

2003 Nominee Lists

K-3

BARK, GEORGE / Jules Feiffer.

HarperCollins, 1999. \$15.89.

When George's mother asks George to bark, the little dog makes other animal sounds so she takes him to the vet to correct the problem.

BATS AROUND THE CLOCK / Kathi Appelt.

HarperCollins, 2000. \$15.89.

Click Dark hosts a special twelve-hour program of American Batstand where the bats rock and roll until the midnight hour ends.

CLICK, CLACK, MOO: COWS THAT TYPE / by Doreen Cronin; Betsy Lewin, ill.

Simon & Schuster, 2000. \$15.00.

Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. All day long he hears: Click, clack, MOO. Click, clack, MOO. Clickety, clack, MOO. But Farmer Brown's problems REALLY begin when his cows start leaving him notes. . .

AND THE DISH RAN AWAY WITH THE SPOON / Janet Stevens.

Harcourt, 2001. \$17.00

When Dish and Spoon run away, their nursery rhyme friends Cat, Cow, and dog set out to rescue them in time for the next evening's reading of their rhyme.

A FINE, FINE SCHOOL / Sharon Creech; Harry Bliss, ill.

HarperCollins, 2001. \$15.89.

Mr. Keene, the principal loved his school so much that he wants the children to attend classes every day of the year.

FIREFIGHTERS A TO Z / Chris Demarest.

M. K. McElderry Books, 1999. \$17.00

The book presents a day-in-the-life of firefighters. Includes an informative text and realistic illustrations.

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS WASH THE CAR / Eileen Christelow.

Clarion, 2000. \$15.00.

Five little monkeys wash the family car before trying to sell it, but that is only the beginning of their adventures.

HOODWINKED / Arthur Howard.

Harcourt, 2001. \$16.00.

Mitzi is looking for a creepy pet to complement her witch image. At first she rejects the fuzzy kitten that appears, but after a night of prowling, she is hoodwinked.

JABUTI THE TORTOISE / Gerald McDermott.

Harcourt, 2001. \$16.00.

The trickster of the rain forest gets his comeuppance when Vulture offers to fly the tortoise and his flute to the King of Heaven's festival of song.

JUBAL'S WISH / Audrey Wood; Don Wood, ill.

Blue Sky Press, 2000. \$15.95.

Jubal Bullfrog wishes for happiness for his animal friends and finds that sometimes wishes come true in unexpected ways.

LEOLA AND THE HONEYBEARS / Melodye Benson Rosales.

Scholastic, 1999.

An African-American retelling of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. / Doreen Rappaport; Brian Collier, ill.

Jump at the Sun, 2001. \$15.99.

An elegant pictorial biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MINNIE AND MOO GO TO PARIS / Denys Cazet.

DK Publishing, 1999. \$16.95.

Minnie and Moo manage to take a world tour without leaving their own neighborhood. Slapstick humor in a I Can Read format.

MRS. SPITZER'S GARDEN / Edith Pattou; Tricia Tusa, ill.

Harcourt, 2001. \$16.00.

With her loving, gardener's touch, Mrs. Spitzer nurtures the students in her classroom each year.

Olivia / by Ian Falconer.

Atheneum, 2000. \$16.00.

The story of Olivia, a charismatic pig, that embodies every child.

THE OTHER SIDE / Jacqueline Woodson; Earl B. Lewis, ill.

Putnam, 2001. \$16.99.

Clover, the young African-American narrator, lives beside a fence that segregates her town. She soon begins talking with Annie who lives on the other side of the fence. In spite of the racial divide, Clover and Annie form a friendship.

PIECES: A YEAR IN POEMS & QUILTS / Anna Grossnickle Hines.

Greenwillow, 2001. \$15.95.

Poems about the four seasons are accompanied by photographs of quilts that were made by the author.

RATTLETRAP CAR / Phyllis Root; Jill Barton, ill.

Candlewick Press, 2001. \$15.99.

A simple drive to the beach is an adventure in an old car.

THE SEALS ON THE BUS / Lenny Hort.

Henry Holt, 2000. \$15.95.

Different animals--including seals, tigers, geese, rabbits, monkeys, and more--make their own sounds as they ride all around the town on a bus.

THE STRAY DOG: FROM A TRUE STORY BY REIKO SASSA / by Marc Simont, ill.; Reiko Sassa.

Harpercollins, 2001. \$15.95.

When a little dog appears at a family picnic, the girl and boy play with him all afternoon, and they name him Willy. At day's end they say good-bye. But the dog has won their hearts and stays on their minds.

TAKE ME OUT OF THE BATHTUB AND OTHER SILLY DILLY SONGS / Alan Katz.

M. K. McElderry Books, 2001. \$15.00.

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Row Row Row Your Boat," are presented with new words and titles, such as "I'm So Carsick" and "Go Go Go to Bed."

WIDGET / Lyn Rossiter McFarland; Jim MacFarland, ill.
Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001. \$16.00.

A small stray dog is accepted into a household of cats by learning to "fit in." When his mistress is hurt, he proves that being a dog is not all bad.

3-5

A is for America: an American Alphabet / Devin Scillian.
Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. \$22.95.

Features a brief rhyme for each letter of the alphabet that provides information about some aspect of America.

Albert / Donna Jo Napoli
Harcourt, 2001. \$16.00.

A nervous Albert doesn't like going outside because he is afraid of encountering unpleasant situations. One day Albert sticks his hand out the window and two cardinals build a nest in it. Albert stands holding the nest until the birds lay their eggs and hatch them. When the fledglings leave the nest, so does Albert.

All the Way Home / Patricia Reilly Giff
Delacorte Press, 2001. \$15.95.

In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a farm boy, and Mariel, a girl who is self-conscious of her bout with polio. The two make a journey from Brooklyn back to the country to help Brick's elderly neighbors and to help Mariel discover the reason her mother gave her up for adoption.

Cold Feet / Cynthia DeFelice; illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker
Dorling Kindersley, 2001. \$15.95.

This retelling of a Scottish legend is a spine-tingling account of bagpiper Willie McPhee's theft of a pair of haunted boots. In the end, Willie gets paid back for his thieving ways!

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins / Barbara Kerley; illustrated by Brian Selznick
Scholastic Press, 2001. \$16.95.

A Victorian artist named Waterhouse Hawkins is the first person to build life size models of dinosaurs. Waterhouse dazzles audiences around the world with his stunning creations.

The Famous Adventures of Jack / Berlie Doherty
Greenwillow, 2000. \$15.89.

In a magical land of giants, castles and princesses, Jill hears tales of a character named Jack. She then embarks on an adventure of her own as she tries to find the famous Jack.

The Girl with 500 Middle Names / Margaret Peterson Haddix
Simon and Schuster Books, 2001. \$15.00.

When Janie and her family move to the suburbs, she feels out of place because she discovers that the other students in her school are rich. Ultimately, Janie realizes that there are more important things than money.

Goin' Someplace Special / Patricia C. McKissack; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
Atheneum Books for Younger Readers, 2001. \$16.00.

Tricia Ann, a young African American girl, makes her way through segregated Nashville to the only place in town that is racially integrated: the Public Library. On her journey to the

Library, 'Tricia Ann witnesses several obstacles that show the racial segregation of the 1950s.

Handel Who Knew What He Liked / M.T. Anderson; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes
Candlewick Press, 2001. \$16.99.

This lively account of George Frederic Handel's life brings to light the composer's creativity and independence. From stubborn little boy to amazing musician, Handel always refused to let anyone stand in the way of his dreams.

In Ned's Head / Olsson, Shoren

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001. \$16.00.

Ned keeps a diary in which he tells us his observations of his friends, their adventures and his anxiety over getting glasses, as well as his romantic interest in Natalie.

Leonardo's Horse /Jean Fritz; illustrated by Hudson Talbot
Putnam, 2001. \$16.99.

This beautiful book details Leonardo da Vinci's dream of erecting a statue of a giant horse.

Unfortunately, his dream did not come true during his lifetime. Artist Charlie Dent picks up Leonardo's dream and finally has the giant horse built in 1999.

Little Lit: Folklore and Fairy Tale Funnies /Art Spiegelman
Joanna Cotler Books, 2000. \$19.95.

A collection of stories in comic-book format that is truly bizarre and intriguing!

Love that Dog: a Novel / Sharon Creech
Joanna Cotler Books, 2001. \$14.96.

A student comes to love poetry and surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Moonpie and Ivy / Barbara O'Connor

Farrar, Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers, 2001. \$16.00.

Pearl's mother drops her off at her aunt's house in rural Georgia and then disappears. Pearl finally learns from her aunt what family really means. In the beginning, her fear is that her Mother won't return. Later, she fears that she will.

Rocks in his Head / Carol Otis Hurt; illustrated by James Stevenson
Greenwillow Books, 2001. \$15.95.

A young man's love of and passion for rock collecting eventually leads him out of his job as a gas station attendant to work in a Science Museum. Set during the Depression, this book is both inspiring and fascinating.

Rowan of Rin / Emily Rodda

Greenwillow Books, 2001. \$14.95.

Because only he can read the magical map, timid young Rowan joins six other villagers to climb a mountain and restore the water supply for the village. On the journey, they encounter threats of dragons and other horrors.

The Royal Bee / Frances and Ginger Park; illustrated by Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang
Boyd's Mills Press, 2000. \$15.95.

A poor boy from Korea is determined to win a spelling bee, even though poverty keeps him from attending school.

The Secrets of Ms. Snickle's Class / Laura Miller Hornick; illustrated by Debbie Tilley
Clarion Books, 2001. \$15.00.

Every school has its secrets, but in Ms. Snickle's classroom they are mysterious and special.
When one student learns about them and tells other classmates, she puts Ms. Snickle's job on the line.

Shooting for the Moon: The Amazing Life and times of Annie Oakley / Stephen Krensky;
illustrated by Bernie Fuchs

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. \$17.00.

Sharpshooter Annie Oakley lost her father at five. She overcame adversity to become star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Sophie's Masterpiece: a Spider's Tale / Eileen Spinelli.

Simon & Schuster, 2001. \$16.00.

Sophie the spider makes wondrous webs, but the residents of Beekman's Boarding House do not appreciate her until she weaves her final masterpiece.

The Summer of Riley / Eve Bunting

Joanna Cotler Books, 2001. \$15.89.

William finds the perfect dog, Riley. When Riley chases and injures the neighbor's horse, he is taken away from William. William has to fight to get Riley back.

The Three Pigs / David Wiesner.

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin, 2001. \$16.00.

This familiar tale takes on new dimensions when the pigs leave their story pages and investigate other nursery rhymes and fairy tales.

Tree Girl / T.A. Barron

Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 2001. \$14.95.

In this fantasy, nine-year-old Rowanna is determined to discover her past and find her mother.

Themes of self-discovery, family, loyalty, and friendship emerge from this magical, mystical tale.

Uncommon Traveler: Mary Kingsley in Africa / Don Brown

Houghton Mifflin, 2000. \$16.00.

Mary Kingsley is the lonely daughter of an invalid mother and an adventuring father who is rarely at home. Mary lives out her own adventures within the pages of her father's books. At thirty, she finds herself free to do as she pleases and ventures, not just outside her house but to uncharted parts of deepest Africa.

Winnie Dancing on Her Own / Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Houghton Mifflin, 2001. \$15.00.

Winnie and her friends Zoe and Vanessa love hanging out at the Library. When Winnie enrolls in a ballet class on her own, she worries and wonders if she will jeopardize their friendship by striking out on her own.

6-8

All Alone in the Universe / Lynne Rae Perkins.

Greenwillow Books, c1999. \$15.95

Debbie is dismayed when her best friend Maureen starts spending time with ordinary, boring Glenna.

The Beetle and Me: A Love Story / Karen Romano Young.

Greenwillow Books, c1999. \$5.95

Surrounded by her busy extended family and their many cars, fifteen-year-old Daisy pursues her goal of single-handedly restoring the car of her dreams, the old purple Volkswagen Beetle from her childhood.

Burger Wuss / Matthew T. Anderson.

Candlewick Press, 1999. \$5.99

Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully, which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O'Dermott's.

The Coffin Quilt: the Feud Between the Hatfields and the McCoys / Ann Rinaldi.

Harcourt Brace, c1999. \$6.00

In the 1880s, young Fanny McCoy witnesses the growth of a terrible and violent feud between her Kentucky family and the West Virginia Hatfields, complicated by her older sister Roseanna's romance with a Hatfield.

Dive / Adele Griffin.

Hyperion Books for Children, c1999. \$5.99

Young Ben finds that he is happy in the stable life provided by his stepfather despite his uncertain relationship with his moody and troubled stepbrother and his mother's growing restlessness in her new marriage.

DogBreath Victorious / Chad Henry.

Holiday House, New York : c1999. \$16.95

Dogbreath, Tim's alternative Seattle grunge rock band, enters a major battle of the bands contest, but is beaten by The Angry Housewives, a new group fronted by Tim's mother.

Framed in Fire / David Patneaude.

A. Whitman, c2001. \$14.95

When his stepfather conspires to keep thirteen-year-old Peter at a mental institution, Peter begins to piece together secrets about his past with the help of his younger brother's strangely prophetic dreams.

Ida B. Wells: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement / Denis N. Fradin.

Clarion Books, c2000. \$18.00

An illustrated biography of nineteenth-century activist Ida B. Wells, focusing on her crusade against the practice of lynching, and discussing her role in the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the campaign for women's voting rights.

I'm Not Who You Think I Am / Peg Kehret.

Dutton Children's Books, c1999. \$15.99

Thirteen-year-old Ginger becomes the target of a disturbed woman who believes that she is her dead daughter.

Knocked Out by Nunga-Nungas: Further, Further Confessions of Georgia Nicolson / Louise Rennison.

HarperCollins, May 2002. ISBN 0066236568. \$15.89

The irrepressible heroine of the Michael L. Printz Honor Books "Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging" is back, and funnier than ever. In this third installment of her hilarious confessions, Georgia's "red bottomosity" is out of control. Whatever will happen next?

Money Hungry / Sharon Flake.

Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, c2001. \$15.99

All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again.

Never Trust a Dead Man / Vivian Vande Velde.

Harcourt Brace, c1999. \$4.99

In the medieval village of Penryth, seventeen-year-old Selwyn sets out to find the real killer of Farold, a young man he has been wrongfully convicted of murdering, with Farold himself as his only companion, brought back to life in the form of a bat by a cave-dwelling witch.

The Other Side Of Truth / Beverley Naidoo.

HarperCollins, c2001. \$16.99

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport and they are fearful of their new surroundings and of what may have happened to their journalist father back in Nigeria.

Pray Hard / Pamela Walker.

Scholastic Press, c2001. \$12.76

Twelve-year-old Amelia feels secretly responsible for her father's death in a plane crash a year earlier. Her life is turned upside down when a newly religious ex-convict claims to have seen Amelia's father in a vision and moves in with Amelia and her mother.

Princess in Love, Volume 3 / Meg Cabot.

HarperCollins Publishers, c2002. \$15.99

In *Princes Diaries* and *Princess in the Spotlight*, we find 14 year old Amelia Rinoldi struggling with the newfound knowledge that she is the sole heir to a European principality in Genovia. She's gone from plain old, unnoticed Mia to a super-star princess almost overnight. Now that things are getting back to normal, she has to find a way to break up with her boyfriend and hook up with her best friend's bother before the Non-Denominational Winter Dance.

Rewind / William Sleator.

Dutton Children's Books, c1999. \$12.79

Not long after learning that he was adopted, eleven-year-old Peter is hit by a car and then given several chances to alter events that could lead to his death.

A Single Shard / Linda Sue Park.

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. -- 2001. \$15.00

A homeless boy in 12th century Korea becomes fascinated with a community of potters and learns the value of being dedicated to one's dreams and art.

The Skin I'm In / Sharon Flake.

Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, c1999. \$5.99

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star / Randy Powell.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, c1999. \$17.00

For a tribute to his mother, a dead rock star, fifteen-year-old Grady returns to Seattle, where he faces his mixed feelings for his retarded younger half-brother Louie while pondering his own future.

We Were There, Too! : Young People in U.S. History / Phillip M. Hoose.

Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001. \$26.00

Draws from first-person accounts, journals, interviews and other primary sources to tell the true stories of over seventy young people from a variety of cultures who played a role in the making of the United States , including explorers, patriots, rebels, slaves, miners, and activists.

9-12

THE ADVENTURES OF BLUE AVENGER / Norma Howe.

Avon Tempest, 2000. \$6.95. ISBN 0064472256

On his 16th birthday, David Schumacher changes his name to Blue Avenger, after a comic book hero he created. Through a crazy course of coincidences (or perhaps predestined circumstances), he ends up accomplishing much he has set for himself. Irony, silliness, and the deepest questions of the human soul are blended together in this funny novel.

AINDREAS: A MESSENGER / Gerald McDaniel.

VanMeter, 2000. \$14.94. ISBN 0967366712

Aindreas is a heroic underdog, with a generous heart living in Louisville , KY in 1855. He is a messenger for a furniture manufacturer and learns much and meets many. Aindreas Rivers becomes a man in the riotous month of August, 145 years ago. This compelling fiction, woven with real historical events, makes the past spring to life for both young and mature readers.

BAD BOY: A MEMOIR / Walter Dean Myers.

HarperCollins, 2001. \$15.89. ISBN 0060295236

In a memoir that is funny, heart wrenching and unforgettable, Myers tells the story of his childhood in Harlem . Best Books for Young Adults

BATTLE DRESS / Amy Efaw.

HarperCollins, 2000. \$15.95 ISBN 0060279435

Andi Davis is looking for an escape from her disorganized, dysfunctional home life, and West Point seems the only logical way out, but nothing could have prepared her for the first six weeks of cadet training. This novel looks at an intensely private community with its own rules and regulations. It shows us the terrors and triumphs of those who want to belong to a team.

THE BRIMSTONE JOURNALS / Ron Koertge.

Candlewick, 2001 \$15.99 ISBN 0763613029

The private thoughts of the seniors of Branston High School are revealed in a series of interconnected poems. They write about their problems, plans, and the fears that connect them all. When two students threaten to engage in a killing spree, their classmates must make a difficult decision. Best Books for Young Adults

CARVER: A LIFE IN POEMS / Marilyn Nelson.

Front Street, 2001. \$16.95

A collection of 59 vignettes about the life of George Washington Carver.

COUNTING COUP: THE TRUE STORY OF BASKETBALL AND HONOR ON THE LITTLE BIG HORN / Larry Colton.

Warner Books, 2000. \$ 24.95 ISBN 0446526835

Sportswriter Larry Colton chronicles a season of Hardin High School (Montana) girls' basketball as the players struggle with injuries, prejudice and the dismal reality of life on the Crow Indian Reservation. Best Books for Young Adults

DANCER / Lorri Hewett.

Puffin, 2001. \$ 5.99 ISBN 0141310855

An intriguing, unusual romance and a coming-of-age story with more depth than many ballet stories. After years of lessons, Stephanie is sure that she wants to be a ballet dancer, and is willing to do just about anything to reach her goal, even defying her parents' wish that she drop dance and concentrate on getting into college.

DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN / Sharon Draper.

Atheneum, 2001. \$ 16.00 ISBN 0689830807

In her senior year of high school, still recovering from the suicide of her ex-boyfriend, Keisha's thrilled to have someone treat her like a woman rather than a girl. But events take a terrifying turn, and suddenly darkness overwhelms her life. As Keisha struggles to put her world back in perspective, she learns the power and the danger of silence.

THE DRAGON'S SON / Sarah L. Thomson.

Orchard Books, 2001 \$17.95 ISBN 0531303330

Four lesser-known characters from the legend of King Arthur tell their stories. Nimue is sixteen when she falls in love with the bard who becomes Arthur's most trusted advisor. Morgan remembers the night her mother was kidnapped by Arthur's father. A handmaid to Morgan's older sister describes her mistress's miserable life. Arthur's son Medraut recalls the pain of being rejected by his father.

FIGHTING RUBEN WOLFE / Markus Zusak.

Arthur A. Levine, 2001 \$ 15.95 ISBN 043924188X

Cameron and Ruben Wolfe come from a family clinging to the ragged edge of the working class. To make money, the boys hook up with a sleazy fight promoter who sees something marketable in the untrained brothers' vulnerability. But the Wolfe brothers are fighting for more than tips and pay-off money. It soon becomes a fight for identity, for dignity, and for each other.

HEART TO HEART: NEW POEMS INSPIRED BY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN ART / Edited by Jan Greenberg.

Harry Abrams, 2001. \$ 19.95 ISBN 0810943867

This is a compilation of poems written in response to various pieces of American art. Specially commissioned, original poems celebrate some of the finest twentieth-century American art in this beautiful, surprising volume. Well-known writers wrote poems inspired by artworks created through the Century. Volume includes 47 full page color reproductions of art. Printz Honor Book

HIDDEN EVIDENCE: FORTY TRUE CRIMES AND HOW FORENSIC SCIENCE HAS HELPED SOLVE THEM / David Owen.

Firefly, 2000. \$ 24.95 ISBN 1552094839

The evolution of forensic science and crime investigation is detailed in this study that includes famous cases from Jack the Ripper, presidential assassinations, the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, the O. J. Simpson murder trial, and recent serial killers. This is fascinating reading for a range of readers, but the graphic illustrations are not for the squeamish. Best Books for Young Adults

THE LAND / Mildred Taylor.

Dial Books, 1999. \$ 15.89 ISBN 0803719515

The Land is the prequel to Newbery Medal winner, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. In the stories Taylor has to tell, life is not fair, hard work doesn't always pay off, and the good guy doesn't always win. *The Land* tells the stories of an African American family in the Deep South during and after the Civil War, a time of ugly, painful racism. Coretta Scott King Award

MEMORY BOY / Will Weaver.

HarperCollins, 2001. \$ 15.89 ISBN 0060288124

The year is 2008. Volcanic ash from the recent explosion of Mount Rainier is destroying the air and soil across America. Food becomes scarce and people start to turn against each other. Sixteen-year-old Miles, his sister, and parents leave their suburban home and head for the countryside. When the family arrives at their lakeside cabin, they discover that strangers have already moved in.

RAG AND BONE SHOP / Robert Cormier.

Delacorte, 2001. \$ 15.95 ISBN 0385729626

Cormier's final novel, published posthumously, is characteristically dark and thought-provoking as he delves into "the foul rag-and-bone shop of the heart," (from the Yeats poem). The author offers an in-depth study of two complicated characters: Trent, an ambitious and renowned interrogator who holds a perfect record wrenching confessionals out of criminals, and 12-year-old Jason Dorrant, suspected of murdering his neighbor, seven-year-old Alicia Bartlett. Best Books for Young Adults

THE ROPEMAKER / Peter Dickinson.

Delacorte, 2001. \$ 15.95 ISBN 0385729219

According to legend, a powerful magician has isolated the Valley for 18 years to protect it from the armies of the Empire in the south and the fierce, marauding horsemen of the north. But now something is terribly wrong. Young Tilja sets out with her grandmother Meena, the boy Tahl, Tahl's grandfather, and an ill-spirited horse on a daunting quest to find the magician in hopes of his renewing the magic that protects the Valley.

SLAP YOUR SIDES / ME Kerr.

HarperCollins, 2001. \$ 15.89 ISBN 0060294825

As a Quaker during WWII, teenager Jubal Shoemaker is a pacifist: "If a war comes, I will do everything to oppose it . . . So help me God." The more he prays about it, the surer he is. When it's time for him to be conscripted, he intends to follow his older brother Bud as a conscientious objector. This story evolves around the family at home and the problems they have with being isolated by others becomes they will not fight, with an unsuspecting murderous twist.

STEP FROM HEAVEN / An Na.

Front Street, 2001. \$ 15.95 ISBN 1886910588

Young Ju's parents don't want her to become too American, and Young Ju is ashamed of them. It's the classic immigrant child conflict, told here in the present tense with the immediacy of the girl's voice, from the time she's a toddler in a small Korean village wondering why the adults talk about America as "heaven." Printz Award Winner

THICKER THAN WATER / Edited by Gordon Snell.

Delacorte, 2001 \$ 17.95 ISBN 0385325711

In twelve diverse stories set in Ireland and American, memorable adolescent experiences are explored. A sixteen-year-old boy copes with his girlfriend's overprotective uncle. Grania, faces the painful truth about her parents' relationship. While sharing a common Irish heritage, the voices and styles of the well-known and award-winning writers gathered here are as refreshingly diverse as those of any top-notch short story collection.

THUMBSUCKER / Walter Kirn.

Broadway Books, 1999. \$ 14.00 ISBN 0385497091

Meet Justin Cobb, "the King Kong of oral obsessives" (as his dentist dubs him) and an appealingly bright and screwed-up fictional adolescent. For years, no remedy can cure Justin's thumb sucking habit. Then a course of hypnosis seemingly does the trick, but true to the conservation of neurotic energy, the problem doesn't so much disappear as relocate into a variety of pursuits with a hyperactive energy that even his daily Ritalin dose does little to blunt. Each time, however, he discovers that there is no escaping the unruly imperatives of his self and the confines of his deeply eccentric family. The only "cure" for the adolescent condition is time and distance.