

<p>Bowery Girl by Kim Taylor Viking, 2006, 192 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>Historical Fiction/Friendship ISBN: 0-670-05966-8</p> <p>Inspired by Jacob Riis's study of tenement life in late 19th century New York, <i>How the Other Half Lives</i>, Taylor creates a fascinating story of friendship between two young women. The naive, youthful pickpocket Mollie Flynn and her protector, the flamboyant, indomitable prostitute Annabelle Lee, survive through their wits, courage, and cunning on the streets of 1883 Manhattan.</p> <p>The grimness, poverty, and hardship of life without a permanent home are graphically vivid, while descriptions of their lives are realistically harsh as Mollie and Annabelle struggle with gang violence, rat pit fights, robbery, and harassment from many sources. Their chance encounter with Emmeline DuPre, who has just opened the Cherry Street Settlement House, offers opportunity and hope. The lure of the street, however, always tempts as both seek their dream of a new life waiting just over the newly constructed Brooklyn Bridge. Mollie and Annabelle could be two homeless young women anywhere in the world today, but their story from more than a century ago informs and inspires. Judith A. Hayn Skokie, IL</p>	<p>Chill Wind by Janet McDonald Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, 134 pp., \$6.95</p> <p>Nineteen-year-old Aisha Ingram tries to recall "chillin'" with her boyfriend at Coney Island and skipping school, but these are just distant memories. Now, with two young children, sixty days until the termination of welfare, and no job because she dropped out of school, Aisha is in trouble. Also, Aisha is forced to live with her alcoholic mother because she receives no help from the children's father. The only thing this single mother from the projects knows is that workfare is not for her. While trying to avoid working one of the jobs welfare suggests, Aisha answers an ad for BIGMODELS. She thinks she is pretty enough and has the "big" part down. Aisha has high hopes that she deserves the chance to find a real job and turn her life around.</p> <p>This Coretta Scott King winner is an enjoyable read. There isn't a detail missed, including the language used and the daily situations that occur in the projects of Brooklyn. Hanna Morrill Kansas City, MO</p>
<p>Copper Sun by Sharon Draper Atheneum, 2006, 302 pp., \$16.95</p> <p>Historical Fiction/Survival/Slavery ISBN: 0130502437572</p> <p>Some stories need to be told. Fifteen-year-old Amari's story of slavery is told through Sharon Draper's powerful new novel, <i>Copper Sun</i>.</p> <p>Amari's tale begins in an African village, where she lives with her family. Foreign visitors are given a warm welcome before a blood bath ensues as the visitors kill many villagers or put them in shackles. The slaves' journey to America is brutal, but Amari survives. She is later sold to a plantation owner, who buys her as a gift to his son for his 16th birthday. Life on the plantation is harsh, but Polly (an indentured white servant) helps Amari and later befriends her. After witnessing a brutal murder by the plantation owner, Amari, Polly, and Tidbit (a slave's son) escape captivity and become runaways.</p> <p>Draper masterfully portrays the inhumane realities of slaves' lives in America in this compelling read. Unimaginable horrors are graphically portrayed; there are scenes of rape and bloodshed, including a scene where slave owners use Tidbit as gator bait. These visions allow audiences to not only hear the story, but they enable us to feel the rage and injustices as well.</p> <p>Jill Adams Denver, CO</p>	<p>Dear Miss Breed: Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference by Joanne Oppenheim Scholastic, 2006, 287 pp., \$22.99</p> <p>ISBN: 0-439-56992-3</p> <p>Americans with Japanese ancestry were rounded up and sent to Relocation Camps from March through October of 1942. The United States government said it was for their protection. Later, they were sent from the relocation camps to internment camps; in reality, these camps were "concentration camps." The book contains letters San Diego teens incarcerated during the war wrote to Miss Breed, a librarian in San Diego. Miss Breed, who kept in touch with her "children" by writing letters, sending books and packages to those interned, kept all of the letters she received. Those letters were reprinted in the book with the original spelling and grammar as the teens wrote to her.</p> <p>Use <i>Dear Miss Breed</i> with World War II units about life in the United States during World War II or as part of a racial discrimination unit. While middle school students will understand what happened during World War II, this title will be of more interest to high school students.</p> <p>Ruth Prescott Manhattan, KS</p>

<p><i>Endgame</i> by Nancy Garden Harcourt Children's Books, 2006, 304 pp., \$17.00</p> <p>Relationships/Bullying/Death ISBN: 0-15-205416-2</p> <p>When fifteen-year-old Gray Wilton enters the halls of Greenford High School with his father's gun, his world is forever changed. He is convicted of murder and given a life sentence without parole. Sitting in the detention center, Gray reflects on the months that went wrong. Trouble began with the occasional bully, bringing a knife to school, and then moving to a new city. Gray turns to his music, one love that he feels may save him from the turmoil. Things at the new school don't improve but take a devastating turn for the worse. Gray ends up making a decision that changes his life forever. <i>Endgame</i> takes a serious look at the issues of bullying and school violence. This book is appropriate for ages 14 and up and is strongly recommended to all educators.</p> <p>Michelle Sherer Independence, MO</p>	<p><i>Gossamer</i> by Lois Lowry Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006, 140 pp., \$16.00</p> <p>Dreams/Dreaming/Healing ISBN: 0-618-68550-2</p> <p>Lois Lowry's newest novel explores a fantasy world where angelic beings visit sleeping humans to bestow dreams. The short novel weaves together the stories of a novice dream giver, a lonely woman, and a troubled foster child.</p> <p>Our dream giver, Littlest One, learns to take bits and fragments of happy memories from the objects in people's homes and turn those morsels into dreams capable of helping the woman and the boy through the challenges they face in their waking lives.</p> <p><i>Gossamer</i> is rich in archetypal characters and imagery, reading something like one of the pleasant dreams bestowed by its central character. Although the book will be of interest to young people who are fans of fantasy and rich narratives, its message of gathering strength for the future from the past is applicable to readers of all ages.</p> <p>F. Todd Goodson Manhattan, KS</p>
<p><i>Grooves: A Kind of Mystery</i> by Kevin Brockmeier Katherine Tegen Books, Imprint of HarperCollins, 2006, 199 pp., \$16.89</p> <p>Mystery/Detective ISBN: 978-0-06-073692-7</p> <p>Kevin Brockmeier has brilliantly incorporated the adventure all adolescents desire with his critique of "The Man." Dwayne Ruggles is a seventh grader who, after taking a science experiment to a new level, discovers a secret plea for help in some blue jeans and potato chips. This leads Dwayne and his friends on a mission to discover the truth about a headstrong businessman named Howard Thigpen.</p> <p><i>Grooves</i> allows the young reader to identify with the main characters and become apart of the fantastic adventure that lies within its pages. The protagonists are not extraordinary kids, and that is what makes this novel so attractive. The adolescent reader can relate to the characters in a semi-realistic world.</p> <p>This well-written novel can reawaken the reader's interest in science, economy, and ethics, promote humanitarianism and at the same time be a lot of fun. The teacher can use it as a tool in his or her class or the student can use it as an exemplary pleasure read.</p> <p>Christopher Sullivan Marquette, MI</p>	<p><i>Hazing Meri Sugarmann</i> by M. Apostolina Simon Pulse, 2006, 266 pp., \$8.99</p> <p>Peer Acceptance/Teen Girls/Humor ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-0610-0 ISBN-10: 1-4169-0610-X</p> <p>Cindy Bixby dreams of escaping her high school loser image when she begins college. Following in her mother's footsteps, Cindy pledges Alpha Beta Delta, hoping to find acceptance and popularity. Cindy's captivation with Meri Sugarmann, sorority president, causes her to make moral compromises to gain Meri's approval. When Cindy lands a boyfriend, an ex of Meri's, she becomes victim of Meri's powerful wrath. Cindy and her friends have no choice but to destroy this evil villain before she destroys them.</p> <p>This story is cleverly revealed through daily diary entries. Middle school girls will find the exaggerated dramatic events appealing as it unfolds much like a modern day high school chick flick where the unpopular misfit finds the courage to confront the bully. Somewhat cliché, but the interspersing of family dynamics and the uncertainty of how to stop Meri will keep the reader intrigued until the end.</p> <p>Susan Gapp Vermillion, SD</p>

<p><i>Hip-Hop High School</i> by Alan Lawrence Sitomer Hyperion Books for Children, 2006, 384 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>Urban Youth/Self-Reliance ISBN: 0-7868-5515-0</p> <p>Alan Sitomer first introduced the Anderson family in <i>The Hoopster</i>, a novel that traced Andre Anderson's battle with racist teens. Now, we learn more about Andre's younger sister, Theresa (Tee-Ay), as she struggles in the shadow of her respected older brother. The novel begins the first day of her sophomore year, detailing her struggles with the hard reality of her urban high school and her secret desires to make it to USC upon high school graduation. With hip-hop and its messages ever present, Tee-Ay uses her love of music to help understand her friends' struggles with violence, poverty and teen pregnancy, all the while secretly practicing her SAT vocabulary in hopes of escaping these realities.</p> <p>Told in the language of urban youth, this novel provides an honest look into what it is like to try to survive in an inner-city school. Rather than settling for despair, however, Tee-Ay learns how to make something of herself through her budding friendship with Devon, the class valedictorian, and her ambivalent relationship with her teacher Mr. Wardin.</p> <p>Robyn Seglem Olathe, KS</p>	<p><i>The Hollow: Mischief</i> by Christopher Golden and Ford Lytle Gilmore Razor Bill, 2006, 214 pp., \$6.99</p> <p>ISBN: 1-59154-02603</p> <p>This novel should appeal to many adolescents looking for a good read. The book is part of series, so readers should read the series from the beginning to fully understand the complexity and history of all the characters.</p> <p>The story takes place in a town called Sleepy Hollow; where weird things are a daily occurrence. But, only the young adults are able to really see what the problems are. After previously being haunted by the Headless Horseman, the teens are faced to deal with another type of ghost that comes to disturb the residents. While they are faced with these problems they solve another mystery in <i>The Hollow</i>. The book is a quick read at 214 pages, perfect for young teens of 13-16.</p> <p>Stephanie Linhart Antioch, IL</p>
<p><i>Ithaka</i> by Adele Geras Harcourt Children's Books, 2006, 368 pp., \$17.00</p> <p>Historical Fiction ISBN: 0-15-205603-3</p> <p>Author Adele Geras continues her version of Odysseus's epic journey by shifting sites from the battlefields of Troy, wonderfully described in this book's predecessor <i>Troy</i>, to Odysseus's home island of Ithaka. The intricate story of lust and betrayal is seen through the eyes of Klymere, a handmaiden to the island's queen. All is not well as the island inhabitants longingly await their king's return from war. Pressured to select a new husband from the cast of unsavory suitors lolling on the palace's grounds, Penelope wavers about remaining pure for her husband. But this is also a story about loyalty. Atgós, Odysseus's dog, is the story's noblest character as the hound patiently waits for his master's return. Cameo appearances by the Gods, wielding control over the wretched humans, make this historical tale unique. It's recommended, but not necessary, to have read <i>Troy</i> to fully appreciate <i>Ithaka</i>.</p> <p>Rollie Welch Cleveland, OH</p>	<p><i>Julia's Kitchen</i> by Brenda A. Ferber Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2006, 160 pp., \$16.00</p> <p>Family/Survival/Faith ISBN: 0-374-39932-8</p> <p>While Cara Segal is on a sleepover at her best friend Marlee's, her mother, younger sister, and family cat are killed in a house fire due to an electrical short in a toaster oven. Cara has a relationship with God where He seems to spare her from potential tragedies, so the disaster raises that issue along with others. Why is her father a walking ghost unable to discuss the fire? Why does she feel like such an outcast? Why do the Jewish customs of Shiva and Shabbat bring comfort to others but not to her?</p> <p>Close to her mother, Cara eventually finds healing by continuing her mother's catering business, Julia's Kitchen. This is a perfect read for girls ten and over who will appreciate the scrapbooking connections. Cara's story is an exuberant story of the survival of the youthful human spirit. The author provides a glossary of Hebrew and Yiddish terms for those unfamiliar with Judaism.</p> <p>Judith A. Hayn Skokie, IL</p>

<p><i>Measle and the Mallockee</i> by Ian Ogilvy Harper Collins, 2006, 376 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>Fantasy/Family ISBN: 0-06-058692-3</p> <p>Measle's nine-month-old sister, Matilda, is a typical baby who loves to jabber and throw food at her brother. However, there is one big difference – she is a mallockee, an extremely powerful wizard who can do many spells at once, while most are limited to one.</p> <p>In this third adventure for the Stubbs family, Measle and Matilda work together to escape the mysterious Caltrop Castle and rescue their imprisoned parents. Aided by a surprisingly helpful Wrathmonk, a wizard who has been stripped of his magical powers, and Toby Jugg, who recently lost the election for Prime Magus of the Wizard's Guild, it seems like an easy task. But the Stubbs children soon discover that not everything, or everyone, is as it seems.</p> <p>Ogilvy spins a web of twists and turns with his vivid descriptions and unique characters. Middle school students will get swept away in this Potter-esque fantasy adventure.</p> <p>Jennifer Lee Independence, MO</p>	<p><i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i> by Kate DiCamillo Candlewick Press, 2006, 228 pp., \$18.99</p> <p>Friendship/Adventure ISBN: 0763625892</p> <p>Edward Tulane is not your ordinary, garden-variety rabbit. He is a china rabbit, made of the finest porcelain. He wears custom-made silk clothes and carries a small, golden pocket watch. Edward is the much-loved birthday gift of Abilene Tulane, 10, who includes him in all of the family's dinners and outings. However, Edward has a heart made of that same, cold china; he is conceited and selfish and doesn't seem to understand what love is.</p> <p>That is, until he is lost, having been thrown overboard by some rambunctious boys during the Tulane family's ocean journey. From there, Edward bounces from home to home, from one life to the next, as the book progresses. From lying on the ocean floor to traveling with a hobo to lying in the arms of a sick child, Edward learns about love and loss and why hope is always important to have.</p> <p>This is a brilliant story about the importance and challenges of true love and friendship. Newbery-Award winning author Kate DiCamillo presents a riveting plot that is wonderfully complemented by illustrator Bagram Ibatoulline's exquisite illustrations.</p> <p>Jennifer Stevens Louisville, KY</p>
<p><i>Playing the Field</i> by Phil Bildner Simon and Schuster, 2006, 181 pp., \$15.95</p> <p>Homosexuality ISBN: 978-4169-0284-3</p> <p>Darcy Miller wants to play baseball, but her high school principal says she can't because she's a girl. But when Principal Bassett thinks that Darcy's a lesbian, he changes his mind. His reasoning? Not allowing her to play would bring controversy to the school.</p> <p>So Darcy pretends to be gay to play.</p> <p>The book has some problems: the characters are all wealthy, which could alienate readers, and the only openly gay character is stereotypically so, propagating stereotypes instead of breaking them.</p> <p>Despite this, the novel describes what it means to be gay in an American high school, while also educating on the issue. This novel is solidly written and approaches a sensitive topic well. It is full of high school drama and humorous descriptions, which really pull the plot along.</p> <p>Shawn O'Neil Marquette, MI</p>	<p><i>Plenty Porter</i> by Brandon Noonan Amulet Books, 2006, 221 pp., \$16.95</p> <p>Fiction/Family ISBN: 0-8109-5996-8</p> <p>As the youngest of eleven children, Plenty Porter feels that she is the one-too-many child in her family. Her family survives as share-croppers in Illinois during the Korean War.</p> <p>Problems abound for the Porter family. Plenty experiences prejudice at school and ridicule in the community. Her sister, Marcie, must be hospitalized; her father takes a second job to help pay bills. Landowner Mr. Prindergast complains constantly about crop production.</p> <p>Plenty decides to run away from home, and Mr. Prindergast takes her home. In a scene similar to Bo Radley saving Scout in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, Plenty learns her family really does love her. Use <i>Plenty Porter</i> with high school units about the 1950s.</p> <p>Ruth Prescott Manhattan, KS</p>

<p>Rash by Pete Hautman Simon and Schuster, 2006, 245 pp., \$15.95</p> <p>Science Fiction/Humor ISBN: 0-689-86801-4</p> <p>Bo Marsten lives in a future society where anything that has the remotest potential to harm humans has been outlawed. In order to run track for his high school, Bo has to wear multiple layers of protective gear and runs on a track that behaves like a giant pillow. Football and other contact sports have been banned for years.</p> <p>It is also a lot easier to become a criminal in this future society, as the slightest infraction sends individuals off to prison work farms necessary to support the government and the economic system. When Bo is sentenced to McDonalds Plant #387 for saying hurtful things to one of his classmates, he discovers a very different world, one in which the head of the prison and the head of a nearby prison (Coca-Cola C-82) field highly illegal football teams that play one another in a particularly brutal version of the sport.</p> <p>The characters are well-developed, and the future society provides insights into our contemporary culture. Hautman's novel should appeal to young adults who appreciate social satire and speculative fiction.</p> <p>F. Todd Goodson Manhattan, KS</p>	<p>Rewind by Laura Dower Scholastic, 2006, 246 pp., \$8.99</p> <p>Relationships/Romance ISBN: 0-439-70340-9</p> <p>The stories of three characters intertwine as the plot unfolds from the night of prom backward to a New Year's Eve party six months prior. Cady Sanchez, the talented guitarist/composer/singer, has a crush on the handsome, musical, athletic, and mysterious new comer Lucas Wheeler. Lucas is secretly involved with gorgeous, popular, promiscuous, and manipulative Hope White. Former best friends, Cady and Hope reunite as leads in the school play, <i>The Children's Hour</i>, after years of Hope's ignoring Cady since a nasty junior high incident over a boy. The reader follows the building tension among all three as the violence at prom reverses through time, and all becomes horribly clear on the night when the seniors first connect at the party. The snappy dialogue, music analysis, and teen behavior will ring true for high school seniors ready to leave the past while still experiencing the present.</p> <p>Judith A. Hayn Skokie, IL</p>
<p>The Road of the Dead by Kevin Brooks Chicken House (Scholastic), 2006, 339 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>Suspense/Death/Violence ISBN: 0-439-78623-1</p> <p>Two determined brothers travel from London to an eerie village in the moors on a mission to find their sister's rapist and murderer after the family becomes impatient with the police investigation. As the unwelcome boys begin to unravel the secrets and dynamics of the community, they experience savage attempts to put a stop to their searching, which is nudging them closer to the truth. The boys compromise their own lives to complete their mission and bring peace to their family.</p> <p>This suspenseful story encompasses both a violent edge and emotional softness. The brothers' personalities complement each other, as one is hardened and fearless, while the other is compassionate and sensitive. Feelings of loss, love, and anger run deep throughout the story, allowing for personal connections that keep the reader anxiously awaiting the boys' safe return home.</p> <p>Susan Gapp Vermillion, SD</p>	<p>Rx by Tracy Lynn Simon & Schuster, 2006, 262 pp., \$6.99</p> <p>Teen/Drug Abuse ISBN: 1416911533</p> <p>After years of hard work, Thyme Gilcrest has finally worked her way to the academic top of her junior class. Though she has barely broken into The Twenty—her nickname for the hardest working students in school headed to the best colleges—her junior year is set on the path of extra-currics and college applications. With the arduous course load of AP courses, National Honor Society obligations, and SAT prep courses, Thyme begins to run out of time and energy for the study hours necessary for success. The answer to the latter problem comes in the tossed bottle of a friend diagnosed with ADHD—Ritalin.</p> <p>A frighteningly realistic portrayal of upper class teenagers dealing with extreme pressure and stress, this novel reveals the demands of a seemingly average student who gets in over her head in the dangerous world of a drug dealer. Tracy Lynn gives an entertaining and convincing account of the hidden, yet vast world of illegal prescription drugs in the high school setting. The use of pop culture, sarcasm, and narrative voice make <i>Rx</i> a hauntingly amusing read.</p> <p>Janae Brady Wichita, KS</p>

<p><i>Slide or Die</i> by Todd Strasser Simon Pulse (Simon & Schuster) 2006, 198 pp., \$6.99 ISBN: 978-1-4169-0581-3</p> <p>Fiction/Adventure</p> <p>Seventeen-year-old Kennin is new to Las Vegas; a friend he had made at work invited him to go for a ride in a hot GTO. As they drove out of the city toward the mountains, Kennin discovered that the driver with a bottle of tequila was an ex-con who had stolen the GTO.</p> <p>Kennin's group meets up with a group of drivers who compete at a very high rate of speed, sliding the back wheels around turns. The stolen GTO has a tracking device, so the police can locate the car. When the police arrive, Kennin is forced to take the GTO down the mountain road against a very experienced driver.</p> <p>The manga-style drawings will attract reluctant readers and students interested in cars. <i>Slide or Die</i> is appropriate for middle schoolers, although the target audience is probably high school.</p> <p>Ruth Prescott Manhattan, KS</p>	<p><i>Small Steps</i> by Louis Sachar Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2006, 272 pp., \$16.95 ISBN: 0385733143</p> <p>Coming of Age/Friendship</p> <p>With this book, author Louis Sachar brings back the character Theodore Johnson, a.k.a. Armpit, from his Newbery Award-winning book, <i>Holes</i>. Armpit, an African-American teen, is working hard to rebuild his life after returning home from Camp Green Lake. That is hard to do when everyone knows about your criminal record, so Armpit takes small steps to stay in line and make good choices. While trying to finish high school, Armpit is hired by a landscaping company and works doing what he does best: digging holes. He also befriends Gimmy, a young neighbor with cerebral palsy.</p> <p>Everything seems to be going well for Armpit until his old Camp Green Lake pal, X-Ray, visits him. X-Ray gets Armpit involved in a get-rich-quick scheme, scalping concert tickets to see the latest teen pop sensation, Kara DeLeon. But is Armpit ready to throw away everything he's worked so hard for?</p> <p>Sachar combines a suspenseful plot with likeable characters to tell this story of friendship and of taking "small steps" to accomplish one's goals.</p> <p>Jennifer Stevens Louisville, KY</p>
<p><i>The Sound of Munich</i> by Suzanne Nelson Speak Publishing, 2006, 211 pp., \$6.99 ISBN: 0-14-240576-0</p> <p>Adventure/Family</p> <p>Author Suzanne Nelson has created a light-hearted but surprisingly moving tale that proves to be a quick and light read. We first meet Sena Bernstein, self-proclaimed free-spirited Californian, on her way to Munich, Germany. She is about to begin a semester abroad in the city of her ancestors. While our protagonist may be a bit flighty and carefree, this is not your typical spring break trip; Sena has a secret plan. She is determined to complete her deceased father's "Carpe Diem" list. Her only link to her father is this list, and the last item has yet to be fulfilled. Only in Germany can she complete this list and possibly find a link to her past, her future, and the father she has never known.</p> <p>This young adult novel is an easy read and, just like Sena, is sunny and fun. She is an interesting character, and readers will appreciate her kindness, her friendships, and her adventure. A no-frills read for young adults (girls) with a Meg Cabot-like feel.</p> <p>Stacy Distel Nishioka Chicago, IL</p>	<p><i>Startled by His Furry Shorts: Confessions of Georgia Nicholson</i> Love/Friendship by Louise Rennison ISBN: 0060853840</p> <p>HarperTempest, 2006, 288 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>In this, the seventh book of the Georgia Nicholson series, Georgia finds herself in "the oven of luuvre" once again. At the end of the last book, <i>Ther! He Ate My Boy Entrancers</i>, Georgia had given the Italian Stallion, a.k.a. Masimo, an ultimatum: to be an exclusive couple.</p> <p>Throughout this book, Georgia awaits her answer and has to deal with the devastating idea of only being "mates" with Masimo. Will she be able to live if he picks Wet Lindsay over her? And what exactly did Dave the Laugh mean when he said that they were meant for each other?</p> <p>Along the way, Georgia has to put up with her little sister, Libby, who is constantly hiding things in her bed, and her psycho cats, Angus and Gordy, who attack at random. That doesn't even begin to explain the horrors of dealing with school at Stalag 14.</p> <p>A must-read for fans of the series, this book is laugh-out-loud funny and, as Georgia would say, "full of hilariosity."</p> <p>Jennifer Stevens Louisville, KY</p>

<p>The Tenth Power by Kate Constable Arthur A. Levine (Scholastic Press), 2006, 320 pp., \$16.99 ISBN: 0-439-55482-9</p> <p>This novel completes the Chanters of Tremaris trilogy which includes <i>The Singers of All Songs</i> and <i>The Waterless Sea</i>. Eighteen-year-old Calwyn, suffering the loss of her magical powers of chanting, returns to her home in Antaris. She had fought the dangerous sorcerer Samis, lost her powers trying to heal a “dry and troubled land,” and in her misery pushed away Darrow, the man she loves. She hopes to find refuge among the priestesses. Instead, she finds her home in the grip of endless winter, the chanters suffering from a plague of snow-sickness. There the dying High Priestness teaches her the secrets of the Goddess and sends her on a quest to find the Wheel, an object of Power, which can heal the world.</p> <p>Calwyn regains her magical powers when she is willing to sacrifice herself for another, even an enemy. Calwyn shows the people how they can break down barriers and live in harmony. Constable creates a vision of a Utopia where differences are overcome and warfare is broken. This magic can only be created when all the people join in a great dance of healing.</p> <p>Jeanne M. McGlinn Asheville, NC</p>	<p>That Fernhill Summer by Colby Rodowsky Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006, 176 pp., \$16.00 ISBN: 0-374-37442-2</p> <p>Travel with Kiara as she meets the family that she never knew existed. After an unexpected phone call from her Aunt Claire, informing her family that her mother’s mother was ill, Kiara is thrown into a life of new cousins, aunts, uncles, and a grandmother who is anything but kind. While staying at Fernhill, her grandmother’s house, for the summer, Kiara and her cousins Jill and Maddie learn how to make the most out of difficult situations while dealing with their very moody grandmother. The trio becomes very close as they battle the hot weather and boredom at Fernhill. <i>That Fernhill Summer</i> by Colby Rodowsky is a quick read with only 176 pages, yet it is still entertaining and satisfying. While traveling with Kiara, you will feel everything from sadness to happiness and will be left feeling content.</p> <p>Brenda Carobine Marquette, MI</p>
<p>Thicker than Water by Carla Jablonski Razorbill (Penguin), 2006, 256 pp., \$16.99</p> <p><i>Thicker than Water</i>, a novel by Carla Jablonski, is the story of seventeen-year-old Kia, who is dealing simultaneously with many of life’s difficulties: a cancer-stricken mother, an absent father, a compulsion for cutting, and a search for identity. Kia investigates witchcraft and magic, first at a Wiccan ceremony, then in the world of hip vampires in the bars of New York City. Along with encouragement from her new co-worker Hecate, Kia becomes captivated with the vampire underground bar scene, especially with one of the deejays, Damon. Kia spends much of the book pursuing a romance with him, despite the concerns of her friends Carol, Aaron, and Virgil. However, in the background are always Kia’s relationships with her ever-changing family. Bar-hopping adventures, underage drinking, and some erotic scenes make <i>Thicker than Water</i> more appropriate for older teens, especially those with an interest in the supernatural.</p> <p>Kia Jane Richmond Marquette, MI</p>	<p>A True and Faithful Narrative by Katherine Sturtevant Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, 256 pp., \$17.00 ISBN: 03743780996</p> <p>In this sequel to <i>At the Sign of the Star</i>, 16-year-old Meg is chafing at the restraints on 1600s women.</p> <p>As a bookseller’s daughter, Meg has had the unique opportunity of reading widely. As a Londoner, her view of life is broader than many, but her desire to be a writer is not a popular one. She realizes that her future depends on her making good decisions. She will have to marry, but she seeks a man who will not be averse to her vocation.</p> <p>Caught between two young men, she decides to choose the one who offers possibilities. This book is a wonderful story about women’s struggle for equality, and it is relevant today.</p> <p>Joy Frerichs Chatsworth, GA</p>

<p><i>The Valley of the Wolves</i> by Laura Gallego Garcia Arthur A. Levine Books, 2006, 256 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>Fantasy/Supernatural ISBN: 0-439-58553-8</p> <p>Ever since Dana was six, her best friend has been a boy named Kai. The only problem is that Dana is the only one who can see him. Everyone in the town knows of Dana's "imaginary friend" and believes she must be crazy and a witch. When a mystical man named Maestro adopts Dana as an apprentice and takes her to Maestro's magic Tower in the Valley of the Wolves, Dana begins to wonder if she really is a witch. With the help of Kai, Dana must survive the Tower and the Valley of the Wolves, while trying to discover what the power of magic is really all about.</p> <p>Written when Garcia was only 20, <i>The Valley of the Wolves</i> is the story of a young girl coming of age and realizing her full potential. Garcia borrows different elements of fantasy and the supernatural to create a truly believable world.</p> <p>Brandon Schwarz Lawrence, KS</p>	<p><i>What Are You Afraid Of?</i> Edited by Donald R. Gallo Candlewick Press, 2006, 189 pp., \$15.99</p> <p>Short Stories/Phobias ISBN: 0763626546</p> <p>Excessive fears, debilitating fears that cannot be rationalized away, grip teenagers' lives, causing them to be the brunt of bullying, the focus of jokes, and the cause of nightmares for parents and friends who only want to help.</p> <p>These short stories demonstrate how the fear of string, crossing a road, cats, sharp knives, or clowns can make "normal" life impossible for teens. Most of them get help from a professional or a friend or a parent by learning that they first have to face their fears and then take one day at a time to overcome them. The last story will leave you with a taste of fear in your own mouth as the usual source of fears is reversed.</p> <p>Readers will laugh, shiver, and empathize with phobics who can't control their own thoughts and who can't make their bodies react to seemingly natural events. Anthologist Gallo has collected 11 phobia-ridden stories that hold readers' attention long after they finish reading.</p> <p>Carolyn Lott Missoula, MT</p>
<p><i>The Wright 3</i> by Blue Bakkuett Scholastic Press, 2006, 297 pp., \$16.99</p> <p>Historical Fiction ISBN: 0439693675</p> <p><i>The Wright 3</i> by Blue Bakkuett is an absorbing mystery involving American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Chicago design, the Robie House.</p> <p>Because of a teacher's concern about destroying works of art, three classmates endeavor to save the house. Sleuths will enjoy unraveling the historical, mathematical, and criminal clues needed to solve the mystery. The author has definitely plotted this novel well, while providing characters that are delineated well. One does not want to stop reading the book!</p> <p>Besides providing an interesting historical fiction story, the reader will gain a great deal of information about Wright and his buildings.</p> <p>Joy Frenichs Chatsworth, GA</p>	<p><i>Publishers who wish to submit a book for possible review should send a copy of the book to:</i> Lori Goodson 409 Cherry Circle Manhattan, KS 66503</p> <p><i>To submit a review for possible publication or to become a reviewer, contact Lori Goodson at lagoodson@cox.net</i></p>