January 2013 Kids Booktalks

Bathing
Liesbet Slegers, Author
Liesbet Slegers, Illustrator
© 2011 Clavis Publishing

Ages: Babies and up
Call Number: Juv Board Bk Slegers

Board Book: The book describes a child’s daily routine especially around bath time. In the story, key words associated with taking a bath are highlighted in bold. The book also has a picture of the bolded word in the sentence along with its own picture.

Surprise for a Princess
Jennifer Liberts Weinberg, Author
Peter Emslie and Elisa Marrucchi, Illustrators
© 2003 Random House

Ages: PK-1st
Call Number: Juv Primer Disney

Primer: There once was a girl name Briar Rose who lived with her three aunts in a cottage in the woods. Briar Rose does not know that her aunts are fairies and that she is Princess Aurora. This story just focuses on the three aunts/fairies planning a surprise birthday party for Briar Rose. The book is a step 2 into reading which means preschool- 1st grade level and that the child may need to help. The chart with the different steps is on the first page of the book to help parents out. Disney has the princess book series for girls and books about cars and Toy story for the boys like this.

Pinkalicious: The Pinkerrific Playdate
Victoria Kann, Author
Victoria Kann, Illustrator
© 2011 Harper

Ages: 1st/2nd grade
Juv Reader Kann, Victoria

Readers: Pinkalicious is back in her fourth “I Can Read” Book. This time she has a play date name Rose. Pinkalicious has a lot of fun things for both Rose and her to do. Hopefully, Pinkalicious can keep her annoying brother Peter away. “I Can Read” books have a chart to help parents understand what level each book is. This book is a Level 1: Beginning Reading- it has short sentences, simple words, and is easy for the child to read on their own.
Don’t Wobble on the Wakeboard
Chris Kreie, Author
Jorge Santillan, Illustrator
© 2012 Stone Arch Books

Ages: Grades 2-8
Call Number: Juv Step-up

Step-up: This book is about children from The Victory Superstars team competing against The Champions School for the Playa Victoria Cup at a special sports resort in California. Josh, the main character and member of The Victory Superstars, quickly learns wakeboarding at this resort in order to compete with The Champions, but is unsure about how good he is. He knows he has to remember one thing: Don’t wobble on the wakeboard! This book’s illustrations are the main reason why it is so attractive. Without them, the story would not be very exciting, since the plot is a very simple one. This book has an important feature that would appeal to a reluctant reader: It has 49 pages, the page numbers are highlighted in bold colors, and each page is half-filled with illustrations.

Mom, It’s My First Day of Kindergarten
Hyewon Yum, Author
Hyewon Yum, Illustrator
© 2012 Frances Foster Books

Ages: 3-5
Call Number: Juv PicBk Yum, Hyewon

Picture Book: In this loveable story, instead of the five-year-old it is the mother who is nervous about the first day of kindergarten and is asking all the questions such as “Will you have snacks? ... Did I pack all your school supplies?” ... “Hurry you will be late,” or “Oh, it’s such a big school” and “You’re still so little, you could get lost here!” This story is hilarious, easy to read and has great illustrations that well fit the dialog.
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Wooden Bones
Scott William Carter, Author
© 2012 Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers

Ages: 8-11
Call Number: Juv Carter, Scott

Fiction: This is the story of what happens to Pinocchio after he becomes a real boy. Pino, as he is called in the story, discovers that he can magically animate wood. When people find this out, they force Pino to use his powers to suit them, and Pino begins to turn back into a wood puppet. Pino and Gepetto have many adventures in the story, but in the end, Pino must make a choice between suiting others and following his own heart. The choice he makes determines whether he will remain a real boy or turn back into a puppet. This story would be good for 3rd through 6th graders, and will interest both boys and girls. It has fairy tale elements, and action/adventure.

T is for Titanic
Debbie & Michael Shoulders, Authors
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen, illustrator
© 2011 Sleeping Bear Press

Ages: 8-11
Call Number Juv 910.916 S559t

Non Fiction: T is for Titanic is a wonderfully written and illustrated book concerning the RMS Titanic and individuals aboard the ship when it sank. Many interesting facts are presented here, being derived from documents, stories, and items associated with the ship. For example, a patron turning to the letter “P” while reading this book might be interested to learn that the ship contained a post office, hence the prefix RMS (Royal Mail Steamship). The reader sees first on each page a large illustration. These are sharp and realistic, with apparent detail given to the theme. The colors are a little muted and not overly intense, which could help to create a more realistic context. If drawn to the title already, children might find this appealing. Each picture frames the information that will be presented in two sections. First, there are captions coupled to the corresponding letters of the alphabet immediately below the pictures. Secondly, along the side of the illustrations, each page contains a commentary that goes into greater topical detail. For these reasons, this title could serve several age groups. Younger children might forgo the more complex sections of writing and focus on the shorter captions and images; however, for the reasons mentioned above, the title and alphabetical progression should not insinuate the work is for the young only.
For the Birds, the Life of Roger Tory Peterson

Peggy Thomas, Author
Laura Jacques, Illustrator
© 2011 Calkins Creek

Ages: 8 and up
Call Number: Juv Bio P485t

BIO: Children may not recognize the name, Roger Tory Peterson, but will remember him after reading this interesting biography. Peterson had a lifelong fascination with birds and other wildlife and turned this passion into books and illustrations and influenced the way we study the environment today. Born in 1908 in Jamestown, New York, Roger decided he wanted to illustrate birds by using a camera to capture them, rather than observing dead specimens. Through hard work and determination, he was able to purchase his first camera at the age of 14 and begin photographing birds and expand on his developing talent as an illustrator. His detailed written observations along with his gift for painting led him to write a book at the age of 21. A Field Guide to Birds was published in 1934 and although it was the depression, was an immediate success. The biography goes on to describe Peterson’s later life, including his marked influence on the banning of the pesticide DDT.