October 2013 Kids Booktalks

Amelia Bedelia Unleashed
Herman Parish, Author
©2013 Greenwillow Books

Ages: 7-8
Call Number: Juv Step-up Parish, Herman

Step-Up: Lots of the families in Amelia Bedelia’s class are having babies, so Amelia Bedelia wants one too. Her parents compromise by suggesting she get a dog. She tries to learn about dogs by helping a neighbor walk some dogs and by getting a poodle ready for a dog show, but things go awry! This is a cute beginner chapter book that Amelia Bedelia fans will enjoy.

White Fur Flying
Patricia MacLachlan, Author
©2013 Margaret K. McElderry Books

Ages: 9-11
Call Number: Juv MacLachlan

Fiction: This story is about a silent and sad 9-year-old boy named Phillip whose family moves next door to a family who has a 10-year-old girl named Zoe. Zoe’s mother rescues dogs and her father is a vet. One stormy night Zoe’s dog Jack runs away and so does Phillip. What happens to Phillip? What happens to Jack? Read and find out!

Lullaby (For a Black Mother)
Langston Hughes, Author
Sean Qualls, Illustrator
© 2013 Harcourt Children’s Books

Ages: 5 & up
Call Number: Juv 811 H893Lu

Nonfiction: Lullaby is a simply written poem that celebrates the timeless love shared between a mother and child. The colorful illustrations give meaning to the stanza written on each page and bring the words to life. The full poem is printed on the last page of the book with a note about the poet along with a picture of Langston Hughes with his mother in 1902.
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And the Winner Is...: Amazing Animal Athletes
Etta Kaner, Author
David Anderson, Illustrator
© 2013 Kids Can Press Ltd.

Ages: 5-8
Call Number: Juv 591 K16a

Nonfiction: Written in the format of a televised sporting event, narrated by a walrus and a cockatoo, this book showcases different animals that are competing in the World Animal Games. The events include high jump, sprinting, weight lifting, swimming, long jump, aerobatics, and a marathon. Each competition features four different animals. Quick facts about each animal are shared, and the winning animal’s abilities are compared to those of a human. The illustrations are whimsical, and children will enjoy the simple style and the usage of speech bubbles. The unique format will attract readers and hold their attention, as factual information is presented in a creative and suspenseful way.

Nelson Mandela
Kadir Nelson, Author
Kadir Nelson, Illustrator
© 2013 Katherine Tegen Books

Ages: 5-9
Call Number: Juv Bio M269.9n

Biography: This outstanding 40 page book with words and illustrations by Kadir Nelson is a magnificent tribute to a living historical legend. The story of “Rolihlahla,” Nelson Mandela, is told from the time of his youth, through his father’s death and stay with the “tribal elders,” his young adulthood and marriage, the fight against the crippling apartheid of white European led South Africa, his arrest and long twenty-seven plus years imprisonment, to his release and triumph of being elected the new leader of an open and free South Africa. Kadir Nelson captures his words with beautiful, haunting paintings that move the reader as much as the story of Mandela itself. This is a wonderful book of redemption from persecution for all people everywhere.
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Giant Pop- out bugs: A Pop out Surprise Book
Wendy Lui, Author
©2008 Chronicle Books

Ages: 4 & up
Call Number: Ref Juv PicBk Bugs

Reference: This is a fun little book where children can see a larger image of bugs. The book is written like a guessing game. The creature that they are guessing is a large 3d image. This book can be interactive with children. You can turn reading this book into a game with children. This is also a great companion to read to children before field trips to insect museums. The book is part of series.

Star Wars Character Encyclopedia
Simon Beecroft, Author
© 2011 DK Publishing

Ages: 8 & up
Call Number: Juv 791.437 B414s

Nonfiction: This book is an excellent reference source for hard core Star Wars movie fans. It covers the characters from all six movies. Covering over 200 characters’ costumes and appearances, affiliation, race or species, and much more, this collection is a fantastic encyclopedia of Star Wars information. It encompasses not only the humanoid characters, but also those of the animal or creature variety as well as the robotic characters.