

Younger Readers

by Rosalyn M. Phillips

Children

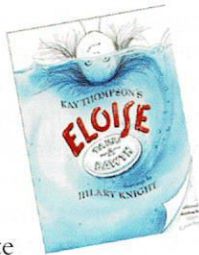
AGES 0-8

Children love to read about troublemakers. More than 40 years after *Eloise in Moscow*, there is a new book in the *Eloise* series:

Eloise Takes a Bawth

By Kay Thompson, Mart Crowley, and Hilary Knight

Eloise is off to fill the bathtub and "fling on all of these faucets and handle all of these handles." As she plays out her mermaid and pirate fantasies, floor after



floor of the Plaza hotel is flooded by the running water. Of course, things turn out all right when the Venetian Masked Ball turns into a real celebration of Venice, complete with canals and gondolas.

Eloise's troublemaking sometimes reminds us of David Shannon's series for a slightly younger crowd:

No, David

By David Shannon

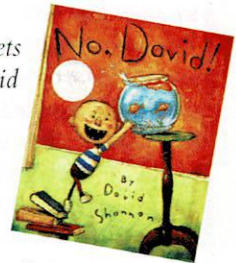
◆ 1999 Caldecott Medal Honor Book
Young David is a troublemaker who reaches for the cookie jar, colors on the walls, and tracks mud through the house. His mother is forced to respond "No, David" or "Not in the house, David" or "Settle down," among other phrases with which your little one might

now be familiar. But a time-out and a sad boy lead to a hug and a final "Yes, David...I

love you." Also consider *David Gets in Trouble* and *David Goes to School*.

"The vigorous and wacky full-color acrylic paintings portray a lively and imaginative boy whose stick-figure body conveys every nuance of anger, exuberance, defiance, and, best of all, the reassurance of his mother's love. This book is perfect for reading aloud. Children will relish the deliciously bad behavior and the warm and cuddly conclusion." SUSAN PINE,

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL.



NOTHING IS OBSOLETE

Now 2002

Fireboat

The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey

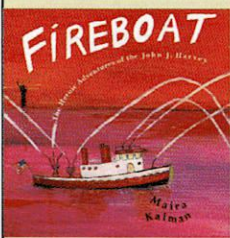
By Maira Kalman

We are highlighting this book, both because it is a beautiful, inspiring book but also because some might choose not to share it with their children. A few parents have gotten halfway through the book before realizing it touched on the events of September 11th. This true story tells of a fireboat from the 1930s that was restored in the mid-90s and used to fight fires along the river following the Sept. 11th tragedy. Portions of the proceeds of sales of this book will be donated to the Twin Towers Orphan Fund.

"Parents might find *Fireboat* too upsetting for some children, although it does not dwell on the cause of the trade center collapse ('the city had been attacked' is as far as it goes). But parents and youngsters already struggling to come to grips with Sept. 11 may well find in *Fireboat* a healing tale of redemption." ERIC NAGOURNEY, NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW,

9/29/02.

"... a glorious, peculiar, unpredictable, funny, and heart-breaking book about, of all things, the events of Sept. 11. [The book] is written and illustrated, I'm sure quite consciously,



in the grand old tradition of *Mike Mulligan and the Steam Shovel*, *The Little Engine That Could*, and other American picture book classics of plucky old vehicles put out to pasture." LIZ ROSENBERG, BOSTON GLOBE, 12/22/02.

Then 1939, 1943, 1952



The Works of Virginia Lee Burton

The *Boston Globe's* mention of *Mike Mulligan* gives us a perfect opportunity to discuss Virginia Lee Burton. She loved to write about those left behind due to "progress," showing that the past should not always be sacrificed to the present.

THE LITTLE HOUSE (1943)

◆ Winner of the Caldecott Medal.

For anyone who has ever said, "When we first moved here, it was country!" Children will study the illustrations with fascination as urban growth envelops this country house.

MAYBELLE THE CABLE CAR (1952) Will Maybelle be retired in favor of newer, faster buses? Anyone who's been to San Francisco knows the answer.

MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL (1939) Mike and Mary Ann the steam shovel leave the big city to find work. They soon dig themselves into a hole.

To balance out these mischievous characters, consider:

If Kisses Were Colors

By Janet Lawler and Alison Jay



Kisses are compared to colors and raindrops and acorns and more: "If kisses were blankets, / you'd always be warm, / wrapped up from the cold /

during winter's worst storm." Adults might feel some verses veer dangerously close to greeting card territory, but luckily children don't mind.

"This book brings a world of love to the lap-reading crowd." MARY HARRIS RUSSELL, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 3/16/03.

Intermediate

AGES 9-12

Love That Dog

By Sharon Creech

Miss Stretchberry teaches poetry to her class by jumping right into Robert Frost, Valerie Worth, and William Carlos Williams. One student, Jack, balks at his first assignment because "boys don't write poetry." His opinion? Anyone who has time to stop by the woods on a snowy evening "has a little / too / much / time / on his /

hands." *Love That Dog* is told through Jack's free verse poetry, and readers will delight as Jack finds his artistic voice. His work culminates with an ode to his recently departed dog that will tug at your heartstrings.

The more well-known poems that Jack studies are included at the back of the book.

"Love That Dog is not to be missed."

COURTNEY WILLIAMSON, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 8/16/01.

"[Creech] has hit upon something monumental with *Love That Dog*. This



quick and appealing novel will give all youngsters the chance to discover, as Jack does, the power of feelings, imagination, innovation and, of course, words." JULIA BOOKMAN, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION, 8/19/01.

Here are a pair of wonderful books by Polly Horvath, who won a 2002 Newbery Honor Book award:

Everything on a Waffle

By Polly Horvath

◆ 2002 Newbery Honor Book
Primrose Squarp lives off the coast of Canada, where her parents were recently lost at sea. Responsibility for Primrose falls to her inattentive Uncle Jack and a distant babysitter-guardian. So Primrose finds a home away from home at a restaurant in town where everything—from lasagna to steak—is served on a waffle and where the owner takes Primrose under her wing. Primrose ponders her lot in life, jots down recipes, and never gives up hope of her parents being found alive.

"[T]he book's ending ... feels a bit pat.

Still, fans of Horvath's other books, like *The Trolls*—and of her masterly light touch—should not miss her latest." JANE MARGOLIES, NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW, 6/17/01.



The Trolls

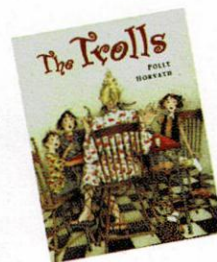
By Polly Horvath

◆ 1999 National Book Award Finalist
When Mom and Dad need a last-minute babysitter while they travel to Paris, the colorful Aunt Sally is their absolute, but necessary, last resort. Dad's eccentric sister regales ten-year-old Melissa, eight-year-old Amanda, and six-year-old Frank with tall tales of their family, some of which involve trolls. And then there is the true story she tells of the children's father being left on the beach when he was very young as an offering to the imagi-

nary trolls from Sally and her siblings. Though search parties found him, a sense of sibling betrayal never faded.

"Told in cliff-hanging chapters, these smart stories are sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, sometimes droll and fanciful, sometimes plaintively sad." SUSAN

FAUST, SF CHRONICLE, 7/25/99.



Young Adult

AGES 13 AND UP

Feed

By M.T. Anderson

◆ 2002 National Book Award Finalist
This dark book takes place in a future where everyone has an embedded computer chip that taps him or her directly into the computer and entertainment network. This "feed" connects Titus and his teenaged friends, allowing them to chat without speaking (often in coarse language), making reading and writing unnecessary, and always encouraging them to "buy, buy, buy." This world saturated with media and consumerism makes perfect sense to Titus until he meets Violet, who has been home-schooled by her subversive college professor father. She helps Titus slowly realize the emptiness of his world.

"Subversive, vigorously conceived, painfully situated at the juncture where funny crosses into tragic, *Feed* demonstrates that young-adult novels are alive and well and able to deliver a jolt." ELIZABETH DEVEREAUX, NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW, 11/17/02.

ROSALYN PHILLIPS IS A FORMER CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN, BOOKSELLER, AND CURRENTLY ENJOYS BEING A GRANDMOTHER. THANKS TO MARY BURKE FOR HER SUGGESTIONS THIS ISSUE.

