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ABSTRACT

The 65 biographies reviewed in this annotated bibliography are suitable for readers in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. Full bibliographic data, appropriate grade level indication, and annotations are supplied for each entry. The names and addresses of the publishers are also provided. Biographies of women, children, authors, actors, historical personages, musicians, political leaders, and sports figures are included. Names of additional books that have been reviewed elsewhere are also listed together with an indication of the journals in which the reviews appeared. (DB)

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Advisory List of Instructional Media: Biography.

Department of Public Instruction  
Media Evaluation Services  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
June 1991

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# Advisory List of Instructional Media

## BIOGRAPHY

Media Evaluation Services  
Department of Public Instruction

June 1991  
Raleigh, North Carolina

All titles on this bibliography are currently available for purchase. Prices shown are those quoted by publishers and producers but do not include postage and are subject to change. These materials are on display for examination in the Media Evaluation Center in Raleigh.

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*Publishers and producers are listed at the end of this bibliography. An abbreviated or code name for the publisher or producer cited in the bibliographic entry on this list appears in the DIRECTORY where the complete address follows the code name.*

**GRADES PreK-3**

### Books

Adler, David A. *Picture Book Biographies*. 5 titles each unpag. each \$14.95. Holiday, 1990, 1991. Grades 1-3

*A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin* (ISBN 0-8234-0792-6). *A Picture Book of Christopher Columbus* (ISBN 0-8234-0857-4). *A Picture Book of Eleanor Roosevelt* (ISBN 0-8234-0856-6). *A Picture Book of Helen Keller* (ISBN 0-8234-0818-3). *A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson* (ISBN 0-8234-0791-8).

These additions to the *Picture Book* Biography series for very young

readers provide imaginative writing and lively watercolors to introduce important historical figures. Franklin and Jefferson emerge as products of their era and personalities who, through intelligence, wit, and curiosity, helped to shape a nation and an era. Eleanor Roosevelt's painful childhood and compassionate adulthood are well demonstrated, as are Helen Keller's. The Columbus biography should be commended for noting that, because the Spaniards "who stayed behind after the first voyage had been cruel to the Indians," the Indians killed them. Although none of these contains information lacking in existing books about the subjects, the inviting illustrations by John and Alexandra Wallner and the simple (but not oversimplified) writing style will make them attractive to fledgling history buffs. A chronology concludes each.

Brighton, Catherine. *Mozart: Scenes from the Childhood of the Great Composer*. unpag. \$15.99. Doubleday, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-41538-9) Grades K-4

A charmingly told account of Mozart's prodigious childhood seen through the eyes of his older sister "Nannerl" makes a splendid introduction for very young readers to the early life of the great composer. Put the delightful text must take a back seat to Ms. Brighton's evocative color illustrations. Muted tones and exquisite period detail fill the pages—a half-eaten Viennese Sacher torte rests on a plate beside the sprawling young Mozart as he works on a musical score sheet. Cats and a pet dog romp through music rooms

and underfoot. Mozart bends over the keyboard, a folded paper hat playfully angled over his head. Buy this one!

Downing, Julie. *Mozart Tonight*. unpag. \$15.95. Bradbury Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-02-732881-3) Grades 1-5

The excitement and color of eighteenth-century concert evenings are dramatically rendered in Julie Downing's picture book about Mozart. On his way to the first performance of *Don Giovanni*, Mozart recalls for his wife Constanze highlights of his early life as their coach rattles over the streets of Prague to the crowded opera house. Downing's imaginary first-person narrative, rich with facts and images of the great musician's tumultuous career, conveys the expectant quality of an opening night. Large, busy watercolors are a pageant of light and dark—a night lit by the bright lights of the opera house and Mozart himself illuminated onstage as the darkened audience roars its applause. A perfect setting for *Don Giovanni* and for beginners learning about Mozart.

*Gateway Civil Rights*. 4 titles each 32 p. each \$10.90. Millbrook Pr., 1991. Grades 2-4

*Abraham Lincoln and the End of Slavery* (ISBN 1-878841-12-2). *Jackie Robinson and the Breaking of the Color Barrier* (ISBN 1-878841-15-7). *Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March Toward Freedom* (ISBN 1-878841-13-0). *Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott* (ISBN 1-878841-14-9).

Attractive and easy to read, these informative little books introduce

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young readers to men and women important to the civil rights movement in this country. Amply illustrated by black-and-white and color photographs, each book incorporates biographical details but focuses on its subject's role in the struggle for equality. Good material for Black History Month and social studies units on civil rights and U. S. history. Timeline of important dates, bibliography, index.

**Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*.** unpag. \$15.95. Harcourt, 1990. (ISBN 0-15-200603-6) Grades K-6

A healthy, inspiring book about racial understanding and tolerance, *Teammates* describes the courage and heroism of three exceptional men: Branch Rickey, general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers who was committed to integrating the all-white major league team; Jackie Robinson, the talented first black man to star in both the Negro and the Major leagues; and Pee Wee Reese, the Southern-born, white Dodger teammate and friend who publicly demonstrated his support of Robinson's right to play. Paul Bacon's striking watercolors are an eloquent complement to this narrative, and several period black-and-white photographs merge logically with the text. An excellent high-interest resource for independent reading and for discussions on prejudice, heroes, and sports.

**Venezia, Mike. *Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists*.** 3 titles each 32 p. each \$9.95. Childrens, 1990. Grades 2-4

*Edward Hopper* (ISBN 0-516-02277-6). *Mary Cassatt* (ISBN 0-516-02278-4). *Monet* (ISBN 0-516-02276-8).

These easy biographies introduce young children to three major modern painters in texts beautifully illustrated with full-color reproductions of their paintings on nearly every page and enlivened by Mike Venezia's chatty, down-to-earth (irreverent?) narrative, complete with

his own amusing cartoon drawings of revealing moments in the subjects' lives. The beginner examining these titles will be drawn at once into the artwork and into Venezia's discussion. Monet's love of caricaturing people he knew and Hopper's penchant for painting his wife into scenes are typical of interesting tidbits shared with readers. This series demystifies without devaluing—a diverting, successful set of books.

**Weil, Lisl. *Wolferl: The First Six Years in the Life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1762*.** unpag. \$14.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0876-0) Grades 1-3

For very young audiences there is yet another book devoted to the musical genius, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, which emphasizes the child prodigy who played various musical instruments and composed his own melodies by the age of four. Lisl Weil's lighthearted watercolor washes capture the happy, vital child who loved coaches and courts equally as he traveled throughout Europe, charming royalty with his brilliant performances. Dates and direct quotations add authenticity to a natural, flowing narrative that ends, after a sensational performance before the court in Vienna, with six-year-old "Wolferl" recuperating from an illness which may have presaged his later health problems. Glossary.

### Books Reviewed in Other Sources

(See code explanation on page 13)

**Greene, Carol. *Rookie Biographies*.** 6 titles each 47 p. each \$9.95. Childrens, 1990. Grades 1-3. SLJ

*Black Elk: A Man with a Vision* (ISBN 0-516-04213-0). *Elizabeth the First: Queen of England* (ISBN 0-516-04214-9). *Jackie Robinson: Baseball's First Black Major-Leaguer* (ISBN 0-516-04211-4).

*Jacques Cousteau: Man of the Oceans* (ISBN 0-516-04215-7). *Laura Ingalls Wilder: Author of the Little House Books* (ISBN 0-516-04212-2). *Louis Pasteur: Enemy of Disease* (ISBN 0-516-04216-5).

**Gutelle, Andrew. *Baseball's Best: Five True Stories*.** (Step into Reading Series) 48 p. \$6.99. Random, 1990. (ISBN 0-394-90983-6) Grades 2-4. BCCB BKL SLJ

GRADES 4-8

### Books

**Aaseng, Nathan. *From Rags to Riches: People Who Started Businesses from Scratch*.** (Inside Business Series) 80 p. \$11.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-8225-0679-3) Grades 4-6

Entrepreneurial young readers who approach these capsule biographies as testaments to persistence and ingenuity will probably take away more than those who read simply for get-rich-quick gratification. Pluck and principle guided these Americans through poverty, setbacks, even tragedy, to enormous gain and international recognition. Their stories are pithy and focused. Although the book traces the successes of such people as Richard Sears of Sears, Roebuck, Apple Computer's Steve Jobs, and hotel chain magnate J. Willard Marriott, readers may note the absence of women or minorities among the more than twelve achievers profiled. Photographs, bibliography, index.

**Aaseng, Nathan. *Robert E. Lee*.** 112 p. \$14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1991. (ISBN 0-8225-4909-3) Grades 5-8

Young readers informed about the military legend and curious to know more about the man behind it will enjoy Aaseng's sympathetic biogra-

phy of Robert E. Lee. Lee's lifelong bouts of depression, his embarrassment over his father's futile get-rich-quick schemes, his humiliation by his half-brother's sordid sexual affair, and the burdens he bore caring first for his invalid mother, then his invalid wife, are all detailed here. Lee emerges a man of enormous integrity, courage, and dignity, yet humanized by personal sorrows and a goading sense of failure. The Civil War campaigns are well summarized, and quotations from Lee himself salt the contents. Photographs, bibliography, index. A handsome publication.

**The Achievers.** 4 titles each 64 p. each \$8.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990, 1991. Grades 4-9

**Bo Jackson: Pro Sports Superstar** (ISBN 0-8225-0487-1). **David Robinson: Backboard Admiral** (ISBN 0-8225-0494-4). **Greg LeMond: Premier Cyclist** (ISBN 0-8225-0476-6). **Wayne Gretzky: Hockey Great** (ISBN 0-8225-0539-8).

Filled with enough facts and figures to entice any sports-minded reluctant reader, biographies in this series profile outstanding athletes from a variety of sports (hockey, cycling, basketball, football). Short, easy to read, and amply illustrated with black-and-white photographs, each book traces one man's career, both amateur and professional, and uses excerpts from interviews with and about him to provide insight and to supplement personal data. Tables of college and professional statistics conclude the texts, except for LeMond's biography, which ends with a diagram of a race and pronunciation guide. High-interest choices for sports electives and pleasure reading.

**Bernstein, Joanne E., et al. Judith Resnik: Challenger Astronaut.** 112 p. \$14.95. Lodestar Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-67305-9) Grades 5-8

Judith Resnik, one of two female astronauts killed in the *Challenger* space shuttle disaster, was a remarka-

bly versatile woman—Ph.D. in electrical engineering, musician, devout Jew, space scientist. This thoroughly researched and sensitive book about her is engaging and well illustrated with photographs. A good portion of the closing pages indirectly discusses death, loss, and grief in ways that should be helpful for young readers troubled or frightened by those issues. Bibliography, index.

**Carpenter, Angelica Shirley, and Jean Shirley. Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden.** 128 p. \$14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-8225-4905-0) Grades 5-8

This easy-to-read, fascinating profile of author Frances Hodgson Burnett traces her career from impoverished childhood in Manchester, England, and Knoxville, Tennessee, to international celebrity. Period black-and-white photographs, newspaper clippings, quotations, and illustrations from her books embellish details of Burnett's personal and professional life. Readers who have enjoyed Burnett's classic children's stories, such as *The Secret Garden* and *A Little Princess*, will discover a clever, generous, resourceful woman who supported her family by writing popular romances, plays, and "potboilers." This biography contains interesting information about Victorian England, post Civil War America, and effects of invention and technology during the period Burnett lived (from 1849-1924), offering good tie-ins to science and social studies curriculum through student reports and discussion. Bibliography, index.

**Collins, David R. Pioneer Plowmaker: A Story About John Deere.** (Creative Minds Books) 63 p. \$9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-87614-424-5) Grades 4-8

Featured here is the nineteenth-century blacksmith who invented the revolutionary self-scouring plough and went on to found what is still one of America's most successful companies manufacturing farm

implements and equipment. Deere's run of bad luck, due chiefly to his devotion to product and ineptitude for budget management, makes for some suspenseful reading. The other particulars of Deere's life are not remarkable, so this brief life story may have a limited audience. But it is well written and adequately illustrated.

**Conrad, Pam. Prairie Visions: The Life and Times of Solomon Butcher.** 85 p. \$16.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-021375-2) Grades 4-6

Relying on original photographs by famous prairie cameraman, Solomon Butcher, the author of *Prairie Songs* has compiled a wonderful visual visit back in time to the days of the "soddy," the typical Nebraska dwelling built from "Nebraska brick," as the settlers dubbed the dirt composition of their homes. Her account of Solomon Butcher captures a man driven by the dream to record the prairie world, the families, homes, and amazing pluck of white and black homesteaders—Conrad includes a section on black Americans—between 1880 and 1910. A friendly raconteur, Conrad tells an anecdotal history, vividly re-creating problems and priorities on the American prairie of the time. Fully illustrated with Butcher's original photographs in black and white.

**Crofford, Emily. Frontier Surgeons: A Story About the Mayo Brothers.** (Creative Minds Books) 56 p. \$9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-87614-381-8) Grades 3-5

Schools seeking to expand their biography collections will find this brief history of the Mayo brothers of Mayo Clinic fame a serviceable addition. This story of Will and Charlie focuses more on their childhood and the influence of their parents than on their medical achievements, providing a foundation for more sophisticated reading later. Their example of brotherly cooperation and sharing information is inspiring for young readers. Black-and-white drawings.

**Devaney, John.** *Winners of the Heisman Trophy.* Rev. ed. 167 p. \$15.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8207-6907-1) Grades 5-9

Revised and updated, this edition of *Winners of the Heisman Trophy* briefly recounts the history of the award and profiles fifteen winners, including Bo Jackson, Roger Staubach, and O. J. Simpson. Sports-minded reluctant readers will find a biographical sketch inserted into each chapter, highlighting in dramatic narrative significant moments in a player's college career. Black-and-white photographs (some action shots) depict these outstanding athletes. Although a luxury item for most collections, this volume does provide high-interest material for sports electives and pleasure reading, particularly for libraries that lack the earlier edition. Appendix of winners, their colleges, and positions; index.

**Driemen, J. E.** *Winston Churchill: An Unbreakable Spirit.* (People in Focus Books) 128 p. \$11.95. Dillon, 1990. (ISBN 0-87518-434-0) Grades 5-8

The Old Warrior is well documented in this introduction to Winston Churchill for young readers whose grandparents would remember the inimitable Churchillian voice and V-sign. J. E. Driemen covers the life of Sir Winston in humanizing detail, and his quotations from Churchill are especially effective in giving this portrait of the British statesman depth and interest. Although an admiring—some might say unrelentingly admiring—life history, it is well written, comprehensive for its intended audience, and liberally spiced with the wry, shrewd wit of the man. Certainly it should spur future historians to seek out more books not only on Churchill but also on events of the first half of this century. Some most interesting archival photographs illustrate. Index.

**Fisher, Leonard Everett.** *Prince Henry the Navigator.* un. \$14.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-735231-5) Grades 4-7

Misleadingly named, Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal never participated himself in explorations of the African coast and elsewhere that made him an important historical figure. But as Fisher's brief, clearly written biography emphasizes, Prince Henry's refinement of key navigational tools and his founding the world's first school of navigation contributed significantly to spreading European civilization to "new worlds" around the globe. Unromanticized and historically precise, this excellent biography's moody black-and-white wash illustrations and serious tone may put off less confident readers, but the stubborn, inventive prince is a worthy study.

**Freedman, Russell.** *Franklin Delano Roosevelt.* 200 p. \$16.95. Clarion Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-89919-379-X) Grades 5-9

Over 125 black-and-white archival photographs and prints, excerpts from Roosevelt's letters, diary, and speeches, and observations from family, friends, and foes complement Freedman's well-researched profile of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Documenting his life from privileged boyhood to polio victim to president of an emerging world power, this readable, informative text depicts an energetic, intelligent, complex man whose presidency still influences American government. Recording Roosevelt's shortcomings and failures as well as triumphs, Freedman gives young readers a balanced yet inspiring portrait of this extraordinary man. Bibliography, index.

**Genius! The Artist and the Process.** 5 titles each 128 p. each \$17.98. Silver Burdett Pr., 1990. Grades 7-9

**Arthur Miller** (ISBN 0-382-09904-4). **Duke Ellington** (ISBN 0-382-09906-0). **Frank Lloyd Wright**

(ISBN 0-382-09905-2). **Maya Angelou** (ISBN 0-382-09908-7). **Pablo Picasso** (ISBN 0-382-09903-6).

These studies of great twentieth-century artists, their lives, and their creative processes are stylistically sophisticated, tastefully candid about the artists' personal lives, and painstakingly thorough in setting the historical and social context of their creators' work. Each title delivers on its promise to explain how "the events of a life, both the triumphs and the disappointments," produce great works of art. Although aimed at middle graders, the fine quality of writing and the integrity of content make each book a primer, at least, for older students as well. Excellent color and black-and-white photographs depict artists and their works—paintings, buildings, scenes from dramas. Concluding chronologies, glossaries, bibliographies, and indexes offer handy references. These are superior resources and absorbing reading.

**Harlan, Judith.** *Sounding the Alarm: A Biography of Rachel Carson.* (People in Focus Books) 128 p. \$12.95. Dillon, 1989. (ISBN 0-87518-407-3) Grades 4-6

A sensitive biography of the woman some consider "America's first ecologist" will stimulate environmentally concerned young readers and inspire girls to ignore gender stereotypes impeding their interests. Highlighted are Rachel's daring decision to switch college majors from English to biology, her challenges to both industry and government agencies to do better by the environment, and her award-winning, politically provocative attack on pesticides, *Silent Spring*. The book is almost too respectful of Rachel Carson's privacy, offering little personal information. An excellent companion to class study and discussion of environmental issues. Black-and-white photographs, bibliography, index.

Henry, Sandra, and Emily Taitz. *Everyone Wears His Name: A Biography of Levi Strauss. (People in Focus Books)* 128 p. \$12.95. Dillon, 1990. (ISBN 0-87518-375-1) Grades 5-9

A comprehensive, readable biography of the German immigrant who gave his name to the world's largest clothing manufacturing company is a success story from the heart of the American tradition. Levi Strauss emigrated to California during the Gold Rush of the last century and cleverly figured out how to make a lot of money manufacturing clothing that the hardworking prospectors "would never wear out." The story of Strauss's rise, his philanthropy, and the second fashion revolution produced by his durable clothing in the 1960s and thereafter are chronicled in thoroughgoing, enthusiastic reading. Black-and-white photographs, bibliography, index.

Hughes, Libby. *Benazir Bhutto: From Prison to Prime Minister. (People in Focus Books)* 128 p. \$12.95. Dillon, 1990. (ISBN 0-87518-438-3) Grades 5-8

Filled with quotations by or about Benazir Bhutto, this easy-to-read biography traces her development from shy, charming child to the first woman leader of a Muslim nation. Although its text ends with the birth of her daughter on January 25, 1990, and does not include her ouster as prime minister, this book contains useful information about Pakistan's politics and Muslim customs as well as an anecdotal, intriguing profile of Bhutto and her family. A good resource for student reports and class discussion about contemporary Pakistan, a remarkable leader, and the Islamic faith. Black-and-white photographs, bibliography, index.

Jacobs, William Jay. *Great Lives: Human Rights.* 278 p. \$22.95. Scribner, 1990. (ISBN 0-684-19036-2) Grades 5-9

A collection of thirty concise, well-written biographies, *Human Rights*

contains familiar champions in the struggle for human rights (Martin Luther King, Jr., Susan B. Anthony) as well as less discussed individuals (Dorothy Day, Thaddeus Stevens, Jacob Riis). Four headings, including "Human Rights in a New World Setting" and "New Frontiers in Human Rights: The Twentieth Century," group these men and women, providing historical and social contexts for discussion and comparison. Significant facts, interesting anecdotes, and author's commentary are featured in Jacobs flowing narrative. Black-and-white photographs, etchings, and lithographs illustrate the text. Good resource for student reports and social studies curriculums.

Jacobs, William Jay. *Lincoln.* 42 p. \$12.95. Scribner, 1991. (ISBN 0-684-19274-8) Grades 3-6

Here is an introduction to Abraham Lincoln that captures his wit, magnetism, and melancholy in proportions just right for younger readers, who already suspect that icons were once human beings also. A warmly personal Lincoln, a man of strengths and sorrows, emerges in this sensitive, careful profile. Without condescending to young readers, Jacobs presents the major facts of the President's birth, youth, struggle up from poverty, education, political career, as well as some content (restrained) on his marriage, the agony of his sons' deaths, and the war. Though brief, the book evokes the wisdom and suffering of the man, quoting frequently and effectively from Lincoln's wit and vision. Excellent archival paintings and photographs. Buy it!

Jacobs, William Jay. *Washington.* 42 p. \$12.95. Scribner, 1991. (ISBN 0-684-19275-6) Grades 3-6

A serviceable biography of George Washington, this history of the first president introduces young readers to Washington's strengths as leader, general, and man of great wisdom. Although "not as clever as Hamilton" and "not as well educated or cultured

as Jefferson," Jacobs notes, Washington had better judgment than both of them, and it is his excellent judgment emphasized in this account. Washington's dignity, reserve, and lack of pretension do not offer lively content, perhaps, but Jacobs insists on them in his characterization, and the result is a strong, serious portrait. Photographs, index.

Kamen, Gloria. *Edward Lear, King of Nonsense: A Biography.* 74 p. \$12.95. Atheneum, 1990. (ISBN 0-689-31419-1) Grades 3-6

This brief, illustrated biography of the popular Victorian sketch artist and nonsense writer chronicles his painful, illness-ridden childhood, his career as a serious animal and landscape artist, and his playful avocation of entertaining children and himself with imaginative limericks, word making, and cartoons. Kamen adds her own Lear-like pen-and-ink drawings to selected examples of his work illustrating this narrative. Poems, created vocabulary, and excerpts from letters and journals add fun and substance to Kamen's text. A shy, eccentric, childlike man, Lear should appeal especially to artistically inclined middle schoolers as an example of one who triumphed over social ineptitude with whimsy and offbeat humor. Bibliography.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Christopher Columbus: Voyager to the Unknown.* 118 p. \$16.95. Lode-star Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-67292-3) Grades 5-9

A handsome, well-told biography of Christopher Columbus covers all the familiar Columbian fact and legend in an informative, graceful style that is neither patronizing nor compromising. Ms. Levinson uses revealing maps, quotations from original documents and participants, and weaves into her narrative what she credibly identifies as new research on the famous explorer's life and voyages. A minor chord is struck by her inclusion of European abuses and deceptions in relationships

with the innocent, warmly receptive natives of the New World, an ominous and far-reaching omen of this continent's future. Although the book is aimed at younger readers, any fans of travel, geography, and history will be intrigued by this first-rate biography. Instructive appendices, a bibliography, and a thorough index. A priority title.

**Loeper, John J.** *Crusade for Kindness: Henry Bergh and the ASPCA.* 103 p. \$12.95. Atheneum, 1991. (ISBN 0-689-31560-0) Grades 5-8

In addition to profiling the life and accomplishments of Henry Bergh as founder of the ASPCA and champion of animal rights, *Crusade for Kindness* is also a social history of 1800s New York and traces Bergh's work against the neglect and abuse of children and women. Loeper's narrative contains vivid descriptions of inhumane treatment and utilizes quotations by and about Bergh to create a balanced portrait that carefully points out his flaws as well as his strengths. Black-and-white period reprints, cartoons, and photographs illustrate this detailed, straightforward volume. Science and social studies classes studying animal rights history and anti-abuse legislation (for humans as well as animals) will find supplementary material here for reports and class discussion. Bibliography, index.

**McTavish, Douglas.** *Isaac Newton.* (*Pioneers of Science Series*) 48 p. \$12.40. Bookwright Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-531-18351-3) Grades 5-8

In addition to highlights of the long, productive life of Isaac Newton, the book gives concise but thorough attention to Sir Isaac's scientific and mathematical achievements and to their practical and theoretical importance today. For example, McTavish offers the example of sprinters using starting blocks to push themselves forward at the start of a race to explain Newton's Third Law of Motion. He also puts Sir Isaac's achievements into

historical perspective, vividly depicting the scientific community of the day. Extremely well illustrated, the book explains weighty concepts without ever resorting to a tone of gravity. Date chart, glossary, bibliography, index.

*New Directions.* 4 titles each 96 p. each \$14.90. Millbrook Pr., 1991. Grades 5-8

*Bill Cosby: The Changing Black Image* (ISBN 1-878841-17-3). *Elvis Presley: The Rise of Rock and Roll* (ISBN 1-878841-18-1). *Gloria Steinem: The Women's Movement* (ISBN 1-878841-19-X). *Rachel Carson: The Environmental Movement* (ISBN 1-878841-16-5).

Titles in this series are devoted to pioneers—Rachel Carson, Gloria Steinem, Bill Cosby, Elvis Presley—who helped change public views and mind-sets, providing "new directions" in such matters as our perceptions of our environment, women's issues, black Americans, and the nature of popular music. Each book is well researched, interestingly describing its subject with abundant quotations from those who know or knew the person and fleshing out personal and professional profiles with facts. A few black-and-white photographs illustrate (more would increase circulation), but the clear, dark print surrounded by borders on crisp pages is an attractive feature. Chronologies, endnotes, bibliographies, indexes.

**Osborne, Mary Pope.** *The Many Lives of Benjamin Franklin.* 127 p. \$13.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1990. (ISBN 0-8037-0680-4) Grades 4-7

In addition to everything else we already know about the famous Founder, this serviceable biography of Ben Franklin tells us that he was probably the best swimmer in the colonies and that he organized the first street-cleaning service. Although not at all unconventional, the book takes a lot of tired material and puts a new spin on it that should appeal to most young readers. Ample period illustrations of

Franklin's many inventions as well as facsimile maps and documents from his governmental career add to the package. Readers with a technical or scientific bent will like this one. Timeline, bibliography, index.

**Patrick, Diane.** *Martin Luther King, Jr.* 64 p. \$10.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10892-9) Grades 3-6

Simply and concisely written, this slender biography of America's most famous Civil Rights leader will provide a basic introduction to the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Broken into short chapters and subchapters amply illustrated in color and in black and white, Ms. Patrick's account will reach less accomplished readers in middle grades who may have found existing biographies of Dr. King too challenging. Index.

*Pioneers in Change.* 2 titles each 128-138 p. each \$13.98. Silver Burdett Pr., 1991. Grades 5-9 *George Washington Carver* (ISBN 0-382-09964-8). *Lewis Howard Latimer* (ISBN 0-382-09524-3).

Well researched and informative, biographies in this series focus on the lives and accomplishments of men and women who contributed to world progress, to change in ways of thinking about and of doing things. Featured in these two detailed volumes are excerpts from Carver's letters and Latimer's journals, which give readers unique insight into each man's character and viewpoint. Archival black-and-white photographs illustrate these literate texts tracing their lives and careers. Great references for student reports during Black History Month and for U. S. history classes. Chronology of important dates, bibliography, index.

**Reische, Diana.** *Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.* 176 p. \$13.90. Watts, 1991. (ISBN 0-531-11000-1) Grades 6-10

Yasir Arafat made accessible for secondary readers? Hardly. Such a mysterious and self-observed, contradictory persona can only be



introduced to them. The man himself remains a deliberate enigma. But the facts and the speculations about his life are laid out here, along with a great quantity of information about the PLO, the Arab-Israeli hostilities, and the confusing claims and counter-claims of the two sides. The issues symbolized by Arafat are too complex to be readily reduced and assimilated for younger audiences, but Reische makes a strong effort to acquaint them at least with those issues without oversimplifying them or yielding to the temptation to demonize Arafat. Black-and-white photographs, excerpts from the Palestinian National Covenant, endnotes, bibliography, index.

Roop, Peter and Connie, eds. *I, Columbus: My Journal, 1492-3*. Illustrated by Peter E. Hanson. 57 p. \$14.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6978-0) Grades 4-9

Excerpted from Robert H. Fuson's translation of Christopher Columbus's log, *I, Columbus* traces events of that historic 1492 voyage to discover an Atlantic route to the Orient. Brief and easy to read, this volume includes thoughts and impressions, accounts of intrigue and deception, and details of weather conditions, encounters with natives, and New World animal and plant life. Lovely pen-and-ink watercolor illustrations depict this sensitive, very religious man and highlight noteworthy incidents. Colorful endpapers are maps of the voyage to and from Spain. An excellent resource for independent reading and reports for social studies classes preparing to observe the upcoming 500th anniversary. This text is also a fine companion for Nancy Smiler Levinson's *Christopher Columbus: Voyager to the Unknown*, which is annotated elsewhere on this list.

Simon, Sheridan. *Stephen Hawking: Unlocking the Universe*. (People in Focus Books) 112 p. \$12.95. Dillon, 1991. (ISBN 0-87518-455-3) Grades 5-9

The exceptional story of Stephen Hawking is told in a detailed,

unpatronizing style that will instruct and inspire young readers with a scientific bent as well as those who need to be encouraged that even severe physical disability does not have to prevent an extraordinary life. The author, a physics professor at North Carolina's Guilford College, presents Hawking's contributions to theoretical physics in thorough but accessible discussions, from his years at St. Albans School, at Oxford, and at Cambridge, where he continues to live and work. Science lovers and hero worshippers get their due in this impressive biography. A few, dim photographs in black and white. Glossary, bibliography, and index.

*Sports Illustrated for Kids*. 2 titles 118-124 p. each \$14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. Grades 3-8  
*Michael Jordan* (ISBN 0-8225-3105-4). *Steffi Graf* (ISBN 0-8225-3106-2).

Fast-paced, inviting books about current sports figures combine well-written text and well-reproduced color photographs from *Sports Illustrated* to give readers the lives thus far of tennis ace Steffi Graf and North Carolina's own basketball superstar, Michael Jordan. Both books feature facts and statistics, emphasizing their credibility with many quotations from the athletes, their families, and those who know them. Information is up-to-date except for the omission of Steffi's father's troubles with accusations of extramarital romance, a recent rumor which affected this shy young woman deeply. The Michael Jordan biography takes pains to explain that, although Michael skipped his senior year at Chapel Hill to turn pro, he did return and complete his undergraduate degree in geography during two subsequent summer sessions. Good, engrossing profiles.

Stanley, Diane, and Peter Vennema. *Good Queen Bess: The Story of Elizabeth I of England*. unpag. \$14.95. Four Winds, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-786810-9) Grades 3-5

A generally adoring but thorough, accurate account of the life and times

of Queen Elizabeth I of England recreates the historical context in a concise opening section on the life, multiple marriages, and death of Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII. Having shown how Henry's religious and diplomatic conflict and maneuvering forever marked Elizabeth's personal life, the book then describes both the Queen and the remarkable age named for her in a solid, unpedantic exploration of why "The Elizabethan Age" was an accurate, deserved sobriquet. Diane Stanley's colorful illustrations, appearing on every page, are beautifully detailed and carefully placed. A lovely book, which quotes memorably for young readers. Brief bibliography.

Stanley, Fay. *The Last Princess: The Story of Princess Ka'iulani of Hawai'i*. 40 p. \$15.95. Four Winds, 1991. (ISBN 0-02-786785-4) Grades 3-6

This stunning picture book biography chronicles the tragic story of a truly noble young woman and heir to the island throne, whose years of education and preparation to rule were wasted when the U. S. annexed Hawai'i in 1897 and abolished its monarchy. Stanley's well-researched narrative is complemented by daughter Diane Stanley's evocative, detailed paintings, which beautifully depict Ka'iulani's handsome, multicultural people and their island paradise so coveted by white *haoles* (foreigners) living there as well as by the governments of Britain, France, Russia, and the U. S. A wonderful supplement for classes studying U. S. history, multicultural literature, and heroines, *The Last Princess* presents a native American perspective on important historical events. Map of Hawaiian Islands, notes on the language, bibliography.

Turner, Glenette Tilley. *Take a Walk in Their Shoes*. 174 p. \$14.95. Cobblehill Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-65006-7) Grades 4-8

In this interesting collection of brief biographies, skits for class participation follow profiles of fourteen African-Americans as

diverse in personality, area of achievement, and familiarity as Satchel Paige, Leontyne Price, Dr. Charles Drew, and Maggie Lena Walker. Pencil-sketch portraits of each achiever and several action studies illustrate the text. Although students will find more information for their reports in other sources, the accompanying scripts about these successful men and women offer a new and useful way to celebrate Black History Month. Index.

*Women of Our Time.* 2 titles each 57 p. each \$10.95. Viking Penguin, 1990, 1991. Grades 3-6  
*Amelia Earhart: Courage in the Sky* (ISBN 0-670-83024-0). *Sandra Day O'Connor: Justice for All* (ISBN 0-670-82756-8).

These brief, mildly feminist biographies do a good job throughout their concise texts of urging girls not to acquiesce to gender-imposed stereotypes, showing through the lives examined how courage and purpose can overcome obstacles in male-dominated fields such as aviation (Amelia Earhart) and law (Sandra Day O'Connor). In the case of Justice O'Connor, an encouraging grandmother throughout her youth reinforced the message that women can and should aspire to their goals uninhibited by societal presumptions. Difficult words are phonetically spelled in context when they arise. Black-and-white drawings.

*The World's Great Explorers.* 7 titles each 128 p. each \$17.95. Childrens, 1990. Grades 5-9  
*Edmund Hillary* (ISBN 0-516-03052-3). *Ferdinand Magellan* (ISBN 0-516-03051-5). *Henry Stanley and David Livingstone* (ISBN 0-516-03055-8). *Rene-Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle* (ISBN 0-516-03054-X). *Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott* (ISBN 0-516-03056-6). *Vasco Nunez De Balboa* (ISBN 0-516-03057-4). *Zebulon Pike* (ISBN 0-516-03058-2).

Biographies in this series profile the lives and exploits of men driven

"to boldly go where no man has gone before." Straightforward, fact-filled narrative and ample illustrative... utilizing maps, etchings, reproductions, woodcuts, and black-and-white and color photography characterize each book. Where possible, excerpts from diaries and letters appear in the text to add voice to and insight into each man. Concluding appendixes contain additional maps and charts, tables of information, a timeline of events for each explorer's life, a glossary of terms, bibliography, and index. Solid references for student reports in social studies classes.

Wormser, Richard. *Pinkerton: America's First Private Eye.* 119 p. \$18.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6965-9) Grades 5-9

Reading like fiction is this fascinating biography of the Glasgow slum kid-turned-cooper who emigrated to America and rose to wealth and influence as founder of America's premier private detective agency. But Allen Pinkerton's life had a lot of the stuff of fiction: He was a political conservative who collaborated with John Brown to smuggle slaves to freedom, a radical labor organizer who ultimately became the scourge of organized labor, a tyrannical husband who supported a woman's right to do police work, a dull and cautious barrel maker who later demonstrated an uncanny sixth sense in complex criminal cases. A fast-paced, compelling life story, this title will attract reluctant older readers in high school as well as middle schoolers. Black-and-white photographs, bibliography, index.

## Books Reviewed in Other Sources

(See code explanation on page 13)

Alter, Judith. *Eli Whitney.* 63 p. \$11.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10875-9) Grades 4-6. SLJ  
*Creative Minds Books.* 2 titles each 64 p. each \$9.95. Carolrhoda Bks.,

1990. Grades 4-6. BCCB BKL SBF SLJ

*Mr. Blue Jeans: A Story About Levi Strauss* (ISBN 0-87614-421-0). *Rooftop Astronomer: A Story About Maria Mitchell* (ISBN 0-87614-410-5).

Darby, Jean. *Martin Luther King, Jr.* 144 p. \$14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-8225-4902-6) Grades 5-9. BKL HBG SLJ VOYA

*People Who Have Helped the World.* 9 titles each 68 p. each \$12.95. Gareth Stevens, 1990. Grades 5-10. SLJ  
*Betty Friedan* (ISBN 0-8368-0104-0). *The Dalai Lama* (ISBN 0-8368-0224-1). *John Muir* (ISBN 0-8368-0099-0). *Lech Walesa* (ISBN 1-55532-821-0). *Maria Montessori* (ISBN 0-8368-0217-9). *Norman Bethune* (ISBN 0-8368-0373-6). *Ralph Nader* (ISBN 0-8368-0098-2). *Robert Baden-Powell* (ISBN 0-8368-0214-4). *Sojourner Truth* (ISBN 0-8368-0101-6).

*Picture Story Biographies.* 3 titles each 32 p. each \$9.45. Childrens, 1990. Grades 3-5. SLJ  
*Barbara Bush: First Lady of Literacy* (ISBN 0-516-04275-0). *Evelyn Cisneros: Prima Ballerina* (ISBN 0-516-04276-9). *Everett Alvarez, Jr.: A Hero for Our Times* (ISBN 0-516-04277-7). *James Weldon Johnson: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"* (ISBN 0-516-04174-6).

Saidman, Anne. *Oprah Winfrey: Media Success Story.* (*The Achievers Series*) 55 p. \$8.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-8225-0538-X) Grades 5-8. BKL SLJ

*Sports Great Books.* 5 titles each 64 p. each \$15.95. Enslow Pubs., 1990. Grades 5-9. SLJ  
*Bo Jackson* (ISBN 0-89490-281-4). *Darryl Strawberry* (ISBN 0-89490-291-1). *Herschel Walker* (ISBN 0-89490-207-5). *John Elway* (ISBN 0-89490-282-2). *Roger Clemens* (ISBN 0-89490-284-9).

**Taking Part Books.** 2 titles each 64 p. each \$9.95. Dillon, 1990. Grades 3-6. BCCB BKL HBG KR SLJ WLB  
**Ann Bancroft: On Top of the World** (ISBN 0-87518-418-9). **Julie Krone: A Winning Jockey** (ISBN 0-87518-425-1).

## GRADES 9-12

### Books

**Abt, Samuel. *LeMond: The Incredible Comeback of an American Hero.*** 206 p. \$18.95. Random, 1990. (ISBN 0-394-58476-7)  
 Grades 9-12

An inspiring account of the life and career of an international cycling superstar, this book focuses mainly on Greg LeMond's remarkable comeback from a near-fatal hunting accident, tremendous physical pain, and medical setbacks in order to win the Tour de France a second time in 1989 and be named *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsman of the Year. Abt's flowing, readable narrative excerpts interviews with LeMond, his family, and others as well as vividly describes the sport. Often unrelated anecdotes included at the beginnings of chapters and his ranging widely between different years may confuse average readers. But the heroic struggle of this genial, determined athlete, an anti-drug message, and behind-the-scenes look at problems professionals face (money, contract negotiation, merchandising) yield an excellent contemporary sports biography which should appeal to the growing number of cycling enthusiasts. Maps, black-and-white photography.

**Ashabranner, Brent. *People Who Make a Difference.*** 135 p. \$15.95. Cobblehill Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-65009-1) Grades 6-12

This remarkable book about outstanding but little known Ameri-

cans takes as its code the late Robert Kennedy's notion that "each of us can work to change a small portion of events" and George Bush's belief that a "thousand points of light" can affect life for the better in small, essential ways. Fourteen "everyday heroes" serve here as realistic role models for preteens and teenagers who mistakenly feel they must be rich, famous, or powerful to make a difference in society. From a Capuchin friar in Delaware who works with the homeless to a young woman—a recovering alcoholic—who helps women on parole build new lives, to an eighty-nine-year-old Texas woman who battles to save endangered sea turtles, these profiles in quiet courage and determination will inspire young readers. Paul Conklin's affecting photographs round out a warmly motivational collection.

**Ashabranner, Brent. *The Times of My Life: A Memoir.*** 114 p. \$14.95. Cobblehill Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-65047-4) Grades 5-12

Beginning with his boyhood in 1930s Oklahoma, young adult author Brent Ashabranner takes a thoughtful, conversational look at historical events from the Depression to the '70s as they provide background for events in his life. His well-crafted narrative includes anecdotes from experiences serving in WW II, working in Truman's Point Four foreign aid program, and directing Peace Corps programs in Africa and India. Throughout his text, Ashabranner speculates on how life experiences have shaped his career as a writer, his perspective on America and its place in international affairs, and his personal beliefs. A great resource for student discussion and reports in U. S. history classes and for study of good nonfiction writing.

**Backes, Clarus, ed. *Growing Up Western.*** 220 p. \$22.95. Knopf, 1989. (ISBN 0-394-57393-5) Grades 8-12

This handsomely produced collection of childhood reminis-

cences by seven noted fiction and nonfiction writers beautifully depicts the American West in the early part of this century. Recorded in their distinctive voices, each essay follows perceptive, informative biographical sketches which review and update the authors' lives and work. Black-and-white family photographs of Dee Brown, Wright Morris, A. B. Guthrie, David Lavender, Clyde Rice, Wallace Stegner, and Frank Waters contrast portraits of the men as they are today. Archival photographs depict turn-of-the-century scenes from towns, ranches, camps, and hamlets from Arkansas to Saskatchewan. An excellent resource for writing study (childhood memory, nonfiction essays), American literature, and U. S. history classes, *Growing Up Western* serves to put to rest many of the cowboy-movie myths about this region and era while seductively instructing readers that the truth was actually more exciting than popular cliches.

**Bernheim, Mark. *Father of the Orphans: The Story of Janusz Korczak. (Jewish Biography Series)*** 160 p. \$15.95. Lodestar Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-67265-6) Grades 6-12

This narrowly focused but beautifully written profile of a Jewish pediatrician and educator who devoted his life to needy children in Poland, then perished with many of them in the Holocaust, is really about courage, imagination, and fortitude in the face of almost unbelievable adversity and cruelty. Jewish youngsters will learn of the good deeds and suffering of a relatively little-known hero of their own heritage, whereas readers of all faiths will be inspired by this man's life. Archival photographs.

**Connolly, Pat. *Coaching Evelyn: Fast, Faster, Fastest Woman in the World.*** 21 p. \$15.89. Harper-Collins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-021283-7) Grades 9-12

In conversational, first-person narrative, Pat Connolly's account of

her nine years coaching sprinter Evelyn Ashford from UCLA track star to Olympic gold medalist is a fascinating, behind-the-scenes look at the techniques, training, dedication, and sacrifice necessary to become a world champion. Packed with details and anecdotes about the personal and professional lives of these two determined women, the text examines issues facing world-class women athletes: discrimination in pay for women coaches and stars when compared with men, temptations and dangers of using steroids to increase performance, unscrupulous behavior by rival coaches and merchandisers, lingering racial prejudice, and stress on marriage, family, and health. Excellent role models, both Connolly and Ashford set and achieve high goals. A strong anti-drug message and realistic portrait of what it takes to be a star athlete make *Coaching Evelyn* excellent high-interest material for sports-minded reluctant readers and for social studies units considering women's issues, as well as must reading for any student considering a career in sports. Black-and-white photography, table of Evelyn's times for the 100 meters, index.

**Contemporary Women.** 4 titles each 128 p. each \$17.95. Enslow Pubs., 1990. Grades 6-12

*Barbara Walters: TV Superstar* (ISBN 0-89490-287-3). *Betty Friedan: Fighter for Women's Rights* (ISBN 0-89490-292-X). *Diane Sawyer: Super Newswoman* (ISBN 0-89490-288-1). *Shirley Chisholm: Teacher and Congresswoman* (ISBN 0-89490-285-7).

These titles from the *Contemporary Women* series record the lives of highly successful and widely admired modern women, and, though generally adoring in tone, they are thorough, factual, and extremely readable. The early life of each woman, influences of family and environment, her plunges into previously "unfeminine" careers, and the courage and persistence characteristic of every one of them are

engrossing topics. All are well written and well researched, copiously illustrated with black-and-white photographs. These works should encourage young women of all races and backgrounds to set high goals for themselves and believe in their pursuits. But the subjects are intriguing and inspiring enough to interest and inform junior and senior high readers of both sexes. The series offers a bountiful research source for students preparing projects on feminist figures and issues. Chronologies and indexes.

**Delderfield, Eric R.** *Kings and Queens of England and Great Britain.* 192 p. \$24.95. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2433-2) Grades 7-12

Anglophiles and students researching the British monarchy will read, browse through, and thoroughly enjoy Delderfield's concise biographies of the kings and queens of Great Britain from the dimly recorded past of such Saxons as Egbert, Ethelred, and Edmund to the media mobbed Elizabeth II and her highly reported offspring. Divided into three parts—"Saxons, Normans, Plantagenets," "Tudors and Stuarts," and "Hanover to Windsor"—the text is illustrated with reproductions of formal portraits and with color photographs as well as what, with lesser mortals, would be termed family trees. The writing is crisp, condensed, and yet brightened with telling details and intimate glimpses which make the monarchs and their times leap to life. A Facts and Dates section wraps up an excellent, accessible reference for many age groups.

**Devaney, John.** *Ronald Reagan, President. (Presidential Biography Series)* 137 p. \$14.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6932-2) Grades 5-12

This thorough, remarkably even-handed biography of the popular fortieth President may lack the perspective of time, but it is a tough and fair account of Ronald Reagan's

rise from sportscaster to B-movie actor to consummate political figure. Although the story is familiar, Devaney's account is neither patronizing nor sentimental. Indeed, its sophisticated vocabulary and careful but intricate explanation of the Iran-Contra scandal, as well as Reagan's controversial turn as Screen Actors Guild president, may limit this book's usefulness to the most capable middle graders. A dull sentence structure (monotonous) is saved by the content of the sentences. Black-and-white photographs, index.

**Freedman, Russell.** *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane.* 129 p. \$16.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0875-2) Grades 6-12

Illustrated with ninety-four fascinating photographs of their famous project taken by Orville and Wilbur Wright at Kitty Hawk and elsewhere, this history of the first powered, sustained, and controlled flight will engross readers and nonreaders. The Wright brothers' plane building project, various trial flights, and history-making success on December 17, 1903, are woven into a biographical study of the two pioneers' almost monastic devotion to their dream and to their immediate family, the Wrights of Dayton, Ohio. Numerous diagrams provide visual support to technical details of the aircraft's construction and adjustment discussed in the text. This book's strength is the brothers' marvelous, on-site photography recording places, people (e.g., a group photo of the U.S. Life Saving Station at Kill Devil Hills, "the world's first aircraft ground crew"), and stages of their achievement. List of places to visit, bibliography, index.

**Gherman, Beverly.** *Agnes de Mille: Dancing Off the Earth.* 138 p. \$13.95. Atheneum, 1990. (ISBN 0-689-31441-8) Grades 5-12

Thorough, well written, and inspirational, this portrait of legen-

dary dancer and choreographer Agnes de Mille chronicles her courage and determination to pursue a career in dance despite enormous obstacles (parental disapproval, social convention, physical limitations, crippling stroke). Candid, revealing quotations excerpted from de Mille's letters, books, and diaries add her spirited voice to Gherman's flowing narrative. Black-and-white photographs depict her life from privileged childhood to triumphs onstage, where she combined elements of classical ballet with original movement and folk dance to transform musical theater. Students other than those interested in dance can identify with this innovative artistic rebel who pursued and accomplished her dream.

**Haskins, Jim.** *Outward Dreams: Black Inventors and Their Inventions.* 101 p. \$14.85. Walker & Co., 1991. (ISBN 0-8027-6994-2) Grades 7-12

Ten chapters overview black American inventors and their inventions, from Benjamin Baneker, on whose mathematical genius Jefferson depended for the blueprints of Washington, D.C., to modern black wizards of engineering like George Carruthers and William Conway, who together developed the Apollo 16 lunar surface ultraviolet camera/spectrograph. Also included are "ladies of invention," such as Julia Hammond, Archia Ross, and Sarah Boone (she invented the ironing board)—all of whom created useful, everyday devices for relieving the tedium of women's work. An important contribution to black American studies, this book will disabuse those who thought, for instance, that all of Thomas Edison's inventions were unassisted strokes of genius—see page 49 for clarification and credit to Granville T. Woods! Photographs, index.

**Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas.** *Showa: The Age of Hirohito.* 176 p. \$16.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6967-5) Grades 6-12

The Showa Emperor is the focus of

a balanced, factual history of twentieth-century Japan as reflected in the sweeping changes affecting Emperor Hirohito's role. Whether Hirohito was actively involved in Japanese military aggression which led to World War II is left a moot question, especially so since his diaries, reputedly kept from the time he was twelve years old, have never been released. The Hooblers write authoritatively about a traumatic period in Japanese history and about the period's pivotal but protected and obscured figurehead—or was he more than that? Those seeking information on the Showa reign, the 124th Emperor himself, his family, and related events will find this excellent, open-ended assessment most useful. Photographs, bibliography, index.

**Hook, Jason.** *American Indian Warrior Chiefs: Tecumseh, Crazy Horse, Chief Joseph, Geronimo.* 192 p. \$14.95 paper. Firebird Bks., 1990. (ISBN 1-85314-114-3) (Available from Sterling) Grades 8-12

Detailed, well researched, and objective, this volume profiles the cultures and lives of four legendary Indians: Tecumseh, Crazy Horse, Chief Joseph, and Geronimo. Maps, diagrams, drawings of artifacts, archival photographs, and full-color plates illustrate a text filled with history and Indian lore. A helpful chronology and bibliography conclude each man's biography. An excellent resource for discussion and reports for multicultural study and U. S. history classes. Index.

**Lyons, Mary E.** *Sorrow's Kitchen: The Life and Folklore of Zora Neale Hurston.* 144 p. \$13.95. Scribner, 1990. (ISBN 0-684-19198-9) Grades 7-10

Lyons' book, which features many of Hurston's own words, is a balanced portrait of a gifted, courageous woman whose life was marked by poverty, loss, and misunderstanding. After some early recognition, Hurston's work lay nearly neglected for years, largely because of her free-

spirited outlook and her philosophical differences with other black writers, such as Richard Wright. Readers of this book will come to know the determination and vigor that kept Zora working and will hunger for more of her writing as well as more knowledge of the historical milieu of her life. Black-and-white photographs, bibliography, index.

**McKissack, Patricia C.** *Jesse Jackson: A Biography.* 108 p. \$11.95. Scholastic Inc., 1989. (ISBN 0-590-43181-1) Grades 5-12

Patricia McKissack's lively narrative style makes this thorough, generally favorable biography of the popular Civil Rights leader and Democratic Presidential candidate an informative, inspiring book to read. Going well beyond secondary sources, Ms. McKissack quotes from scores of interviews with Jackson family members, friends, and advisers. Clearly she admires Jackson, but her balanced biography (McKissack includes Jackson's infamous "Hymie-town" remark and his agility at being wherever cameras and microphones appear) depicts the man's flaws and missteps. The final portrait is positive and encouraging—for readers of all racial backgrounds. Poor-quality black-and-white photographs are a disappointment. Bibliography, index.

**Njeri, Itabari.** *Every Good-bye Ain't Gone: Family Portraits and Personal Escapades.* 246 p. \$17.95. Times Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-8129-1805-3) (Available from Random) Grades 10-12

Woven through this vivid collection of memories and character sketches is the story of a young black woman's search for identity, culminating in a name change, and a profile of multicultural life for middle-class African-Americans and West Indians in 1950s-1960s Harlem and Brooklyn. Funny, touching, artfully written, Njeri's biography explores the effects of alcoholism, drugs, abuse, and shared child-rearing among families. From her

successful musician brother to her murdered cousin (victim of a drug deal gone bad), Njeri's family illustrate triumph and tragedy, overcoming painful experiences and racism in America or succumbing to them. A gifted writer and award-winning journalist, Njeri does include occasional profanity in her narrative, and sensitive topics are addressed (homosexuality, attempted suicide). Although readers at all levels will benefit from reading this book with teacher guidance, its vocabulary level and approach are definitely aimed for a mature audience. References to various prominent figures in arts and politics (Marcus Garvey, Ralph Ellison), its descriptions of black experience in contemporary New York and Georgia, and its style make *Every Good-bye Ain't Gone* a wonderful piece for interdisciplinary work in social studies, black literature, and language arts.

**Paulsen, Gary. *Woodson*. 132 p. \$12.95. Bradbury Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-02-770221-9) Grades 6-12**

Paulsen's mastery of imagaic detail, reverence for the wood and its creatures, and rich vision of nature as teacher radiate in *Woodson*, his autobiographical account of training for and competing in the famous cross-country Alaskan dogsled race, the Iditarod. His humorous, action-packed, and compelling chronicle begins with a series of evocative vignettes describing life-changing and often life-threatening experiences raising and training dogs in the Minnesota backwoods. In a concluding day-to-day diary, Paulsen plunges readers into the race itself, truly "the adventure of a lifetime." A wonderful interdisciplinary resource for science, social studies, and language arts, *Woodson* will grip students of all abilities with its conversational, easy-to-read, anecdotal style.

**Randolph, Blythe. *Charles Lindbergh*. 160 p. \$12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10918-6) Grades 6-12**

This frank, scrupulously balanced biography describes Lindbergh as an "unworldly, even somewhat narrow individual" whose accomplishments went far beyond crossing the Atlantic. Blythe Randolph traces Lindbergh's development from a childhood almost devoid of formal education through a life spent mastering difficult scientific and technical knowledge almost through sheer force of will and strength of intellectual curiosity. She discusses the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and trial, the marriage with Anne Morrow, and Lindbergh's unfortunate isolationist and possibly anti-Semitic views before World War II. This one is for advanced readers who want their history warts and all, without any loss of excitement in a story about a man who, despite everything, was a modern American hero. Photographs, bibliography, index.

**Taulbert, Clifton L. *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*. 153 p. \$16.95 (ISBN 0-933031-19-X). \$9.95 paper (ISBN 0-933031-34-3). Coun. Oak Bks., 1989. Grades 6-12**

Clifton L. Taulbert has written a poignant memoir of his growing up in a Mississippi village of the 1950s just before the 1960s Civil Rights Movement forever changed the social and cultural landscape of that region. This book is dedicated to that bygone era—"that era when we were called colored"—and to the role models so plentiful in Taulbert's extended family of aunts, uncles, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, cousins, neighbors, and friends. Vividly recalled are days spent singing and praying at St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church, fishing Lake Washington, working in Delta cotton fields, gathering at the train station to bid good-bye to loved ones moving north, and absorbing the examples of love and wisdom daily set by the colored community. The

strength of this personal narrative lies in its voice, in the quiet honesty and reflective pride of a highly successful modern man who believes in honoring the positives of an often painful past. Taulbert frankly mourns the lost strengths once imparted by a people bound fiercely together by their communal suffering and pride. English and American history teachers will find this title a vital enrichment to Civil Rights studies and to class discussion of works like Twain's *Huck Finn* and Faulkner's cycle of Mississippi tales. Additionally, students preparing "I-search" (identity search) projects have a superb model for launching their own identity quests. A beautiful tribute, Taulbert's book is a little gem of humane and intelligent living and remembering.

**White, Ryan, and Ann Marie Cunningham. *Ryan White: My Own Story*. 277 p. \$16.95. Dial Bks. Young, 1991. (ISBN 0-8037-0977-3) Grades 6-12**

In this vigorous, conversational, first-person account, Ryan White chronicles how he contracted AIDS, fought a court battle to attend school, and became a national celebrity. A modest, witty young man, his narrative contains thoughtful observations about the effects his disease had on his family and community as well as a chilling account of the violence and isolation he suffered as a result of people's ignorance and fear. The story of a reluctant hero, Ryan's autobiography concludes with tributes by Elton John and Michael Jackson, his testimony before the President's Commission on AIDS, a question-and-answer section about the disease, and a list of videos, organizations, and other sources of information. Many color and black-and-white photographs illustrate this touching, inspirational book. An excellent resource for middle grades adviser/advisee programs.

## Books Reviewed in Other Sources

(See code explanation on this page)

**Bentley, Judith.** *Harriet Tubman.* (*Impact Biographies*) 144 p. \$13.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10948-8) Grades 7-12. B Rpt BCCB BKL KR SLJ VOYA

**Caulkins, Janet.** *Joseph Stalin.* (*Impact Biographies*) 160 p. \$13.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10945-3) Grades 7-12. BKL SLJ VOYA

**Doherty, Katherine M., and Craig A. Doherty.** *Benazir Bhutto.* (*Impact Biographies*) 144 p. \$13.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10936-4) Grades 7-12. B Rpt SLJ VOYA

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