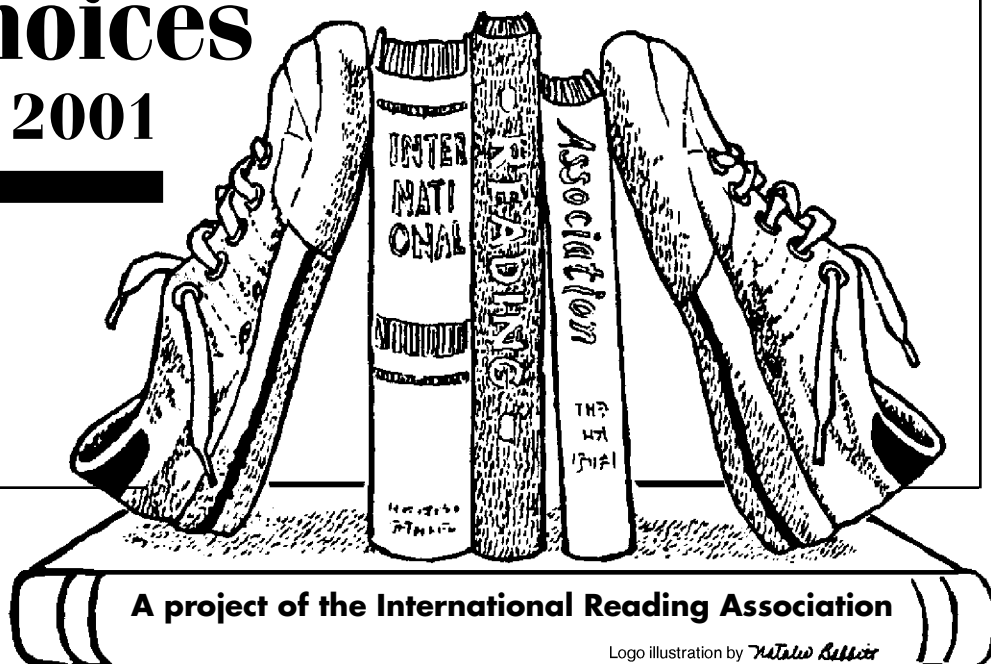


Young Adults' Choices

for 2001



The 2001 Young Adults' Choices list is the 15th that U.S. teenagers (Grades 7–12) have helped create. This project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Reading Association (IRA) and supervised by the Association's Literature for Young Adults Committee.

The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read; to make teens, teachers, librarians, and parents aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them.

The 30 books on this year's list are the result of voting by students in five different regions of the United States. Trade books (books other than textbooks) published in 1999 were submitted by more than 50 publishers. Each book had to have at least two positive reviews from recognized sources such as *The Horn Book*, *School Library Journal*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, *Booklist*, *Language Arts*, or *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*. Submitted books were read by students in Grades 7–12 between September 2000 and February 2001 in selected school districts throughout the U.S. More than 11,000 ballots were counted for the books submitted for this year's project. Students marked, "I liked the book," "It was okay," or "I didn't like the book." The results were announced in May at the 2001 Annual Convention of the International Reading Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Publishers sent the books to the five team leaders in different regions in the U.S. The team leaders' responsibilities included selecting the school districts and schools in which the project would take place, making sure the books were distributed to the schools, and working with the teachers, librarians, supervisors, and principals to implement the program. They were also responsible for collecting the ballots and mailing them to the International Reading Association headquarters for the final tally.

The following schools participated in the 2001 project:

Team 1: Deborah Young (team leader): Tamuning, Guam; Mangilao, Guam; Yigo, Guam; Ordot/Chalan Pago, Guam; and Agat, Guam; 3 high schools, 2 middle schools; 1 urban; 2 rural, 2 suburban.

Team 2: Eugenie Stahl (team leader): Brooklyn, New York; 1 high school, urban.

Team 3: Cathy L. Denman (team leader): Brevard County, Florida; 27 secondary schools (rural and urban); 5 middle schools, 3 high schools.

Team 4: Cynthia C. Selden and Dale Vande Haar (team leaders): Des Moines, Iowa, Des Moines Public Schools (urban); 1 high school, 3 middle schools; West Des Moines, Iowa, West Des Moines Community Schools (suburban); 1 high school, 2 junior high schools; Runnells, Iowa, Southeast Polk Community Schools (rural); 1 junior high school.

Team 5: Gail Schwarz (team leader): Springfield, Virginia; Mercer County, West Virginia; 4 high schools, 6 middle schools, 1 junior high school; 4 urban, 1 suburban, 6 rural.

The participating schools represented various types of students, economic levels, cultural groups, and geographic regions. The team leaders were enthusiastic and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile and exciting project.

The committee wishes to thank Alida von Krogh Cutts and Mary Cash of the International Reading Association staff for helping to coordinate the project. Thanks are also extended to Natalie Babbitt for her logo design and to the International Reading Association for its continued support of the project. Gratitude and appreciation go to all of the students, teachers, librarians, school district ad-

ministrators, and team leaders who participated in the project and made it a success.

The members of the Literature for Adolescents Committee, chaired by Elizabeth A. Poe, and the team leaders have written annotations for each title. Annotations written by individual committee members are indicated by their initials. Reviewers include Marlene J. Darwin, Cathy L. Denman, Beth Eller, Joy Freichs, Linda Graves, Eva McGuire, Elizabeth A. Poe, Carol Reinhard, Gail Schwarz, Cynthia C. Selden, Eugenie Stahl, Stan F. Steiner, Dale Vande Haar, and Deborah Young.

Bibliographic data are supplied for each title including ISBN (International Standard Book Number), number of pages, and price. If a publisher has both a library and trade edition, the ISBN for the library edition is included. Publishers furnished information in May 2001, but prices are subject to change.

The annotated 2001 Young Adults' Choices list is downloadable from the International Reading Association Web site <http://www.reading.org>. Single copies of offprints are available for US\$1.00 for postage and handling and a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope from the International Reading Association, Department EG, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA, Attention YA Choices. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the U.S. and Canada only) 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266, or send order to Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA.

Chinese Cinderella. Adeline Yen Mah

Based upon the classic tale of an unwanted daughter and her evil stepmother, and first told during the Tang Dynasty, this memoir retells the Cinderella story in the context of 20th-century China. Original photographs and moving recollections might motivate students to further investigate memoir as a genre or to compare Cinderella stories from various cultures. ES

Delacorte Press. 224 pp. ISBN 0-385-32707-2. US\$16.95. CAN\$24.95. Paper ed., Laurel Leaf. ISBN 0-440-22865-4. US\$5.99.

Daughter. Ishbel Moore

This poignant story of how 14-year-old Sylvie grapples with the devastation of her mother's Alzheimer's disease is heart-rending. The original

manuscript of this novel was critiqued by teen readers, and the story is grounded in the stark reality of a family living with this disease. ES

Kids Can Press. 216 pp. ISBN 1-550-74535-2. US\$14.95. CAN\$16.95. Paper ed., F.

Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany. Eleanor Ramrath Garner

This riveting biography provides a German perspective on World War II. Eleanor, born in Germany, emigrated at a young age to America, where she became a U.S. citizen. Right before World War II broke out her family returned to Berlin. Like many other Germans under Hitler's regime, they feared for their lives daily. SFS Peachtree Publishers. 288 pp. ISBN 1-56145-193-2. US\$14.95.

Elizabeth I: Red Rose of the House of Tudor, England, 1544 (The Royal Diaries series).

Kathryn Lasky

Princess Elizabeth lived a complicated and dangerous life. Readers will learn what court life was like during the Tudor period in England, especially for the young princess, through this fictionalized diary. The epilogue with historical notes, a family tree, and photographs makes the book highly beneficial to students and teachers. EM Scholastic. 240 pp. ISBN 0-590-68484-1. US\$10.95. CAN\$14.99.

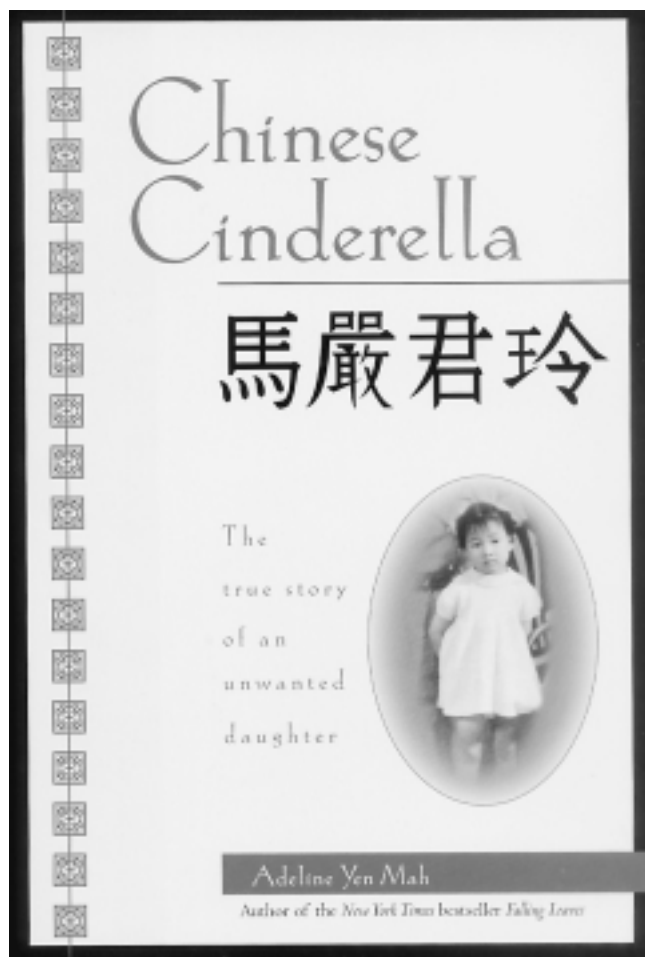
The Emerald Lizard: Fifteen Latin American Tales to Tell in English and Spanish.

Pleasant DeSpain, Mario Lamo-Jiménez

This richly illustrated book provides excellent folk tales from Mexico, South America, Central America, Haiti, and Puerto Rico in both English and Spanish. Excellent source notes by the author steer interested readers to other versions of each tale and cover various literary motifs. DVH August House. 192 pp. ISBN 0-87483-551-8. US\$21.95. Paper ed., ISBN 0-87483-552-6.

Firegold. Dia Calhoun

An engaging mix of fantasy, adventure, and a coming-of-age story, this first novel follows Jonathon as he leaves his home in the valley to travel to the Red Mountains on a quest of self-discovery. Only after unraveling the myth of the



Cover illustration from *Chinese Cinderella*. Reprinted by permission of Random House Children's Books.

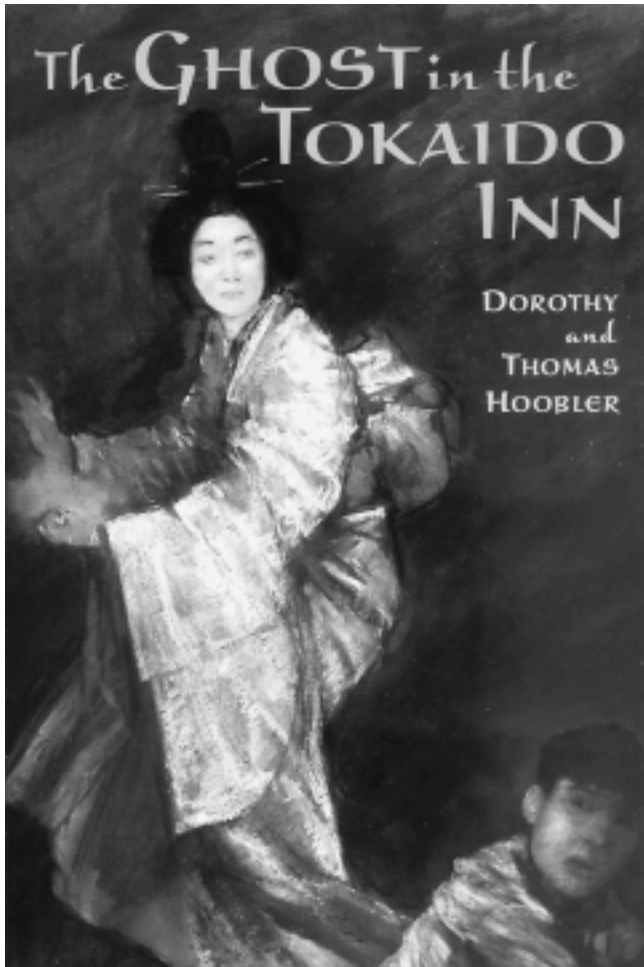
Firegold apples is Jonathon able to return to his rightful place in the valley. BE

Winslow Press. 298 pp. ISBN 1-890817-10-4. US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95. Paper ed., ISBN 0-58837-003-8. US\$5.95.

Francie. Karen English

Francie is the story of a young black girl growing up poor in the Jim Crow world of 1930s Alabama and her hopes and dreams. Francie battles the conflicts of her missing father, who has gone north to Chicago to work and hasn't sent for his family, and of racism. DVH

Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 208 pp. ISBN 0-374-32456-5. US\$16.00. CAN\$26.95.



Cover illustration from *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*. Reprinted by permission of Philomel Books, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.

The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn.

Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

Samurai training, Japanese culture, philosophy, and folklore meet in this novel—but mostly it is about growing up and becoming wise. Seikei stumbles into a crime and is led to its solution through a series of adventures and serious tutelage from his advisor, a historical figure in 18th-century Japan. CCS

Philomel, Penguin Putnam. 224 pp. ISBN 0-399-23330-X. US\$17.99. CAN\$25.99. Paper ed., Puffin. ISBN 0-698-11879-0. US\$5.99.

Good Night, Maman. Norma Fox Mazer

This Jewish refugee story starts in France, where Karin and her older brother Marc are on the run from the Nazis. Traveling on foot and only

by night, the siblings are finally lucky enough to board a ship bound for America. Karin takes comfort in writing unmailed letters to her ill mother. Karin is finally strong enough to realize she will never see her Maman again. This is an excellent book to use with students learning about World War II. LG

Harcourt Brace. 192 pp. ISBN 0-15-201468-3. US\$16.00. CAN\$24.00.

Hard Love. Ellen Wittlinger

Two likable kids meet through an interest in “zines”—original magazines. Problem: She is a lesbian, and he loves her. It is hard love, certainly, but their intimacy grows, moving them both through family issues and self-realizations. Wit and authenticity make this a complete story. CCS

Simon & Schuster. 236 pp. ISBN 0-689-82134-4. US\$16.95. CAN\$24.95. Paper ed., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-84154-X. US\$8.00. CAN\$11.50.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

J.K. Rowling

In this much anticipated sequel to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry returns to Hogwarts after a dreadful summer with the Muggle Dursleys. It is another whirlwind year of magical pranks, misadventures, Quidditch, and the ongoing rivalry with Slytherin House. With help from Ron and Hermione, Harry must solve a 50-year old mystery involving Lord Voldemort. BE Scholastic. 352 pp. ISBN 0-439-06486-4. US\$19.95. Paper ed., ISBN 0-439-06487-2. US\$6.99.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter is ready to leave his Muggle neighborhood when Aunt Marge appears. Harry casts a spell to inflate her, and she drifts to the ceiling. Harry's antics don't stop here but continue throughout the book as he battles Sirius Black, the escaped convict from the prison of Azkaban. This is the third book in the Harry Potter series. LG Scholastic. 448 pp. ISBN 0-439-13635-0. US\$19.95. Paper ed., ISBN 0-439-13636-9. US\$7.99.

Hear These Voices: Youth at the Edge of the Millennium. Anthony Allison

Eighteen “at-risk” teens share their personal stories. Through interviews and photos, readers learn

about survival on the streets of South Africa from a group of young men, a young girl's life in Bangkok after her stepfather sold her into prostitution, a young man's struggle to survive AIDS, and Catholic students' lives in Belfast. Their stories demonstrate strength and determination, and end with a promise of hope as they enter the new millennium. For mature students. CLD

Dutton, Penguin Putnam. 192 pp. ISBN 0-525-45353-9. US\$22.99. CAN\$33.50.

Jackie & Me. Dan Gutman

This second book in Gutman's Baseball Card Adventure Series finds Joe Stoshack with an assignment for Black History Month. As in *Honus & Me*, Joe uses a baseball card to travel back in time, but this time Joe's skin color changes; he is black. Joe arrives in 1947, just as Jackie Robinson begins to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and experiences racial discrimination firsthand. He learns a valuable lesson about courage from America's first black major league player. CLD

Avon Camelot. 160 pp. ISBN 0-380-97685-4. US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95. Paper ed., Avon/Camelot. ISBN 0-380-80084-5. US\$4.99.

Just Ella. Margaret Peterson Haddix

This is a telling of an old fairy tale with a new twist. Ella Brown is a self-reliant, active young lady who is bored with life at the palace, and finds the courage to call off her wedding to the prince. After escaping the dungeon, Ella makes her way to a camp for war refugees and learns that happiness and love are in the eyes of the beholder. EM

Simon & Schuster. 192 pp. ISBN 0-689-82186-7. US\$17.00. CAN\$24.95. Paper ed., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-83128-5. US\$4.99. CAN\$6.99.

Keeping the Moon. Sarah Dessen

Having just lost over 40 pounds, Colie Sparks, taunted for years for being overweight, is sent to spend the summer with her eccentric Aunt Mira. This novel follows Colie as she discovers her inner beauty and cultivates self-confidence through the efforts of her aunt and three newfound friends. DY
Viking, Penguin Putnam. 240 pp. ISBN 0-670-88549-5. US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99. Paper ed., Puffin. ISBN 0-141-31007-3. US\$5.99.

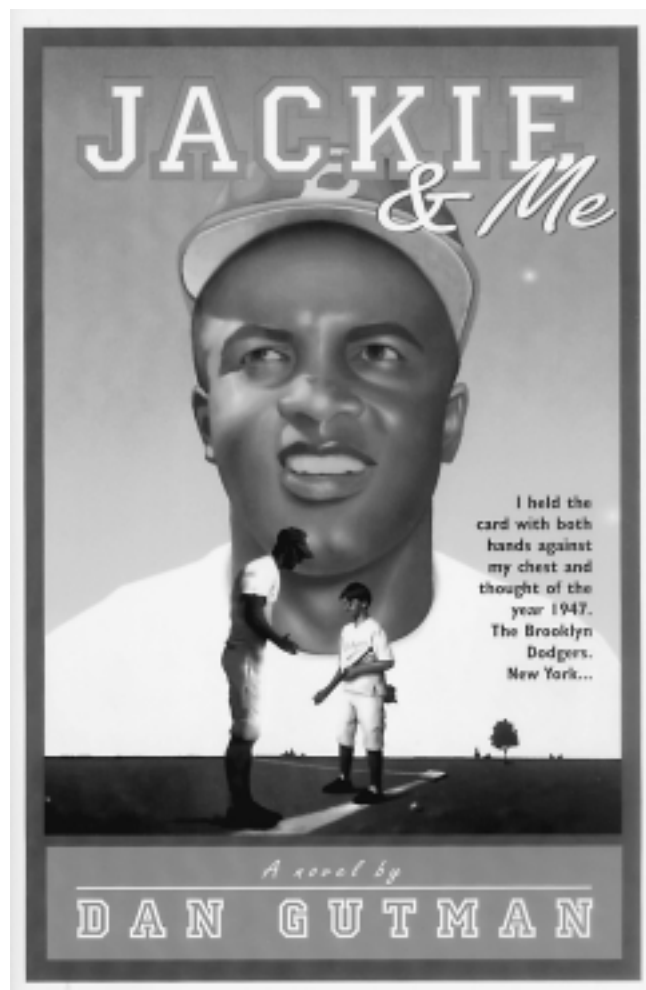
Looking for Alibrandi. Melina Marchetta

In this contemporary story set in Australia, Josephine spends her senior year looking for herself. Is she Australian or Italian, a daughter or a friend to her father, a lover or a friend of the important young men in her life? The answers are never obvious as Marchetta explores the pain and joy of self-discovery. CR

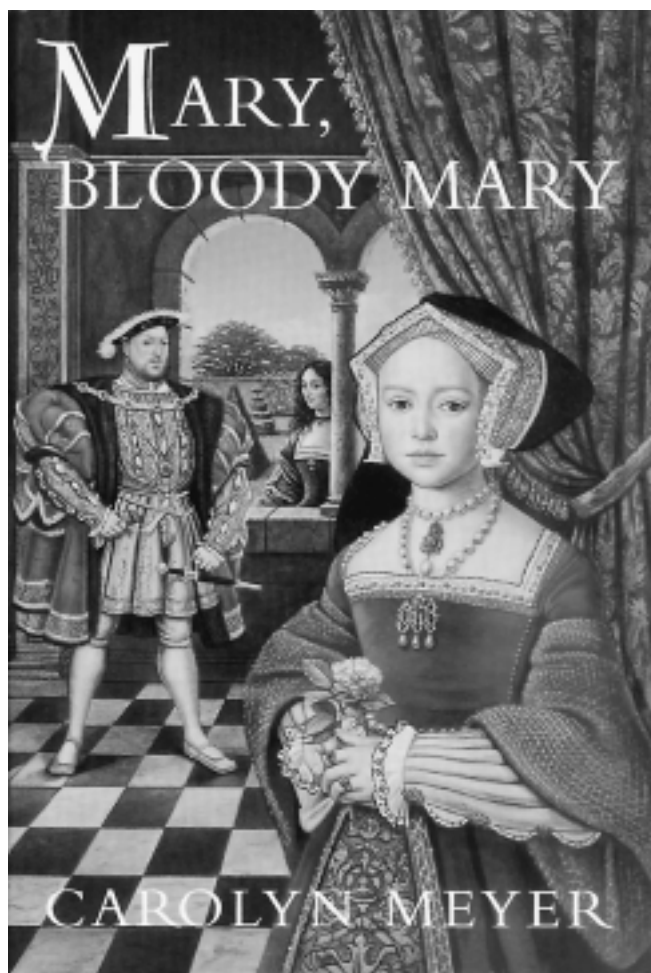
Orchard. 256 pp. ISBN 0-531-33142-3. US\$16.95.

Mary, Bloody Mary. Carolyn Meyer

In this piece of historical fiction, Meyer offers a first-person narrative of one of history's most unpopular monarchs and creates understanding,



Jacket art ©1999 by Mark Elliott for *Jackie and Me* by Dan Gutman. Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins.



Cover illustration from *Mary, Bloody Mary*. Reprinted courtesy of Harcourt, Inc.

even sympathy, for the child who would one day reign as England's Bloody Mary. Her account of Mary's teenage years will draw readers into the intriguing world of Tudor England. EAP

Harcourt Brace. 240 pp. ISBN 0-15-201906-5. US\$16.00. CAN\$24.00.

The Mirror of Merlin. T.A. Barron

This fantasy details young Merlin's confrontations with marsh ghouls and Nimue, an evil witch, on the Isle of Fincayra. Further, it encourages readers to ponder the power they wield over their own fate as they travel with Merlin through the Mists of Time to the crystal cave abode of his future self. DY

Philomel, Penguin Putnam. 254 pp. ISBN 0-399-23455-1. US\$19.99. CAN\$27.99. Paper ed., Ace. ISBN 0-441-00846-1. US\$6.99.

My Heart Is on the Ground: The Diary of Nannie Little Rose, a Sioux Girl (Dear America series). Ann Rinaldi

Young Little Rose is making sense of two cultures and combining the best of both. Transported from her tribe to a white man's school in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA, she must not "lose face." The biography contains many poignant events as Little Rose learns "Acts of bravery make us proud. Acts of kindness make us beautiful. So pick your heart up off the ground. You have done well." CCS Scholastic. 210 pp. ISBN 0-590-14922-9. US\$10.95. CAN\$14.99.

The Raging Quiet. Sherryl Jordan

The villagers believe Raven, who utters only strange sounds, is possessed; Marnie discovers he is deaf. When she communicates with him through hand signs, the villagers accuse her of witchcraft. This engaging fantasy set in ancient times speaks of the need for understanding, tolerance, and love—both then and now. EAP

Simon & Schuster. 272 pp. ISBN 0-689-82140-9. US\$17.00. CAN\$25.00. Paper ed., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-82877-2. US\$8.00. CAN\$11.50.

Romiette and Julio. Sharon M. Draper

Draper has written a realistic novel filled with action. Romiette, a black girl, becomes attracted to Julio, a Hispanic boy. Fighting parental disapproval and peer pressure, the couple continue their relationship. Gangs, violence, and guns in schools along with typical teenage interests in the opposite sex, clothes, and hair styles make this book one that young adults will certainly find relevant. Teachers can easily use this book to compare and contrast elements in *West Side Story* and *Romeo and Juliet*. JF

Simon & Schuster. 240 pp. ISBN 0-689-82180-8. US\$16.00. CAN\$23.50. Paper ed., ISBN 0-689-84209-0. US\$4.99. CAN\$6.99.

Song of the Wanderer (The Unicorn Chronicles, Book 2). Bruce Coville

Continuing the saga of *The Unicorn Chronicles*, this fantasy story brings to life the adventures of Cara. In a struggle against Beloved, Cara's ruthless ancestor, she seeks to find the gateway back to Earth through Luster, the land of the unicorns. In a journey

to save her grandmother, the Wanderer, Cara discovers the meaning of trust in others and herself. MJD Scholastic. 330 pp. ISBN 0-590-45953-8. US\$16.95. CAN\$23.99. Paper ed., ISBN 0-590-45954-6. US\$4.50.

Speak. Laurie Halse Anderson

How do you tell someone you've been raped? Everyone who had been at the party, including her best friend, hates Melinda because she called the police. Her parents are clueless, and the boy who victimized her is a popular student. In this compelling drama Melinda must survive her traumatic first year of high school. SFS

Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 208 pp. ISBN 0-374-37152-0. US\$16.00. CAN\$26.95.

Stop Pretending. Sonya Sones

In a series of heartfelt poems inspired by true events in her life, the author reveals the emotional breakdown and hospitalization of her older sister. The poems gradually reveal the poignant story and the ways that Cookie and her parents come to terms with this traumatic event in their family life. This is a poetic memoir suitable for mature adolescents. MJD

HarperCollins. 160 pp. ISBN 0-06-028387-4. US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95. Paper ed., Harper Tempest. ISBN 0-064-46218-8. US\$6.95.

There's a Dead Person Following My Sister

Around. Vivian Vande Velde

Eleven-year-old Ted attempts to solve the mystery of two ghosts haunting a 150-year-old house, a woman and child that appear only to children of the family. As Ted delves into an old family journal that describes how his home was used on the Underground Railroad as a haven for runaway slaves, he discovers that the woman and child were slaves killed during a storm as they were escaping. JF

Harcourt Brace. 160 pp. ISBN 0-15-202100-0. US\$16.00. CAN\$24.00.

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break.

Lensey Namioka

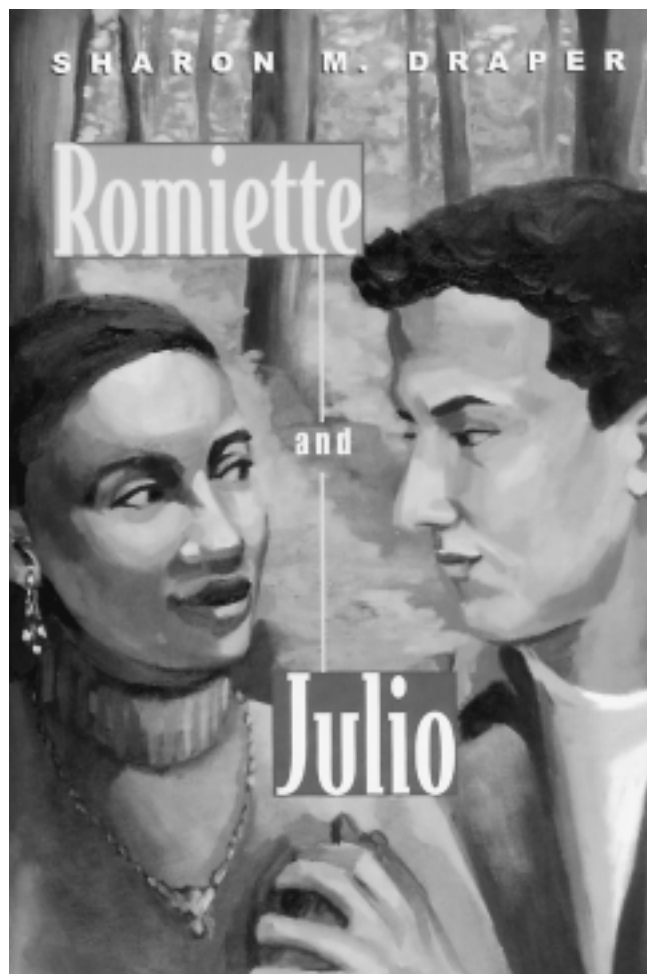
This realistic, historical fiction story chronicles the life of Ailin Tao, an upper class Chinese girl growing up in the early 1900s. Told through Ailin's eyes, the novel juxtaposes her strong-willed and spirited character against ancient Chinese traditions, specifically the practice of binding

women's feet. Ailin's ability to remain unbound and independent is a triumph of the human spirit and women's equality. GS

Delacorte Press. 162 pp. ISBN 0-385-32666-1. US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95. Paper ed., Laurel Leaf. ISBN 0-440-41599-3. US\$4.99.

Tightrope. Gillian Cross

This well-constructed thriller by a prolific author will engage the imaginations of young adults who enjoy suspense, and includes a vivid description of a spine-tingling tightrope walk. First-person point of view pieces end each chapter. These explicate specific character motivation



Cover illustration from *Romiette and Julio*. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

while rendering each chapter unique and can be used as models for student authors. ES.

Holiday House. 224 pp. ISBN 0-8234-1512-0. US\$16.95.

A Time Apart. Diane Stanley

This novel combines adventure with historical fiction. Due to her mother's illness, Ginny Dorris's predictable teenage life becomes an unknown venture when she is sent to live with her English father on a re-created Iron Age farm. Based on an actual 1977 British Broadcasting Corporation project, the story skillfully intertwines Ginny's coming of age against the backdrop of primitive life in 800

BC. Ginny discovers that family and friendship are enduring values. GS

HarperCollins/Morrow. 272 pp. ISBN 0-688-16997-X. US\$16.00. Paper ed., Harper Trophy. ISBN 0-380-81030-1. US\$5.95.

When Jeff Comes Home. Catherine Atkins

This gritty contemporary tale explores a male teen kidnap victim and what he felt he must do to escape. The consequences of his decision have a serious impact upon his renewed relationships with family and friends. This is a tough, poignant read appropriate for mature readers. CR

Penguin Putnam. 240 pp. ISBN 0-399-23366-0. US\$17.99. CAN\$25.99. Paper ed., Puffin. ISBN 0-698-11915-0. US\$6.99.

The International Reading Association (IRA) is a nonprofit, professional organization of classroom teachers, reading specialists, administrators, teacher educators, reading researchers, parents, librarians, psychologists, and others interested in improving reading instruction and promoting literacy worldwide. The Association encourages the study of the reading process, research, and better teacher education. It promotes the development of reading proficiency to the limit of each person's ability and an awareness of the need for and importance of reading.



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