

# Editor's Shelf

## editor's shelf

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 VOLUMES IN SERIES

#### Amazing Athletes

Savage, Jeff. *Chris Paul*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2010. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7613-4254-6, \$23.93.

Savage, Jeff. *David Ortiz*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2010. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Revised ed. ISBN 978-0-7613-4920-4, \$23.93.

Savage, Jeff. *LaDainian Tomlinson*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2010. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9989-0, \$23.93.

Savage, Jeff. *Tiger Woods*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2010. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Revised ed. ISBN 978-0-7613-4921-1, \$23.93.

Savage, Jeff. *Tim Duncan*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2010. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9993-7, \$23.93.

The Amazing Athletes series showcases up-and-coming as well as popular sports figures. Each volume starts with a dramatic winning moment in the featured athlete's life. For example, Chris Paul, NBA star of the New Orleans Hornets, makes a signature play that gives his team the lead over the San Antonio Spurs in a critical game. And David Ortiz, the Boston Red Sox slugger, steps to the plate in the seventh inning with the Red Sox behind the Tampa Bay Devil Rays by a score of 7-1 and the playoffs in the balance. Ortiz's three-run homer sparks a rally that ends with Boston winning the game.

Not only does Savage recap the excitement of a milestone, but he also provides statistics that are easy for the reader to understand. For example, in 2005 LaDainian Tomlinson, the San Diego Chargers all-star who is called "Superman without the cape," set a team record with 20 touchdowns and in 2006, the team moved up to 14-2, the best in the NFL because of this talented player. In *Tiger Woods* Savage shows Woods's impressive history through the numbers, giv-

ing this biography of the championship golfer appeal to young math whizzes.

In each volume there is also interesting personal information about the featured athlete, as in *Tim Duncan*. Duncan was born on the island of Saint Croix in the Caribbean, the largest of the United States Virgin Islands. He was a good student who skipped third grade and also an outstanding competitive swimmer. Duncan shares that his mother embarrassed him because she cheered so loudly at his swim meets. The day before his fourteenth birthday, his mother died of cancer, and after a hurricane destroyed the swimming pool he used, his interest in swimming waned. Eventually he became interested in basketball, and the rest is history.

Additional features include captioned color photos on almost every page, sidebars, direct quotes, up-to-date resources, a list of selected career highlights, a glossary, further reading and websites, and an index.

#### American Archaeology

Huey, Lois Miner. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Dutch Colonies*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-0-7614-4263-9, \$31.36.

Huey, Lois Miner. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Earliest English Colonies*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-0-7614-4264-6, \$31.36.

Huey, Lois Miner. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Underground Railroad*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-0-7614-4267-7, \$31.36.

Huey, Lois Miner. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Vikings*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-0-7614-4270-7, \$31.36.

Huey, Lois Miner. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Westward Movement*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-0-7614-4265-3, \$31.36.

Through this series, we learn how historical archaeologists explore by digging for clues to discover what happened in North America after the Europeans arrived. They look through tools, broken dishes, buttons, bottles, toys, and gun parts, and scrape away the soil, layer by layer to uncover these objects, which reveal the daily lives of the people who used them. They also examine castoffs, such as the bones left over from food. Through careful examination of these artifacts, the archeologists get closer to understanding the early settlers of the United States and Canada.

Elementary school students find out in *American Archaeology Uncovers the Dutch Colonies* that the Dutch established a colony in North

America called New Netherlands. This colony stretched from New York state east into Connecticut and down the coast to New Jersey, parts of Pennsylvania, and Delaware. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Earliest English Colonies* reveals that in 1608 a supply ship sent to Jamestown became shipwrecked on the Island of Bermuda and one of the passengers was John Rolfe who later married Pocahontas. In 1958 divers found what remained of the ship off the Bermuda coast, and artifacts are now on display at the nearby Maritime Museum in Bermuda. The book contains photos of pottery fragments and tobacco pipes that were found at Jamestown.

In *American Archaeology Uncovers the Underground Railroad*, Huey highlights a number of ways that slaves were able to escape. Excavations in Florida over a three-year period have revealed a large three-sided fort with the entryway facing toward the river; this was, in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, home for a community of escaped slaves under the protection of the Spanish. Inside the fort, there was a watchtower, a church, and some oval houses on stilts. Huey describes the daily lives of the fort's residents, who fished and grew their own food. In the northern United States, archaeologists discovered many churches and other buildings with tunnels and secret rooms. The book shows one narrow tunnel-passageway in the basement of a church, the tunnel obviously dug by hand. From the outside looking down the tunnel it appears as if the tunnel ends. But, when looking at the tunnel from the inside, the archaeologists discovered that it turned and continued to a large open area. Other archaeologists dug around historic buildings, many of which were built near the waterfront to facilitate transportation for the escapees. One of these is the historic Lott House in Brooklyn, New York.

*American Archaeology Uncovers the Vikings* reveals how, after excavations were complete, the walls of the Viking site were covered with clean white sand and sod. Parks Canada built a reproduction of a Viking settlement away from the original site. Visitors can walk through the hall and ask costumed people questions, as if they were the original Vikings. *American Archaeology Uncovers the Westward Movement* narrates one of the most famous stories of the journey west. A group now known as the Donner Party was trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains because of heavy snowfall near California. Those rescued told chilling stories of how they ate their dogs, mice, the boiled hides of their oxen, and people who had died.

Each volume also includes a time line, color photos, a glossary, maps, a bibliography, and an index.

## Countries of the World

Croy, Anita. *Guatemala*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-4263-0471-2, \$27.90.

Green, Jen. *Greece*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2010. 64 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-4263-0470-5, \$27.90.

The volumes in this series describe a major nation and its unique position in the world. Chapters focus on geography, people and culture, history, government and economy, and nature. Full-page maps highlight physical features, vegetation and ecosystems, history, population, and political organization. Every photograph within each chapter is tied to a location on the main map specific to that chapter. Smaller maps concentrate on specific topics like migration, rainfall,

changing borders, resources, industry, and other important themes.

Elementary and middle school students will discover a beautiful country that has great cultural diversity in *Guatemala*. This small country is a bit bigger than the state of Tennessee, and over millions of years many volcanoes have erupted there. *Greece* highlights the hot, dry climate and the long and rich history of a land where democracy was born, where the first Olympic games were held, and where the Olympics returned most recently in 2004.

Each volume contains informational sidebars, a glossary, an extensive bibliography, an index, and an "At a Glance" section that provides charts, tables, time lines, and other visual elements.

## Critical Insights

Evans, Robert C., ed. *The Joy Luck Club, by Amy Tan*. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem Press, 2009. 324 pp. ISBN 978-1-58765-626-2, \$85.00.

Mickle, Mildred R., ed. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou*. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem Press, 2009. 290 pp. ISBN 978-1-58765-624-8, \$85.00.

The new Critical Insights series provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship for both students and teachers. The series focuses on an individual author's complete body of work and also on single works of literature. Libraries have unlimited, updated literary references available online. The complimentary online access offered by Salem Literature is easy to use and available in the library remotely, from home, or in dorm rooms.

Evans's *The Joy Luck Club, by Amy Tan* contains four original survey essays that provide important information in order to study Tan's novel. The first essay surveys the critical reception of Tan's works with a focus on this groundbreaking title. Other essays are concerned with the mechanics of her novels and include structure, narration, style, and themes. *The Joy Luck Club* is compared and contrasted with Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*. The previously published essays in this volume contain an examination of the traditional Chinese beliefs found in Tan's novels from *The Joy Luck Club* to *The Kitchen God's Wife*. Two interviews with the author are included.

Mickle's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou* includes original essays that examine Angelou's pivotal work from several perspectives. One essay deals with historical events that surround Angelou's life, such as the civil rights movement, Black Power, and the Black Arts Movement, along with the rise of Black women's literature. Another essay provides a study of major pieces of criticism on *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and addresses the autobiographical genre and race, gender, aesthetics, and identity issues. Still another essay deals with the struggle for Black identity by comparing Angelou's novel with James Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk*.

This series also includes a chronology of the featured writer's life, works by the writer, a bibliography, notes on contributors, and an index.

## Culture and Customs of Europe

Roney, John B. *Culture and Customs of the Netherlands*. Santa Bar-

bara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2009. 224 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34808-2, \$49.95.

The main focus of the Culture and Customs series is contemporary culture and life with some historical context. The books are designed for high school and college students and general readers. An expert, usually from the country, writes each volume.

Even though the Netherlands is a small nation, its influence on the growth of modern institutions makes learning about its history and character important. During the High Middle Ages, the Netherlands became a key trade route between the British Isles and the continent. Its rivers were key transportation routes to central Europe. The Dutch people have struggled with floods and storms throughout their history; they have learned to control the water and turn it into their greatest resource. Windmills drained the swamps and low-lying lands. When their enemies attacked them, the Dutch would reverse the process of the windmills and re-flood their land in order to keep their attackers from entering their cities.

Other chapters cover religion and worldview, literature, media, cinema, art and architecture/housing, cuisine, clothing, gender roles, marriage and family, social customs and lifestyle, and music and dance. A glossary, a selected bibliography, an index, photos, and a country map accompany the text.

## Dictatorships

Childress, Diana. *Omar Al-Bashir's Sudan*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 160 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9096-5, \$38.60.

Sullivan, Kimberly L. *Slobodan Milosevic's Yugoslavia*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 144 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9098-9, \$38.60.

Zahler, Diane. *Than Shwe's Burma*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 160 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9097-2, \$38.60.

Zahler, Kathy A. *The Assads' Syria*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 160 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-8225-9095-8, \$38.60.

This series designed for high school students explores how dictators use their power to control their population, covering the media, the military, and the courts, among other areas. The authors provide the history of each dictatorship and the personalities behind it, as well as effects on the subjugated populace and on the global political scene.

Omar Al-Bashir came into power in 1989 when Sudan was in the midst of a famine caused by drought and a civil war between the north and the south. People hoped Bashir would improve their economy and bring order to the country. Instead, he proclaimed himself head of state, prime minister, defense minister, and commander in chief of the army. Although most people in southern Sudan were not Muslim, the dictator turned Sudan into a strict Islamic state and encouraged the Janjawid militia to slaughter the people of the southern region of Darfur. In 2008 the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Bashir for crimes against humanity.

*Slobodan Milosevic's Yugoslavia* tells the story of the president of

Serbia (a republic of Yugoslavia) and then president of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Considered one of the most brutal dictators of the late twentieth century, he used his secret security forces to suppress political opposition, imprison his enemies, and censor the media. Yugoslavia was torn apart by civil wars and ethnic violence instigated by Serbia under Milosevic's rule. Rapes and killings of civilians were the norm. Milosevic was put on trial in the 2000s by the United Nations for these atrocities, but he died before the trial ended.

Than Shwe, part of a military coup that took over Burma in the 1960s, is the face of the dictatorship today. In 1948, the British had granted Burma independence, but the country had trouble building a democracy. Than Shwe became head of the military council and one of the most secretive and repressive leaders in the world. He changed the country's name to Myanmar and kept under house arrest for decades pro-democracy leader and Nobel Laureate Aun Sung Suu Kyi, who remains in that situation today. In 2007, images on the Internet showed monks being beaten during a protest rally. In 2008 Than Shwe banned reports of the deadly Cyclone Nargis and held up outside aid for weeks. Eventually, these events helped draw attention to his human rights abuses.

Students learn about father-son dictators in *The Assads' Syria*. When Hafez al-Assad became president of Syria in 1971, it appeared that he would improve the lives of his country's citizens. Instead, he imposed a regime of censorship, greed, corruption, and intimidation. After his death in 2000, the nation's ruling party elected his son Bashar who continued his father's policies.

Each volume features a section of additional facts, mini-biographies of important people, pronunciation guides, primary source images and quotations, informational sidebars, a bibliography, black-and-white and color photos with captions, further reading, web sites, a glossary, an index, maps, source notes, and a time line.

## First Step Nonfiction

Nelson, Robin. *Juneteenth*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2010. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7613-4934-1, \$21.27.

Each volume of this attractive, kid-friendly series has a color photo of children on the front cover or something else that will interest them. The series, created for the early grades, contains vivid photos and illustrations, oversized print, and easy-to-understand sentences that will help improve the vocabulary and comprehension of new readers.

*Juneteenth* informs young children about a holiday known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. It is celebrated on June 19, the day that commemorates the abolition of slavery in Texas—the last state to do it at the end of the Civil War—a day that is now an official holiday in 29 states. The book contains a timeline, fast facts, a glossary, and an index.

## Food Culture Around the World

Haden, Roger. *Food Culture in the Pacific Islands*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2009. 250 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34492-3, \$49.95.

A team of experts provides a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role of food in shaping human culture. This volume for high school, college, and general adult readers begins with a chronology of food-related dates, followed by an overview of the history of the country's major foods and ingredients, cooking techniques, typical meals, regional specialties, restaurants, special occasions for festivals and holidays, and diet and health. The author interprets food culture broadly, showing how different foods reflect the cultural, economic, and environmental realities of the various countries of the region.

The food culture of the Pacific Islands has been determined by the region's historical isolation from the rest of the world. Of course the tropical climate played a role in the islanders' cuisine, as well as the migration of people mainly from East Asia. The staples of traditional Islander cuisine include breadfruit, yams, taro, and coconut. Includes glossary, resource guides, and index.

### The Languages of Sound and Movement

Ma, Eve A., and Lee, Richard R. *Of Beauty & Deities: Music and Dance of India*. Berkeley, Calif.: Palomino Productions, 2006. DVD. 50 min. Color. \$75.00.

Ma, Eve A., and Lee, Richard R. *Pearls from the Sea: Music and Dance of Tahiti*. Berkeley, Calif.: Palomino Productions, 2006. DVD. 50 min. Color. \$75.00.

Ma, Eve A.; Ferdowski, Ali; and Khorsandi, Shahrzad. *Roots & Branches*. Berkeley, Calif.: Palomino Productions, 2007. DVD. 30 min. Color. \$22.00 (home), \$100.00 (public performance).

*Of Beauty & Deities: Music and Dance of India* is one of six episodes in the series *The Languages of Sound and Movement*, in which the music and dance of the Afro-Peruvian people, India, Mexico, Tahiti, Thailand, and West Africa are investigated.

The new India DVD teaches an art form traditionally performed in Hindu temples by women who are "married" to the deities. The dance is called bharata. The footwork is fast and costumes are beautiful. Bharata natyam tells stories. In one dance participants translate the movements, which are a form of sign language.

*Roots & Branches* is a 15-part educational series that focuses on the diverse cultures and peoples of northern California near San Francisco. This particular DVD, which is the third, looks at Dr. Ali Ferdowski, professor, and Shahrzad Khorsandi, dancer. This series has aired on many northern California cable stations and won prizes at the Berkeley Film and Video Festival.

### Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage

Capetillo, Luisa. *Absolute Equality: An Early Feminist Perspective/Influencias de las ideas modernas*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2009. 360 pp. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. English translation and introduction by Lara Walker. ISBN 978-1-55885-522-9, \$16.95 (pb).

Poyo, Gerald E., and Ybarra-Frausto, Tomás. *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage, Volume VII*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2009. 172 pp. ISBN 978-0-55885-526-7, \$27.95.

*Absolute Equality: An Early Feminist Perspective* is written in English and Spanish and contains a new collection of works by the early twentieth-century feminist Luisa Capetillo. There are nine chapters (including the prologue) about such topics as changing ideas of women's roles, marriage, adultery, class struggle, prostitution, and anarchism throughout the Americas. One of the chapters consists of a three-act play written in 1907, *Influencias de las ideas modernas*. The protagonist is Angelina, the daughter of a rich Puerto Rican businessman. After reading Tolstoy's *The Slavery of Our Times*, Angelina becomes convinced that "the slavery of our times is the inflexible wage law." When workers go on strike in her hometown of Arecibo, Angelina tries to convince her father to give his property—home, land, and factories—to the workers.

Capetillo examines her native Puerto Rico and the world outside, the workers' movement, and the conditions of women at the turn of the century. She "embraces and envisions" a world that encourages workers and women to be free. She sees her writing as an extension of her activism. In the introduction, Walker considers Capetillo an important person but notes that she is an unsung pioneer for feminism and the working class.

The new collection of essays in *Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage, Volume VII* explores the Latino influence on the West. Eleven essays examine cultural identity, exile thought, class divisions, and women's issues.

### Souls of My Sisters

Daniels, Dawn Marie; Sandy, Candace; and Agee, Jarralynne. *Tears to Triumph: Women Learn to Live, Love, and Thrive*. New York: Dafina Books, 2009. ISBN 282 pp. ISBN 978-0-7582-3159-8, \$14.00 (pb).

The authors nurture African-American women not just to survive but also to become the women they want to be—to live life to their full potential. When a community of women gathers and supports one another within a framework of truth, healing begins. The women in this volume openly share everything—domestic violence, health issues, jail, depression, and hopelessness. Through allowing their deep pain to surface, they shed tears and start to heal. They celebrate and support each other rather than judge. Sharing truth in a supportive environment is powerful and freeing, and it's the beginning of making a new life "blueprint."

An extensive resource guide lists resources on Adoptions, Addictions, Aids/HIV, Finance, Domestic Violence, Financial Assistance, Grandparents, Housing, Immigration, Life Skills, Pregnancy, Psychological (Health), Health, Single Motherhood (an extensive list), and Youth.

### Sports Heroes and Legends

Doeden, Matt. *Tony Dungy*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First

Century Books, 2010. 106 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7613-4225-0, \$29.27.

Doeden, Matt. *Yao Ming*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 104 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7613-4227-4, \$29.27.

In *Tony Dungy* readers, middle grades and up, learn how as a football player he was passed over in the 1977 NFL draft. However, the Pittsburgh Steelers' coach recognized Dungy's talent and his understanding of the game and signed him as a free agent. Eventually Dungy became a coach with the Steelers and went on to coach the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Indianapolis Colts. In 2007 he became the first African-American head coach to win the Super Bowl.

*Yao Ming* reveals the character, strength, agility, and work ethic of the 7 foot 6 inch basketball player, born in Shanghai, China, who now plays center for the Houston Rockets and has broken many cultural barriers in the National Basketball Association.

Each title features a section of statistics, a glossary, a bibliography, web sites, and an index.

### USA Today's Debate: Voices and Perspectives

Morrow, Robert. *Immigration: Rich Diversity or Social Burden?* Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 160 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7613-4265-6, \$38.60.

Students in grades nine through twelve will find material for debating the topic of immigration, since Americans are so sharply divided on the issue. There are people who believe that the United States cannot afford more immigrants and others who say that immigration is the foundation of our country and the source of its wealth. In this volume students will hear many different perspectives of people closely involved with the issue: legal and illegal immigrants, employers, residents of border communities, and immigration agents. Quotes, anecdotes, and discussions come from the pages of *USA Today*.

Included in this series are a time line, a glossary, source notes, a selected bibliography, organizations to contact, web sites, and an index.

### Visual Geography Series

Behnke, Alison. *Paraguay in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-57505-962-4, \$31.93.

Behnke, Alison. *Uruguay in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-57505-961-7, \$31.93.

Sirvaitis, Karen. *Guyana in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-57505-963-1, \$31.93.

Streissguth, Tom. *Belize in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-57505-958-7, \$31.93.

Streissguth, Tom. *Suriname in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-57505-964-8, \$31.93.

Zuchora-Walske, Christine. *Honduras in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books, 2010. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-57505-960-0, \$31.93.

Each volume in this series for the secondary level provides an overview of the featured country, its geography, its history, and the political, economic, and cultural aspects of life today. The cover of *Paraguay in Pictures* features dancers dressed in bright orange and white costumes with flowers in their hair. The text describes this chronically poor, landlocked South American nation that suffered under one of the longest-lasting dictatorships in the world, that of Alfredo Stroessner. Uruguay, on the other hand, is situated on the Atlantic Coast, where its beaches are a tourist destination for much of Latin America. Its large and powerful neighbors, Argentina and Brazil, overshadow the small nation, originally established as a buffer zone between them. In addition to tourism and fishing, this country's rolling pastures support cattle, sheep, and crops.

Located on the northeastern coast of South America, Guyana is one of the poorest nations on the continent even though it has many natural resources, such as rain forests, gold, and untapped oil reserves. It was once a British colony, and English is the official language. Belize, in Central America and also a former British colony, lies between two worlds, the Caribbean region and Central America. At one time this country was the heartland of the Maya, an indigenous Native American culture. However, Belize was later inhabited by pirates, loggers, former slaves, and refugees from civil wars in Mexico and the United States.

*Suriname in Pictures* has the most vivid and attractive cover, two purple frogs on a flower the color of vivid cerise, with a touch of soft golden yellow. This nation is small and sparsely settled, a neighbor of Guyana, French Guiana, and Brazil, that was once colonized by the Dutch. Most people live in the north near the Atlantic Ocean. In the south villages are scattered throughout the dense tropical rain forest. *Honduras in Pictures* describes the beautiful but impoverished nation located in the middle of Central America. Its landforms are diverse, with tropical beaches and islands, swampy lowlands, fertile river valleys, lush rain forests, and rugged mountains. Wild animals such as monkeys, wildcats, and brilliant colored birds live in the forests, and crocodiles, otters, and many kinds of fish live in its waters. An oligarchy with a small number of wealthy families and many poor, Honduras recently experienced a military coup against the elected president, a wealthy rancher turned defender of the poor; unfortunately, the book was published too early to include this event.

In addition to the text, the volumes include color photos with captions, mini-biographies of famous people, fast facts, maps, a time line, a list of further readings and web sites, and an index.

### What It's Like to Be...

Sherman, Patrice. *What It's Like to Be President Barack Obama/Qué*

*se siente ser el presidente Barack Obama*. Newark, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2010. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. ISBN 978-1-58415-843-1, \$18.50.

Each book in this bilingual (English-Spanish) series is designed for “read-alouds” and follows a friendly celebrity through a typical day. The bright color photos will appeal to younger elementary-age readers.

*What It’s Like to Be President Barack Obama* reveals how the President starts his day, hears what’s going on around the world, signs bills into law, and meets with his cabinet. The young children will find out that the president still has time to exercise and hang out with his family.

## Women and Religion in the World

Ashcraft-Eason, Lillian; Martin, Darnise C.; and Olademo, Oyeronke, eds. *Women and New and Africana Religions*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Praeger, 2009. 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-275-99156-2, \$44.95.

*Women and New and Africana Religions* explores the lives of contemporary women through 14 essays that are divided into five parts. The contributors explore new, Creole, and African indigenous religions in a context of religious and cultural diversity. Postsecondary students and interested adult readers will be exposed to women from many different religious/spiritual persuasions around the world. They include Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, South America, and North America. The essays are arranged according to topics and offer scene-setting historical and social background information and insights from renowned scholars who share their own cutting-edge research and firsthand experiences with their subjects.

Also included is a section of suggested readings and an index.

## Women Writers of Color

Rivera, Carmen Haydée. *Border Crossings and Beyond: The Life and Works of Sandra Cisneros*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Praeger, 2009. 128 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34518-0, \$34.95

Cisneros, author of *The House on Mango Street*, is one of America’s most important and much discussed contemporary literary figures. Her writing career spans more than three decades, and she has also written acclaimed poetry and prose that include *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*, *Loose Woman*, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*, and *Caramelo*.

*Border Crossings and Beyond* offers a personal history as well as a critical overview of Cisneros’s works. She is a multi-faceted artist, writer, woman, and Mexican American. Rivera examines the influence of travel between Texas and Mexico on Cisneros’s writing, as well as the Chicano and women’s movements and her father’s death. Rivera offers a comprehensive and thoughtful study of Cisneros’s writings, along with her tremendous personal struggles and artistic gifts.

## NEW EDITIONS IN OTHER MEDIA

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Wild Girl*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 3 CDs. 2 hours, 56 minutes. Read by Justine Eyre. ISBN 978-0-3075-7983-6, \$28.95.

Giff, an award-winning author, writes a tender family story about loss, growth, and change through the eyes and heart of a little girl who loves horses. Lidie lives in Jales, Brazil, and at the age of 12 joins her father and older brother Rafael in New York City. Meanwhile a filly is born. Lidie’s story unfolds as the filly’s does, too. Her father runs a stable and her brother trains to be a jockey. They don’t realize that Lidie is no longer a little girl but instead someone who is determined to ride the filly her father just bought.

Johnson, Louanne. *Muchacho*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 4 CDs. 4 hours, 48 minutes. Read by Ozzie Rodriguez. ISBN 978-0-7393-8597-5, \$33.00.

*Muchacho* is by the same author who wrote *My Posse Don’t Do Homework*, later adapted into the major motion picture *Dangerous Minds*. Johnson has written an inspiring story about a teenager who fights for the life he wants rather than allow circumstances to determine his destiny. This story speaks to teenagers because the characters are real. They talk about what’s on their minds and not what they think they’re supposed to say. Teens will not only feel inspired but will also feel more hope for their future.

Locke, Attica. *Black Water Rising*. New York: Harper Audio, 2009. 11 CDs. 13 hours, 30 minutes. Performed by Dion Graham. ISBN 978-0-06-177209-2, \$39.99.

This riveting debut thriller by Locke is about a man forced to confront his past demons when he saves a woman from drowning and she ultimately threatens to destroy his life. Locke is a screenwriter who has worked in film and television. She lives in Los Angeles and is a former fellow at the Sundance Institute. Currently, she is working on an HBO miniseries about the civil rights movement. Graham, who performs this unabridged version, is a well-known theater and television actor.

Resau, Laura. *The Indigo Notebook*. New York: Listening Library, 2009. 7 CDs, 8 hours, 25 minutes. Read by Justine Eyre. ISBN 978-0-3075-7979-9, \$43.00.

Resau’s first-person narrative draws the audience to the two main characters as they evolve individually and become closer as mother and daughter. The intrigue of the story and the cultural background of rural Ecuador create more interest, as the 15-year-old protagonist rebels against her hippie mother and tries to help an adopted exchange student from the United States find his biological family. 🎧