

The Horn Book Guide



Fall 2010 • Volume XXI • Number 2

Her parents' concentration camp deaths push Edith to make a life for herself in America. Though somewhat didactic, Edith's story offers insight into America's One Thousand Children rescue project. NLH

Chatterton, Martin *The Brain Full of Holes*

250 pp. Peachtree ISBN 978-1-56145-527-0 \$16.95

(3) Normal teen Sheldon and his super-genius stepbrother Theo (a.k.a. "The Brain") find themselves investigating a mystery that begins with the disappearance of holes in Swiss cheese and ends in a showdown with a two-headed butler from another dimension. This parody of old-style detective mysteries is full of entertaining absurdities and clever wordplay. DE

Cheshire, Simon *The Treasure of Dead Man's Lane and Other Case Files*

195 pp. Roaring Brook ISBN 978-1-59643-475-2 \$15.99

(3) Illustrated by R. W. Alley. Saxby Smart Private Detective series. Young detective Saxby Smart is back with three more enticing mysteries involving a missing comic book, a mysterious map, and a possible prowler. Budding detectives will enjoy this interactive page-turner as they make their own deductions based on Saxby's pointed questions. Existing fans of the series and new readers alike will appreciate Saxby's sharp-mindedness and clever sleuthing. ACB

Chick, Bryan *The Secret Zoo*

295 pp. Greenwillow ISBN 978-0-06-198750-2 \$16.99

(4) Determined to find his missing sister, Noah and his two best friends follow a string of clues to the city zoo. The mystery progresses when the trio, aided by clever animals, discovers secret passages leading to a magical world. While the core mystery is fragmented and takes a backseat to the developing fantasy, individual scenes are exciting and suspenseful. R. L. SMITH

Choyce, Lesley *Reckless*

105 pp. Orca LE ISBN 978-1-55469-224-8 \$16.95
TE ISBN 978-1-55469-223-1 \$9.95

(5) Orca Currents series. A dirt-bike accident brings Josh into contact with a Vietnam veteran named Jonathan who has lived as a hermit in the woods for over forty years. Their friendship helps formerly selfish Josh figure out his priorities. The characters aren't particularly sympathetic or compelling, and Josh's redemption is only somewhat convincing. CJ

Christopher, Matt *Baseball Flyhawk*

109 pp. Norwood LE ISBN 978-1-59953-354-4 \$25.27

New ed. (1963, Little).

Christopher, Matt *Lacrosse Face-Off*

116 pp. Norwood LE ISBN 978-1-59953-355-1 \$25.57

Text by Stephanie Peters. New ed. (2006, Little).

Christopher, Matt *Power Pitcher*

97 pp. Norwood LE ISBN 978-1-59953-356-8 \$25.27

New ed. (1956, Little).

Christopher, Matt *Shoot for the Hoop*

129 pp. Norwood LE ISBN 978-1-59953-357-5 \$25.27

New ed. (1963, Little).

Christopher, Matt *The Team That Couldn't Lose*

112 pp. Norwood LE ISBN 978-1-59953-358-2 \$25.27

New ed. (1967, Little).

Christopher, Matt *Tough to Tackle*

116 pp. Norwood LE ISBN 978-1-59953-359-9 \$25.27

New ed. (1971, Little).

(4) New Matt Christopher Sports Library series. Overcoming obstacles, dealing with family issues, and learning about teamwork are common themes in these popular, formulaic sports-centered titles. Characters include too-small-for-quarterback Boots (*Tackle*), new-to-the-baseball-team Chico (*Flyhawk*), and embarrassed-about-his-overweight-lacrosse-playing brother Garry (*Face-Off*). These editions are sturdily bound and feature large type. ERG

▲ Clements, Andrew *We the Children*

146 pp. Atheneum ISBN 978-1-4169-3886-6 \$14.99

(2) Illustrated by Adam Stower. Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School series. Clements's coastal New England-set mystery series starts with the school custodian pressing a mysterious coin on sixth grader Ben, then dying. This leads Ben to investigate the plan to tear down his old school. Very much a series entry, the book ends before any of the clues have been followed. It's light stuff, but there's a lot of child appeal. Review 3/10. SDT

Cohagan, Carolyn *The Lost Children*

313 pp. Simon/Aladdin ISBN 978-1-4169-8616-4 \$16.99

(4) Twelve-year-old Josephine follows a mute boy into another world—one ruled by a child-sized tyrant and threatened by two voracious beasts who feed off children's life essence. Josephine, together with orphans Ida and Fergus, must defeat the Master and save the kids. The book's adventure elements are effective, but seasoned sci-fi/fantasy readers may be disappointed by some plot contrivances. LCF

Cole, Henry *A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home*

342 pp. HarperCollins/Tegen ISBN 978-0-06-170410-9 \$16.99

LE ISBN 978-0-06-170411-6 \$17.89

(3) After being kicked out of her home then chased by the plantation cat, mouse Celeste runs across the path of John Audubon's assistant Joseph Mason. When Mason rescues Celeste, the two form a friendship, and Celeste discovers a world she never realized was right beyond her mouse hole. Cole's combination of accessible text and detailed illustrations works well to tell the story. PHH

Colin, Beatrice, and Sara Pinto *My Invisible Sister*

119 pp. Bloomsbury ISBN 978-1-59990-488-7 \$15.99

(4) Ten-year-old Frank is tired of always having to move, just because his sister is invisible. When his family relocates to 44 Morningvale Circle and Frank starts making friends,