
**South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominees**
**2003 - 2004**

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***All The Answers***
**Anne C. LeMieux**
**Avon Books, 2000**
**160 pages**

**SUMMARY:** Failing algebra and being grounded for talking back to his father are bad enough, but when he faces a beautiful new eighth grader and her bullying twin brother, Jason is forced to take another look at his life.
I**F YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**.
*Fruit Flies, Fish & Fortune Cookies* by A. C. Lemieux
*Dare to Be, M.E.!* by Anne C. Lemieux
*The Fairy Lair: A Hidden Place* by A. C. Lemieux
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Math:**
Play computer solitaire and keep the stats for a particular number of games with wins and losses, points, time, cards up and games played.  Then find the odds for winning.
**Guidance:**
Discuss conduct in all situations of life.   Making decisions at school as well as at home. Relationships – proper and improper.
**Language Arts:**  Discuss the importance of reading.  Write a paper on the pros and cons of reading.
**BOOKTALK:**
*All the Answers* is about a twelve year old named Jason.  Jason is very good with computer solitaire.  In fact, he is so good that he uses it as a daily horoscope.  His dad is very critical and does not appreciate Jason's athletic talent.  He wants him to excel academically and be more like him.  Jason becomes desperate because he is failing math.  His desperation causes him to cheat, but when he gets caught it forces him to confront some difficulties, truths, and inspires great positive changes.  The book will appeal to girls as well as boys because of the challenges and struggles this young man encounters  Will Jason pass algebra and win a girlfriend in the process?  Read and find out in *All the Answers*.
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***Artemis Fowl***
**Eoin Colfer**
**Miramax, 2001**
**277 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
Twelve-year-old genius and criminal mastermind, Artemis Fowl, seems to have a fail-safe plan for getting his hands on fairy gold, but Captain Holly Short, an elf in the LEPrecon Special Forces, has a plan of her own.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident* (sequel to *Artemis Fowl*) by Eoin Colfer
*The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke
*Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horrowitz
*The Series of Unfortunate Events Series* by Lemony Snicket
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J. K. Rowling
*Which Witch?* by Eva Ibbotson
*Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Guidance:**
Artemis has the advantages of superior intelligence, many skills, and wealth.  Discuss whether he should be using these advantages to help others rather than to get his way and commit crimes.  Have students make up their own stories about what they would do if they had the same benefits as Artemis.
**Language Arts:**
Read some folktales and legends about fairies, trolls, and leprechuns.  Compare the ways that these creatures are presented in the original tales and in the book *Artemis Fowl*.  Create a powerpoint presentation to present what is discovered.
**Social Studies:**
Artemis and Butler travel to several different countries and cities as they carry out Artemis's plans.  Research those locations.  Make posters presenting what is learned about each place.
**Science:**
The fairies in this book travel from their homes deep in the earth to the surface in special elevators powered by magma vents from the earth's core.  Using what we know about earth science, discuss the possibility of this type of travel.  Create a model of what it might look like, if it were possible.
**Math:**
The heart of Artemis's plan is decoding the language of the golden fairy book.  Use mathematics to create a secret code.  Have students write and decode messages in their secret language.
**Art:**
The book, *Artemis Fowl*, is filled with fanciful creatures and places.  Ask students to create pictures of the way they imagined these things as they read the book.
**Technology:**  Many different computer programs and devices are used by both humans and fairies in *Artemis Fowl*.  Have students research these types of programs and devices and determine what was fact and what was fiction about their use in the book.  Create a powerpoint to present the findings.
**WEBSITES:**
[Official Artemis Fowl Website by Miramax Books](http://www.artemisfowl.com/)
[Artemis Fowl Fun Site](http://artemisfowl.tripod.com/)
[Guardian Unlimited Interview with the Author](http://books.guardian.co.uk/departments/childrenandteens/story/0%2C6000%2C489798%2C00.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
What would you do if you were a twelve-year-old genius with a large supply of technological gadgets, a bodyguard at your beck and call, plenty of money, a long family history of crime, and unsupervised free time?  Artemis Fowl's answer is to devise a plan to get his hands on fairy gold.  He is not silly enough to believe that it can be found at the end of the rainbow.  Instead, he perpetrates an unusual kidnapping in hopes of gaining a golden ransom.  His plan is so well crafted--down to the slightest detail--that it seems sure to succeed.  However, he didn't plan on Captain Holly Short, a spunky elf from the LEPrecon Special Forces.  Will Artemis get his gold?  Or will the fairies defeat this seemingly unbeatable criminal mastermind?  Read *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer to find out!
***Prepared by: Suzanne M. Zeller***
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***Being Dead: Stories***
**Vivian Vande Velde**
**Harcourt, Sept. 2001**
**203 pages**

**SUMMARY**:
Seven short stories that range from a few pages to sixty pages with a ghost in each story.  This collection is geared at teenagers with stories they can easily relate to, and also feel a little unnerved at the same time!
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY**
*Never Trust a Dead Man* by Vivian Vande Velde
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Use this book to introduce story collections, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and horror stories.  This would be a wonderful read aloud during the month of October when students are interested in Halloween activities.
**WEBSITES:**
[Vivian Vande Velde Web Site](http://www.geocities.com/~teddarnold/vivian.html)
[This website lists all books by Vivian Vande Velde with a summary for each.](http://www.non.com/books/Vande_Velde_Vivian_cc.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
Just imagine being in sixteen-year-old Brenda's shoes when a disembodied hand touches her through her waterbed mattress on the first night in her new house!  Other clues slowly appear such a a little girl, an awful smell from the woods and even a ghost....you must read the first short story in this book...it will leave you shocked in the end!
***Prepared by: Linda R. Hall***
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***The Edge on the Sword***
**Rebecca Tingle**
**Putnam, 2001.**
**277 pages**

**SUMMARY**:
Aethelflaed, the 15 year old daughter of King Alfred the Great of England, must uncover the people behind the plot to destroy her father's alliances while facing the realization that she will soon have to marry.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*The Forestwife* by Teresa Tomilson
*The Trials of Merlin* (series) by T.A Barron
*The Savage Damsel and the Dwarf* by Gerald Morris
*Crown Duel and Court Duel* by Sherwood Smith
*The Enchanted Forest* series by Patricia Wrede
*The Dove and the Sword* by Nancy Garden
*Anna of Byzantium* by Tracy Barrett
*A Proud Taste of Scarlet and Miniver* by E.L Konigsburg
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Study of Beowulf, writing structure of Aethelflaed's time, the development of language and literature in early England
**Math:**
Early mathematicians, principals behind early war machines
**Science:**
Medicine of the early middle ages / weapon crafting
**Social Studies:**
Medieval Britain, Danes and Germanic tribes, history of education and the schooling of women
**Fine Arts:**
Music and art of the early middle ages
**WEBSITES:**
[Alfred the Great Web Site](http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon6.html)
[Alfred the Great Web Site](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01309d.htm)
[The Venerable Bede](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02384a.htm)
[Internet Medieval Sourcebook](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html)
[Medieval History Web Site](http://historymedren.about.com/)
[Book Review](http://www.ala.org/booklist/v97/youth/ap2/57tingle.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
The king sighed, "I cannot keep all my precious firsts." He reached out and took her hand. "Before poetry distracted me, we were speaking of new responsibilities. Edward must return from the woods to his schooling. And, you too, must prepare for a change. Flaed, before the end of the summer you will marry Ethelred of Mercia, my friend and ally. Today I have  received this acceptance from him."
Flaed sat fixed on her stool as the king took a sheet of parchment from the table and gave it to her. Ethelred of Mercia , a man she had never met. "I can no longer allow you to go about alone, even within the boundaries of the estate. There are enemies who would injure this alliance by injuring my daughter." Still, she said nothing. "You will have a personal guardian," she heard her father say, "who will always be with you. He will sleep by your door. He will watch and keep you safe always. You are dear to me, and to the West Saxon kingdom. We must not lose you Aetheflaed."
In that one moment, Aethelflaed's life changed. She must marry a stranger, she loses all of her privacy,  her brother becomes a stranger and unknown enemies are trying to assassinate her. What is there to do, other than learn to be a queen on her own terms by becoming like the edge on the sword.
***Prepared by: Amanda S. LeBlanc***
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**Fair Weather: A Novel**
**Richard Peck**
**Dial Books 2001**
**139 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
The year is 1893.  Rosie Beckett, her brother, and sisters get a glimpse into the future when their Aunt Euterpe, a recent wealthy widow, invites her poor relatives to visit Chicago to attend the great 1893 Columbian Exposition, the first world’s fair.  Despite the fact that Aunt Euterpe tells Grandpa not to come since he doesn’t need the educational experience at his age and doesn't possess any manners, he surprises everyone by showing up at the train station and turning the meeting with Euterpe, the visit to Chicago, and the Columbian Exposition into a hilarious cultural affair.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*A Year Down Under* by Richard Peck
*A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck
*Ghosts I Have Been* by Richard Peck
*The Ghosts Belong to Me* by Richard Peck
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
Buffalo Bill
The1893 Columbian Exposition
**WEBSITES:**
[Richard Peck Home Page](http://www.richardpeck.smartwriters.com/)
[Carol Hurst’s Biography of Richard Peck](http://www.carolhurst.com/authors/rpeck.html)
[Yahoo’s Richard Peck Tribute Site](http://www.tallmania.com/peck.html)
[Columbian Exposition](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA96/WCE/title.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
*Fair Weather* takes the reader back to the days when Buffalo Bill, Susan B. Anthony, and Lillian Russell were the big celebrities of the day.  When electricity, the hamburger, and the Ferris Wheel were first introduced to the world.  Euterpe, the wealthy aunt, invites her rural relatives to Chicago to experience the cultural events of the 1893 world's fair.  Chicago, the city that begins to help redefine America as a land of urban sprawl instead of a land of farmers, plays host to a rambunctious backwards Grandpa, his grandchildren, and a wealthy aunt. Richard Peck cleverly weaves the reader into this era with loveable characters who epitomize the clash of cultures in the United States—a dying agricultural society versus an emerging urban society.  The World’s Columbian Exposition is where the two cultures collide with celebrities of the past and present and the foods and attractions of the future.  This is a novel that will make you want to read more as the story and characters are unveiled.
***Prepared by: Terry Atkin***
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***Flipped***
**Wendelin Van Draanen**
**Alfred A. Knopf, 2001**
**212 pages**

**SUMMARY**:  In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Princess in Love* by Meg Cabot
*All American Girl* by Meg Cabot
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
*Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer
*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares
*Everything on a Waffle* by Polly Horvath
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Science:**
Research the life span of a sycamore tree, its leaf structure, and other characteristics.
Research the differences between a hen/rooster/chicken/fowl/pullet/capon/poultry.
Learn about a hygrometer, which Judi used to check the humidity inside of the incubator.
Recreate Judi’s science project of an embryo’s development.
**Guidance:**
Discuss that there are two sides to every story, appearance vs. reality. The importance of looking beneath the surface should be stressed.
**Math:**
Find out the price of a dozen eggs. Figure the percentage of increase for a dozen eggs in the last fifty years.
**Drama:**
Write and produce a short skit based on “The Basket Boys” scene.
**Language Arts:**
Discuss the theme of chickens and how it was carried out in the book. Other themes that lend themselves to discussion and journal writing are friendship, honesty, coming of age, and family life.
Ask students to pretend they are Bryce and write a letter to Judi, or pretend they are Judi, and write a letter to Bryce.
**WEBSITES:**
[A Conversation With Wendelin Van Draanen](http://www.writerswrite.com/journal/dec01/vandraanen.htm)
[Flipped Book Review](http://www.kidsreads.com/reviews/0375811745.asp)
[Wendelin Van Draanen](http://www.childrenslit.com/f_vandraanen.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
You will absolutely “flip” over the book *Flipped*.  Bryce moves in across the street from Judi when they are both in second grade, and Bryce decides right then and there that Judi is someone he needs to avoid. She does her best to follow him around and he does his best to avoid her. Eventually, the unlikely pair is in eighth grade. Will Bryce continue to avoid Judi on a daily basis? Told through Judi and Bryce’s alternating viewpoints, you will “flip” as you learn about the hilarious and poignant situations in which they find themselves. Read *Flipped*, by Wendelin Van Draanen for a sure he loves me, he loves me not experience, and a whole lot more!
***Prepared by: Betty Neal***
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***Ghost Soldier***
**Elaine Marie Alphin**
**Henry Holt and Company, 2001**
**216 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
Alexander, a 13 year-old boy who sees ghostly scenes of the past, travels to North Carolina with his father who is considering marrying again.  Alexander attempts to get along with this woman's children while he becomes embroiled in an adventure with a Civil War ghost who needs to find out what happened to his family.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Ghost Cadet*by Elaine Marie Alphin
*Rifles for Watie*by Harold Keith
*Who Comes with Cannons?*by Patricia Beatty
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Dramatize or read-aloud (with students reading the various characters) the battle scenario at the seige of Petersburg.
**Social Studies:**
Create a timeline of the major events of the Civil War.  This can be done on paper or as a powerpoint presentation.
**Math:**
How far did Richeson Chamblee have to travel from his hometown to Petersburg?  How did he travel?
**Science:**
During the war, people in the south made their own ink as described on page 152.  Experiment with making your own ink and test to confirm which ink is the most water-resistant.
Plant a rosebush.
**WEBSITES:**
[The American Civil War Home Page](http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/)
Offers links to hundreds of resources, including general resources such as timelines and overviews, images, letters, accounts and diaries, bibliographies, state studies, specific battles, and rosters, among others. It is a comprehensive page, and a good place to start for Civil War information.
[Library of Congress American Memory Project -- Civil War Maps](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/cwmhtml/)
Selection of about 2,240 Civil War maps and charts and 76 atlases and sketchbooks.
**BOOKTALK:**
My name is Alexander.  I'm thirteen years old.  I live in Indiana with my dad who is a computer geek.  My mom left us three years ago.  I'm waiting, like Penelope did for Odysseus in Ancient Greece, for my mom to come back.  I play the recorder and work in the garden because these were things she liked to do.  I've got a couple of problems that I'm dealing with.  Problem number one is that my dad likes this lady, Paige Hambrick, who is a professor at Duke University.  That's in North Carolina.  I think he likes her a lot.  She's got a couple of kids, a teenager named Nicole and a little boy named Carleton.  Dad and I are spending spring break with them while he looks for a job there.  I want to stay in Indiana so my mom can find us.  Problem number two is my friend, Richeson Chamblee.  He wants me to help him find out where his family is.  The problem with Rich is--he's a ghost.  I can't even find my mom and she's alive.  How can I find Rich's sister who left their home almost two hundred years ago?  How can I leave my home?  How can I get along with these two kids without them thinking I'm crazy for talking to ghosts?  Read *Ghost Soldier*and try to help me solve my problems.
***Prepared by: Sheri Carpenter***
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***Girl in Blue***
**Ann Rinaldi**
**Scholastic Press, 2001**
**308 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, fourteen-year-old Sara, dressed as a boy, leaves her Michigan home to enlist in the Union Army.  She becomes a soldier on the battlefields of Virginia as well as a Union spy working in the house of Confederate sympatherizer Rose O'Neal Greenhow in Washington, D.C.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Amelia's War*by Ann Rinaldi
*Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds* by Seymour Reit
*The Boy's War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk* by Jim Murphy
*Gentle Annie: The True Story of a Civil War Nurse* by Mary Francis Shura
*Here and Then* by George Ella Lyon
*Jayhawker* by Patricia Beatty
*No Bugles Tonight* by Bruce Lancaster
*Rebel Hart*by Edith Morris Hemingway
*Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen
*With Every Drop of Blood* by James Lincoln Collier
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Home Arts:**
Study the art of tapestry creation.  Design and sew a simple tapestry. Find information at  [Tapestry History](http://www.tapestriesonline.co.uk/history.htm)
Study the creation of samplers.  Design and sew a sampler. Find information at [Needlework Samplers](http://www.needleworksamplers.com/)
**Science:**
Delve into the art of medicine as it would have been during the Civil War. Find information at [Civil War Medicine](http://www.civilwarhome.com/civilwarmedicineintro.htm)
**Social Studies:**
Study the Battle of Bull Run.  Discuss the role both North and South played in the battle.  Discuss the impact of such people as spy, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, on such battles.
**Guidance:**
Discuss the impact that lying or being deceitful can have on relationships. Discuss when, if ever, it may be necessary to hide your true motives.
Discuss Sarah's conflicted feelings for Sheldon that were created because neither of them could reveal the truth.  Role play a final conversation between Sarah and Sheldon, where they reveal the truth about themselves and their role in the war.
**Language Arts:**
Throughout the novel, Sarah wishes she could write a letter home to her family about her new life.  Write a letter telling Sarah's mother about her life from Sarah's point of view.
Devise a secret code like the one Rose Greenhow used.  Write messages to classmates and have them try to decode them.
**WEBSITES:**
[Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/nhihtml/cwnyhshome.html)
[America's Story from America's Library-Civil War](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/civil)
[Rose O'Neal Greenhow Papers](http://odyssey.lib.duke.edu/greenhow/)
[Allan Pinkerton and His Detective Agency](http://www.crimelibrary.com/gangsters2/pinkerton/)
[Women's History: Sarah Emma Edmonds](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_sarah_emma_edmonds.htm)
[The American Civil War](http://www.civilwarhome.com/)
**BOOKTALK**:
Fourteen-year-old Sarah Wheelock has a plan.  A very dangerous plan.  Sarah has grown tired of the abuse she receives at the hand of her father.  She cannot tolerate the desperate, hopeless look she sees in her mother's eyes another moment.  And now, she has discovered her father's plan to marry her off to a man more than twice her age just to increase the size of his farm!  Sarah's plan began to develop the first time she read a book about the pirate captain Fanny Campbell.  Fanny cut off her curls, put on a short blue jacket, and went aboard ship as a man.  Nevermore was Fanny beholden to anyone.  Now it's Sarah's turn.  Sarah has her mom's scissors at the ready, her beloved Winchester rifle at her side, and a plan that will get her away from Casey 's Mill, Michigan once and for all.  Now all she needs is the courage to see it through.

\*\*Special note:  Ann Rinaldi based her character Sarah Louisa Wheelock on the Civil War spy Emma Edmonds, so  you may wish to pair this historical novel with its equally exciting and readable nonfiction counterpart *Behind Rebel Lines:  The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy*by Seymour Reit.
***Prepared by: Samantha McManus***
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***The Graduation of Jake Moon***
**Barbara Park**
**Atheneum Books for Young People, 2000**
**115 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
Jake Moon and his mother have always lived with his grandfather, Skelly.  Because Jake's mother worked, Skelly was an important part of Jake's life and friendships.  Skelly had "a way of believing in you, that made you want to believe in yourself."  When Skelly is diagnosed with Alzheimer's and his behavior becomes more and more erratic, Jake is so embarrassed by it that he begins to distance himself from his classmates rather than have them learn about Skelly.  In this book of laughter and tears, Jake realizes how much he loves his grandfather, especially after Skelly disappears for a while; and he comes to terms with the disease and the effect that it has on him and on the entire family
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Doc* by Richard Graber
*After the Rain* by Norma Fox Mazer
*A Figure of Speech* by Norma Fox Mazer
*Petey* by Ben Mikaelsen
*When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Kimberly Willis Holt
*The Summer of Swans* by Betsy Byars
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Science:**
Research Alzheimer's disease.
**WEBSITES:**
[Alzheimer's Association](http://www.alz.org/)
[Biography of Barbara Park](http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb/authorbio.html)
[Barbara Park Teacher Resource File](http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/park.htm)
[Activites for Graduation of Jake Moon](http://www.txla.org/groups/tba/activities/jake.html)
**BOOKTALK**:
Jake Moon's grandfather has Alzheimer's and Jake is hopelessly embarrassed by Skelly's increasingly forgetful and bizarre behavior, to the point that Jake has alienated himself from his schoolmates rather than have them learn about Skelly. Once Skelly was Jake's hero, from cooking sweets as a "Room Mother" to making the shyest of Jake's friends feel wonderful because Skelly "had a way of believing in you that made you want to believe in yourself."  Now, in Jake's eighth-grade year, Skelly is just an embarrassing, crazy old man.  Narrated by Jake in a fresh, humorous tone,  the book is peopled with vivid characters:  Jake's seemingly obnoxious cousin James and James's mother who received so much money in her divorce settlement "that you can't count the zeros."  The latest caretaker, Mrs. Russell, is oddest of all the way she can"say something so freaky it scares you" and her very odd hats.  When Jake, Skelly and his mom pick up Mrs. Russell to attend eighth-grade graduation, "she was wearing a small mixing bowl."  Jake looked at his mother and groaned,  "Please, just get a gun and shoot me."  During the graduation ceremony, Skelly wanders onto the auditorium stage and in his confusion begins to cry.  Jake runs to comfort his grandfather and guide him back. With laughter and tears, this believable novel with its well-rounded characters portrays the terrible effects of Alzheimer's disease on the patient and on everyone in the family.  Jake comes to terms with the disease and realizes how each person within his family is changed by it "not in huge, drastic ways,but in personal little ways that didn't make much noise."
***Prepared by: Patricia W. Hartley***
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***A Hole in the World***
**Sid Hite**
**Scholastic, 2001**
**204 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
During his summer vacation, fifteen year old Paul Shakelford who lives in the city, is being sent to work on a relative's farm in the middle of nowhere. He decides to try his best and work hard. Paul unravels a mystery with the help of a dog named Einstein and a girl named Rebecca.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Missing May*by Cynthia Rylant
*Mick Harte was Here*by Barbara Park
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
Have students write a paper/journal entry expressing their feelings about some person or pet who was close to them who died.
**WEBSITES:**
[Book Review](http://www.kidsreads.com/reviews/0439098300.asp)
**BOOKTALK:**
Fifteen year-old Paul Shakelford has made a slight error in judgement. Because of his mistake his father, a lawyer, decides to send Paul to work on a farm. This farm is owned by relatives whom he met when he was two years old.  Paul must work on this farm during his summer vacation to get a different perspective on life.  When Paul arrives at the farm Einstein, the dog, tries to attack him. He notices a green pick-up truck in the yard.  His aunt looks at him strangely but is friendly.  Paul makes friends with the other farm hands and works hard.  Some of the farm hands talk about ghosts.  Paul doesn't see any ghosts, but he realizes there is a mystery to be solved.  As he unravels the truth, he meets a beautiful girl named Rebecca. For a book about love, death, and growing up read *A Hole in the World* by Sid Hite.
***Prepared by: Roberta Rivers***
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***The Land***
**Mildred Taylor**
**Phyllis Fogelman Books, c2001**
**375 pages**

**SUMMARY**:
In this prequel to the Newbery Medal winning *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, Paul-Edward is the son of a white plantation owner. His story is filled with exciting sometimes heart-breaking adventures. Paul-Edward's dream of land-ownership, almost impossible for a black person to accomplish in the Post-Civil War South, becomes a reality.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Send One Angel Down* by Virginia Schwartz
*Because We Are*by Mildred Walter
*The Friendship* by Mildred Taylor
*The Gold Cadillac* by Mildred Taylor
*Let the Circle Be Unbroken*by Mildred Taylor
*Mississippi Bridge* by Mildred Taylor
*The Road to Memphis* by Mildred Taylor
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
*Song of the Trees* by Mildred Taylor
*The Well* by Mildred Taylor
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Social Studies:**
Research the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments.  How did they affect the lives of people like Paul-Edward Logan and his half brothers?
What did the Civil Rights Act of 1875 establish in the United States?  How was the act affected by the 1896 Supreme Court case Plessy vs. Ferguson?
Discuss Segregation - the causes, the definition, synonyms, types and results.
**Guidance:**
Discuss the differences and the similiarities of gender and racial bias.
**WEBSITES:**
[Teacher's Guide to The Land](http://www.penguinputnam.com/static/packages/us/yreaders/educate/guides/taylor/content.htm)
[Mildred Taylor Teacher Resource File](http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/taylor.htm)
[List of Mildred Taylor Web Sites](http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/ieo/bibs/taylor.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
The story of Paul-Edward Logan is the prequel to the Logan saga.  The story begins when Paul-Edward is nine years old in Georgia.  Born of a part-Indian, part African slave mother and a white plantation owner, he is raised by both parents.  His father treats him as an equal to his white sons, and  Paul-Edward grows accustomed to the treatment.  He eats at his white father's table except when there are guests.  He learns to read and his best friend is his white brother, Robert, who is the same age.   Paul-Edward offers to teach Mitchell to read and write in exchange for Mitchell teaching him to fight.  This begins a friendship that will last throughout their lives. The novel concludes with "Legacy," a brief epilogue where Paul-Edward brings readers up to date on events that happened in the years after he bought his land and his reconciliation with his father back in Georgia.
***Prepared by: Anita W. Robinson***

***Lizzie at Last***
**Claudia Mills**
**Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2000**
**152 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
In the sequel to *Losers, Inc.* and *You're a Brave Man Julius Zimmerman*, Claudia Mills spotlights Elizabeth Bennet Archer. Lizzie discovers that common sensibilities and interests form the basis of lasting friendship and that we must always be true to ourselves.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Losers, Inc.* and *You're a Brave Man Julius Zimmerman* by Claudia Mills
*Alice*by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
*Dork in Disguise* by Carol Gorman
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Have students write poetry expressing their feelings.
Research the life of the poet Emily Dickinson and the type of poetry she wrote.
Research William Shakespeare and his plays.
Study the Victorian period and its influence on writers of the time.
Research sports of the Victorian period and compare them with current sports.
**Gudiance:**
Discuss peer pressure and being yourself.
**WEBSITES**:
[Claudia Mills Website](http://spot.colorado.edu/~cmills/)
[Victorian Poets](http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/Literature/Poetry/Periods_and_Movements/Victorian_Poetry/Poets/)
[The Emily Dickinson International Society](http://www.cwru.edu/affil/edis/edisindex.html)
[Rules of Football](http://ww2.nfl.com/fans/rules/)
[Shakespeare Site](http://www.surfnetkids.com/shakespeare.htm)
[Peer Pressure](http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/friend/peer_pressure.html)
[Victorian America](http://earlyamerica.com/)
**BOOKTALK**:
Elizabeth Archer's parents are college professors: Geeks. Can you imagine the clothes they wear? Lizzie  wears clothes that are different, too. She wears long flowing white, lacey things and her clothes never look like anyone else's. When Lizzie's aunt realizes that she has not been shopping for school clothes, and school starts tomorrow, she comes to the rescue and takes her shopping at a stylish store to help Lizzie change her image. Do you think new clothes helped? Read *Lizzie at Last* by Claudia Mills to find out!
***Prepared by: Kathleen McTeer***
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***Odysseus in the Serpent Maze***
**Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris**
**HarperCollins, 2001**
**248 pages**

**SUMMARY**:
Thirteen-year-old Odysseus, who longs to be a hero, has many opportunities to prove himself during an adventure which involves pirates and satyrs, a trip to Crete's Labyrinth, and the two young girls, Penelope and Helen, who play a major role in his future life.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*The Legend of Odysseus* by Peter Connolly.
*Hippoolyta and the Curse of the Amazons* by Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris
*Bulfinchs's Mythology* by Thomas Bulfinch
*Greek Myths :Ulysses and the Trojan War* retold by Anna Claybourne and Kamini Khanduri
*Heroes*by Don Nardo.
*The Iliad and the Odyssey*  retold and illustrated by Marcia Williams 1996
*The Adventures of Ulysees* by Bernard Evslin
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Have students complete the webquest <http://allabery.com/courses/webquest/mccolley/>
**Social Studies/Character Education:**
Have students complete the webquest <http://www.iwebquest.com/greece/greece.htm>
**Art:**
Daedalus was a great inventor and designer of the elaborate maze called the Labyrinth.  Have students design a maze to "a-maze" others.
**Science:**
Compile a list of Daedalus's inventions listed in the book and compare them to modern inventions.
The Ancient Greeks were renown for great scientists.  Research one of them and prepare a display showing something  for which the scientist was famous.
**Math:**
In order to be a great inventor, Daedalus had to be an excellent mathematician.  Make a list of Greek mathematicians and prepare a chart showing their areas of expertise.
**WEBSITES:**
[Complete text of the Iliad (generates popups)](http://www.greekmythology.com/Books/Iliad/iliad.html)
[Great site of Greek myth resources for educators](http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/greekmyths.htm)
[Classical Myth Homepage](http://web.uvic.ca/grs/bowman/myth/)
BOOKTALK:
"Snakes, it had to be snakes."  Just like the fabled Indiana Jones, snakes are just one of the horrors Odysseus and his best friend, Mentor, must face on their journey home.  Odysseus, noble prince of Ithaca is bored!  The great wars are over.  All the great monsters, like the Minotaur have been slain.  What’s a guy to do?  Odysseus and his best friend Mentor are longing for heroic adventures of their own.  Be careful what you wish for, however.  On what should have been a peaceful, boring trip home by sea, Odysseus and Mentor are kidnapped by pirates, who have already captured a pair of cousins, Penelope and the beautiful Helen.  The four share several thrilling adventures together including fighting a monster in the Labyrinth even more deadly than the Minotaur.  The boy who is destined to fight in the Trojan war and survive the perilous voyage home is discovering the hardest part of being a hero: living to tell about it.
***Prepared by: Heidi Lewis***
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***The Other Side of Truth***
**Beverley Naidoo**
**HarperCollins Publisher, 2000**
**248 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
As Sade is packing her book bag for school, she hears gunfire.  Her mother has been murdered in the family’s driveway.  Fearing for the lives of his children, Sade’s father, a noted Nigerian journalist, quickly arranges for them to be smuggled into England.  After the children arrive in London, the children are abandoned and left to survive on their own.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Three Days* by Donna Jo Napdi
*Torn Thread* by Anne Isaacs
*Dream Freedom*by Sonia Levitin
*To Grandmother's House We Go*by Willo Davis Roberts
*Homecoming* by Cynthia Voigt
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Imagine you were abandoned in a foreign country.  Write a narrative explaining what you would do to survive in this situation.
Brainstorm, using a web, about what it would be like to live in a country where one could not express one’s opinions. Develop the web into a descriptive paragraph or paper.
**Social Studies:**
Use an atlas to find Nigeria.
Look up Nigeria in an almanac to learn more about the country. Use either a bound almanac or go to DISCUS and use the on-line version.
Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast Nigeria to the United States.
**Math:**
Calculate the miles from Nigeria to London, the flying time, and the time change.
Estimate how much money one would need for food and shelter for a day, a week, and a month
**WEBSITES:**
[Beverley Naidoo's Website](http://www.beverleynaidoo.com/index2.html)
[Nigeria Daily](http://www.nigeriadaily.com/)
[CIA Factbook Site on Nigeria](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ni.html)
**BOOKTALK**:
My morning began just like any ordinary day.  I was packing my books for school, and then I heard a sound that would shatter my life.  Someone had shot my mother!  Someone was getting back at my father for writing stories about the corrupt Nigerian government.  Before I could think straight, my father put my brother and me on a plane with a strange woman.  We were pretending to be her children.  Once we were in London, the woman disappeared and just left us to survive on our own.
***Prepared by: Barbara Satkowski***
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***The Ransom of Mercy Carter***
**Caroline B. Cooney**
**Delacorte Press, 2001**
**249 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
In 1704, in the English settlement of Deerfield, Massachusetts, eleven-year-old Mercy and her family and neighbors are captured by Mohawk Indians and their French allies, and forced to march through bitter cold to French Canada, where some adapt to new lives and some still hope to be ransomed.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison* by Lois Lenski
*Echohawk* by Lynda Durrant
*I Am Regina* by Sally M. Keehn
*Dear America: Standing in the Light: The Captive Diary of Catharine Carey Logan, Delaware Valley, Pennsylvania, 1763*by Kathryn Lasky
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Social Studies:**
Have students map out the two month journey from Deerfield, Massachusetts to Montreal.  Have students keep a mock journal of their travels, noting places of special interest, such as:  rivers, lakes, etc.
Have students research the French and Indian War.  What were the ramifications of this war.  Why were the French and Native Americans allies?
Have students compare and contrast the lifestyles of the English Settlers and the Mohawk Indians.
**WEBSITES:**
[Caroline Cooney Teacher Resource Page](http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/ccooney.htm)
[Teacher's Guide to The Ransom of Mercy Carter](http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/guides/pdf/mercycarter.pdf)
[Official Site for Deerfield, Massachusetts](http://www.old-deerfield.org/)
**BOOKTALK:**
Dear Lord, do not let us be murdered in our beds.  This is the prayer of Mercy Carter on the night of February 28, 1704.  The night her family's home was raided by Mohawk Indians.  That fateful evening, the Indians led Mercy and other survivors on a two month trek from Deerfield, Massachusetts to Kahnawake, Montreal.  There Mercy sees the many differences between the English settlers and Native Americans.  As she waits to be ransomed home, she begins to wonder:  Will I accept ransom?  To find out more about Mercy Carter, read this accurate depiction of the raid on Deerfield, Massachusetts.
***Prepared by: Julie Moody***
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***Silent to the Bone***
**E. L. Konigsburg**
**Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000**
**261 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
*The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech
*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
*Father's Arcane Daughter* by E.L. Konigsburg
*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
*Flying Solo* by Ralph Fletcher
*Green Boy*by Susan Cooper
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Social Studies:**
Research and compare holidays in foreign countries compared to that of the United States.
Research the process of "green cards" and "exchange visitors", as to how, where, why, and when.  Do a comparative study on the different countries requirements for each of the above.
Research communication skills and processes used in the ancient civilizations up to the present day.
**Language Arts:**
Study different communication skills and use them in a class display or performance which will show the effects of each on the user, the listener and the learner.  Play scrabble, charades, use flash cards, sign language, written word, signals.
**Math:**
Develop grids and make rating charts to use with the different communication skills used in the Language Arts classes.   Research the time difference with each country and how that would effect communication in today's world.
**Science:**
Research vocal cords, speech and mutism under behavorial science.
Study the time zones on each continent.
Study the signal communications with electronics and how that has evolved through time.
**Guidance/Health:**
Research the requirements,obligations, qualifications, etc. to be a babysitter.
Discover what a juvenile center is and why youth would be placed there.
Discuss selective mutism and dysfunctional familes.
**WEBSITES:**
[Selective Mutism Foundation](http://www.selectivemutismfoundation.org/)
[E. L. Konigsburg - Teacher Resource File](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/konigsburg.html)
[E. L. Konigsburg](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/konigsburg.html)
[How to Play Charades](http://travelwithkids.about.com/library/weekly/aa122898.htm)
**BOOKTALK:**
It isNovember 25th at 2:43 p.m. when my best friend, Branwell Zamborska is struck dumb.  He cannot speak, he cannot explain what is wrong or utter a sound.  As his best friend, I, Connor, have been sent to visit Branwell at the Behavioral Center - to see if I can break the silence.  During one of our visits I discover a way to communicate with Branwell - through flash cards !!  It is my sister Margaret who helps me investigate the events which lead up to the silence of Branwell.  Slowly we discover the truth and what the problem really is and what it took to get Branwell to silence.  We pinpoint the minute it began with the tape of the 911 call…..
Operator:  Epiphany 911. Hobson speaking.
SILENCE.
Operator:  Epiphany 911. Hobson. May I help you?
SILENCE [voices are heard in the background.]
Operator:  Anyone there?
A woman's voice [screaming in the background]:  Tell them. Tell them.
This is more than a detective story - it explores basic human needs and emotions with suspense, excitement, and deep understanding.
***Prepared by: Kelly M. Brown***
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**Torn Thread**
**Anne Isaacs**
**Scholastic, 2000**
**197 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
Eva is living with her father and sister in a Jewish ghetto in Poland during WWII, until Eva's sister is taken to a Nazi labor camp in Czechoslovakia. Eva's father struggles to reunite the girls, and Eva joins her sister in the camp only to endure Nazi cruelty for two years.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
*The Devil's Arithmetic*by Jane Yolen
*Under a War-Torn Sky* by Laura Elliott
*After the Holocaust* by Howard Greenfeld
*The Upstairs Room* by Johanna Reiss
*The Island on Bird Street* by Uri Orlev
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Language Arts:**
Use as a complementary novel when teaching *The Diary of Anne Frank*
**Social Studies:**
Research World War II.
Research the Holocaust.
Research Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust.
**Science:**
Research living conditions and diseases in the the ghettos and workcamps
**WEBSITES**:
[Children of the Holocaust](http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/holocaust/people/children.htm)
[A Teacher's Guide to the Holocaust: The Children](http://www.remember.org/)
[Remember.org - Holocaust Links](http://www.remember.org/)
[The Making of Torn Thread: An Interview with the Author](http://www.anneisaacs.com/books/thread/making.htm)
[Anne Isaacs Web Site](http://www.anneisaacs.com/)
**BOOKTALK:**
In 1943, Eva, her sister and their father are living in a Polish ghetto until Eva's sister, Rachel, is seized by the Nazis and taken to far off Czechoslovakia. In an effort to save both of his daughters, Papa sends Eva to join her sister in a Nazi labor camp, where the girls spin thread on treacherous machinery to make blankets for the German army. As Eva struggles among ever-worsening dangers to save her life and that of her sick sister, her world tears apart like the weak threads on her spinning machine. In this exciting account based on a true story, two teenagers fight to survive in a world where living doesn't seem possible.
***Prepared by: Mollie Carter and Amanda S. LeBlanc***
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**Under a War-Torn Sky**
**L.M. Elliott**
**Hyperion Books for Children, 2001**
**284 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
After his plane is shot down behind enemy lines by Hitler's Luftwaffe , nineteen-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, VA, walks across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Behind the Bedroom Wall* by Laura E. Williams
*Torn Thread* by Anne Isaac
*Tomorrow When the War Began* by John Marsden
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Social Studies :**
Research the French Resistance, the Holocaust, and the Nazis.
Plot Hank's escape route on a map of France.
**Language Arts :**
Write a letter to Hank's mother telling about his capture.
**WEBSITES:**
[French Resistance](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FRresistance.htm)
[American Aces of World War II](http://www.acepilots.com/)
[Book Review](http://www.bookpage.com/0110bp/children/under_war_torn_sky.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
Henry Forester is shot down during his fifteenth mission into enemy territory.  Facing the prospect of spending the rest of his life in a POW camp, he is approached by someone offering to help him escape and return to duty.  Aided by the French Resistance, Henry has an eight month adventure across occupied France.  He is helped by  peasants, priests, and a wealthy aristocrat.  When Henry is captured by Germans, can he escape just one more time before he is taken out to be shot?  Read *Under A War-Torn Sky* to find out.
***Prepared by: Kay Herbster***
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***The Wayfinder***
**Darcy Pattison**
**Greenwillow Books, 2000**
**200 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
Win, an eleven year old boy with the gift of "Finding," must overcome his doubts about his abilities in order to go into the Great Rift and find a cure for the plague striking his land.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*Hidden Talents* by David Lubar
*Gypsy Rizka* by Lloyd Alexander
*Dragon Song* by Anne McCaffery
*The Never Ending Story* by Michael Ende
*Of Two Minds* by Carol Matas
*The Gathering* by Virginia Hamilton
*Crown Duel* by Sherwood Smith
*The Golden* *Compass* by Philip Pullman
*The Folkkeeper* by Franny Billingsley
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Science:**
Research plagues, fog and unusual weather phenomenon.
**Math:**
Compile statistics on plagues and droughts throughout history.
**Language Arts:**
Design a class newspaper from Win's village.
Explore fantasy as a genre.
Compare and contrast Win's fears with other characters in stories.
**Home Arts:**
Plan menus for Win's travels through the Rift.
**Health/PE:**
Study first aid procedures.
Explore the pleasures of camping and hiking.
**WEBSITES:**
[Dan's Wild, Wild Weather Page](http://www.wildwildweather.com/)
[PSC Meteorology Program Cloud Boutique](http://vortex.plymouth.edu/clouds.html)
[The Black Death](http://history.boisestate.edu/westciv/plague/)
[The Black Plague](http://www.mcn.org/ed/cur/cw/Plague/Plague_Sim.html)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/)
[Camping USA](http://www.camping-usa.com/)
**BOOKTALK**:
Win is a Finder, someone who could find anything, anywhere. He can lead people safely home and even find people who are lost. He's always believed in his finding skills, until he's call to "Find" his sister Zanna. "Win's finder sense told him two things: Zanna was very near, and so was the Rift's edge. Win inched forward, unsure of his footing. The lantern light caught her face. Zanna was two steps in front of him, and the mists swirled around her feet. They were on the very brink of the Rift itself, and his sister stood on a small rock that curved and jutted out over the Rift. Between them was empty space."Zanna, don't move!" "Win, I knew you'd come." She reached out to catch his hand and took a single step through the billowing clouds. Without a sound, she plunged out of sight." No one can get a finding on Zanna, and her family is forced to accept the fact that she is dead. Win decides to put aside his gift completely, at least until the Prince comes to  town, convinced that only Win can guide him into the Rift to find the cure for the plague that has struck the land. Win decides to look for sister, knowing that no one has ever returned from the Rift alive, but hoping that he can at least find out what happened to his sister.
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***Witch Child***
**Celia Rees**
**Candlewick Press, May 2002**
**304 pages**

**SUMMARY:**
Mary Nuttall reveals in her diary what it is like to live in a climate of mistrust and piety because she is a healer. She describes in detail her beloved grandmother's trial and hanging as a witch, her own rescue by a mysterious noblewoman that later turns out to be someone from her past, and her eventual passage to the New World and the forest settlement of Beulah. Mary falls under a curtain of suspicion when she willingly chooses to explore the dark woods shunned by the fearful colonists and makes friends with some of the spiritual native Indians. When several girls in the community begin to shriek and swoon, and the same minister who damned Mary's grandmother comes to search for signs of witchcraft, Mary is subjected to the same close and deadly scrutiny her Grandmother endured.
**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…**
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth Speare
**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
**Social Studies:**
Use as a read aloud when studying the Thirteen Colonies or the Salem Witch Trials.
**Language Arts:**
Use as a book to illustrate journal/diary writing.
**Science:**
Research healers and natural remedies used during the United States Colonial period.
**WEBSITES**:
[The Salem Witch Trials](http://www.salemwitchtrials.com/)
[Salem Witch Museum](http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/learn2.html)
[Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive and Transcription Project University of Virginia](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/)
[Salem Witch Trials: The World Behind the Hysteria by Discovery School.com](http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/salemwitchtrials/index.html)
**BOOKTALK:**
***Prepared by: Linda Hall***
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