

**JULY 12, 2009 -- ALA**  
**SUNDAY 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**  
**Nonfiction Book Blast: Booktalks for Reluctant Readers -- AASL**  
**Track: Children & Young Adults; Literature & Collection Development**

## **BOOK TALK COMPILATION**

### **AUTHOR: Albert, Lisa Rondinelli**

**STEPHENIE MEYER:** Author of the *Twilight Saga*  
Enslow Publishers, Inc.  
ISBN-10: 0766035840  
12 and up

If you can't get enough of Stephenie Meyer, the *Twilight Saga*, and the *Twilight* movies, this is a book you'll want to sink your teeth into. As the first biography available about the mega popular author, *Stephenie Meyer: Author of the Twilight Saga* goes beyond a basic examination of the life and success of Stephenie Meyer.

Ever wonder what Meyer was like as a teenager? Author Lisa Rondinelli Albert's research led her to fans who provided early e-mail correspondence with Meyer as well as never-been-seen-before photographs, including one of particular interest—Stephenie's high school prom photo.

Details about Meyer's childhood, family life, writing career, and movie deals are packed into 112 pages of teen-friendly text. Color photographs of Meyer, her fans, and *Twilight* stars, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart complement the book.

From the dream that inspired *Twilight* to the leak of *Midnight Sun*, the saga's final book, you'll follow Meyer's successful and emotional journey and come away inspired yourself.

### **SO YOU WANT TO BE A FILM OR TV ACTOR?**

Enslow Publishers, Inc.  
ISBN-10: 0-7660-2741-4  
Ages 12 and up

If you've ever dreamed of becoming an actor, this is a perfect book for you. It's jam-packed with realistic career advice and offers guidance about getting into show business. Acting is a profession for every age, gender, ethnic background, and physical appearance. Think about the actors on your favorite movie or television program, they're all different shapes, sizes, ages, colors, right? But they all have one thing in common—talent.

Whether you aspire to act in commercials, soap operas, prime time television or the big screen, this book will set you on the right path. You'll learn what type of photographs to include in your portfolio, how to find auditions, and what to expect during a casting call. There's also up-to-date industry pay scales, plus information about scams and cons to watch out for.

Several actors are profiled throughout the book including Leonardo DiCaprio, Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Dakota Fanning, John C. Reilly, and more. You'll learn how they got their start and how they worked their way to the top.

You'll find out what casting directors, producers, and talent agents do and how they work together. A listing of acting schools and training resources is provided along with information about organizations to join and how to find an agent. A glossary of terms in the back will help you learn industry lingo, too. Overall, you'll come away with a better understanding of the business as a whole and head into the spotlight informed and ready for your close-up.

**AUTHOR: Bowman-Kruhm, Mary**

**THE LEAKEYS:** A Biography  
Prometheus Books  
ISBN: 978-1-59102-761-4  
Ages 10 and up

Does digging up the bones of prehistoric humans sound like fun? And suppose you find a skull! WOW! Wouldn't that be simply amazing?

Three generations of the Leakey family have spent their lives scratching for bones in the desolate, baked soil of East Africa. Louis and Mary Leakey gained attention in 1948 when they found a skull about 18 million years old. In 1959, discovery of a skull Louis dubbed Zinj, which lived about 1.75 million years ago, brought them greater acclaim. His own fossil finds made son Richard a celebrity. He then entered politics and lost both legs when his plane crashed—perhaps not an accident—but he saved the others on board. Richard has long fought for wildlife conservation, still his passion. Today, his wife Meave and daughter Louise carry on the family search to fill gaps in human history.

What have their lives been like, as members of the Leakey family have fought with other scientists and with each other while seeking to unearth fossil evidence of early humans? Read *The Leakeys* to find out.

**AUTHOR: Crawford, Laura**

**IN ARCTIC WATERS**

Sylvan Dell Publishing

ISBN-13: 978-0976882343

Ages 4-7

Do In Arctic Waters, is a cumulative tale that starts with a little fish swimming in the cold waters of the Arctic Ocean. It is soon joined by a beluga, a narwhal, a seal, a walrus, a polar bear and ...an Inuit hunter! Children enjoy the repetition and rhyming adventure story. This book contains back matter with a multitude of fascinating facts about he animals of the Arctic!

**THE PILGRIMS' THANKSGIVING FROM A TO Z**

Pelican Publishing

ISBN-13: 978-0979547744

Ages 4-9

*A is for Atlantic Ocean*

*I is for Indian Friends*

*O is for Oceanus Hopkins*

*T is for turkey*

*Q is for Quahog*

Did you know there was a baby born on the Mayflower? Or that the Pilgrims and Native Americans did not eat turkey on the first Thanksgiving? What is a quahog? These are just some of the interesting facts you will learn as you read *The Pilgrims' Thanksgiving from A to Z*.

**POSTCARDS FROM CHICAGO**

ISBN-10: 097954775X

Raven Tree Press

Ages 4-9

Join Anna in her travels to cities across the United States. Interesting facts about select destinations include historical monuments and famous sights from each location. Anna's observations make the touring informative and fun. These books are a creative blending of fiction and non-fiction. The postcards are in English and the interesting facts are presented fully in both English and Spanish. Photographs of the sights give the reader a glimpse of each destination. See other locations in the series including Postcards from New York City and Washington, D.C.

**AUTHOR: Ferris, Jeri Chase**

**ARCTIC EXPLORER:** The Story of Matthew Henson  
Lerner Publishing Group: Carolrhoda Books and Twenty-First Century Books  
ISBN 978-0-87614-370-4  
Ages 9 to 12

It was dark for half the year. It was frozen all year. It was at the top of the world. No one had ever been there. There were no roads, no maps, no landmarks. In fact, there was no land. And Matthew Henson wanted to be the first to stand on it.

What could it be? A polar bear? A seal? A walrus? An iceberg?

Matthew Henson worked for eighteen years to get to the top of the world. Death came close in blinding snowstorms and broken ice and starvation and freezing, but he escaped every time.

Finally in 1909 Henson and the explorer he worked with, Robert Peary, planted the American flag on the top of the world. They were the first to get there. They had discovered the North Pole.

But when they returned to the United States, a gold medal and the honor for discovering the North Pole went to Peary. Matthew Henson was not mentioned. Why not?

Read **ARCTIC EXPLORER** to learn about Matthew Henson's adventures in the Arctic, and after.

"A jewel of an adventure story." *School Library Journal*

**WITH OPEN HANDS:** A Story about Bidy Mason  
Lerner Publishing Group: Carolrhoda Books and First Avenue Editions  
ISBN 1-57505-330-6 hardcover  
Ages 9 to 12

A Mississippi slave becomes one of the wealthiest women in California. Can't happen, right? But it did.

Bidy Mason, a slave, walked from Mississippi to Utah to Southern California behind her master's wagon train. She walked past rattlesnakes and coyotes and buffalo, under the blazing sun and in the cold rain, over mountains and deserts, across streams and rivers.

She arrived in California as a slave in 1851, and she discovered something better than gold. She discovered she could be free.

But she did not know how to read or write.

She did not have a penny in her pocket.

She had three little children.

What should she do?

What did she do?

How did she become rich? Then what did she do?

Read WITH OPEN HANDS for the exciting true story of Bidly Mason's life.

**AUTHOR: Halls, Kelly Milner**

**DINOSAUR PARADE:** A Spectacle of Prehistoric Proportions

Lark/Sterling Publishing

ISBN: 1600592678

Ages 4 to 8

These fascinating prehistoric creatures may have vanished 65 million years ago, but this large-format picture book brings them back to life. Vibrant illustrations capture a happy procession of children marching alongside an array of dinosaurs in a make-believe parade. With just one look, young readers can put the relative sizes of human and beast in perspective—instantly making dinosaurs accessible. Ages 3 to 8, 32 pages, from Lark/Sterling 2008, ISBN:1600592678

**SAVING THE BAGHDAD ZOO:** A True Story of Hope and Heroes

HarperCollins/Greenwillow

ISBN 006177202X

Ages 9 to 14

When the Iraq war began in March of 2003, the animals of the Baghdad Zoo were abandoned. This full-color photo essay presents firsthand accounts from the team of United States soldiers and international volunteers responsible for their rescue. A true story of hope and heroes, and universal compassion.

**TALES OF THE CRYPTIDS:** Mysterious Creatures that May or May Not Exist

Darby Creek Publishing

ISBN: 006177202X.

Ages 9 to 12

Cryptozoology, the study of mysterious animals that may or may not exist is examined in this critically acclaimed, high interest nonfiction picture book. Evidence for and evidence against a vast array of creatures including Bigfoot, the

Loch Ness Monster and dozens of others stimulates the reader's critical thinking and curiosity moves them toward research of their own. A must for reluctant readers.

**AUTHOR: Hansen, Amy S.**

**BUGS & BUGSICLES:** Insects in the Winter  
Illustrated by Robert C. Kray  
Boyds Mills Press  
ISBN: 978-1-59078-269-9  
Ages 4 to 10

Every fall, bugs disappear. And every spring, they return. Where do they go? *Bugs and Bugsicles* solves the mysteries.

Some die, leaving their young safe in an egg sack or crawling along the bottom of a pond. Others fly distant places. And one becomes a bugsicle. It freezes only to thaw out and live another day!

Watch as crickets, ladybugs, dragonflies, and other insects get ready for the killing frosts. Then look again, as spring arrives, snow melts, flowers bloom, and suddenly, the bugs are back.

**TOUCH THE EARTH**

NASA/ National Federation of the Blind  
ISBN: 978-0-615-27820-9  
Ages 10 and up

*Touch the Earth* — go ahead, touch it. The tactile maps are there so you can find the stripe of boreal forest in the north and gauge the size of the African Sahara Desert. Now find the buttons and hear about each of the biomes — the forests, the deserts, the grasslands — all of the pieces that together make our tangible and living Earth. *Touch the Earth* is a multi-media book. It was designed for blind and visually impaired students, as well as for deaf and hard of hearing students. But it will be useful to anyone who enjoys getting information in several dynamic formats. With many interesting facts and hundreds of images, *Touch the Earth* meets the national science standards in a new and exciting way.

**AUTHOR: Hooks, Gwendolyn**

**MAKERS AND TAKERS:** Studying Food Webs in the Oceans  
Rourke Publishing  
ISBN: 978-1-60472-319-9  
Grades 3 to 5

Let's go scuba diving in the Pacific Ocean with marine biologist Dr. Michael Graham. You're in a massive underwater kelp forest. The kelp trails down 100

feet from the ocean's surface and looks like green ribbons swaying in the ocean's current. To Dr. Graham this is the world of makers and takers. Kelp produces or makes food. Animals like crabs, sea urchins, and fish eat it. They're the takers.

This ocean world of makers and takers gets a little more complicated because after fish fill up on kelp, they are gobbled up by seals, sharks, and people. People also eat kelp.

Imagine drawing a diagram to connect all the makers and takers. You'll end up with something that looks like a spider's web. Can you guess what scientists call the diagram?

What do you think happens when some of the connections are broken? Who or what breaks them? Will it affect you even if your family lives far from an ocean? How can you help keep the connections together? Read *Makers and Takers* and learn the answers to these questions and more. Like what favorite summertime treat is made with kelp!

### **AUTHOR; House, Katherine L.**

**LIGHTHOUSES FOR KIDS:** History, Science, and Lore with 21 Activities  
Chicago Review Press, 2008  
ISBN: 978-1-55652-729-3  
Ages 9 to 12

Have you ever seen a lighthouse? If not, you've probably seen a lighthouse picture on a puzzle, greeting card, or even a bag of potato chips. Today, lighthouses sit empty, and machines turn their lights on and off. In the past, though, people operated lighthouses. What was it like to grow up at a remote lighthouse?

*Lighthouses for Kids* features true stories of lighthouse keepers and their families, who often lived far from stores, schools, and doctors. Keepers' children helped with chores constantly. After all, their parents worked 24/7, so there was a lot to do. Most families lived at lighthouses before radios were invented, which means they did not have TVs or the Internet to keep them busy.

In this book, you'll also discover how engineers built lighthouses in the middle of oceans and on small rocks. You'll be amazed at the trouble it took to create a bright light using only candles or oil lamps. That's not all. Fun activities will let you experience a keeper's chores, from tending an oil lamp (with adult help) to polishing brass. Use your imagination to write in a replica logbook while wearing an authentic-looking keeper's cap. No matter what your interests, *Lighthouses for Kids* will shine new light on the work of keeping ships safe.

**AUTHOR: Kummer, Patricia K.**

**THE GREAT LAKES**

Marshall Cavendish Benchmark

ISBN: 978-0-7614-2853-4

12 and up

Volcanoes, earthquakes, and glaciers helped shape these huge freshwater lakes through millions of years. A warm saltwater sea once covered the land where they now lie between Canada and the United States. What are they? Why the Great Lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario—of course. Find out how these five lakes form a vast waterway from northeastern Minnesota to New York State. Discover how the lakes can quickly change from friendly waters for fishing, sailing, and swimming to raging waves powerful enough to destroy a freighter. Trace the history of the people who live and work along the lakes and the great cities they've built. Find out why Lake Erie was considered dead and how it was revived. Discover why people as far away as Asia want to tap into the Great Lakes' vast supply of freshwater. All this and more is ready for you to explore in *The Great Lakes*, one of the new Nature's Wonders series of books.

**THE GREAT BARRIER REEF**

Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2009

ISBN: 978-0-7614-2852-7

Ages 9 to 12

Every year, about 2 million people from around the world enjoy this one-of-a-kind underwater natural wonder. Some look at it through glass-bottom boats, but the really adventurous snorkel or scuba dive amongst its colorful coral. What else can this be but the Great Barrier Reef, which lies off the northeastern coast of Australia. Formed through millions of years, this is the world's largest coral reef. In *The Great Barrier Reef*, one the new Nature's Wonders series of books, find out how coral and coral reefs are formed. Discover the huge number of colorful plants and animals that live on the reef. See how early Aborigines through today's Australians have affected the reef and been affected by it.

**NORTH KOREA**

Children's Press Scholastic

ISBN:978-0-531-18485-1

Ages 9 to 12

**SOUTH KOREA**

Children's Press Scholastic

ISBN: 978-0-531-18486-8

Ages 9 to 12

A booming economy with brands such as LG (Lucky Goldstar) Hyundai, Kia, and Daewoo. High-speed trains that cross the country in a few hours. Freedom of religion, speech and free elections. This describes a bit of life in South Korea.

Hundreds of thousands of citizens held in harsh conditions as political prisoners. About a million people dead from starvation. Nuclear threats sent to neighboring countries and the United States. No access to the Internet. Government control over all aspects of life. This describes some of the harsh life that people in North Korea must endure.

Read *North Korea* and *South Korea*, two books in the *Enchantment of the World* series, to find out more about the differences between these two countries—but also to discover that the people in these countries still share a common language, their traditional culture, and many customs.

### **AUTHOR: Lieurance, Suzanne**

#### **The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and Sweatshop Reform in American History**

Enslow Publishers, Inc.

ISBN-10: 0766018393

Ages 9-12

In 1911, thousands of young women and young men labored long, grueling hours in the sweatshops of the garment district in New York City. One spring day, a fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Although the fire lasted just 15 minutes, 146 young workers died. Most of these deaths could have been prevented and the public demanded to know how anyone could have let something like this happen.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire spurred many states and cities to pass antisweatshop laws and improve fire codes. The fire also made it very clear to workers that they needed a strong union. Today this event is remembered as the worst factory fire in New York City and one of the worst industrial disasters in American history.

### **AUTHOR: Macken, JoAnn Early**

**FLIP, FLOAT, FLY:** Seeds on the Move

Holiday House, 2008

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2043-8

Ages 4 to 8

If you've ever planted a seed in a pot or helped out in a garden, you know that a seed needs a certain setting to grow up into a plant. The right kind and amount of soil, light, and water help make a spot a good home for a seed—a place where it can stretch out its roots, sprout into a plant, grow, and make seeds of its own.

If all the seeds from a plant fell straight down to the earth below, the new plants that grew there would crowd together. Their roots would have to compete for water. Their leaves would struggle to find enough light. Somehow, seeds must be able to spread out over a larger area to find enough room to grow.

But how can a seed travel from place to place? *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* by JoAnn Early Macken answers this question. In poetic language, the book describes some of the fascinating ways seeds get around: dancing in wind, sailing on water, even wiggling and springing away on their own! To learn about the amazing ways seeds move themselves about, read this informative book. Enjoy the gorgeous illustrations by Pam Papparone. Then plant some seeds of your own!

**AUTHOR: McClafferty, Carla Kilough**

**IN DEFIANCE OF HITLER:** The Secret Mission of Varian Fry  
Farrar, Straus & Giroux (BYR)  
ISBN: 978-0-374-38204-9  
Ages 9 to 12

Imagine the year is 1940.

The Gestapo is searching for you.

You are running for your life.

Trapped in Marseilles, France, you have nowhere else to go. Whispered rumors claim that an American has arrived with money and visas to help refugees.

His name is Varian Fry.

He is your only hope to escape the Nazis.

How many refugees will he help?

Will Fry get out of France alive?

Read the TRUE story of Varian Fry, a Harvard educated journalist, who defied Hitler and became a Holocaust rescuer.

**AUTHOR: Old, Wendie**

**THE HALLOWEEN BOOK OF FACTS AND FUN**

Albert Whitman

ISBN: 0-8075-3133-2.

Ages 9 to 12

**THE GROUNDHOG DAY BOOK OF FACTS AND FUN**

Albert Whitman

ISBN: 0-8075-3066-2

Ages 9 to 12

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Halloween and Groundhog Day -- but didn't know you didn't know.

Where else can you find both Dracula and Frankenstein in their cozy living room, reading each other's story? In fact -- the facts about the REAL Dracula who is, by the way, in charge of the annual blood drive in his country -- plus the history of Halloween and modern safety rules for costumed critters. And, the story of the first Jack-o-Lantern. With a bit about El Dia de los Muertos thrown in.

Where else can you find out why we look to a small furry beast to predict the coming of spring? Plus facts about these hairy harbingers of weather good or bad?

One good thing about nonfiction books is that you don't have to read the whole thing. You can skip to the back for instructions about parties. You can read just the cartoons scattered throughout the books. Or you can devour every fact about each holiday and impress your friends.

**AUTHOR: Sayre, April Pulley**

**HONK, HONK, GOOSE:** Canada Geese Start a Family

Henry Holt

ISBN: 0805071032

Ages 4 to 8

A nonfiction picture book

\* Starred reviews in Booklist and SLJ

Turn the book jacket inside out or use other piece of paper to keep the book's cover a mystery. Hold up the book and ask the group:

It honks but it's not a horn.

It hisses, but it's not a snake.

It flies but it's not an airplane.

What is it?

It rhymes with loose.

It's a . . . goose! We're going to read:

**HONK, HONK, GOOSE: CANADA GEESE START A FAMILY**

(Reveal cover)

Everyone knows about Mother Goose. But what does a father goose do? Let's see. But I'll need your help. Because geese are a little bit noisy.

This side of the audience will do the "Honk." Let's try it: "Honk!"

This side of the group will do "Hee-honk." Let's try it. "Hee-Honk!"

Then all together we'll hiss. Just look for my instructions and listen closely.

At the end of the book is lots of deeper information that will answer questions for those of you who wonder about things like why some geese have longer necks, how geese sleep, and why some Canada geese stay put and others migrate.

For a bird's eye view storytime, pair with:

*Vulture View* by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Holt) An ALA Theodor Geisel Honor book

*Bird, Bird, Bird: a Chirping Chant*, by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Gary Locke (NorthWord).

Or these older bird-related books by Sayre if you have them on hand:

*Splish, Splash, Animal Baths*

*Home At Last: a Song of Migration*

*If You Should Hear a Honey Guide*

## **AUTHOR: Suen, Anastasia**

### **WIRED**

Charlesbridge Publishing

ISBN: 9781570915994

Ages 6 to 9

*Humming, thrumming,  
power's coming*

*in the wires*

*in the wires*

How does that work? How does the power plant make power? And how does it move from the power plant to your house, so that when you flip the switch ... *click!* ...the lights turn on?

Read *Wired* and find out.

## **THE U.S. SUPREME COURT**

Picture Window Books

ISBN 9781404847071

Ages 6 to 9

This year one of our nation's Supreme Court justices is retiring, and a new judge will be appointed to take his place. There are always nine judges seated at the bench, so there will never be a tie.

Did you know that the benches in the court chamber are painted different colors? The color of the bench lets you know who is allowed to sit there. Where can *you* sit in the court chamber? Read *The U.S. Supreme Court* and find out!

## **AUTHOR: Taylor-Butler, Christine**

### **Sacred Mountain Everest**

Lee and Low Books

ISBN: 9781600602559

Ages 9 to 12

“. . . For young armchair travelers who may make the climb someday, this mixture of science, geography, culture and the original extreme sport is irresistible.”

~ Kirkus Reviews

Rising 29,000 feet above sea level, Mount Everest beckons climbers who attempt to reach the summit. At that altitude, the air is thin and the weather is treacherous. No ordinary human can make the trip without help. But the Sherpa are not “ordinary” people.

More than 500 years ago, the Sherpa began traveling from Tibet to Nepal along a trade route called Nangpa La Pass. Able to navigate dangerous glaciers and climb long distances without extra oxygen, the Sherpa are known as Tigers of the Snow for their strength and bravery. For many climbers, Sherpas mean the difference between life and death. But as the mountain's popularity grew, so did damage to the environment. Now the Sherpa fight to reclaim the mountain they call “Chomolungma” Goddess Mother Of the World.

Come meet the world's first, true “Rock Stars.”

**AUTHOR: Wojahn, Rebecca****FOLLOW THAT FOOD CHAIN: a Who-Eats-What Adventure**

*A Temperate Forest The African Savanna A South American Rain Forest The Australian Outback The Arctic Tundra The Sonoran Desert The Galapagos Islands The Nile River An Asian Mangrove Forest An African Cloud Forest A North American Estuary A Coral Reef*

**12-Book Series, Library Bound**

**Lerner Publications**

**ISBN-10: 0-8225-7494-2**

**Grades 3-5**

Close your eyes and imagine a tropical island. No, not that one with the sandy beaches and the palm trees. This one is swampy, with a tangle of trees growing right out of the ocean. Watch your step! The trees' roots poke out the ground and water in funny knobs and arches. On this island, even though the shade is deep, the air drips with heat and moisture. Mosquitoes swarm your sweaty face. Cicadas drone in the distance. Your nose wrinkles at the rotten-egg smell.

Welcome to a south-east Asian mangrove forest.

Day and night in the mangrove forest, the hunt is on to find food—and to avoid becoming someone else's next meal. Here in the mangrove forest, many species of animals can live both in the water and on the ground. Monkeys swim. Fish walk on land. Ants stitch together homes high in the trees. Cloud leopards skulk in the shadows. In this book, *A Mangrove Forest Food Chain: A Who-eats-what Adventure in Asia*, you'll meet many of them.

But this isn't a book you just pick up and read straight through. No, *you* pick the animal to start with. Then, after reading about it, *you* choose what it eats and flip to that animal's page. As you read and choose, you weave a route through the mangrove forest's food chain. But pay attention! You may end up back at the beginning. Or at a dead end. Food webs almost never go in straight lines.

*A Mangrove Forest Food Chain: A Who-eats-what Adventure in Asia* is just one a 12-book series called *Follow That Food Chain* that features habitats—and their animals—around the world.