The Pierce County Library
Children's Book Buzz
Vol. 30

The Applewhites at Wit's End

by Stephanie S. Tolan

The "famous" Applewhite family has fallen on hard times. They could lose Wit's End, their wonderful refuge and family home, unless they find a way to make money fast. Being creative types, they decide to open a summer camp for creative children, but of course have no idea how to make this idea really happen. Thank heavens for level-headed E.D. She knows how to organize things, but even with all her planning she can't foresee the wackiness that will occur because of the camp and campers who arrive. Everyone in the family gets into the act to make this camp a success and thwart their nemesis Mrs. Montrose as she tries to put them out of business. In this sequel to Surviving the Applewhites, Stephanie Tolan continues the story of this inventive and outrageous family.

Grades 5—up

Judy, Youth Services

Looking at Lincoln

by Maira Kalman

This Lincoln biography has humor and style! A passerby reminds the narrator of Abraham Lincoln, so she proceeds to investigate his life. The facts she learns are painted in vivid colors, and she freely speculates about him: did his wife call him Linky? Though playful in tone, the book also addresses slavery, the Civil War, and Lincoln's assassination in a straight-forward and serious manner. Notes and a list of sources are included in the back, and the book serves as a great model for an elementary school research project.

Grades 1-4

Dana, Summit/Fife
**Ants and Aphids Work Together**

by Martha E. H. Rustad

Full-page, close-up color photographs of ants and aphids show the special relationship between these insects. Short paragraphs explain how the species work together to the benefit of both. A glossary of terms, a reading list, and internet sites are listed in the back. This is a wonderful way to introduce symbiotic relationships in nature, and the stunning photographs of the aphids and ants are sure to attract and hold a child’s attention.

*Grades K—2*

Tamara, Gig Harbor

---

**Sophie and Sadie Build a Sonnet**

by Amanda St. John

Working together, with some help from their teacher, Mr. Hendricks, Sadie and Sophie write a sonnet. The 14 line form, 10 syllable form, and the rhyming couplet are covered, as well as the editing and revising it takes to get the right number of syllables in each line. Text and fonts in different colors show the sonnet as it evolves into the proper format. Like *Rena and Rio Build a Rhyme*, the drawings are cartoon-like. Additional resources and terms are listed in the back of the book.

*Grades 3—up*

Tamara, Gig Harbor

---

**Subway Story**

by Julia Sarcone-Roach

Beginning with her birth, where Jessie "weighed 75, 122 pounds and was 51 1/2 feet long", this book covers her entire life as a New York City subway car. From her pride as one of the cars taking people to the World’s Fair, through stories of the passengers she carried, her replacement parts, to her final trip by barge out in the ocean, where she is dropped into the sea. This ending is tempered by Jessie’s wonder that now "a whole city lives insider her". The Author’s Note tells describes how subway cars are recycled, including some like Jessie, who are used to form artificial reefs. The illustrations, in soft, washed-out tones, begin with subway lines on the front end papers and end with the ocean on the back end papers. Details such as changes to the cityscape and Jessie herself are shown in the background of the illustrations. The text varies in font size and direction matching the narrative. This is a sweet story about the many uses of a subway car.

*Grades 1—up*

Tamara, Gig Harbor
Fabulous! A Portrait of Andy Warhol
by Bonnie Christensen

Christensen’s new book chronicles Andy Warhol’s life beginning with his childhood in Pennsylvania, where a long illness in bed left him with splotchy skin. Concise paragraphs follow Andy from art student to graphic artist to pop artist, which finally brought him the fame and recognition he craved. The Factory years are touched on briefly, and the fact that his work was considered controversial by some is mentioned, but the book focuses more on the artist and his art including interesting tidbits about his wig and the Campbell Soup cans. Lush, detailed oils cover both pages of each spread. The Author’s Note provides more little-known facts about his private life. A bibliography and timeline are included. This is a colorful biography about a colorful character.

Grades 3—up

Tamara, Gig Harbor

When My Baby Dreams
by Adele Enersen

If you’re looking for pictures of a cute baby dressed in costumes and laid out among finely crafted scenes, this book is your book. With an overarching narrative of following a baby through their dreams at night, Enersen’s staging and photography impart action and life to the dream scene spread underneath the unconscious baby, whether as an intrepid explorer, a mer-person, or a bookworm. For those that can’t get enough of the sleeping baby, a link to the blog that started it all is on the dust jacket.

Grades K–1

Alex, University Place

The Search for WondLa
by Tony DiTerlizzi

Twelve year old Eva Nine and her caregiver Muthr are thrust into a hostile world after surviving an attack by a bounty hunter. Eva has never seen the sun or walked on grass. She has lived in an underground home her entire life, protected and trained by the robot Muthr. One day her world is invaded, and Eva is forced to confront the real world. There she encounters monsters, aliens, and new friends, all the while trying to find her way to WondLa. This is the first novel in a trilogy about Eva’s adventures in her new world.

Grades 5—up

Judy, Youth Services
Under the Mambo Moon
by Julia Durango

"Pap says you can read people's souls by the music they listen to; that hearts fly home when the music'sJust Right.

A young girl assisting her father at their record shop chronicles all the customers by the type of music they enjoy like Professor Santo’s Zampona playing and Mr. and Mrs. Mayer’s love of the tango. The drawings of the record shop are in black and white, but each customer's musical preference is shown in a full-page color illustration with the poem on the facing page. Durango weaves a fascinating view of people, their lives, and how music influences them in this wistful tale. A brief overview of the history of Latin American music is included. The different types of music, instruments, and bands are discussed in the Author’s Note. This is a delightful way to introduce Latin American music and terms to young people.

Grades 3—5

These titles are just a sample!
Check out many more new titles for young people at the Pierce County Library nearest you!

The Pierce County Library System serves all of unincorporated Pierce County. We have 18 branches and circulate millions of items each year. We offer:

Programming for teens and children
Free computer access
Free live online homework help (K—12)
Summer Reading Programs
Hundreds of book lists to assist in finding the right book
Free book delivery service to Child Cares
Explorer Bookmobile for Children and Teens