré honor award in January 2009.

Umansky, Ellen M., and Ashton, Dianne, eds. *Four Generations of Jewish Women’s Spirituality: A Sourcebook*. Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England/Brandeis Univ. Press, 2009. 408 pp. Revised ed. ISBN 978-1-58465-730-9, \$29.95 (pb).

When published in 1992 this book became an immediate classic of Jewish feminism. The revised and expanded edition of spiritual writings reflects the changes since the first edition, such as the associations of Jewish women that have formed and that include a wide spectrum of religious beliefs and practices. Orthodox women have made their voices about issues and concerns more public in their communities. Reflection on Jewish religious and self-identity is offered through the eyes of over 100 Jewish women. The new volume addresses the changes that have taken place since the first edition. The spiritual writings are divided into “Part I. 1355–1523: Earlier Voices”; “Part II. 1560–1865: Traditional Voices”; “Part III. 1842–1934: Innovative Voices”; “Part IV. 1935–1989: Urgent Voices”; and “Part V. 1988–2007: Contemporary Voices.”

A revised preface and a section titled “Piety, Persuasion, & Friendship: A History of Jewish Women’s Spirituality” are new to this edition. Indexed.

Warren, William W. *History of the Ojibway People*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2009. 448 pp. Second ed. Edited and annotated, with an introduction by Theresa Schenck. ISBN 978-0-87351-643-3, \$22.95 (pb).

The Minnesota Historical Society first published this book by Warren in 1885, and since then it has been considered a classic source on Ojibway history and culture. Warren, the son of an Ojibwe woman, wrote his history to save the traditional stories for posterity. He collected the first-hand descriptions from relatives, tribal leaders, and acquaintances.

This edition has new annotations researched and written by Professor Theresa Schenck. The new introduction, also written by Schenck, gives a clear and concise history of the text and the author. Schenck is an associate professor in the American Indian Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison; author of *William W. Warren: The Life, Letters, and Times of an Ojibwe*; and *The Voice of*

the Crane Echoes Afar: The Sociopolitical Organization of the Lake Superior Ojibwa, 1640–1855.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Greenfield, Eloise. *Paul Robeson*. New York: Lee & Low, 2009, 1975. 40 pp. Illus. by George Ford. ISBN 978-1-60060-256-6, \$18.95.

The early years of this talented singer and unforgettable man are the subject of this award-winning title, again available for young and old to read. The author and illustrator, both multiple-time recipients of Coretta Scott King honors, capture the greatness and strength of Robeson through clear and direct writing complemented by expressive black-and-white illustrations. First published by Crowell, this inspiring biography has returned to print through the efforts of Lee & Low.

Romero, Orlando. *Nambé Year One*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2009, 1975. 152 pp. Foreword by Thomas E. Chávez. ISBN 978-0-8263-4632-2, \$19.95 (pb).

Out of print for over 30 years, the novel *Nambé Year One* is a philosophical and metaphysical self-exploration into faith, heritage, and humanity. The story is about the folklore of the indigenous peoples and the migrant Gypsies and Payasos who lived in the mountains of northern New Mexico many years ago. The author is also a novelist, a sculptor, and a santero (a person who makes religious images) as well as the retired library director of the Palace of the Governors Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe. This reprint edition contains a new foreword by Thomas E. Chavez, the former director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Vennum, Thomas. *The Ojibwa Dance Drum: Its History and Construction*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1982, 2009. 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-87351-642-6, \$19.95 (pb).

This reprint of *The Ojibwa Dance Drum* is recognized as a significant work about the customs and cultures of woodland Indians. This book was originally created over 25 years ago through the collaboration of Ojibwa drum maker and singer William Bineshi Baker Sr. and Vennum, a folklorist who served as an ethnomusicologist at the Smithsonian Institution. Rick St. Germaine, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, contributes a new afterword that discusses the research behind this book and updates readers on the recent history of the Ojibwa drum dance.

FIRST U.S. PUBLICATION/DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE IN ENGLISH

Husain, Ed. *The Islamist: Why I Became an Islamic Fundamentalist, What I Saw Inside, and Why I Left*. New York: Penguin, 2007, 2009. 300 pp. ISBN 978-0-14-311598-4, \$16.00 (pb).

Raised in a devout and quiet Indian Muslim community in London, Husain shares intimate details about his journey into the world of Islamic fundamentalism and what motivated him to leave the movement. Husain felt that he and others were lured by “ambitiously fundamentalist tenets” that soon became his life. After experiencing much personal and political turmoil as a fundamentalist, he left five years later and tried to return to a normal life. As he came to realize the threat Islamic fundamentalism created for its members, for others, and for society as a whole, he decided to tell his story. His account is based on his own first-hand experiences and includes the devious methods used to recruit new members. He shares his insight into why extremism has appeal to young Muslims in the Western world.

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

Aftermath of History

Beller, Susan Provost. *The Aftermath of the Mexican Revolution*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books. 160 pp. ISBN 978-0-8225-7600-6, \$38.60 (list), \$31.95 (school/library).

Gay, Kathlyn. *The Aftermath of the Chinese Nationalist Revolution*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books. 160 pp. ISBN 978-0-8225-7601-3, \$38.60 (list), \$31.95 (school/library).

Written at an eighth grade reading level and with a level of sophistication appropriate for high schoolers, these series volumes focus on the political, economic, and social aftermath of key moments in history.

The Aftermath of the Mexican Revolution reveals that the revolution began in 1910 due to failed land reform policies of Mexico’s despotic president, Porfirio Diaz. Although after the revolution, Mexicans were able to vote for the first time, the underlying problems that led to the revolution still persisted. The victorious party, the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party), maintained its power despite corruption and inequality for more than 70 years. *The Aftermath of the Chinese Nationalist Revolution* describes the decades of turmoil and years of struggle after the 1911 revolution. Much of this was due to outside factors, like the Japanese invasion and occupation from 1931 to 1945. The book covers the rising power of the Chinese Communist Party and the outbreak of World War II in 1939. The end of the world war and the Japanese occupation led to years of civil war within China, the triumph of Communist forces in 1949, and the continued suffering of the Chinese people.

Features of this series include a section of additional facts, mini-biographies of important people, photo captions, a pronunciation guide, photos, primary source quotations, sidebars, a bibliography and web sites, a glossary, maps, a chronology, and an index.

Artists of the American Mosaic

Everett, Deborah, and Zorn, Elayne. *Encyclopedia of Native American Artists*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2008. 270 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-33762-8, \$74.95.

This series highlights art by North Americans of diverse heritages who have made important contributions for years and years and have not always been acknowledged. *Encyclopedia of Native American Artists* presents a broad selection of Native artists and their work and provides in-depth information to readers, high school and up. Genres are varied, from painting and sculpture to woodcarving and fiber arts. A wide range of tribal and regional backgrounds and geographic locations are represented. While the authors are not Native, they are trained in fine arts and have spent over four decades working with, researching, and writing about Native people in North and South America. Everett has painted, made sculptures, and created installations, and Zorn is a specialist in fiber arts. The 70 biographies in this book offer a sense of the depth of the artists’ achievements, the impact they have had on other artists, and the uniqueness of the artists’ visions. This book shows the facets of Native American experience that are fundamentally different from that of any other group in North America.

This series contains a glossary, black-and-white and color photos, a general bibliography, and an index.

Authors Teens Love

Angel, Ann. *Amy Tan: Weaver of Asian-American Tales*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 128 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-2962-0, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Best-selling novelist Tan is the most well-known Asian-American author today. She focuses on relationships between mothers and daughters in her novels. Her stories are based on what she knows—her relationship with her mother. Readers, middle school and up, will enjoy this volume, especially if they have aspirations to become writers. Most of the biographies represent original research with the authors or their families through personal interviews and visits to their studios, along with the study of archival collections and attending their readings.

Tan is the recipient of many awards for her numerous novels. Her first novel, *The Joy Luck Club* was on the New York Times bestseller list for 40 weeks. The awards for that novel included National Book Award Finalist, The National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, the National Endowment for the Art’s Big Read, and many more.

This volume also includes quotations “In Her Own Words,” a chronology, selected works of Amy Tan, awards, chapter notes, a glossary, critical sources, Internet addresses, and an index.

Country Explorers

Dell’Oro, Suzanne Paul. *Argentina*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2009. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9413-0, \$27.93.

O’Connor, Karen. *Vietnam*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2009. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9415-4, \$27.93.

Oluonye, Mary N. *South Africa*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2009. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9411-6, \$27.93.

Elementary and middle school students will appreciate this well-organized and well-written series with vivid color photos and illus-

trations on each page. Each volume is organized in chapters that include geography, history and customs, food, information about the people, and much more. Captions over the photos are bold, and the text is presented in a large font with clear, concise sentences.

Argentina features a large photo of waterfalls cascading over a mountain range on the cover, identified as Iguazu Falls. Other photos depict the pampas, the mountains, and urban life in Buenos Aires. History is a major topic of the Vietnam volume. There is a brief description of the war against the French that ended in 1954 and the U.S. involvement in the civil war that ended in the Communist victory in 1975, accompanied by a large picture of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. *South Africa* guides the reader through the country's landscape to Johannesburg and the wildlife of Kruger National Park. The book covers the country's recent history as well, including the struggle against apartheid, continued inequalities during the post-apartheid government, and the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Each volume includes a flag of the featured country, "Fast Facts," a glossary, additional resources, and an index.

Defining Moments

Hillstrom, Laurie Collier. *The Voting Rights Act of 1965*. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 2009. 244 pp. ISBN 978-0-7808-1048-8, \$49.00.

The events that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are described in this volume and provide a valuable resource for high school and college classes and general readers who have an interest in our nation's history. Topics deal with racial discrimination, violence in the South, and the civil rights protests that influenced American voting rights.

The volume is divided into three sections. "Narrative Overview" provides readers with a detailed and factual account of the origins and progression of the civil rights movement in general as well as the specific legislation to protect voting rights and Black representation. "Biographies" covers the leading figures of the movement, and "Primary Source Documents" includes official documents, papers and resolutions, letters, oral histories, memoirs, editorials, and newspaper articles.

Following the text are a chronology, sources for further study, a glossary, and an index.

Easy-to-Read Spooky Tales

Charles, Veronika Martenova. *Don't Eat That!* Toronto: Tundra Books, 2009. 56 pp. Illus. by David Parkins. ISBN 978-0-88776-857-6, \$5.95 (pb).

Charles, Veronika Martenova. *Don't Enter the House!* Toronto: Tundra Books, 2009. 56 pp. Illus. by David Parkins. ISBN 978-0-88776-856-9, \$5.95 (pb).

Charles, Veronika Martenova. *Don't Talk to Strangers!* Toronto: Tundra Books, 2009. 56 pp. Illus. by David Parkins. ISBN 978-0-88776-847-7, \$5.95 (pb).

The award-winning author and the illustrator have created a series that is not only informational but also entertaining. Young readers, ages five through eight, will find the short lines and large print invit-

ing and accessible.

In *Don't Eat That!* the three stories that take place in Australia, Italy, and Eastern Europe depict mishaps involving food. The multiethnic characters get themselves into ridiculous situations with funny outcomes. In *Don't Enter The House!* haunted houses, scary cats, and witches are the topics of stories set in Japan and the United States. The strangers in *Don't Talk to Strangers!* are headless trolls, pointy-eared people, and long-lost "aunties" who find pleasure in eating their guests. The stores are from Scandinavia, Sierra Leone, and Iraq.

Each volume includes an afterword and a note on "Where the Stories Come From."

Facts About Countries

Flatt, Lizann. *India*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-117-3, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Graham, Ian. *The Caribbean*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-114-2, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Graham, Ian. *Pakistan*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-118-0, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Graham, Ian. *Spain*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-119-7, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

March, Michael. *Bangladesh*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-113-5, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Oliver, Clare. *Great Britain*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-116-6, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Rau, Dana Meachen. *Australia*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-112-8, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Tidmarsh, Celia. *France*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-59771-115-9, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Students in third grade and up will find a comprehensive survey of these countries of the world. Each title includes information about the people, culture, geography, history, and much more. The well-organized information and appealing format will entice readers to read more about the featured countries. Vivid color photos, charts, graphs, maps, and annotated web sites give the books a lively, up-to-date feel. This series also includes each country's flag and basic statistics.

Flatt, a magazine editor and author of many nonfiction books for children, provides accurate information about India in an upbeat tone. For example, under "Education" she writes, "Education in India is getting better. In 1951 only 18 percent of the people could

read. By 2000, 58 percent could read.” In “The People” section of *The Caribbean* graphs with accompanying web site addresses show the number of people in Jamaica by age. Readers see that Jamaica has many more children and teenagers in proportion to the rest of the population than the United States. In contrast to the other volumes, which present just one country, this volume covers the various Anglophone countries of the region—Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, and more. Readers gain a comparative perspective, but depth and specificity are sacrificed. Pakistan is a country much in the news, and this series volume focuses a good deal of attention on its geography, thus providing a visual context for the daily news items. Readers learn through text and photos that this country has high mountains and fertile plains, with dry, dusty deserts (information less likely to become dated in this fast-changing region). Geography and landscape are also a focus of the volume on Spain, a country with much variation despite its relatively small size.

The full-page maps in each volume are detailed and easy to read, as exemplified in the “Welcome to Bangladesh” chapter. This volume gives readers a quick overview of the surrounding countries that have played an important role in Bangladesh’s recent history—notably India and Pakistan. “The Daily Life and Religion” chapter of *Great Britain* reveals the many similarities to life in the United States. The text is complemented with graphs that show the breakdown of religions.

Transportation as discussed in *Australia* and *France* is dissimilar in some ways, partly because the size of each country differs greatly, as shown in the “Database” section. The area of Australia is 2,966,152 square miles compared to only 211,208 square miles for France. However, the population in Australia is only 19,169,183 compared to France’s 58,519,000. Since Australia’s distances are greater, road travel is very popular, although railroads and airlines are used a lot, too. But, in France where there are more people, public transportation is used more often. For example, in Paris there is an elaborate subway system called the Metro with many stations no further than 550 yards from each other.

Following the text and fast facts section of each volume are a list of resources for further information and an index.

Famous Court Cases That Became Movies

Coleman, William, and Perrin, Pat. *Racism on Trial: From the Medgar Evers Murder Case to Ghosts of Mississippi*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 112 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3059-6, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (school/library).

This new series will interest readers ages eleven and up. The featured volume examines the trial of Byron De La Beckwith for the murder of civil rights activist Medgar Evers in Mississippi, the mistrials, and his conviction decades later. There are details about the key figures in the case and how this case became the inspiration for the Hollywood movie *Ghosts of Mississippi*.

Chapter notes, a glossary, further reading and Internet addresses, and an index complete this volume.

Green Integer

Ko Un. *Songs for Tomorrow: A Collection of Poems 1960–2000*. Los Angeles: Green Integer Press, 2008. 370 pp. Trans. from Korean by Brother Anthony, Young-moo Kim, and Gary Gach. Introduction by Ko Un. ISBN 978-1-933382-70-8, \$15.95 (pb).

Ko Un is recognized as one of the most notable living Korean writers and has been nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. He was born in 1933 in southwestern Korea, at that time a Japanese-controlled territory. During his adolescence he experienced the horrors of the Korean War.

The subjects in his poems vary from sleep, spring rain, earthworms, and compost to fruit, the moon, a spider, and much more. They reflect his Buddhist faith and his desire for peace. His love of poetry began one day when he picked up a book of poems from the side of the road on his way home from middle school. He spent the night reading it. Ko Un says he was “drenched in tears” by the time he finished and from then on wanted to be a poet.

Holidays—Count and Celebrate!

McKissack, Fredrick, Jr., and McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Chinese New Year—Count and Celebrate!* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 32 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3101-2, \$22.60 (list), \$16.95 (school/library).

McKissack, Fredrick, Jr., and McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Christmas—Count and Celebrate!* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 32 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3103-6, \$22.60 (list), \$16.95 (school/library).

McKissack, Fredrick, Jr., and McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Cinco de Mayo—Count and Celebrate!* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 32 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3104-3, \$22.60 (list), \$16.95 (school/library).

McKissack, Fredrick, Jr., and McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Kwanzaa—Count and Celebrate!* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 32 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3102-9, \$22.60 (list), \$16.95 (school/library).

McKissack, Fredrick, Jr., and McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Count and Celebrate!* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 32 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3105-0, \$22.60 (list), \$16.95 (school/library).

McKissack, Fredrick, Jr., and McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Ramadan—Count and Celebrate!* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 32 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3100-5, \$22.60 (list), \$16.95 (school/library).

This new six-book series for preschool and kindergarten teaches young students about the major holidays of the world through numbers. The easy-to-comprehend text and the color photos and illustrations in each volume will enchant readers and expand their knowledge and skills.

The McKissacks offer details about holidays and show how they

are celebrated throughout the world. Young readers learn about different cultures, their history, and the story behind each holiday. In *Chinese New Year—Count and Celebrate!* readers learn that this is a lunar holiday that starts with the first new moon of the year. *Christmas—Count and Celebrate!* tells about the birth of Jesus, celebrated on December 25 of each year, along with the ways Christmas is celebrated by Christians throughout the world. *Cinco de Mayo—Count and Celebrate!* teaches about the holiday celebrated in Mexico on the fifth day of May. This is not Mexican Independence Day (celebrated in September) but rather the day that the Mexican army won the battle against French invaders.

Numbers are woven into each holiday story. Young readers absorb the concepts of counting along with the visual of the flag in *Kwanzaa—Count and Celebrate!* The flag has three colors, and the holiday has eight days. *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Count and Celebrate!* asks, “How many leaders are in the photograph?” or “How many kids help plant a garden?” The reader also has a chance to be actively involved with the story in *Ramadan—Count and Celebrate!* which at one point asks how many girls are reading the Qur’an in a picture. This page, showing girls reading the Islamic holy text, represents an effort to go beyond the stereotype of Islam as a religion that excludes girls and women from participation.

A section for parents and teachers contains more in-depth information about the featured holiday. The books conclude with a glossary, additional resources, and an index.

Lifeline Biographies

Krohn, Katherine. *Oprah Winfrey: Global Media Leader*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books. 112 pp. ISBN 978-1-58013-571-9, \$33.26 (list), \$27.95 (school/library).

Krohn, Katherine. *Vera Wang: Enduring Style*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books. 112 pp. ISBN 978-1-58013-572-6, \$33.26 (list), \$27.95 (school/library).

Roberts, Jeremy. *Tiger Woods: Golf’s Master*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books. 112 pp. ISBN 978-1-58013-569-6, \$33.26 (list), \$27.95 (school/library).

Developed in partnership with *USA Today*, this attractive series is designed for readers at the secondary level. The biographies are accessible even to reluctant readers and feature people that students will find interesting.

Most people recognize Oprah on a first name basis. She developed her own unique talk show style more than two decades ago and now reaches millions of U.S. viewers weekly and millions more in other countries. She has her own magazine and production company and is the first African-American billionaire. Vera Wang, the fashion designer, is also a household name to most people. Young readers learn that she was born to wealthy Chinese-American parents and her interest in high fashion started at an early age. Wang worked as an editor for *Vogue* magazine, and not long after for Ralph Lauren. Unable to find a bridal gown she liked for her wedding, Wang designed her own. The next year she opened the Vera Wang Bridal House Ltd. In *Tiger Woods* readers learn about this “worldwide phenomenon” even though they most likely already know his name. He is definitely raising the bar for all golfers and continues to do that for himself, too.

Also contained in this series are a timeline, colorful sidebars, “In

Focus” sections and *USA Today* snapshots, detailed graphics and color photos, quotes, a glossary, source notes, a selected bibliography, web sites, and an index.

Masterplots II

Williams, Tyrone, ed. *African American Literature*. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem Press, 2008. 4 vols., 1,800 pp. Revised ed. ISBN 978-1-58765-438-1, \$404.00.

These four volumes contain new and revised essays plus updates of existing material. With 101 new essays added, the essays now total 367. Some of the new ones include critical summaries of memoirs by Maya Angelou, Jamaica Kincaid, Bebe Moore Campbell, and Toni Morrison; poetry by Cornelius Eady; criticism by Kwame Anthony Appiah; plays by Suzan-Lori Parks and George C. Wolfe; and young adult literature by Gwendolyn Brooks, Mildred D. Taylor, and Jacqueline Woodson. This series is the authoritative analysis of important works by African-American writers of all genres of long fiction, short fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction.

There are essays on individual titles by great novelists, playwrights, memoirists, historians, and critics, along with the works of major poets, short-story writers, essayists, and orators. Students, librarians, and teachers will have opportunity to explore African-American writing from colonial America to the twenty-first century.

Each essay begins with ready-reference information about the literary work and includes a title, subtitle, author’s name with birth/death dates, type of work, type of plot, time of plot or work, first produced date for plays, first published date, and a list of principal characters or personages with brief descriptions.

The main text of each essay is divided into several sections depending on the type of work. Works of fiction—novels, short-story collections, plays, and poetry collections—feature a first section called “The Novel,” “The Stories,” “The Play,” or “The Poems,” which describes the events or contents of the work, and includes a section called “Themes and Means.”

Essays on novels and short-story collections also include the heading “The Characters,” which offers in-depth discussion of one or more main characters. Nonfiction works feature the selections “Form and Content” and “Analysis.” All essays end with “Critical Context” and discuss the circumstances surrounding the writing and/or publication of the work, including such topics as its influences, reception, and place in the canon of African-American literature and literature in general.

The special features of this solid reference work include a trio of appendixes—a bibliography, a list of electronic resources, and a chronological list of titles. The book also contains three indexes—a type of work index, a title index, and an author index.

Modern Spiritual Masters

Forsthoefel, Thomas A., ed. *The Dalai Lama: Essential Writings*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2009. 157 pp. ISBN 978-1-57075-789-1, \$16.00 (pb).

Students, high school and up, and general readers receive a ba-

sic overview of the life and teachings of the fourteenth Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso), the spiritual leader of Tibet and the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. The Dalai Lama has lived in exile since 1959. Through his travels and bestselling books, he has spread the Buddhist precepts of wisdom and promoted peace and understanding among different religions.

This volume contains an introduction of The Teachings of Buddhism and is divided into four topics—"Wisdom," "Morality," "Meditation," and "Religions and the World."

Monumental Milestones

Gibson, Karen Bush. *The Historic Fight for the 2008 Democratic Presidential Nomination: The Obama View*. Newark, Del.: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2009. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-58415-732-8, \$29.95 (list), \$20.95 (school/library).

Each book in this series focuses on a candidate for the Democratic nomination in 2008 and highlights his or her platforms, the similarities and differences among the candidates, the campaign's relationship with the media, and what helped or hindered each candidate for the ticket.

People in the United States and throughout the world were aware that history would be made if Barack Obama received first the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination and ultimately the presidency of the United States. (This was also true for Hillary Rodham Clinton, who would have been the first woman to head a presidential ticket.) Students learn details about Obama's background as a community organizer, civil rights attorney, state senator, and U.S. senator before he announced his candidacy for president of the United States. Readers learn about Obama's great skill as an orator, although they might already have experienced it first hand, and how he focused on people's similarities in his speeches rather than their differences and emphasized change. Obama used the Internet to organize the largest grassroots support base in history in his campaign and made history when elected as the first African-American president of the United States on November 4, 2008. The book covers the period through Obama's inauguration.

The reading level for this volume is grades 5–6 and interest level, ages 9–13. Included in this volume are chapter notes, an Obama chronology, a chronology of the primaries, a time line of U.S. elections, further reading, a glossary, and an index.

Pebble Plus

Marks, Jennifer L. *President Barack Obama*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone, 2009. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-4296-3730-5, \$15.99.

The simple text and large inviting photos in this oversized volume will attract and inform young readers about their new president and at the same time encourage them to learn more. Each chapter deals with a different aspect of President Obama's life and is organized in a clear and concise style.

Also included are further information about Barack Obama, a list of all U.S. presidents, a glossary, "Read More," Internet sites, and an index

Political Profiles

Young, Jeff C. *Michelle Obama*. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2009. 112 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59935-090-5, \$28.95.

Not even first lady for a year, Michelle Obama has already captured the attention of the nation—and the world. Her down-to-earth style and warmth, intelligence, and inner strength draw people to her. *Michelle Obama* shows how the first lady evolved into the person she is today.

The volume opens with Michelle tagging along as her father went door to door registering people in the neighborhood to vote. Michelle's serious attitude toward everything she did began when she was a young girl; her mother would tell her to stop practicing the piano because she'd played too long. Even though Michelle experienced racism at Princeton, she didn't let it get in her way, and she graduated cum laude in 1985. She then moved on to her next goal—to study law at Harvard. Again some people told her that her grades and test scores weren't good enough. She paid no attention to them. After graduation, she took a position in a large corporate firm and specialized in intellectual property and entertainment law. One summer Michelle was assigned to mentor a summer hire who had just completed his first year at Harvard Law School—Barack Obama. The rest is history.

This series volume contains a time line, sources, a bibliography, web sites, and an index.

Profiles in American History

Tracy, Kathleen. *The Life and Times of Rosa Parks*. Newark, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-1-58415-666-6, \$29.95 (list), \$20.95 (school/library).

Rosa Parks is known to many people, but perhaps not to young people ages 9–13. Students learn that Parks became an important figure in the civil rights movement when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white passenger. Her sense of justice motivated Parks to speak out against racism and injustice no matter what the personal price would be. In contrast to earlier series titles, this one elaborates on Parks's active role with the local NAACP and the advance planning of her challenge to the status quo. Tracy mentions teenager Claudette Colvin as the first person to be arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a White rider, eight months earlier and the reasons why the NAACP selected Parks rather than Colvin to withstand the media scrutiny of her act of resistance.

A chronology, a time line in history, chapter notes, further reading, a glossary, and an index are included.

Readings on Equal Education

Trent, William T., and St. John, Edward P., eds. *Resources, Assets, and Strengths Among Successful Diverse Students: Understanding the Contributions of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: AMS Press, 2008. 286 pp. ISBN 978-0-404-10123-7, \$137.50.

High-achieving low-income students of color often lack access to quality four-year colleges and the opportunity to succeed academically. Many did not receive adequate academic preparation in high school. Coupled with increasing college costs and decreasing grant aid, these students have had challenges paying tuition and expenses at public and private four-year colleges.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program began in 2000. This collection of scholarly essays explores how the program has contributed to preparing low-income students of color for college, to funding their higher education, and ultimately to enhancing the diversity of the workforce and the welfare of society.

The ten essays in this volume are written by a diverse community of people and include professors and post-doctoral fellows working in a variety of colleges, universities, and research organizations.

Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Heritage

Balestra, Alejandra; Martínez, Glenn; and Moyna, María Irene. *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Linguistic Heritage: Sociobistorical Approaches to Spanish in the United States*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2008. 220 pp. ISBN 978-1-55885-528-1, \$24.95 (pb).

This collection of essays explores the development of the Spanish language in North America. Linguists and editors focus on the long tradition of multilingualism in the United States in order to disprove the argument that the United States is a monolingual nation. The volume is divided into two parts. The first part provides a historical overview of the areas of the United States that were previously occupied by Spain and Mexico. The second part features several essays about aspects of the development of Spanish as it is spoken in the United States today.

Up Close

Bolden, Tonya. *Up Close: W.E.B. Du Bois*. New York: Viking, 2008. 224 pp. ISBN 978-0-670-06032-4, \$16.99.

This biography of Du Bois is designed for sixth grade and up. Bolden begins the story with the period before he was born, offering a clear and concise overview of African-American history from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. Du Bois worked for equality throughout his life until his death in 1963 at the age of 95. Bolden, an award-winning author, writes in the foreword that Du Bois is a man of intellect who fought for "a Righteous America—a righteous world—daring to dream that life on earth could be heavenly. For all." In this attractive, small volume she presents all the facets of Du Bois's work and his impact on many generations of Black intellectuals and civil rights activists.

Included are source notes, a bibliography, and an index.

Visual Geography Series

Streissguth, Tom. *Bangladesh in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2008. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-8577-0, \$29.27 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Streissguth, Tom. *Namibia in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2008. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-8574-9, \$29.27 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Waters, Bella. *Armenia in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2008. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-8576-3, \$29.27 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Students at the middle and high school level can use this book to find out a broad range of information about the history and government, economy, people, geography, and cultural life of countries around the world. In contrast to country studies for younger children, the tone of these series books is not always upbeat.

The history section of *Bangladesh in Pictures* tells of a typical struggle that an impoverished, geographically vulnerable developing country experiences. This nation the size of Iowa has more than 150 million people and few natural resources other than fertile land. The political system is corrupt and plagued with violence. In contrast, the Republic of Namibia has had a peaceful transition from colony to independent nation, as described in *Namibia in Pictures*, even though it's one of the world's youngest countries. After gaining its independence in 1990, Namibia has had steady economic growth and has one of the highest per capita incomes in Africa. *Armenia in Pictures* details this small and ancient nation that sits in the Caucasus region, a mountainous territory between the Black and Caspian seas that has been attacked by Turkey and Russia and many other nations. However, through it all, Armenia has managed to protect its unique culture. This nation adopted its own alphabet a hundred years after it became a Christian nation in the early 300s A.D. and has its own written language. In the 1700s, Armenia was split between Russia and the Ottoman Empire based in Turkey. Armenians in Turkish territory suffered great discrimination and brutality at the hands of the Turkish authorities, and during World War I the Turkish government murdered about 1.5 million Armenian Turks, a genocide that was the worst tragedy in Armenian history.

This series also contains detailed sidebars, a glossary, a time line, sights to see, additional readings, and an index. A web site associated with the series makes up-to-the minute geographic, demographic, cultural, and economic information plus late-breaking news available to students writing reports.

NEW EDITIONS IN OTHER MEDIA

Engle, Margarita. *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 2 CDs. 2 hours, 15 minutes. Read by Yesenia Cabrero, Chris Nuñez, Ozzie Rodriguez, and Roberto Santana. ISBN 978-0-3075-8305-5, \$22.00.

Engle, Margarita. *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 2 CDs. 1 hour, 56 minutes. Read by Yesenia Cabrero, Vane Millon, Chris Nuñez, Ozzie Rodriguez, and Roberto Santana. ISBN 978-0-3075-8297-3, \$22.00.

Engle, Margarita. *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 2 CDs. 1 hour, 31 minutes. Read by Matt Green, Vane Millon, Ozzie Rodriguez, and Roberto Santana. ISBN 978-0-3075-8301-7, \$22.00.

Award-winning author Engle is a Cuban-American poet, novelist, and journalist who has published in many countries. Her books include *The Poet Slave of Cuba*, named ALA Best Book for Young Adults, and the Newberry Honor-winning *The Surrender Tree*, winners of the Pura Belpré Award in consecutive years. Joined by this year's *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*, these three unabridged productions include powerful and haunting verses, history in verse, and deeply personal and universal reflections.

The subject of *The Poet Slave of Cuba*, Juan Francisco Manzano was born into a family of wealthy slaveholders in 1797. Although enslaved and denied an education, he had exceptional talent for poetry. He wrote poems that reflected the beauty of his world, but also ones that described hideous cruelty. *The Surrender Tree* reveals Cuba's struggle for freedom, for independence, and describes it as a place where there's "too little food and too much illness." The heroine in the story heals all people of their sickness, Black and White, Cuban and Spanish, with her natural medicines—even those who want to kill her. *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba* is about Daniel, a Jewish boy who has escaped Nazi Germany in hopes that he might find his parents again. Instead of landing in New York City as planned, his ship, the *St. Louis*, ends up in Cuba, and his adventures take an entirely different path.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *Lorraine Hansberry Audio Collection*. New York: HarperCollins/Caedmon, 2009. 5 CDs. 6 hours. Performed by Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, James Earl Jones, and others. ISBN 978-0-06-176895-8, \$29.99.

Hansberry, the youngest American playwright to win the Best American Play Award from the New York Drama Critics' Circle for *A Raisin In the Sun*, died at 34 years of age of cancer. *The Lorraine Hansberry Audio Collection* includes an audio performance of *A Raisin In the Sun*; two author interviews about the play (with Mike Wallace and Studs Terkel) from 1959; and the 1972 Caedmon recording of the stage self-portrait *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* (posthumously assembled from Hansberry's autobiographical writing by her ex-husband Robert Nemiroff); and five short speeches by Hansberry.

Resau, Laura. *Red Glass*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 7 CDs. 7 hours, 56 minutes. Read by Emma Bering. ISBN 978-0-7393-7976-9, \$45.00.

Red Glass, written for ages ten years and up, was nominated for the YA Cybils award and received the 2008 Americas Award. The story is an epic journey filled with danger as well as ghosts of the past. Pablo, a young frail boy, becomes part of Sophie and her family's life because he was carrying Sophie's stepfather's business card when he became an orphan and the only survivor of an illegal border crossing into Arizona. A year after Pablo comes to live with Sophie and her family, his extended family is located in Mexico, and Sophie and her family travel there to bring Pablo back home. They bring another friend to down to Guatemala to find out what happened to his mother during that country's civil war. Sophie had always been afraid of life, but after her trip to bring Pablo home, she becomes a different person.

Resau lived in the region of Oaxaca, Mexico, for two years and worked as an English teacher and anthropologist. Her years of friendship with ESL students, immigrants, and refugees inspired her to write *Red Glass*. Immigration is a big theme in her story. In an

accompanying interview, she says she wanted to call attention to the laws that are made without understanding what they mean to people who risk everything to try to better their lives.

Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 8 CDs. 10 hours, 8 minutes. Read by Lincoln Hoppe. ISBN 978-0-7393-7989-9, \$45.00.

The main character of this beautifully written young adult novel is Marcelo, who has Asperger Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder. When at his father's insistence Marcelo takes a summer job in the mailroom of his father's law firm, his life takes a turn in unexpected ways. Until then he'd been in special schools, protected from the real world and its competition, jealousy, and injustice. When he encounters all these, he is forced to make important moral choices.

Stork studied Latin American literature at Harvard and later earned a law degree at Columbia. He is also the author of two previous books, *The Way of the Jaguar* and *Behind the Eyes*.

Wilmore, Larry. *I'd Rather We Got Casinos and Other Black Thoughts*. New York: Hyperion Audio, 2009. 3 CDs. 3 hours, 30 minutes. Read by the author. ISBN 978-1-4013-9150-8, \$22.99.

Wilmore, the senior Black correspondent to the Daily Show, wrote and narrated *I'd Rather We Got Casinos and Other Black Thoughts*, a collection of his comedic musings and opinions on current events. His thoughts range from the search for a Black Jesus to a lack of UFO interactions with the average African American. Wilmore has been a TV producer, actor, comedian, and writer for more than 30 years and wrote for *In Living Color*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *The Office*, and *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. He won an Emmy and a Peabody Award for his work on *The Bernie Mac Show*. 🎧