Fiction

**Katie in the Kitchen**
By: Fran Manushkin  
Illus. by: Tammie Lyon  
Picture Window Books, 2010  
ISBN: 9781404857247

_Curriculum: Cookery; Helpfulness, Chinese Americans_

Katie’s mother has taken soup to a neighbor, her dad is working on the car, Katie wants to help too. Katie decides to make dinner. She adds three boxes of spaghetti, four cans of tomato sauce, and a jar of olives to a pot of water. Chocolate chip cookies consist of a bag of flour and two bags of chocolate chips. Won’t Mom and Dad be surprised!

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin  
Park Hill Elem.

**Sleep, Baby, Sleep**
Illus. by: Teri Weidner  
Tiger Tales, 2009  
ISBN: 1589258433

_Curriculum: Baby animals; Family life; Classic lullaby_

Cute baby animals (puppies, robins, rabbits, a calf and a lamb, kittens, mice and a little boy) float across the pages. The central theme of the rhyming text is “Sleep, baby, sleep, Your father tends the sheep ... Sleep, baby, sleep, Down where the wood-bines creep ... Be always like the lamb so mild, a kind and sweet and gentle child.” When the little boy goes to sleep, he dreams of the baby animals hanging from his mobile which are the exact animals in the story.

Reviewed by: Irene Bell  
Alumni

**Sitting Duck**
Written and Illus. by: Jackie Urbanovic  
Harper, 2010  
ISBN: 9780061765841

_Curriculum: Dogs; Ducks; Babysitters_

"How much trouble could a puppy get into, anyway?" Uncle Brody and his friends are about to find out – the hard way. Having offered to baby-sit Anabel, she runs them ragged throughout the day getting into mischief all around the house. Anabel has a great day, but her babysitters are worn out! Urbanovic’s comical illustrations depicting the mayhem of the day and familiar characters will draw readers to this latest adventure of Max, the duck, and his friends.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich  
Ford Elem.

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**Who are we?**

☺ We are DPS teacher librarians from elementary, middle and high school.

☺ We know DPS students and the DPS curriculum.

☺ Every month each member writes reviews of at least fifteen recently published books.

☺ Our hard work earns thousands of dollars of free books for our school libraries and for the classroom library at ERS, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)
Kisses on the Wind
By: Lisa Moser
Illustrated by: Kathryn Brown
Candlewick Press, 2009
ISBN: 9780763631109
Curriculum: Moving; Grandmother; Frontier and pioneer life; West (U.S.) history
As Papa and Mama finish loading the covered wagon for their journey to Oregon, young Lydia struggles to say good-bye to her beloved Grandma. Walking the hills, the two reminisce about their times together. Soft watercolor paintings evoke the past and expressive heart-full scenes between Lydia and her Grandmother illustrate their loving bond. This is a bittersweet story of treasured relationships and the pain of parting.
Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8

The Fox and the Hen
Written and illus. by: Eric Battut
Boxer Books, 2008
ISBN: 9781907152023
Curriculum: Trickster tales; Hens and foxes; Farm animals
Henrietta Hen trades her precious egg to Red Fox for a delicious worm and all the animals on the farm team up to try to get it back. After all attempts fail to trade it for white goose feathers or delicious goat cheese, Henrietta comes up with a plan to trick the Red Fox back for her egg.
Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni

Clues in the Attic
By: Cari Meister
Illus. by: Remy Simard

StoneArchBooks, 2010
ISBN: 9781434218896
Curriculum: Graphic novel; Bats; Snakes
Ben is on a mission in the creepy, dark attic. He lost something of his sister’s and he is afraid it is in the attic. What could Ben have lost that would be in the spider infested attic? This is a great first graphic novel for beginning readers or second language learners.
Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

Mimi dice que NO
(Mimi Says NO)
By: Yih-Fen Chou
Illus. by: Chih-Yuan Chen
Thule, 2008
ISBN: 9788496473973
Curriculum: Self-assertiveness
This is a picture book that portrays a spunky young creature asserting her independence in a number of situations by saying “no” to all offers for help, and ending with a nice twist. With its unique drawings, this book will delight little ones as they identify with this stage of development in their lives.
Reviewed by: Ethel Hammerly
Spanish Reviewer

Rugidos y Orejas (Roars and Ears)
Written and illus. by: Chih-Yuan Chen
Thule, 2008
ISBN: 9788496473928
Curriculum: Self-protection; Friendliness
Parallel stories, reflected in the special book format, about two animal families training their youngsters to feed and take care of themselves. Ears learns how to jump and run fast and is warned to stay away from lions; Roars learns to trot silently and give out a boisterous roar to paralyze rabbits to catch them. The first time they venture out, they run into each other in a cave where they went for protection from the rain, and rather than Ears turning into food, they become friends. A very appealing book with charming drawings and easy to follow simple text.
Reviewed by: Ethel Hammerly
Spanish Reviewer

Food Chain
Written and illus. by: M. P. Robertson
Frances Lincoln Children’s Books, 2009
ISBN: 9781845079291
Curriculum: Food chains; Oceans: Consequences
A naughty little boy looks at the little fish in its little bowl and decides to see what happens if he pours it into the toilet. “Little fish, naughty little boy. Naughty little boy, evil plan!” The little fish swims along the long smelly pipe until he reaches the ocean. In the big ocean there is a big fish! “Little fish. BIG FISH! Big fish. BIGGER FISH!” Thus begins the food chain which indeed can end rather unexpectedly and abruptly.
Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.

Do Animals Migrate?
By: Faith Hickman Brynie
Curriculum: Migratory animals

Many animals – from elephants, to bats, to crabs – migrate for different reasons. Most are in search of food, but they also give birth, escape the cold, or find new places to live. This series provides two sections of text for each animal. There is text for readers who are “learning to read” and for those who are “reading to learn.” The vivid photos and the different options of text make for a series that will be of interest to a wide variety of readers.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elem.

**Soccer**

By: Bob Temple
Child’s World, 2010
ISBN: 9781602533721
Curriculum: Soccer; Sports

General information about the internationally popular sport of soccer is introduced in this simple title. Some of the equipment needed such as shin pads and spiked shoes is discussed. Sport-specific vocabulary including the terms offense, defense, and goalkeeper is also included. Contemporary photographs of children from various ethnic groups accompany the text. Independent readers in 2nd-3rd grades with an interest in sports will enjoy each of the 8 titles in the Jump into Sports series.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

**Fiction**

**Sometimes We Were Brave**
By: Pat Brisson
Illus. by: Frances Brussard
Boyd Mills Press, 2010
ISBN: 9781590785867

“Being brave means doing what you’re supposed to do even though you’re afraid.” And that is exactly what little Jerome, Duffy his dog, and his dad do when his sailor mom is away on her ship. When she is gone they have some bad days, but mostly good, and of course greet mom with hugs and kisses when her ship pulls into port.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Stedman Elem.

**Nonfiction**

**Dash to the Finish**
By: Jeremy Diamond
Illus. by: Matt Cassan, Peter Habjan
Abdo Spotlight, 2010
ISBN: 9781599616643
Curriculum: Graphic novels, Auto racing, Superheroes

Jack Diesel, the driver of the opponent NASCAR Racing car, has kidnapped Astor in hopes of preventing Jimmy Dash from driving in the next NASCAR race, but supercharged Dash and his crew, using their superpowers, combat everything from a car crusher to a very mean dog. This book is the third in a series of NASCAR graphic novels about Jack Diesel and his crew, who have superpowers as a result of a radioactive accident.

Reviewed by Megan McQuinn
Howell ECE-8

**New York Yankees**

Being the youngest, smallest student in his second grade class wasn’t all Douglas had to contend with. He was also the newest student and had a southern accent. A struggling reader as well, his determined teacher, Miss Little, keeps him after school daily and helps him succeed. This touching memoir by award-winning author Douglas Wood pays homage to a patient dedicated teacher.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8
‘No team has won more World Series than the New York Yankees!’ This book goes on to tell the reader about where the Yankees play baseball, who they play, and their history. We learn about some of the past superstars like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Mickey Mantle, and Yogi Berra. The book also explains about the baseball diamond, the uniforms, and equipment used by the players. It is part of series of books on 8 other Major League Baseball teams. This is a good series to introduce young readers to well known sports team.

Reviewed by Megan McQuinn
Howell ECE-8

Whose Fingerprints Are These?: Crime Solving Science Projects
By: Robert Gardner
Enslow, 2010
ISBN: 9780766032453
Curriculum: Fingerprints; Forensic sciences
Young scientists interested in forensics will delight in this simple explanation of how to take and use fingerprints, lip prints, tooth prints, and footprints to obtain evidence. A brief explanation of the scientific process is included along with “Who Dunnit? Crimes to Solve” and suggestions for science fair projects. All ages will find this text fun and informative.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Stedman Elem.

In a very real sense, people who have read good literature have lived more than people who cannot or will not read. It is not true that we have only one life to lead; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish.

~ S. I. Hayakawa ~
Middle School Reader Gold Mine

Many of these books will work in high school, too!

Fiction

Prism
By: Aliza Kellerman
Harper Collins, 2009
ISBN: 9780061687211
Curriculum: Time travel; Friendships; Survival; Alternate worlds
The class is going on a field trip to Carlsbad Caverns. Kaida is not looking forward to riding in the same van with Zeke and Joy. An unexpected car crash leads them into a cave, a dark hole and then into another world. It looks almost the same, with the same people and school, but things are not quite right. In this world, there are no hospitals or doctors. Prescription drugs are illegal and even having aspirin can get you arrested. Kaida, Zeke and Joy must band together with the help of a local to try and get back to their real time.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

The Pharaoh’s Secret
By: Marissa Moss
Abrams, 2009
ISBN: 9780810983786
Curriculum: Mystery; Egypt; Family; Pharaohs;
Talibah and her brother Adom come to Egypt with their father for spring break. Their father is originally from Egypt and is a Professor. They meet an “old family friend” whom Talibah does not trust. They try to solve an ancient mystery about the disappearance of Hatshepsut’s chief architect, Senemut. Talibah hears voices in her head and has strange dreams that give her hints of what to do. She keeps a sketchbook to draw her impressions which eventually helps her figure out the puzzle.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

Signal
By: Cynthia DeFelice
Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2009
ISBN: 9780743999153
Curriculum: Friendship; Child Abuse
New to a small town, Owen McGuire has a long, lonely summer ahead, even lonelier since his dad, a recent widower, is adjusting his life as well. Owen finds Cam, an unlikely friend, who is attempting to return to her home planet. Suddenly summer has a purpose. Create a signal beaconing Cam’s family to Earth to get her and perhaps Owen. The watchful eye of Mr. Power’s, town busy body saves both kids from a terrible fate.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

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From ERS:
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Karen Shannon
Antonio Nicotera
ing into a touching story of a girl attempting to avoid child abuse, it is a good read for grades 6-8.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Advice About Friends:
Claudia Cristina Cortez
Uncomplicates Your Life
By: Diana Gallagher
Illus. by: Brann Garvey
StoneArchBooks, 2010
ISBN: 9781434219060
Curriculum: Advice; Friendship; Relationships

Learn from Claudia and her friends what it means to be a friend. Is there a time to keep secrets? If you are new in school, how exactly do you make and keep new friends? Learn from Claudia how to fight fair if a friendship is going to end. Also learn from Claudia about how to deal with a bully and others who are “unfriends”. Text comes in small chunks and is neatly interspersed with pencil sketches and doodles. The advice is sound.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M. S.

Exploration
There are three U.S. scientific stations on Antarctica. To work at one of the stations, workers must get a thorough physical and dental check up because while there are medical facilities they are not enough to handle some emergencies. If a scientist or support worker wants to winter at one of the stations they have to have a mental check up too. Winters can get very long in Antarctica. One way they entertain themselves is by the “300 Club.” This tradition requires a person to experience a 300°F temperature change in a matter of minutes. They do this by first entering a sauna and once it reaches a certain temperature they run 100 yards to the South Pole Marker in the -100°F cold and rush back into the sauna.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

Recipe for Disaster
By: Darlene R. Stille
Compass Point Books, 2010
ISBN: 9780756542160
Curriculum: Science; Food

If you have ever gotten sick from something you ate, you might have had a food born illness. This non-fiction title is one of a series called, Headline Science, and discusses how careless handling of food leads to food born illnesses. Readers will learn about how germs can be introduced into the food supply from vegetable, eggs, meat and even water.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.

Ice Scientist: Careers in the Frozen Antarctic
By: Sara L. Latta
Enslow, 2009
ISBN: 978-0-7660-3048-0
Curriculum: Scientists; Antarctica;

The Goodbye Season
By: Marian Hale
Henry Holt, 2009
ISBN: 978-0-8050-8855-7
Curriculum: Historical fiction; Grief; Epidemics

Mercy Kaplan is seventeen. She cannot wait to leave the farm and get away from her duties as the eldest daughter. When the crops fail Mercy is sent to town to work for a family. Her family dies in the flu epidemic of 1918 as does the first couple she worked for. Mercy sets about looking for work. The last thing she intends to do is fall in love with somebody. She accepts work in a house for a widow, her older stepson and two young children. Mercy has feelings for the stepson but fights them. Things get even more complex.
when the widow is killed and Mercy takes another position at a boarding house.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

Zane’s Trace
By: Allen Wolf
Candlewick, 2010
ISBN: 9780763643782

Curriculum: Schizophrenia; Families; Suicide;
Zane Guesswind is on his way to his mother’s grave in his father’s 1969 Barracuda. He has a supply of Mountain Dew, a pack of unopened Sharpies, his brother’s driver’s license, and the family heirloom pistol. He has left behind his medication, his room with the sharpie-covered walls and his grandfather’s body. When Zane picks up Libba at a truck stop, her optimism might make him change his mind about his plans with the pistol, but the ghosts in his head might be stronger than Libba’s smile.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

Before I Fall
By: Lauren Oliver
HarperCollins, 2010
ISBN: 978-0061726804

Curriculum: Popular girls; Drunk driving; Afterlife; Second chances
Samantha Kingston is at the top of the popularity ladder. It’s Cupid day at her school; there’s a party tonight; and she has special plans with her boyfriend. In fact the only thing that could ruin this day is the fact that it’s her last. But when Samantha wakes up to find that it’s Friday all over again, she realizes she has a second chance. As Samantha revives her last day over and over, trying to save her life, she finally realizes that it might not be her life she’s trying to save after all.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

In a Heartbeat
By: Loretta Ellsworth
Walker Books for Young Readers, 2010
ISBN: 9780802720689

Curriculum: Heart Transplants; Organ Donation; Death
Two teens, complete strangers, struggle with overactive moms. Amelia’s mom constantly dotes over Amelia’s heart transplant needs, allowing little independence for Amelia. Eagan’s mom pushes her into the world of Olympic figure skating. One fatal slip on the ice joins both families forever. Eagan must forgive before moving into the afterlife while Amelia struggles with survivor guilt as Eagan’s heart lives on in her body. Based on true stories of cellular memory in which transplant recipients feel they adopt the donor’s characteristics after surgery, Ellsworth keeps a somber topic intriguing. Excellent read.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Hiroshima: Birth of the Nuclear Age
By: Michael Murgan
Marshall Cavendish, 2009

ISBN: 0761440239

Curriculum: Hiroshima (Japan)-History-Bombardment, 1945; Atomic bomb-United States-History
This work provides comprehensive information on: events leading up to the Pearl Harbor bombing; the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, N.M. which developed the bombs; the beginning of the nuclear age with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; scientific developments which have made wars more destructive than ever before; and concerns that thousands of nuclear weapons are stored around the world while third world countries are trying to build them. They ended one war but: "raise the threat of deadlier wars to come."

Reviewed by: Irene Bell
Alumni

MY BOOK!
I did it!
I did it!
Come and look
At what I’ve done!
I read a book!
When someone wrote it
Long ago
For me to read,
How did he know
That this was the book
I’d take from the shelf
And lie on the floor
And read by myself?
I really read it!
Just like that!
Word by word,
From first to last!
I’m sleeping with
This book in bed,
This first FIRST book
I’ve ever read!
~ David L. Harrison ~
(from Somebody Catch My Homework)