



NJLA

GARDEN STATE CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

2010 Nominee Annotations

NONFICTION

Arnosky, Jim. *Parrotfish and Sunken Ships: Exploring a Tropical Reef.*

Harper Collins, 2007. LIB 9780688171247 \$17.89; HC 9780688171230 \$16.99.

Through author/illustrator Jim Arnosky's vivid paintings of the only living tropical reef in the U.S., young readers of all ages will come to know an environment where coral and fish interact among the remnants of shipwrecks. Young buccaneers will appreciate that pirates sailed these waters Key West, Fl.

Aston, Dianna Hutts. *A Seed Is Sleepy.*

Chronicle Books, c2007. HC 9780811855204 \$16.99.

The complementary duo of author Dianna Hutts Aston and illustrator Sylvia Long turns the telling of a dormant seed's germination into exquisitely illustrated lyrical prose. The facts about seeds and plants are all there, and told through words and watercolors that are a treat for the eyes and ears of children and adults.

Bonner, Hannah. *When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began to Swarm: A Cartoon Prehistory of Life Long Before Dinosaurs.*

National Geographic Children's Books, 2007. LIB 9781426300790 \$25.90; HC 9781426300783 \$16.95; PBK 9781426305467 \$7.95.

With humorous text and great illustrations, Bonner brings to life the creatures that populated the seas long before the dinosaurs walked on land. By using a timeline, she helps young readers grasp that the creatures discussed lived during a period of hundreds of millions of years. The book includes a glossary, pronunciation guide, and an index.

Bishop, Nic. *Spiders.*

Scholastic, 2007. HC 9780439877565 \$17.99

Biologist and photographer Nic Bishop provides a close encounter with spiders via vibrant, colored photos. The extraordinary pictures are accompanied by text that introduces young readers to the world of arachnids, including life cycles, predatory behaviors, web construction, communication, and mating rituals. He also explains that spiders have been on earth for 350 million years.

Burleigh, Robert. *Stealing Home: Jackie Robinson: Against the Odds.*

Simon & Schuster, 2007. HC 9780689862762 \$16.99.

Presents the life and accomplishments of the baseball player who became the first African American to play in the major leagues and who led the Brooklyn Dodgers to six National League pennants and one World Series championship.

Cook, Sally and James Charlton. *Hey Batta Batta Swing!: The Wild Old Days of Baseball.*

Margaret K. McElderry, 2007. HC 9781416912071. \$17.99.

Provides a look at the "olden days" of America's pastime, before there were mounds and numbers on jerseys, and includes expressions, such as "catching a frozen rope" and "being a fly chaser," as well as amusing trivia about players' nicknames, team names, and the design of the uniforms.

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Davies, Nicola. *What's Eating You? Parasites--The Inside Story.*

Candlewick Press, 2007. HC 9780763634605 \$12.99. PBK 9780763645212 \$7.99.

Guaranteed to make your skin crawl, this interesting, in-depth book exposes the many unwanted parasites, including mites, lice, ticks, and tapeworms, that live among--and sometimes on--us.

Florian, Douglas. *Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings.*

Harcourt, 2007. HC 9780152053727 \$16.00.

This collection of twenty poems includes facts and observations about the planets, black holes, and galaxies.

Gibbons, Gail. *Groundhog Day.*

Holiday, 2007. HC 9780823420032 \$17.95; PB 9780823421169 \$6.95.

This holiday book includes information about famous groundhogs, ways to celebrate Groundhog Day, and basic groundhog facts.

Hansen, Rosanna. *Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure.*

Boyds Mills Press, 2007. ISBN: 9781590783870.

Striking photographs, a beautiful layout, and a fascinating story of the author's experiences on a nature reserve for cheetahs in Namibia, bring to light the plight of this beautiful animal, and what's being done to save it from extinction

Harper, Charise Mericle. *Flush!: The Scoop on Poop Through the Ages.*

Little, Brown, 2007. HC: 9780316010641, \$15.99.

Thirteen poems tell the story of human waste from the first toilets and toilet paper alternatives to how astronauts go to the bathroom.

Hatkoff, Isabella, Craig Hatkoff & Paula Kahumbu. *Owen & Mzee: The Language of Friendship.*

Scholastic, 2007. HC: 9780439899598, \$16.99.

This sequel to *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship* describes what has happened to the famous hippo and his 130 year old best friend a year and a half after their unique friendship began.

Hatkoff, Juliana, Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Gerald R. Uhlich. *Knut: How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World.*

Scholastic, 2007. HC: 9780545047166, \$16.99.

A bear keeper at the Berlin Zoo becomes the foster father to the world's cutest polar bear amid controversy about whether the bear should have been raised by a human.

Jenkins, Martin and Vicky White (illustrator). *Ape.*

Candlewick Press, 2007. HC 9780763634711 \$16.99.

This oversized volume offers brief but essential information about our nearest relatives in the animal world: Orangutans, Chimps, Bonobos, and Gorillas. Meticulous black and white illustrations in pencil and oil are highlighted with hints of orange, further illuminating similarities between humans and the great apes.

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Jenkins, Steve. *Living Color.*

Houghton Mifflin, 2007. HC 9780618708970.

Jenkins's trademark bold cut paper illustrations in this oversized volume highlight 66 creatures sorted by their coloring: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and pink. Loads of information about how animals use color, and additional facts about each animal round out this eye-catching title.

Kramer, Ann. *Anne Frank: The Young Writer Who Told the Whole World Her Story.*

National Geographic, 2007. LIB 9781426300059 \$27.90; HC 17.95; PBK 9781426304149 \$7.95.

This thorough biography will capture the attention of children with its scrapbook style layout, numerous photos of Ann and her family and friends, (many taken by her father), and attention to detail. Readers see pages from Ann's actual diary, and learn things about her that bring out her character and personality. For example, she was not a good student and had difficulty learning to read; one of her favorite activities was to pop her shoulder in and out of its socket to surprise grownups. Her life is put into historic perspective via a timeline and sections that discuss significant events and issues of the times.

McCarthy, Meghan. *Strong Man : The Story of Charles Atlas.*

Alfred A. Knopf, 2007. LIB 9780375929403 \$18.99; HC 9780375829406 \$15.99.

This is the story of Charles Atlas, the original 98-pound weakling who transformed himself to the World's Most Perfectly Developed Man. Generations after him were inspired to become fit, using the methods he embraced.

Park, Linda Sue. *Tap Dancing on the Roof.*

Clarion Books, 2007. HC 9780618234837 \$16.00.

This collection of Sijo poetry seems simple at first but has a wisdom and humor when looked at more closely. Sijo is a traditional Korean form of poetry, with the first line an introduction, the second continues the theme and the last line has an unexpected twist or joke.

Sis, Peter. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. HC 9780374347017 \$18.00.

In his most personal work to date, award-winning author Peter Sis offers a brilliant graphic memoir, taking readers on an extraordinary journey as he recalls his youth growing up in Czechoslovakia in the 1960s, when his country was on the Communist side of the Iron Curtain.

Wong, Janet S. *Twist: Yoga Poems. Illustrated by Julie Paschkis.*

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007. HC 9780689873942 \$17.99.

Young readers can explore yoga in a new way with this collection of 16 original poems. Yoga postures come alive in Wong's artful poetry, and vibrant illustrations by Paschkis transform each pose into a picture and a story sure to exercise the imagination as well as the body.