

Wild Man Island by Will Hobbs
HarperCollins, 2002, 184 pp., \$15.95

Adventure
ISBN:0-688-17473-6

Fourteen-year-old Andy Galloway is with his mother on a sea kayak trip off the coast of Alaska. After going by himself on a personal pilgrimage to see the site of his archeologist father's death, Andy is marooned on Admiralty Island. He soon discovers that he is not alone, but is being observed by a man living on the island, hoping to avoid detection. This adventure is driven by secrets only the man—who befriends Andy—knows. Together, they learn about the origins and arrival of the first Americans to land on this remote island off the coast of Alaska.

Consistent with Hobbs' other Alaska and Northwest Territory stories, readers ages ten-years-old and up will find this novel exciting to read, and historically informative. Hobbs provides much good context for his fictional narrative. A great read for all.

Edgar H. Thompson
Emory, Virginia

Home of the Braves by David Klass defining personal values, school bullying and violence, soccer
Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2002, 312 pp., \$18.00 ISBN: 0-374-39963-8

David Klass is in a class of his own as a creator of likable, complex, believable male high school students. Joe Brickman, narrator and protagonist, is a multi-dimensional high school senior. He is proud of the soccer team that he captains, despite its poor record. He is jealous and suspicious of the new and phenomenally talented soccer player who arrives in time to take the team to the playoffs. He is stifled into inaction when he cannot figure out how to tell his life-long pal and neighbor that he longs for her. He is protective of his intelligent but geeky best friend, Ed the Mouse. He recognizes that his womanizing single father is not perfect, but respects him for trying to seek solutions to problems rather than giving in to defeats. And, although he enjoys working for his dad at the car wash, he questions the wisdom of his choice to pay little attention to his academics and to avoid applying for admission to college.

Further, Joe is intelligent enough to realize that the bullying that is allowed at his school is wrong and must stop. When Ed, who is trying to learn to stand up to the "hard guys" is harassed and humiliated by them, Joe begins to fear for Ed's mental state. Eventually, he shares his fears with Ed's dad, who acts quickly to reestablish contact with the son from whom he has become distant. Klass treats high school violence, and the conditions that breed it, subtly yet potently in this captivating novel. Ultimately, he offers hope through the power of friendships, family bonds, and promises of the future. Like his outstanding novel *You Don't Know Me* (FSG, 2001), *Home of the Braves* is sure to speak directly to adolescent readers.

Sissi Carroll
Florida State University

City of the Beasts by Isabel Allende
Harper Collins, 2002, 406 pp., \$19.99

Coming of Age/Friendship
ISBN:006050918X

Allende's debut young adult novel is packed with intense adventure and mystical elements. Alexander Cold finds himself on an adventure in the rainforest of the Amazon, where his grandmother is searching for the legendary beast that is terrorizing the native tribes. He forms a powerful friendship with Nadia, the daughter of another member of the expedition. Through his adventures in the rainforest, Alex grows as a person and comes to terms with problems he experienced at home. Suddenly, in the midst of life-and-death adventure, his everyday adolescent problems seem trivial. Not only does he gain a new perspective on his daily life, but also he learns to confront and manage the emotions he has concerning his mother's illness.

Allende does an excellent job of capturing readers from the beginning. This fast-paced novel takes readers on Alex and Nadia's adventure with them, where they meet a variety of characters and encounter great mystery and intrigue.

Jennifer S. Dail
Florida State University

Young Adult Books In Review Recently Published Titles

Jeff Kaplan, Editor

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<p><i>The Named</i> by Marianne Curley Bloomsbury Children's Book, 2002, 332 pp., \$16.95</p> <p>Fantasy/History/Time Travel ISBN: 1-58234-779-4</p> <p>The present lives in this book are affected by events in an unseen world where a battle rages between the mythological forces of the Order of Chaos and The Guard. The Order of Chaos tries to change the past so the present will be altered and made chaotic. The Guard fights the forces of Chaos to preserve history and the present, to fulfill written prophesy.</p> <p>Ethan, a normal sixteen-year-old, and his fifteen-year-old friend, Isabel, are two of The Named who belong to The Guard. The Named complete missions throughout history, for example, in ancient Greece, in the time of England's Richard II, and in Colonial New England, in order to prevent The Order of Chaos from prevailing.</p> <p>Set in modern Australia, author Marianne Curley has created a powerful story that held my attention from beginning to end. If students like the Harry Potter books, or the <i>Lord of the Rings</i>, they will love <i>The Named</i>. In the same category as Lois Lowery's <i>The Giver</i>, this book has Newbery Award possibilities. I highly recommend it.</p> <p>Edgar H. Thompson Emory, Virginia</p>	<p><i>Missing</i> by Catherine MacPhail Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2002, 192 pp., \$14.95</p> <p>Mystery/Suspense/Family/Bullies ISBN: 1-58234-773-5</p> <p>Since her older brother's disappearance ten months ago, thirteen-year-old Maxine Moody's life has been miserable—cutting school, losing friends, and having her parents ignore her by focusing all their attention on finding their son, Derek. After her father identifies a body as Derek's, Maxine's nightmare becomes even worse.</p> <p>Instead of accepting Derek's death, Maxine's mother resorts to psychics. Suddenly, Maxine begins receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be Derek, and she wonders – could it be a ghost? Or a prank pulled by the very same bully who tormented Derek? Or, perhaps, (no, it couldn't be), it is Derek, himself?</p> <p>Telling her father about the mysterious phone calls, though, proves to be a terrible mistake. Her father hurls harsh accusations at her that she is just vying for their attention. However, undeterred and determined, plucky Maxine, with the aid of a good friend, risks her life, and discovers the real truth about Derek's disappearance.</p> <p>Set in present-day England, this novel's action and suspense are nonstop, as the story is filled with unexpected twists and turns that are sure to keep middle school girls—and reluctant readers—turning the pages.</p> <p>Bill Mollineaux Granby, Connecticut</p>
<p><i>A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson</i> By Michelle V. Green Dial, 2002, 111 pp., \$15.99</p> <p>Biography/Women Athletes ISBN: 0-8037-2661-9</p> <p>Dreams enable a person to reach goals, and that is what happened to Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, a 5'2", 98 pound Black girl who dared to cross the boundaries of gender and race. In elementary school, Mamie had the spunk and tenacity to become the first girl to integrate a local baseball league team. At seventeen, she became one of three women who played professional baseball, becoming a pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns, a Negro League team.</p> <p>Laced with such historical names as Satchel Paige and Jackie Robinson, the reader learns of these famous African-Americans, and others who helped break down racial integration barriers in the 1950s. As the reader comes to know, segregation during the 50s, throughout the South and North, was pervasive, but on the ball field, walls slowly crumbled. This biography—filled with great information about life in early baseball and the struggle of young Blacks to gain acceptance in a White world—will inspire readers to see people as more alike than different. And it introduce us to one unique individual—ballplayer and African American, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, a figure who deserves our attention and admiration.</p> <p>Joy Frerichs Chatsworth, Georgia</p>	<p><i>Charlotte's Rose</i> by A. E. Cannon Wendy Lamb Books, Random House, 2002, 256 pp., \$15.95</p> <p>Pioneers ISBN: 0-385-72966-9</p> <p>Author A. E. Cannon brings to the national market the tender story of twelve-year-old Charlotte, a Welsh immigrant who crossed America with a handcart company. Along the Mormon trail, Charlotte volunteers to care for the baby daughter of a woman who has died. At first, she is proud of herself, believing she has shown the adults that she is nearly a woman. But Charlotte soon realizes how difficult a task she has undertaken.</p> <p>Charlotte is frustrated by the baby's frequent crying, her own lack of sleep, and her not being able to spend the time she would like with her new friend John, a boy who wants to see her as more than just a child. Eventually, she can no longer stand her adult responsibilities, and so one day, she abandons them, leaving the baby sleeping beneath her handcart, and taking off for a walk with her admirer, John. Unfortunately, when she returns, the baby is gone.</p> <p>Frantically, Charlotte searches for the baby—only to find her in the hands a strange woman.</p> <p>This coming of age novel demonstrates that adolescents experience doubts and uncertainty, no matter the time period or circumstance, and that guidance, patience, and perseverance are the guideposts towards becoming a fully functioning adult.</p> <p>Lu Ann Brobst Staheli Spanish Fork, Utah</p>

Amy by Mary Hooper
Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2002, 176 pp., \$14.95

Relationships/The Internet
ISBN: 1-58234-793-X

Shunned by her best friends, fifteen-year-old Amy's loneliness leads her, as her Internet screen name Buzybee, to an online chat room and to Zed. Despite parental warnings, Amy is simply positive that the young man joining her for private messaging is her dream come true. Zed is older and successful at his job in sales; plus, the photo he attaches shows an attractive blonde guy. Filled with anticipation and excitement, Amy's own personal problems with friends, family, and school, suddenly seem irrelevant.

The plot unfolds through a series of interviews between Amy and a policewoman—and in the officer's presence, Amy tells the story of her unfortunate series of events with the mysterious dreamboat Zed. And even though the reader knows that something has occurred between Amy and Zed, the revelation of "what has really happened on Amy's innocent visit to meet Zed at his seaside town" are only revealed when Amy and a friend return to the scene of the incident.

Suspenseful and chock-full-of techno jargon, Amy's story is fast-paced and believable. The British usage and slang won't prevent understanding in this cautionary tale of possible risks in "online relationships."

Judith Hayn
Skokie, Illinois

Telling A Tale Untold by Jim Haskins
Twenty-First Century Books, 2002, 144 pp., \$26.90

Biography/Toni Morrison
ISBN:0-7613-1852-6

This biography is about Toni Morrison and her struggles, internally and externally, as a female, an African-American, a daughter, a wife, a mother, an American, and last but certainly not least, a writer. Her triumphs at college, and as a graduate student, especially in the 1950s and 60s, at a time of extreme racial injustice and inequality, are vividly told. The reader learns of her life as a book editor, at a time where there were few, if any, Blacks in book publishing, and her subsequent unimagined success as a writer. In her own inimical style, Morrison achieved fame writing about the Black experience, making her writing accessible not only to African-Americans, but Whites as well. Morrison's lyrical, mystical, and visionary style captures the imagination of all.

Biographer Haskins peppers this interesting and provocative read with references to Black victimization by Whites, and sometimes difficult vocabulary which will require guidance and instruction for readers coming to Morrison's work for the first time. Nevertheless, Morrison's life, and Haskins' interpretation of her work, will make an interesting read for mature high school students who want to know more about the African-American experience and about one of the most gifted authors in the United States.

Laura Bullock
Petal, Mississippi

The Red Rose by Brenda Woods
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2002, 136 pp., \$16.99

Historical Fiction/Civil Rights
ISBN: 0-399-23702-X

Leah and her sister Ruth, both teenagers and Black, are growing up in segregated Sulphur, Louisiana, in the 1950s, long before the term African-American became vogue. They know a world of separate schools, "white" and "colored" water fountains, and of course, distinct social classes.

Their life changes, though, when they receive the unexpected surprise of train tickets to go visit their mysterious and generous Aunt Olivia in California. Suddenly, a world of freedom opens up for them. As Leah takes off on her journey West, she begins to realize the differences in the world outside her little town of Sulphur, LA. Traveling, she sees the contrasts of how races and individuals are treated elsewhere, and begins to wonder why "inequalities between white people and Negroes," do exist, and why people cannot live together peacefully.

Leah and her sister's lives change tragically when their parents are killed in a hurricane back home in Louisiana, and they are forced to live permanently with Aunt Olivia in California. They must cope with new friends, new rules, new freedom, and a profound loss.

Middle school readers will enjoy this book. It is a good read, and is filled with enough social historical information to be of great value to any classroom discussion. Teachers can engage their students in talks about race, prejudice, and a time in America when Blacks and Whites were far from equal.

Freya J. Zipperer
Savannah, Georgia

The Shadow Place by Carol M. Tanzman
Roaring Brook Press, 2002, 178 pp., \$16.10

Suspense/Alienation/Child Abuse
ISBN:0-7613-2610-3

For fourteen-year-old Rodney, "The Shadow Place" represents an escape from reality: it is an escape from an abusive father; an escape from the pain of his mother's leaving; and an escape from the growing alienation from his classmates. However, as he grows more and more angry, Rodney's secret world begins to revolve around guns, bombs, and thoughts of violence towards others.

When Lissa, his friend and neighbor, suspects that Rodney is behind a school prank that has severely burned fellow classmates, she decides to spy on him to see what he is up to. Yet, once she discovers the magnitude of his violent side, she is torn between keeping his secret, or telling his parents. Lissa's actions save not only her life, and her classmates', but Rodney's life as well.

In her very first book, author Carol M. Tanzman successfully incorporates suspense, a good story, and the language and interests of teenagers to create a true page turner.

Lisa Scherff
Knoxville, Tennessee

<p><i>Little Chicago</i> by Adam Rapp Front Street Press, 2002, 255 pp., \$16.95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sexual Abuse/Violence/Family ISBN: 1-8869190-72-3</p> <p>In <i>Little Chicago</i>, author Adam Rapp explores what happens when a sexually abused eleven-year-old, by the name of Blacky Brown, is stripped of all hope and resources.</p> <p>Quite expectedly, young Blacky Brown turns to a world of street violence, as she quickly and surely descends into a madness after enduring a hostile and indifferent family life, and unspeakable torture and torment at school. Blacky's only solace is a budding romance with a fellow outcast, which ends unfortunately and predictably, with her being hurt and hospitalized by his victimization. Author Rapp paints a bleak picture of Blacky's world—sowing no hopeful seeds, or possible alternatives to this unyielding bleak world.</p> <p>Evocative prose and realistic dialogue make this book positively gripping, and appealing especially to reluctant readers. Teens will appreciate the unflinching honesty of Rapp's writing. This is a "problem novel" with somewhat coated didactic prescriptions for success. Rapp, though, cuts to the emotional core of his characters, leaving the reader with a strong emotional impact. Some threads of the story—especially about gun control and sexual abuse—warrant more narrative comment. Still, this book will no doubt find a place with Rapp's fans.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Joshua James Keels San Francisco, California</p>	<p><i>Crossing Montana</i> by Laura Torres Holiday House, 2002, 119 pp., \$ 15.95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Family Issues ISBN: 0-8234-1643-7</p> <p>Callie decides to take charge, and search for her grandfather who has disappeared. And why shouldn't she? After all, Callie has been in charge of her younger brother most of his life, and she has taken care of herself since her own father died. And now, to her dismay, all Callie's mother and grandmother seem to care about is auctioning off the family farm.</p> <p>Young Callie thinks that she knows exactly where her missing grandfather has gone—fishing in the lakes of Montana. So, Callie takes the car, some easy-to-grab-cash, and her mom's handy credit card, and heads to the very state where her father died. What Callie doesn't count on, though, is an unexpected stowaway in her car's back seat; a credit card that simply won't work; and literally hundreds of great fishing spots to search all over Montana. If ever there was a time she needed a friend to help her with her travails, the time is now.</p> <p>In the spirit of Sharon Creech's Newbery Medal winner, <i>Walk Two Moons</i>, author Laura Torres takes her readers on a journey towards self-understanding by underlining the importance of family history to uncovering who we really are.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lu Ann Brobst Staheli Spanish Fork, Utah</p>
<p><i>Warriors of Alavna</i> by N. M. Browne Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2002, 320 pp., \$16.95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fantasy ISBN 1-58234-775-1</p> <p>Dan and Ursula are mysteriously transported from their twentieth-century school outing into what appears to be the midst of a first century Druid tribe. Along the way, Dan discovers a magic sword. He gains the powers of a Bear Sark, which transforms him into a "berserk" and ruthless, warrior. Ursula, whom the tribe believes to be a male warrior, discovers she can change gender at will, and can thus contribute, although reluctantly, to the tribe's battle success. Both take an oath to avenge the massacre of the settlement of Alavna, as Ursula uses her emerging powers to transport a legion of Roman soldiers to aid in the definitive battle.</p> <p>As a fantasy novel, <i>Warriors of Alavna</i> weaves an intricate and inventive plot that, at times, is difficult to follow. There is much graphic and bloody battle description, as Browne intertwines the fiction of Alavna with numerous historical links to first century Britain and the archeological studies of that period.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Margaret J. Ford Campbell, Ohio</p>	<p><i>A Greater Goode</i> by Amy Schor Ferris Houghton Mifflin, 2002, 183 pp., \$15.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Friendship/Family ISBN: 0-618-13154-X</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Addie Goode lives with her attorney father and their housekeeper in a Pennsylvania town, moving there after Addie's mother walks out. Now, Addie's world revolves around her best friend, Luke, who in her words, is "a genius."</p> <p>One afternoon, though, Addie and Luke stumble across a young pregnant girl, who has been abandoned by the "creepy guy" who left her bruised and alone inside an old church. Luke, frightened and bewildered, insists to Addie that they keep their mouths shut, and leave the young girl where she is: alone, hurt, and abandoned. But Addie cannot stand to leave a fellow human being stranded; she insists that the young woman come home with her so that she can offer her food, clothing, and friendship. Instead of accepting Addie's kindness, the young pregnant girl flees in despair.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Addie and Luke have their own problems. Addie's father announces plans to remarry, and Luke's father suffers a heart attack. In a twist of fate, Luke's father recovers in a hospital room in which the adjoining bed is occupied by the estranged, dying mother of the young pregnant woman. When Addie learns of this strange but endearing coincidence, she spends the remainder of the novel trying to find the missing young pregnant woman and her dying mother.</p> <p>In this heartwarming story, Addie does reunite the mother and her estranged daughter one last time. She learns that family, no matter the troubles, counts above all.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Michele Winship Columbus, Ohio</p>

<p><i>Bridging Beyond</i> by Kathleen Benner Duple Philomel Books, 2002, 203 pp., \$17.99</p> <p>Auto Accident/Trauma/ Relationships ISBN: 0-399-23637-6</p> <p>Ann is involved in a tragic car accident after encouraging her best friend to drink and drive at a party. As her friend lies in a coma, she and her family relocate to her recently deceased grandmother's house, and attempt to build a new life.</p> <p>Shortly, though, after moving to her new home, Anna begins having unusual dreams. The characters in her dream take on an increasing familiarity to Anna. Drama builds until it is revealed that she is reliving the early life of her beloved grandmother. Through this harrowing and unusual experience, Anna helps her grandmother's dear old friends come to terms with events of their past, while Anna comes to terms with her own personal mistakes.</p> <p>The flashback to the grandmother's young life offers an original story line for this easy-to-read novel. The tone and style that will probably appeal to introspective adolescents, even those who are reluctant readers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rebecca A. Hines Daytona Beach, Florida</p>	<p><i>Mario Lemieux: Own the Ice</i> The Millbrook Press, 2002, 64pp, \$24.95</p> <p>Sports/Ice Hockey/Biography ISBN: 0-7613-2555-7</p> <p>Are you a hockey fanatic? Or, have you ever wondered what it is about hockey that fans find so attractive? If so, then rush to buy or borrow <i>Mario Lemieux: Own the Ice</i>.</p> <p>Devoted hockey fans will find a cornucopia of facts and statistics about Mario Lemieux, one of hockey's all time greats. More pedestrian readers will enjoy the riveting narrative, which chronicles Mario's development in Canada Quebec's youth hockey leagues; his emergence as a star with the Pittsburgh Penguins; his early retirement; and his recent comeback as an owner and a player. Particularly absorbing is the account of Mario's battles with back injuries and cancer, and the lessons to be learned from them.</p> <p>Although this book is likely to be enjoyed most by young readers who are already hockey or sports fans, it is so well photographed, captioned, and researched that any reader with a keen interest in human events and challenges will enjoy this good read. I did!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tom Phillion Oak Park, Illinois</p>
<p><i>Stravaganza: City of Masks</i> by Mary Hoffman Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2002, 258 pp., \$16.95</p> <p>Terminal Illness/Time-Space Travel ISBN: 1-58234-791-3</p> <p>Fifteen-year-old Lucien is dying of cancer in London, England. When his father gives him an old Italian blank journal, Lucien falls asleep holding it, and suddenly finds himself transported back in time, cancer free, to the Vienna-like other-world city of Belezza, 1577. Here, as a "stravagant," or a wanderer between two worlds, he enters a realm governed by a masked Duchessa, named Silvia.</p> <p>The Belezza city and government are at risk of being destroyed by the Chiminci, a group determined to assassinate the Duchessa. They are using Lucien's mysterious journal to "stravagate" between two worlds, and steal 21st Century "magic" to control the world of 1577 Belezza.</p> <p>Inadvertently, Lucien enters this scheme of intrigue, trying to stop the Chiminci from assassinating the beloved Duchessa. Protected by a magician who is the Duchessa's lover, and befriended by adventure seeking Arianna, Lucien saves the kingdom from the impending coup. Simultaneously, he dies in his 21st century London.</p> <p>Told with page-turning intrigue, this story has richly drawn characters, interesting details, rich settings, and multiple perspectives. All of this and more will keep readers "stravagating" with Lucien as they enter the first volume of a planned adventure trilogy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cyrene Wells Machias, Maine</p>	<p><i>A Mother to Embarrass Me</i> by Carol Lynch Williams Delacorte Press, 2002, 128 pp., \$15.95</p> <p>Family Relationships ISBN: 0-385-72922-7</p> <p>You can probably remember times when your parents embarrassed you. Their words, dress, and actions all combined to humiliate you in front of your friends, or, worst of all, the love of your life. And no matter what you tried to do, you could not stop them. Your parents became more embarrassing by the minute, and you thought that you would never be able to face the world again!</p> <p>In this charming and lighthearted story, twelve-year-old Laura Stephens feels the same way about her embarrassing mother. She keeps a detailed a list of all the things that she would like to change about her. Of course, Laura's mother does not mean to be embarrassing. She would do anything to keep Laura happy, but unfortunately, her best efforts all seem to be just plain wrong. After all, how could she have known that Laura's father would break his neck after she encouraged him to break dance at Laura's birthday party? And how can Laura prevent her mother from innocently talking behind her back to her best friend, Christian? And what can Laura do to prevent her mother from taking a modeling job even though she is several months pregnant?</p> <p>Author Carol Lynch Williams takes a humorous look at mother-daughter relationships in this great read for young teens who feel embarrassed at their own parents' behavior. Young people will relate to the parents' all too familiar antics, and their desire to really "relate" to their teenagers' emotion-packed lives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lu Ann Brobst Staheli Spanish Fork, Utah</p>

<p><i>I Smell Like Ham</i> by Betty Hicks Roaring Brook Press, 2002, 133 pp., \$15.95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Family Relationships/Basketball ISBN: 0-7613-1748-1</p> <p><i>I Smell Like Ham</i> is the story of a twelve-year-old Nick Kimble's struggle to adjust to a new life.</p> <p>Nick's mother recently passed away, and Nick's father has remarried, bringing a stepmother, Miriam, and a stepbrother, Dwayne, into their home. Dwayne, a brilliant eight-year-old who seems to share none of the interests or talents that Nick has, becomes a real irritant to Nick. Nick takes his anger out on Dwayne, insulting him and avoiding spending time with him.</p> <p>Nick is unaware of the silent suffering that Dwayne is going through until Dwayne runs away. In search for Dwayne, Nick learns about how difficult the changes in routine have been for Dwayne, and how much Dwayne wants to please his older stepbrother. Nick is able to step outside of his own suffering, and recognize Dwayne's affection.</p> <p><i>I Smell Like Ham</i> is a good choice for reluctant readers; they will be satisfied by the compelling storyline and situations that are familiar to teens. This easy to read book could be used in classrooms to discuss many themes and topics, including change, conflict, character development, and of course, stepfamilies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Maryanne Obersinner Eugene, Oregon</p>	<p><i>Comfort</i> by Carolee Dean Houghton Mifflin, 2002, 230 pp., \$15.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Coming-of-Age/Relationships ISBN: 0-618-13846-3</p> <p>The small town of Comfort, Texas, does not confine the dreams of high school freshman Kenny Williams, but his family's lifestyle threatens those dreams daily.</p> <p>His alcoholic, ex-prisoner father and desperate scheming mother provide little support even though they do care about Kenny, and three-year-old Roy, Jr. in their own ways.</p> <p>Kenny works like an unpaid servant in the family's truck stop café to fulfill his mother's dream of making Roy Dan Willson, Sr., a guitar singing star. Remarkably, Kenny finds his own talent in the University Interscholastic League Poetry Contest for high school students.</p> <p>Memorable characters are revealed against a fast-paced film-like setting. This author's first novel contains tragicomic elements, and mature subject matter related to physical abuse, alcohol, guns, robbery, and abortion. And to elevate the read, there are references to renowned poets Robert Frost and Maya Angelou, among others.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mary Annelle Baker Overland Park, Kansas</p>
<p><i>One Night</i> by Marsha Qualey Dial Books, 2002, 170 pp., \$16.99</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Drugs/Addictions/Politics ISBN: 0-8037-2602-3</p> <p>At nineteen, Kelly Ray is recovering from heroin addiction. Although clean for now two years, Kelly struggles daily with staying sober, and leading a quiet life. The most excitement she has is working for her aunt, an infamous radio talk show host. Then, she meets Prince Tomas Teronovich, and embarks on a night of adventures and confessions as she tries to keep him away from his guards long enough to give her aunt an interview.</p> <p>For one night, Kelly must admit who she is, what she has done, and where she wants to be. As a protagonist, she is witty, humorously cynical, and completely human. Tomas is not as well-characterized, but readers will be able to relate to both him and Kelly, and enjoy tension and flirting between them. <i>One Night</i> is an enjoyable read; its theme is serious, and its style engaging. This is a great addition to anyone's library.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jennifer York Knoxville, Tennessee</p>	<p><i>Bartlett and the Ice Voyage</i> by Odo Hirsch Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2003, 168 pp., \$14.95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Human Nature/Adventure ISBN: 0-7475-46142</p> <p>An impatient young Queen, a ruler of seven countries, demands one thing that seems unavailable to her: a fresh melidrop.</p> <p>In this whimsical story of a long ago time, we learn that no way has yet been found to bring this most delectable of all fruits to this young Queen in an edible state. Yet this is what she desperately wants.</p> <p>Then an unpretentious explorer by the name of Bartlett is brought before the Queen. Bartlett is different from than most of the Queen's subjects: he does not fawn over her. Instead, Bartlett ignores the Queen's demands to find this "precious fruit," until she reluctantly strikes a deal with him.</p> <p>This delightful and inventive story of the adventures of Bartlett, which includes towing an iceberg by a ship, and of his challenging search for the divine edible melidrop, is a wonderful tale. Poking gentle fun at human foibles, this easy read would make a wonderful choice to share aloud with middle schoolers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diana Mitchell Williamston, MI</p>

In the Shadow of Pali: A Story of the Hawaiian Leper Colony Historical Fiction/Hawaii
By Lisa Cindrich ISBN: 0-399-23855-7
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2002, 245 pp., \$18.99

In the 1860s, twelve-year-old Liliha is sent from Oahu Village to the leper colony on Molokai. The doctors have led her to expect an organized hospital and settlement, but she and other new arrivals find chaos instead when they are unceremoniously dumped on the island's shores. The Englishman captain-in-charge does not speak Hawaiian, nor does he care about the people. Instead, brutal thugs amongst the lepers, ruled by Kalani, hoard the scant food and supplies. Liliha, alone and stunned by what has happened to her, must survive on her own. Only Manukekua, a boy who works for the Captain, helps her to find food and water, build a hut for shelter, carve wooden items to barter with, and escape Kalani's wrath.

All through this exciting tale, readers will learn about both Hawaii, and Hansen's disease. This book ends with an informative glossary about Hawaii, and a detailed historical note about this unique time in Hawaiian history.

Rebecca Barnhouse
Youngstown, OH

Ghosts at the Window by Margaret McAllister Mystery/Ghosts/Scotland
Dutton Children's Books, 2002, 119 pp., \$15.99 ISBN: 0-525-46852-8

Young Ewan Dart has moved to Scotland, and discovers that his brand new house, a huge stone mansion, has the strange habit of "playing tricks on his senses." Out of nowhere, it seems, the new home changes "centuries." For brief but startling moments, Ewan can see people from the past, and they can see him.

One night, alone in his bedroom, Ewan encounters the ghost of Elspeth, a girl who died in 1937. The young Elspeth has never been able to leave the temporal world of the living, and join her friends on "the other side." Terrified of something that lurks in Ewan's closet, and desperate to find eternal rest, the ghost Elspeth pleads for Ewan's help.

Adventure and mishap ensues as Ewan helps Elspeth escape, and overcomes his own fears about the presence of more ghosts. Middle school students will embrace this fast-paced, easy read tale of adventure and mystery, and teachers will delight in a book that reluctant readers will find historically intriguing, and delightfully engaging.

Jeffrey S. Kaplan
Orlando, FL

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka WW II/Prejudice
Knopf, 2002, 144 pp., \$18.00 ISBN: 0-375-41429-0

A compelling and heartbreaking story, this book is about the tragedy of Japanese Americans interned during WW II and, by understated implication, it is a powerful indictment of the kind of racism still practiced in this country, now more commonly directed at Middle Easterners. First, the father is taken for "routine questioning," not to be seen by his family for over four years. A few months later, mother, teen daughter, and ten-year-old son are sent to a fenced and guarded desert camp for three and half years.

Haunting, evocative, brilliantly written, with multiple points of view—mother, daughter, son, daughter and son ("we"), and finally, father, none of whom is given a name—this novel merits significant attention. Note: some young readers may benefit from teacher or Web explanations of the internment camps of WW II, and the treatment of Japanese Americans before, during, and especially, after their imprisonment.

Ted Hipple
Knoxville, TN

1000 Inventions and Discoveries by Roger Bridgman Non-Fiction/Reference
Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2002, 256 pp., \$24.99 ISBN: 0-7894-8826-4

The latest volume of handsome, informative, coffee table topc books published by Dorling Kindersley Limited, better known as DK, is *Inventions and Discoveries*. Completed in association with the Smithsonian Institution, this is another volume that will grace any library. This book, complete with color photos, highly informative and readable text, and easy-to-read layouts, will enhance elementary, middle and high school classrooms and lessons about the importance of humankind's most significant inventions and discoveries since the dawn of time. Reluctant readers, experienced readers, and just plain pure enjoyment readers will delight in this wonderful volume that surpasses even the best Web page for its comprehensive, "easy to download" resource of the world's most remarkable and life-improving discoveries.

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