

Roslund Family Readers

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NEWSLETTER

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Shopping trip pays off with big book news!

by Lynne La France



After writing last month's edition of the newsletter, I was worried that I'd said it all. In fact, I was really starting to despair that I just wouldn't be able to write anything this month. But thanks to some contributions from readers and a budget-breaking shopping trip on a cold and blustery January day, I ended up with few good ideas. So here it goes.

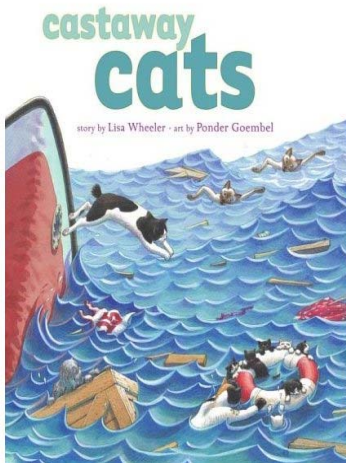
Believe me, the last place I was planning to go this weekend was shopping. After a vacation in November, Christmas in December, and a college tuition bill in January, I've been on a shopping hiatus to try and recover my budget (if that's even possible). But then, my daughter Eve called and told me about all the good bargains that she got at Kohl's the other day. And what do you know. I had a Kohl's gift card from Christmas just burning a hole in my pocket. So all the way to the store, I chanted over and over. I will only spend my gift card, I will only spend my gift card. I did my stroll through the store and I confess, as I headed to the check-

out counter, I had overspent a little bit, but not much. I was actually quite proud of myself. But of course, the check-out counter was rigged as they always are. You know what I mean. While you're waiting in line, you're confronted with all kinds of merchandise that you just **can't** pass by without buying it. That wouldn't have been too bad if it was a pack of gum or a People magazine, but this time it was hardcover Dr. Seuss books with the softest, most adorable stuffed animals to match. Now I ask you, what was I supposed to do? After all, I'm an elementary school reading teacher. As far as I'm concerned it was a matter of fate, not a matter of choice. So of course, I plucked them off the shelf and onto my pile. I ended up buying the Fox in Sox set and the Yertle the Turtle set. They also had a cute Horton along with Horton Hatches the Egg and another animal (I think it was a Wocket, from There's a Wocket in My Pocket.).

The books were \$5.00 and the stuffed animals were \$5.00. I thought this was a great price considering that the books are full-sized hard cover collector editions with a dust jacket, and the stuffed animals are full sized as well. So if you want to blow your budget for this month too, get yourselves over to Kohl's. If you don't want to blow your budget, Mrs. Brogan tells me that whatever Kohl's doesn't sell, they put back in the toy department for half price. I'll be keeping my eyes open for the Horton set.



Hot book tip of the month



Our hot book tip of the month comes to us from Jennifer Douthett by way of Emma, a kindergarten student in Mrs. Nightingale's room. Emma's favorite book is **Castaway Cats** by Lisa Wheeler. Her mom describes it this way. "It's a nice story about what makes a family, and it has a great vocabulary and even some simple math. It's a book we've been reading over and over for a year and a half and it still holds her interest." I found this Booklist review of *Castaway Cats* on Amazon.com. "K-Gr. 2. This rhyming tale of a briny bevy of 15 felines washed ashore on a deserted island is nimbly told and depicted. Seven kittens and eight full-grown cats, each with a distinct personality (the bobtail wears a kerchief; the Angora a pink shawl, etc.), drink coconut milk, use broken shells for dishes, and watch for a ship to rescue them. With no boat in sight, they decide to build their own--but their efforts deteriorate into disputes.

Bruised and sore, they take stock of their situation and decide to stay--because they have become a family. With a dash of *Gilligan's Island* and pinch of *Survivor* minus a million dollars, of course), this is a *cat*-egorically clever yarn, with humorous details in the acrylics-and-ink scenes and puns in the text adding even more fun. A feline frolic sure to amuse cat fanciers. *Julie Cummins*
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Thank you for this suggestion, Jennifer and Emma!

Pictured below is Emma Douthett with her copy of *Castaway Cats*.



The Reviews Are In

The American Library Association announced its 2008 children's book awards on January 14, including the biggest children's prizes of the year, the Newbery Medal for literature and the Caldecott Medal for illustration. This year's winners:

- Newbery: Laura Amy Schlitz, [Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village](#) ([full Newbery list](#))
- Caldecott: Brian Selznick, [The Invention of Hugo Cabret](#) ([full Caldecott list](#))
- Printz Award for young adult literature: Geraldine McCaughrean, [The White Darkness](#) ([full Printz Award list](#))
- King Award for African American literature: Christopher Paul Curtis, [Elijah of Buxton](#)
- King Award for African American illustrator: Ashley Bryan, [Let it Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals](#) ([full King list](#))

The New York Times Best Seller List is a safe bet for some great reading. Here are the NY Times Best Sellers for the week of January 20, 2008.

HARDCOVER FICTION

Top 5 at a Glance

1. PLUM LUCKY, by Janet Evanovich
2. A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS, by Khaled Hosseini
3. PEOPLE OF THE BOOK, by Geraldine Brooks
4. BLASPHEMY, by Douglas Preston
5. WORLD WITHOUT END, by Ken Follett

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

Top 5 at a Glance

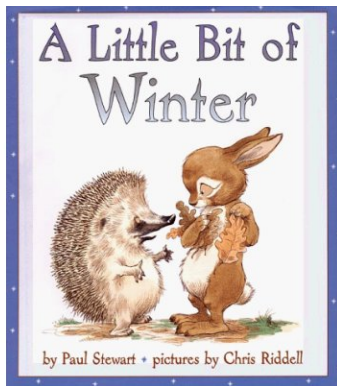
1. IN DEFENSE OF FOOD, by Michael Pollan
2. I AM AMERICA (AND SO CAN YOU!), by Stephen Colbert, Richard Dahm, Paul Dinello, Allison Silverman et al.
3. AN INCONVENIENT BOOK, by Glenn Beck and Kevin Balfe
4. MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT ELECT, by Madeleine Albright with Bill Woodward
5. BORN STANDING UP, by Steve Martin

I have an Amazon.com gift certificate that's just burning a hole in my pocket (where have I heard that before?) and I'm getting Plum Lucky by Janet Evanovich with it. Are you reading anything off the bestseller list?

Read the Winter Blues Away

Kindergarten's Favorite Winter Books

The wind is howling and the snow is piling up outside. You're getting a bad case of cabin fever. The kids are going stir crazy. Well, maybe it's that time to pull out a good book and read it to the kids, or better yet, curl up under the blankets with a cup of hot chocolate and read one to yourself. Here are some suggestions I got from the kindergarten teachers for their favorite winter themed titles. Mrs. Brogan picks [When Winter Comes](#) by Nancy Van Laan. Mrs. Davis likes [A Little Bit of Winter](#) by Paul Stewart. Mrs. Vieczorek was torn between two books, [The Snow Child](#) by Freya Littledale and [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett, which was also Mrs. Nightingale's favorite winter book. After reading [The Mitten](#) to your children, go to Jan Brett's website at www.janbrett.com and print out some of the masks for the kiddies to color. For the older readers in the family, including yourself, I pick [The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe](#) by C.S. Lewis. Yes, it is a children's book, but it's also a great winter read. Happy reading to all. ☺



Answers and Questions

Last month I asked the question, What books are worth rereading? Mrs. Vieczorek suggests that now might be a good time for a reread of [The Hobbit](#) by J.R.R. Tolkien. She said, "I heard that there will be two new Hobbit movies coming out. I would urge anyone, (young and old, who love to read), to pick up [The Hobbit](#). It is still one of my favorite books after all these years! [The Hobbit](#) is an amazing experience that could never be captured in a movie!!!" I have to agree with Mrs. Vieczorek. [The Hobbit](#), [The Fellowship of the Rings](#), [The Two Towers](#), and [The Return of the King](#) were all spellbinding reading. IMHO, (that's blog talk for In My Humble Opinion, but you already knew that didn't you?) when the movies came out, I didn't think they were as good as the book, and I didn't think they'd be very enjoyable if you didn't already read the book. If you read or reread [The Hobbit](#), please let us know what you think of it.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION. [The Hobbit](#) was a great series of books which leads us to this month's question. What is your favorite series of books? What is your child's/children's favorite series of books? A series would be when the same character or family appears in all the books.

Get your 2 cents in!

Okay, we had a little participation last month, but I need to hear from more of you with your book news and ideas for the newsletter. I'm hoping that Roslund Family Readers will be a monthly event, but that can't happen without your input every month. I mean, how many shopping trips can I keep taking for newsletter inspiration? **Please** contact me with comments, suggestions, and ideas you might have for the newsletter. You can reach me at:

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Spread the word about this newsletter/blog to your friends too. The more, the merrier.

Thanks,

Lynne La France



Newsletter Links

Due to the way this file is saved to post onto our website, some of the links to websites are not active under pictures. Therefore, I'm posting all the links here. From here you should be able to click on them, but if for some technical reason I don't understand, they don't work by clicking on them, just copy and paste them into your address bar. To reach all the award winners mentioned here, go to the Amazon.com Book Awards page at:

http://www.amazon.com/b/ref=pe_17970_7911120_hi_img_1/?node=542942

All the books mentioned can be purchased at amazon.com. You will be helping our PTO earn money as well by clicking here to start your Amazon session. The link is:

www.amazon.com/?%5Fencoding=UTF8&tag=ropt0b-20

Just type the title in the search bar and click GO!

Now, I do talk about Amazon.com a lot, but out of loyalty to my son, who is a manager for Barnes and Noble, I would like to mention them as well. To visit Barnes and Noble and help the PTO too, click on www.visitourmall.com/roslundpto and click on Barnes and Noble. Type the title in the search bar and you're shopping! You will find a host of other well known stores to shop at from this virtual mall if you are in the mood to shop.

To get to the NY Times Best Seller List go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/bestseller/index.html>

amazon.com

