

Weeding Youth Collections

SEKLS Workshop, Fall 2016

Welcome!

- I'm Erin, and I've worked in a few libraries.
- All info and slides will be available on my blog at hybridlib.net
- Housekeeping

What We'll Cover

- Develop a plan using existing resources
- Develop criteria & purpose unique to youth
- Calendaring suggestions
- Carry through with purposeful replacement

Collection Definition

- Does your library have a written collections policy?
- What is the scope of your collection?
- Are there established procedures to execute both acquisition & de-acquisition?
- Does your library have special considerations?

Define Purpose

- What do you want to achieve with your weeding?
- Lower the average age of the collection
- Increase relevance to youth / caregivers
- More effective merchandising
- Increase circulation (guaranteed)

It's Just Math...

- Nobody has unlimited shelf space
- What's the impression you give browsers with a collection that is...
 - Dirty/torn/smelly
 - Inaccurate
 - Outdated



Photo CC jsprig on Flickr



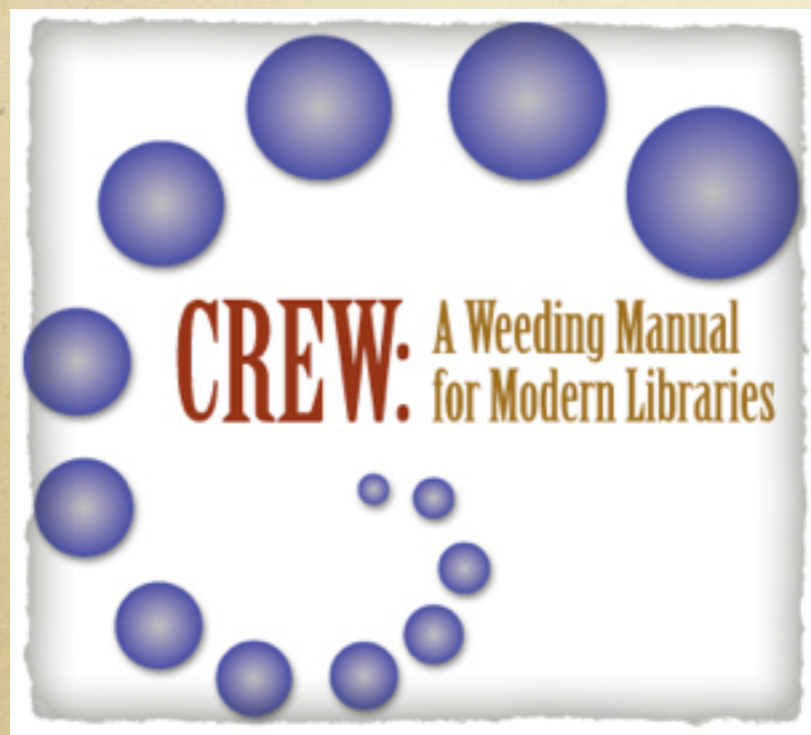
Existing Weeding Guides



Existing Weeding Guides



Existing Weeding Guides



MUSTIE



MISLEADING refers to information that is factually inaccurate due to new discoveries, revisions in thought, or new information that is now accepted by professionals in the field covered by the subject.



UGLY factor includes most of the elements related to the physical condition of the item -- wear, damage, stains, tears, dirt -- that make it less attractive to a student. If you don't want to touch the item without wearing gloves, neither will the student.



SUPERSEDED items are those that sit on the shelf right next to newer editions or newer titles with updated information. Be sure to watch for books that are still circulating that include outdated pictures, products, and ingredients.



TRIVIALITY implies that the material included in the item was popular for a brief period of time but interest has largely waned. Biographies of pop culture performers, games and consumer products, TV shows, diets, & fiction series come and go very quickly.



IRRELEVANT means that the interests and needs of your community may have changed over time. If a particular topic is no longer as relevant to the community as it was at another time, the collection may have too many items just sitting on the shelf.



ELSEWHERE reminds us that no library is an island! We are not alone out there in the vast information wilderness. You can feel more secure about discarding an item if the information contained within is available elsewhere.

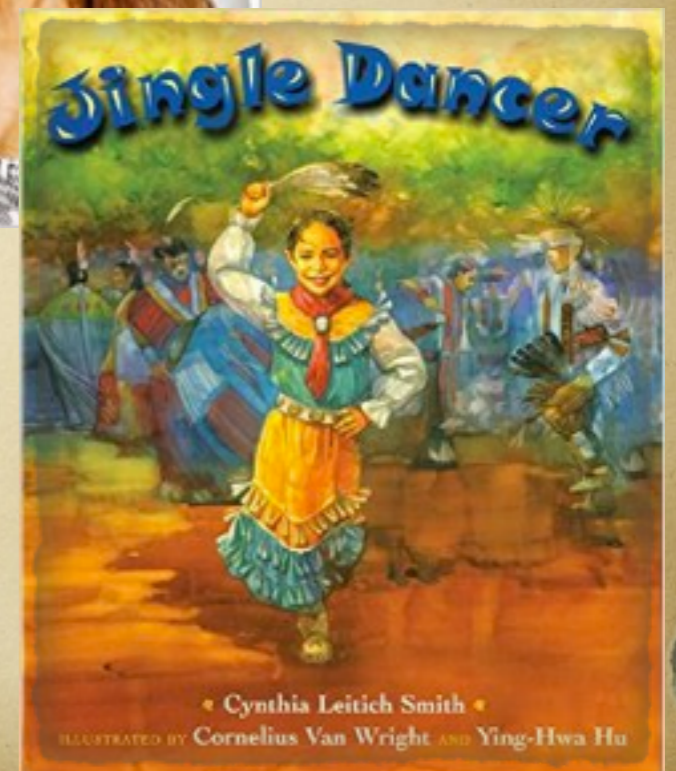
Clarification

➤ T: Trivial

Doesn't mean the same thing to kids that it does to adults!

➤ I: Irrelevant for local needs

Remember the principle of "mirror and window" books.



Window/Mirror Topics

Race

Geographic location

Income level

Gender identity

Family status

(Dis)Abilities

Sexual Orientation

Religious philosophy

Ethnicity

(try <http://weneeddiversebooks.org/> to learn more)

But How Do I
Figure Out
Today's Kids?!

The

Mindset List

for the class of 2019

They have never licked a postage stamp.

The Lion King has always been on Broadway.

Therapeutic marijuana has always been legal in a growing number of states.

CNN has always been available *en Español*.

At least their parents had a Nintendo 64 to help them get through long nights with a sleepless baby...

That was for 18 year olds...

What about your 10 year olds?

Twitter has always been a good way to shout out to the world.

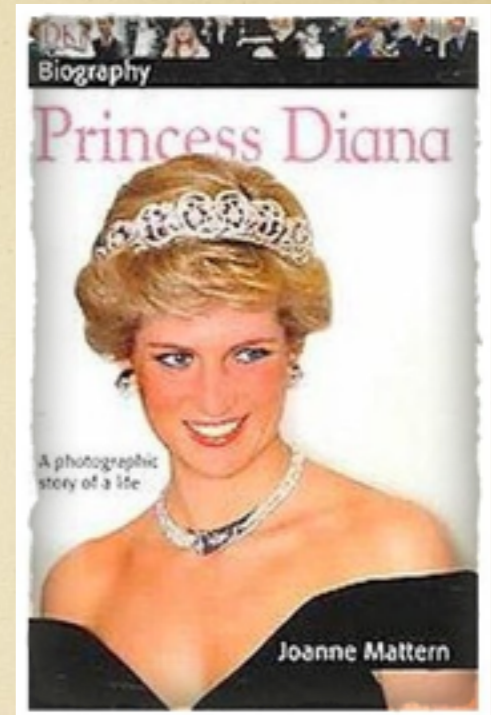
There has always been an iPhone.

Other Resources



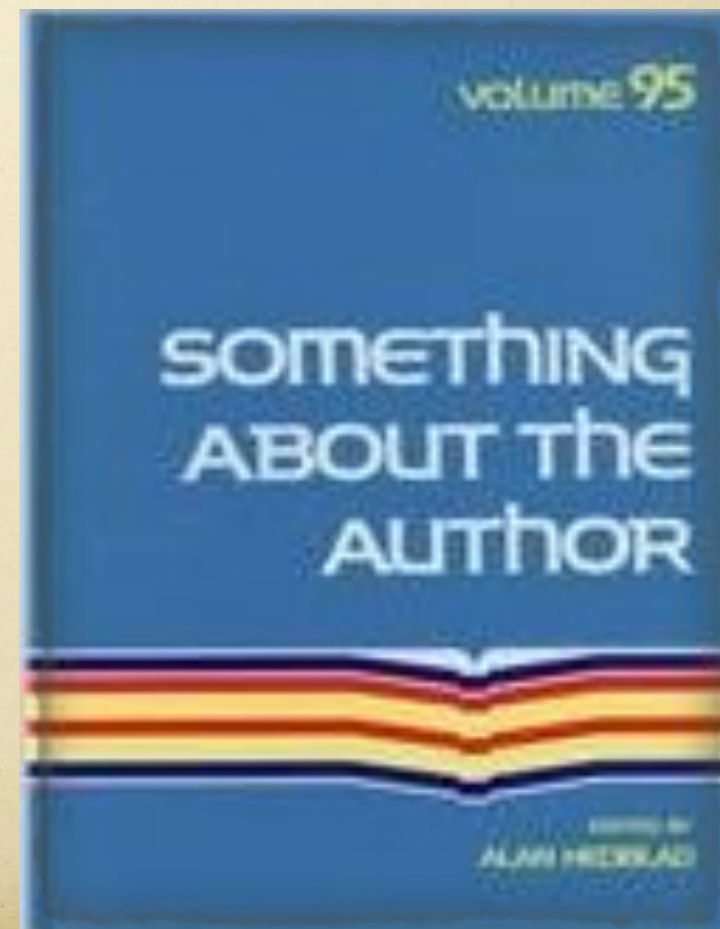
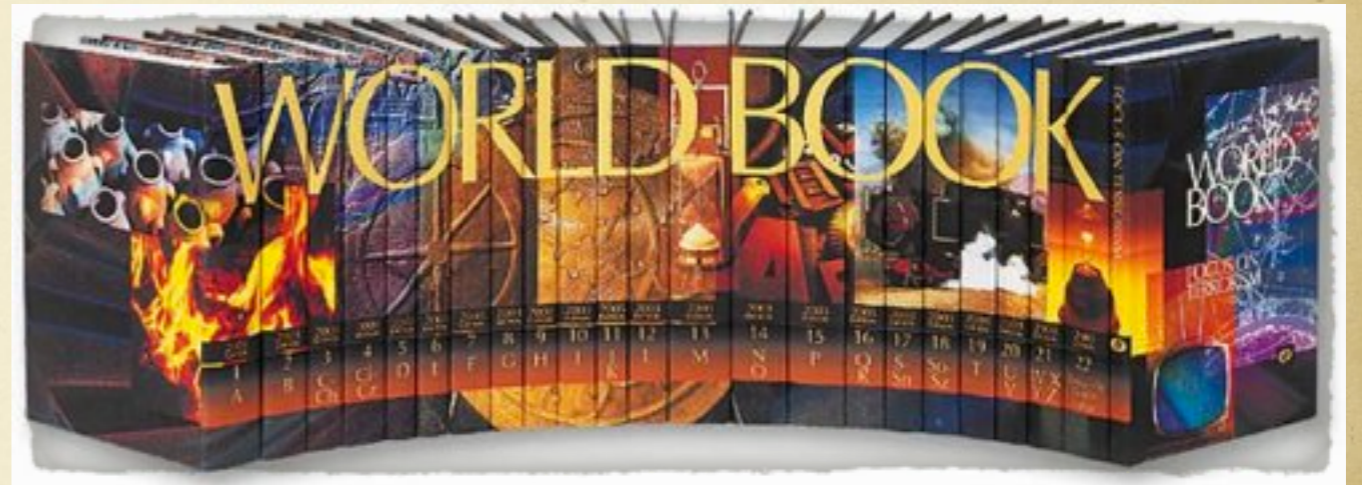
Today's Realities...

- Princess Diana, RIP
- We have already been to the moon
- Pluto isn't a planet anymore
- The internet should be portable
- Dentists shouldn't make you spit into a little sink



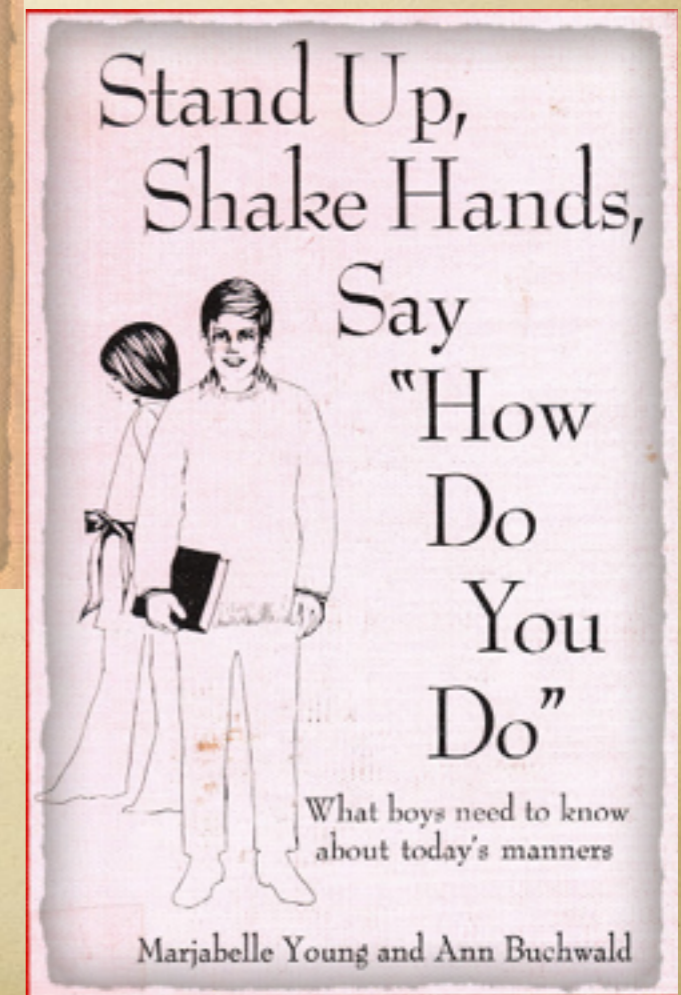
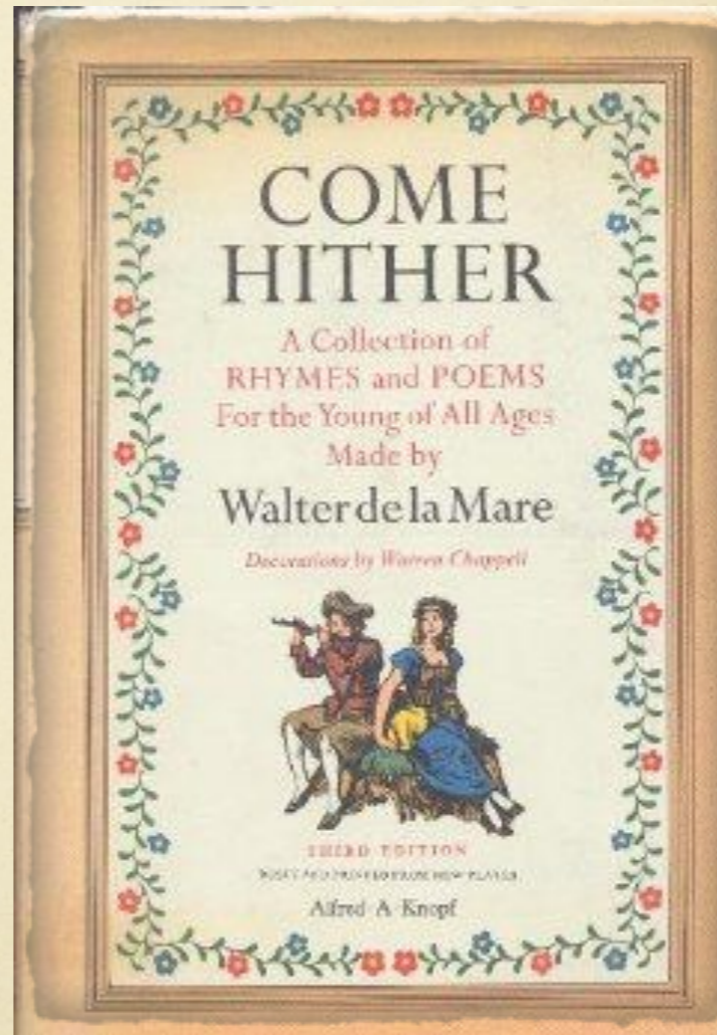
Fading Usefulness?

- Excessive reference material & encyclopedias
- Multivolume, indexed nonfiction "sets"



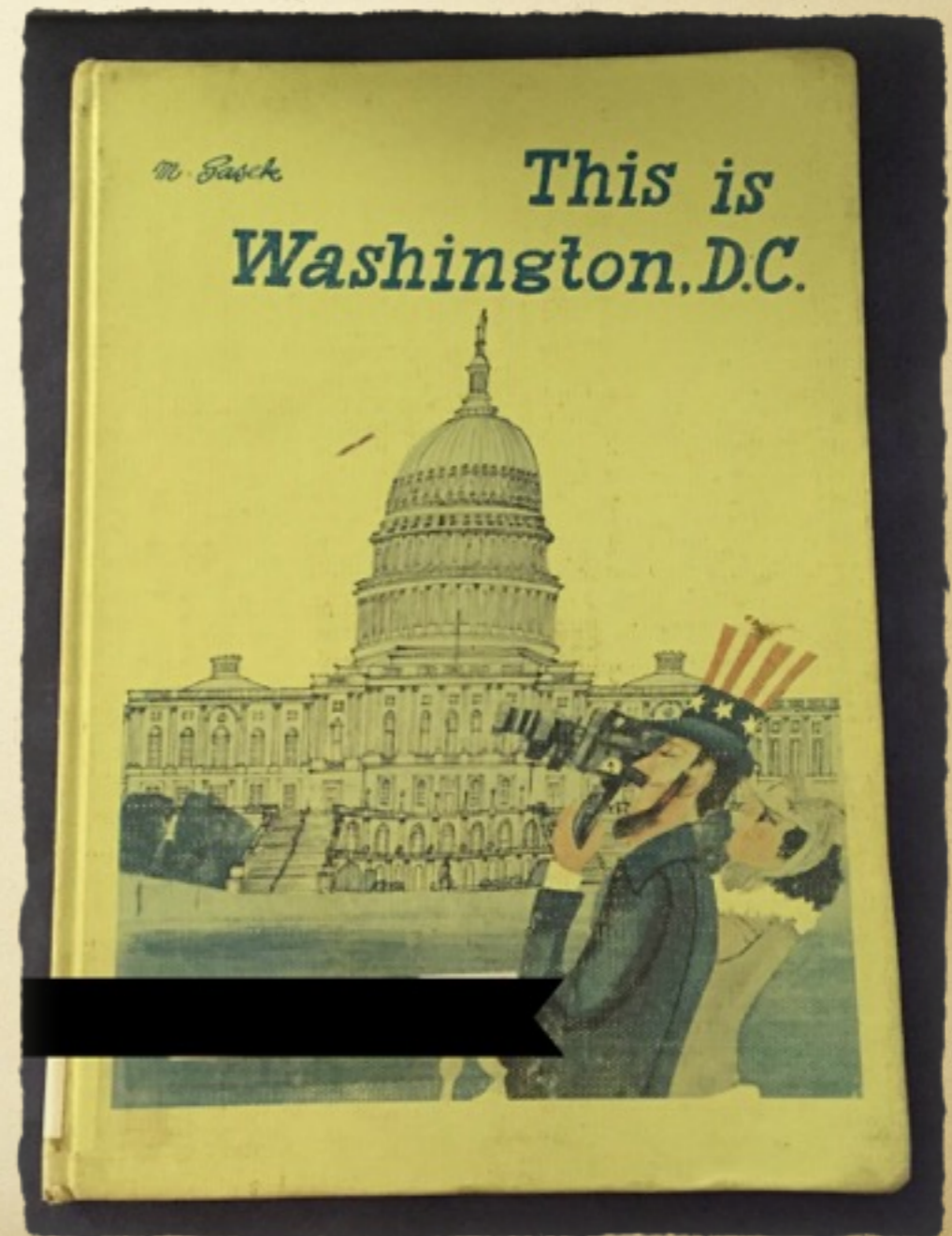
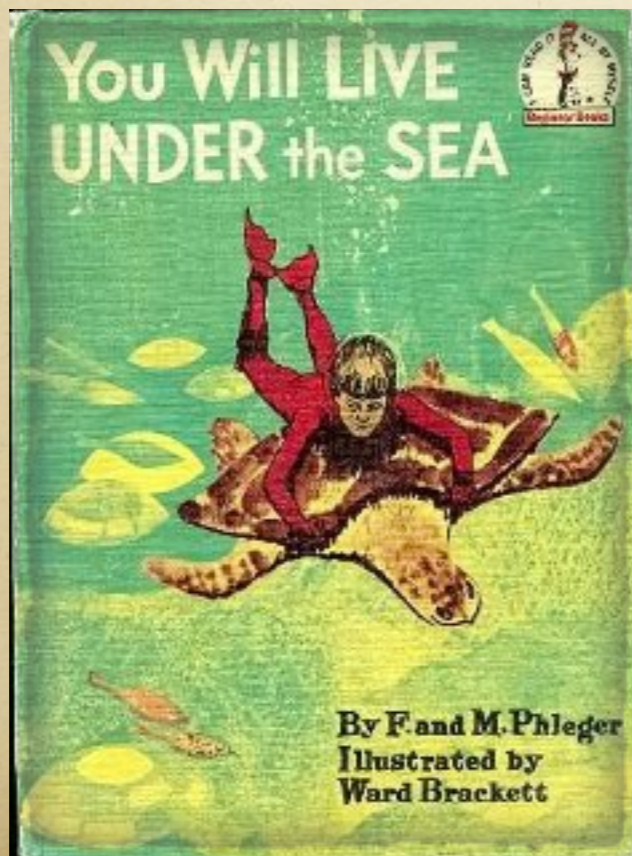
Dying, Dead, Verboten

- Outdated etiquette books
- Books without color photography



The Wonder Years

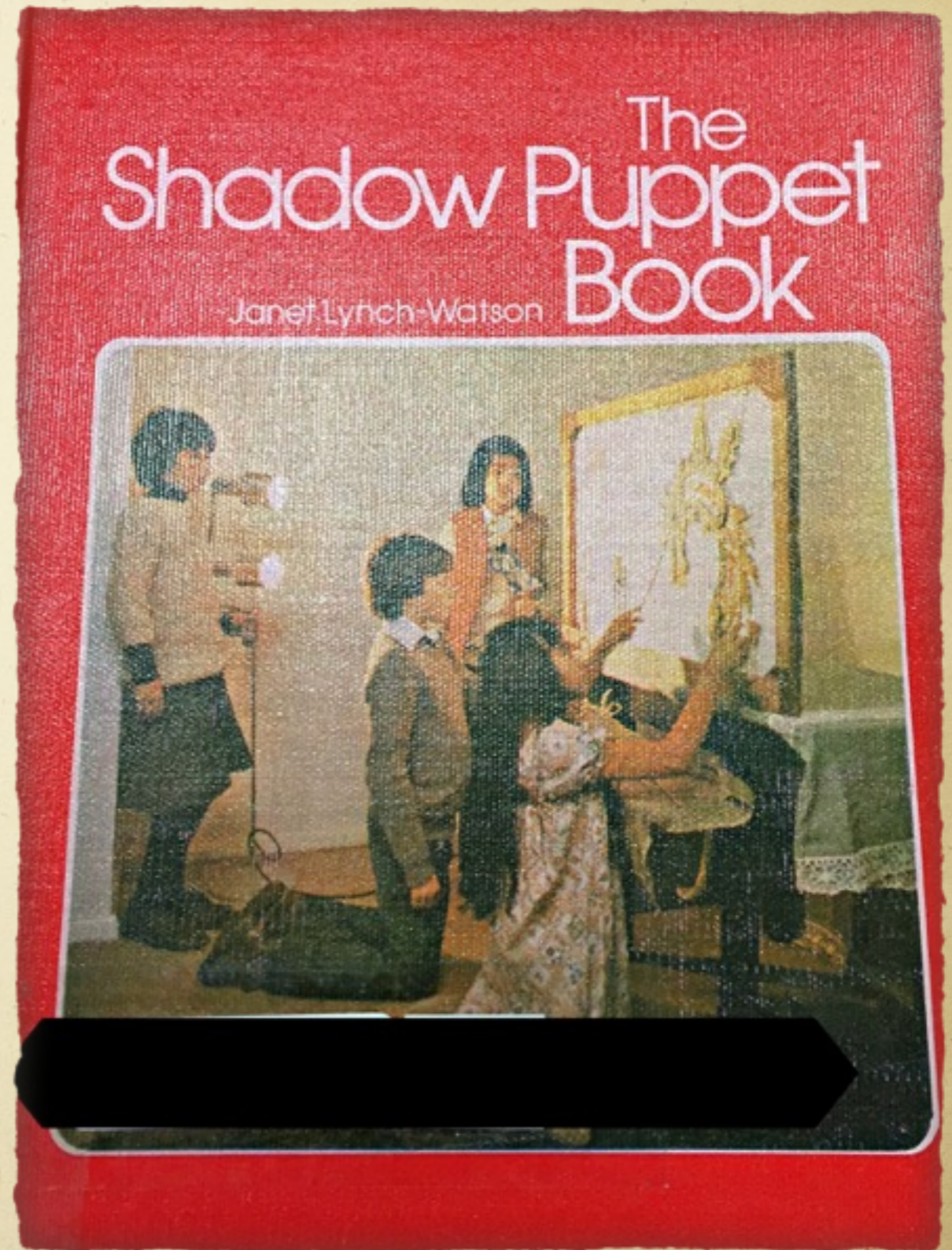
- Topics of yesteryear
- The totally questionable



Approaches

- Inspect what's on the shelf. Untouched or not?
- What's circulating so much it's falling apart?
- Run a list in the ILS for items that haven't circulated in the last 3 years
- Run a list in the ILS for items older than a set pub date OR were acquired before a set date
- Determine a set issue (technology is portable) and sit in front of the stacks to see what seems unusable/unappealing
- Awful Library Books!

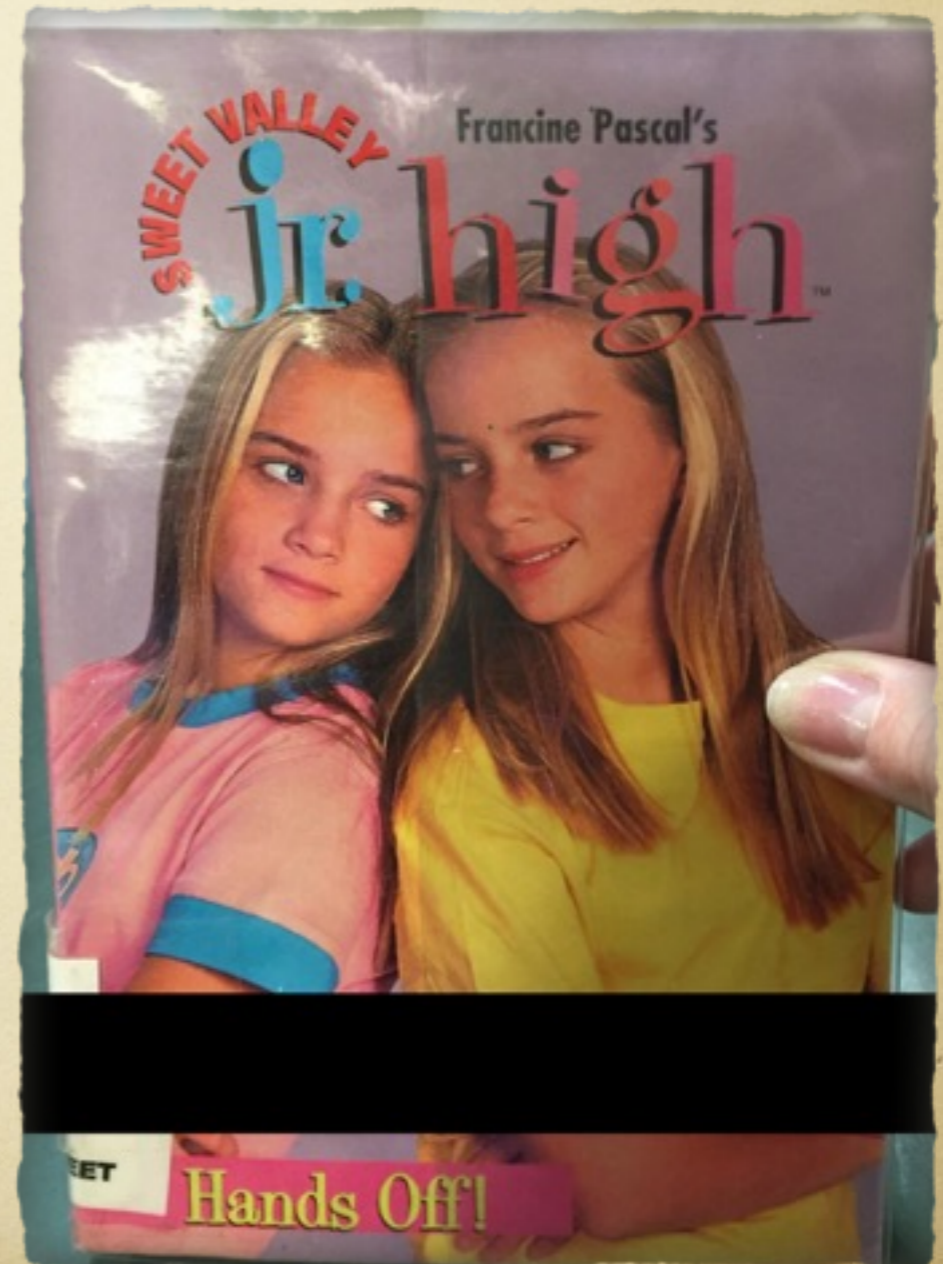
Something
is better
than nothing?
*Youth/caregiver
perspectives*



Refreshing Recreational Reading

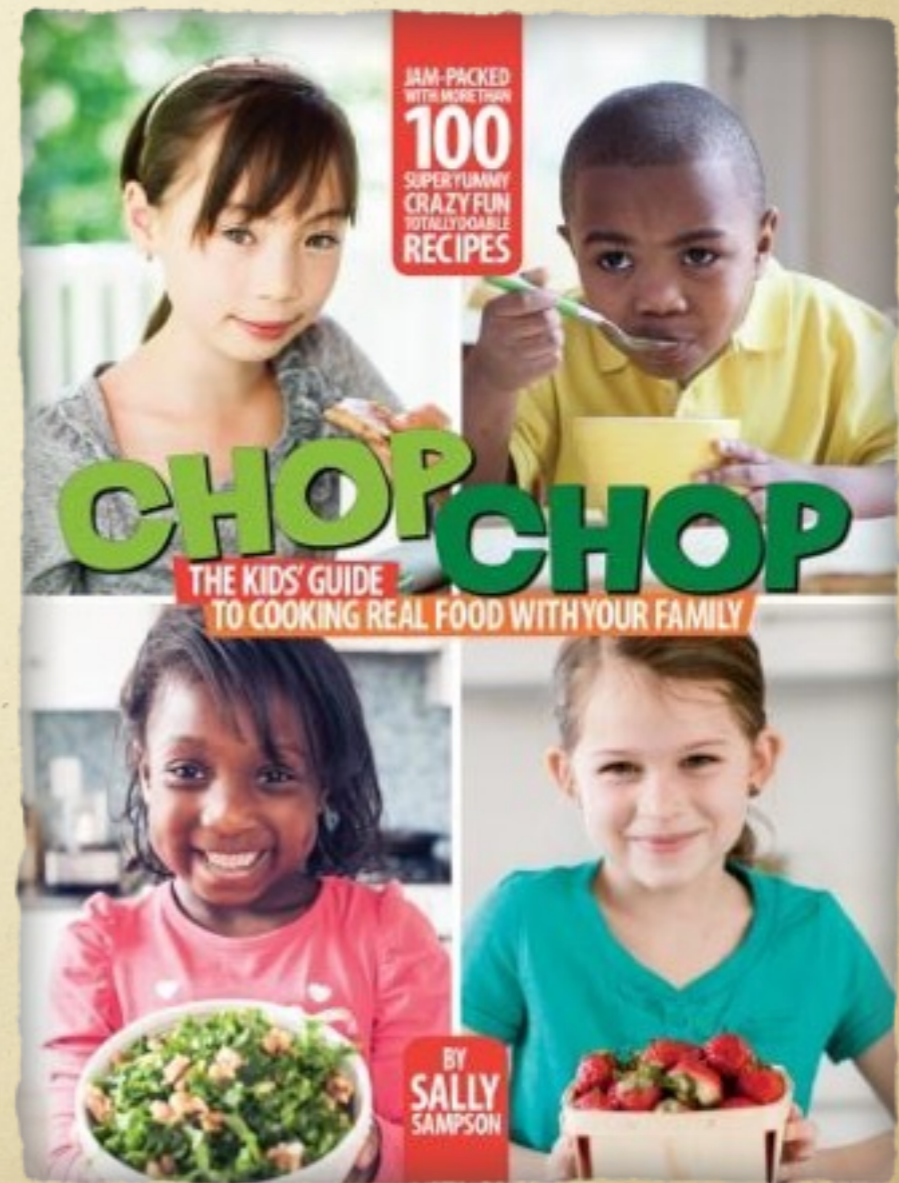
Uninviting older titles!

- Scary covers
- Crumbling, dog-eared pages
- Bound to Stay Bound (but only the cover)
- For nonfiction, topics that are passé or just plain bewildering



Considerations for Cooking

- When we were latchkey kids in the 80s...
- Address diversity & availability
- Encourage discovery
- Food safety (!)



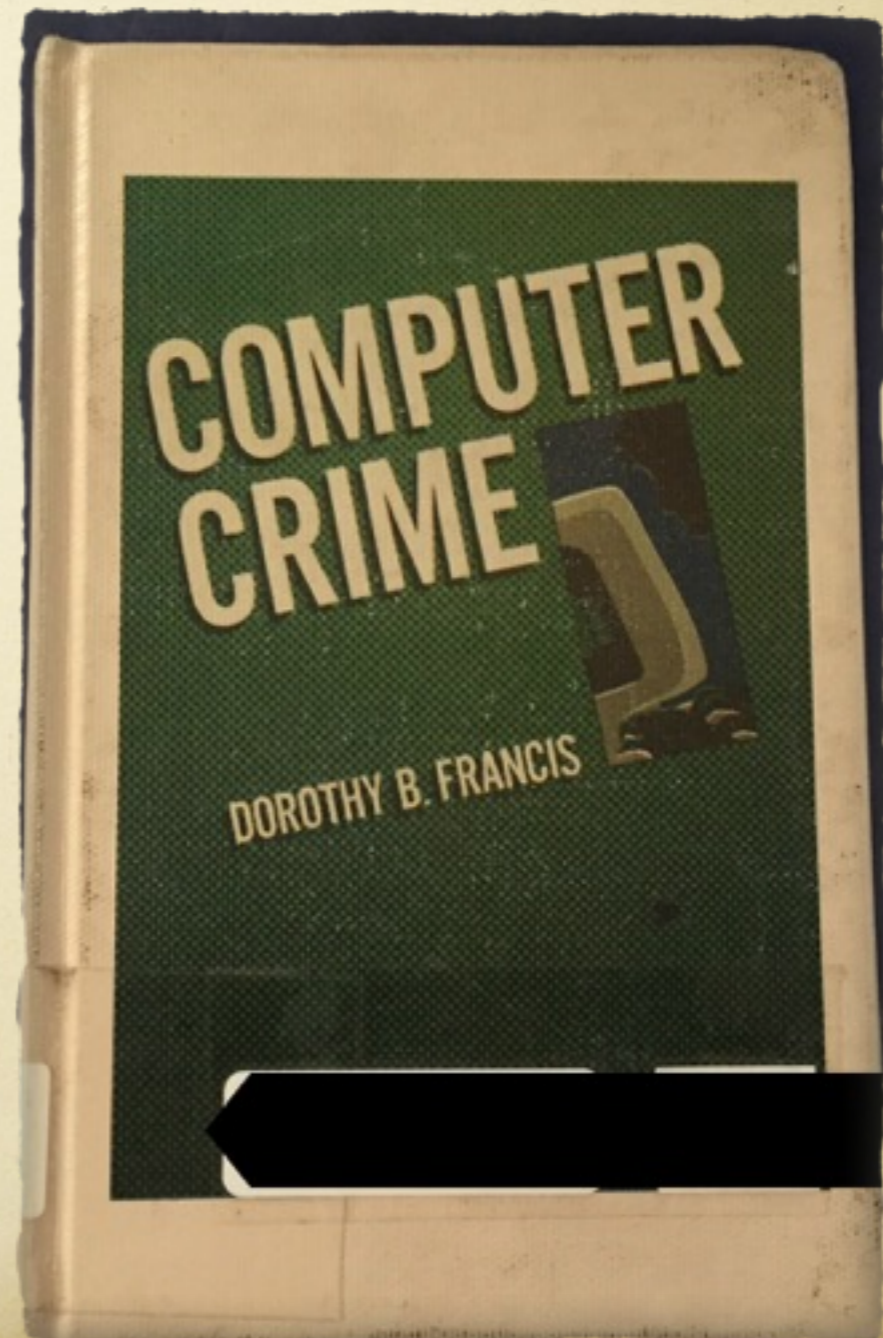
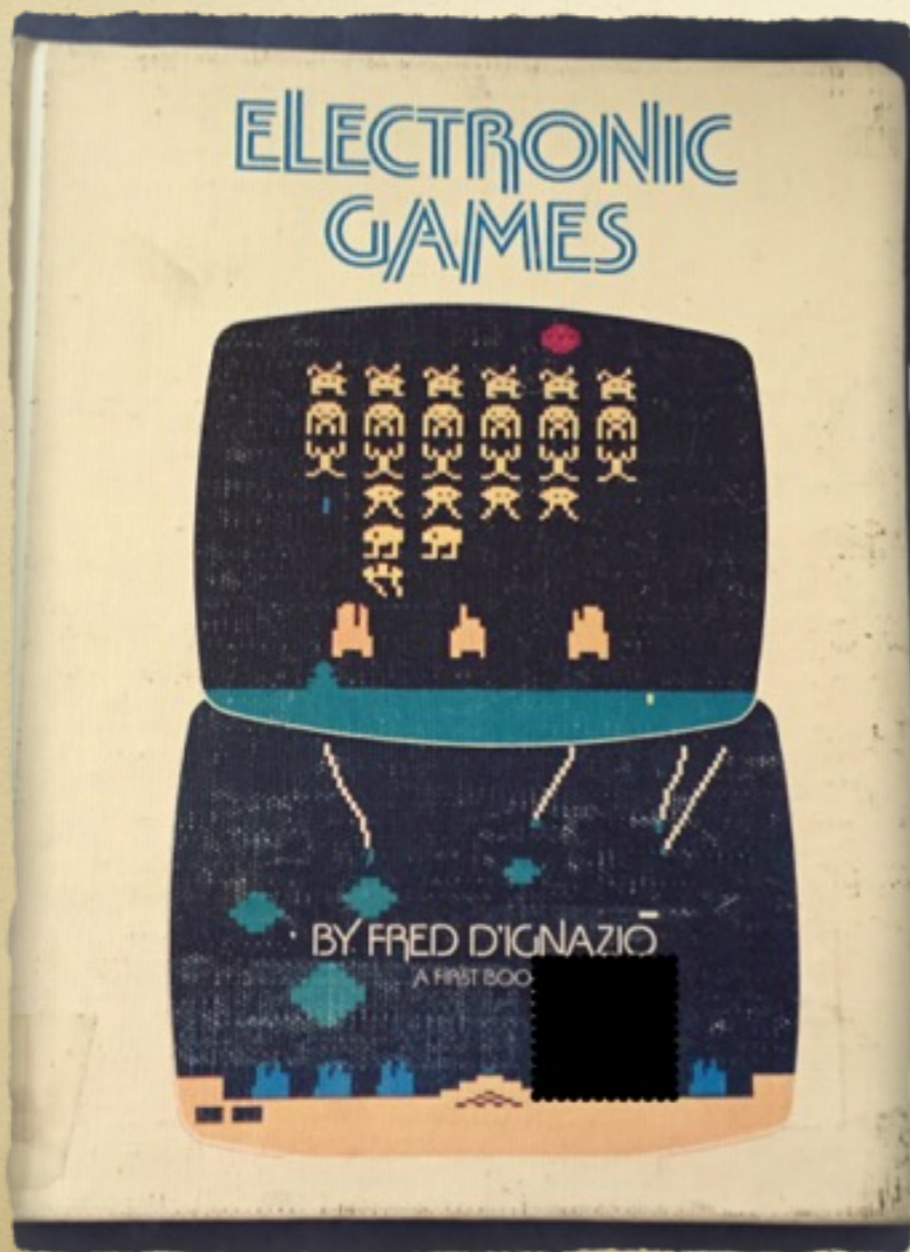
Technology for Today's Kids

- ▶ Netscape Navigator is dunzo, sorry
- ▶ Beige boxes?!
- ▶ Mobile first

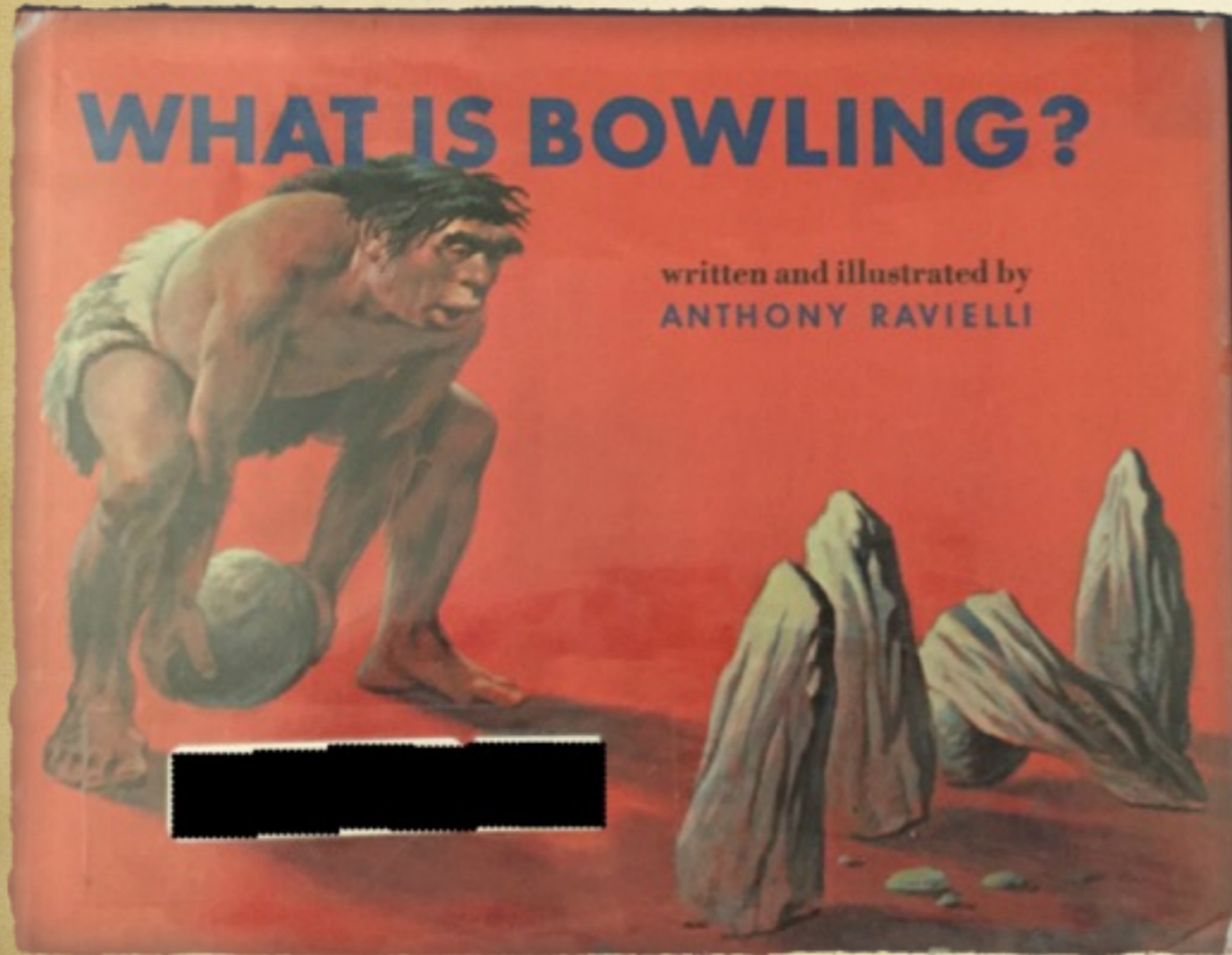


<https://www.youtube.com/user/React>

Technology for Today's Kids

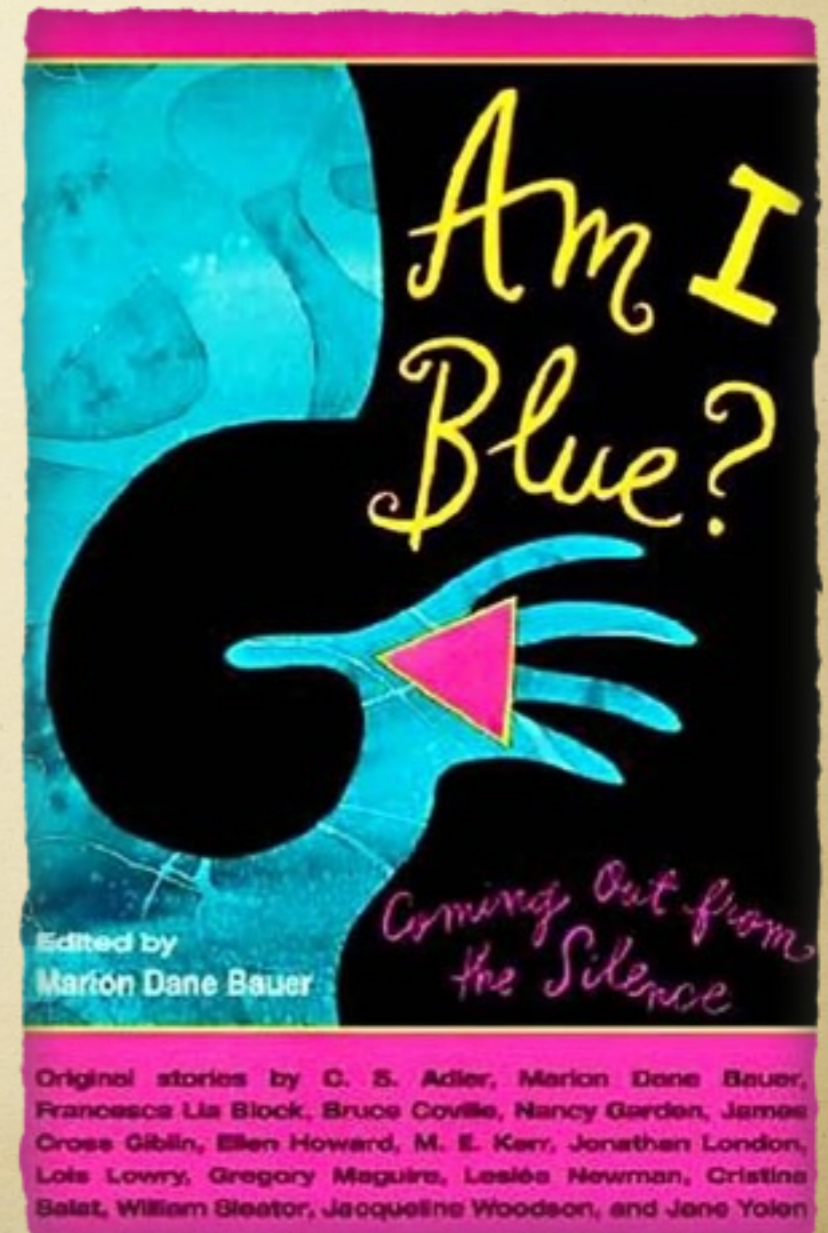


Sports Stories!



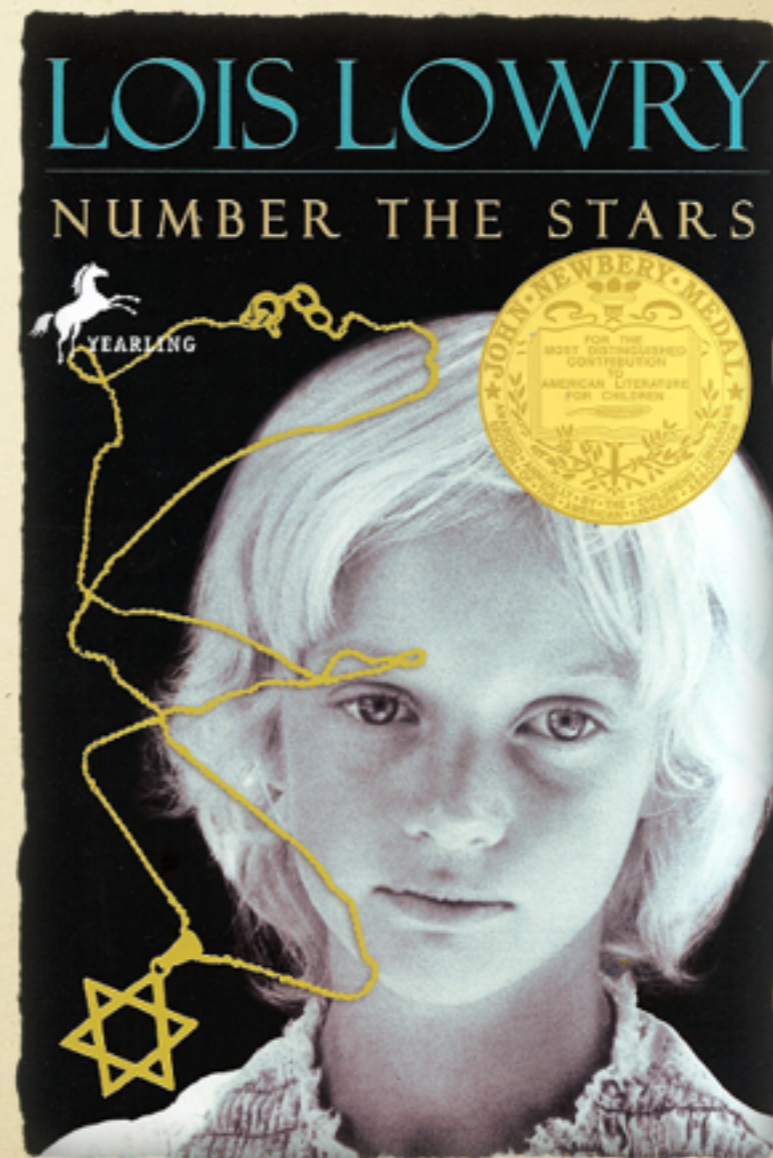
Special Considerations for Low-Circling Books

- Certain topics may never make it home
- Wear and tear/theft indicates need to replace
- Use is use



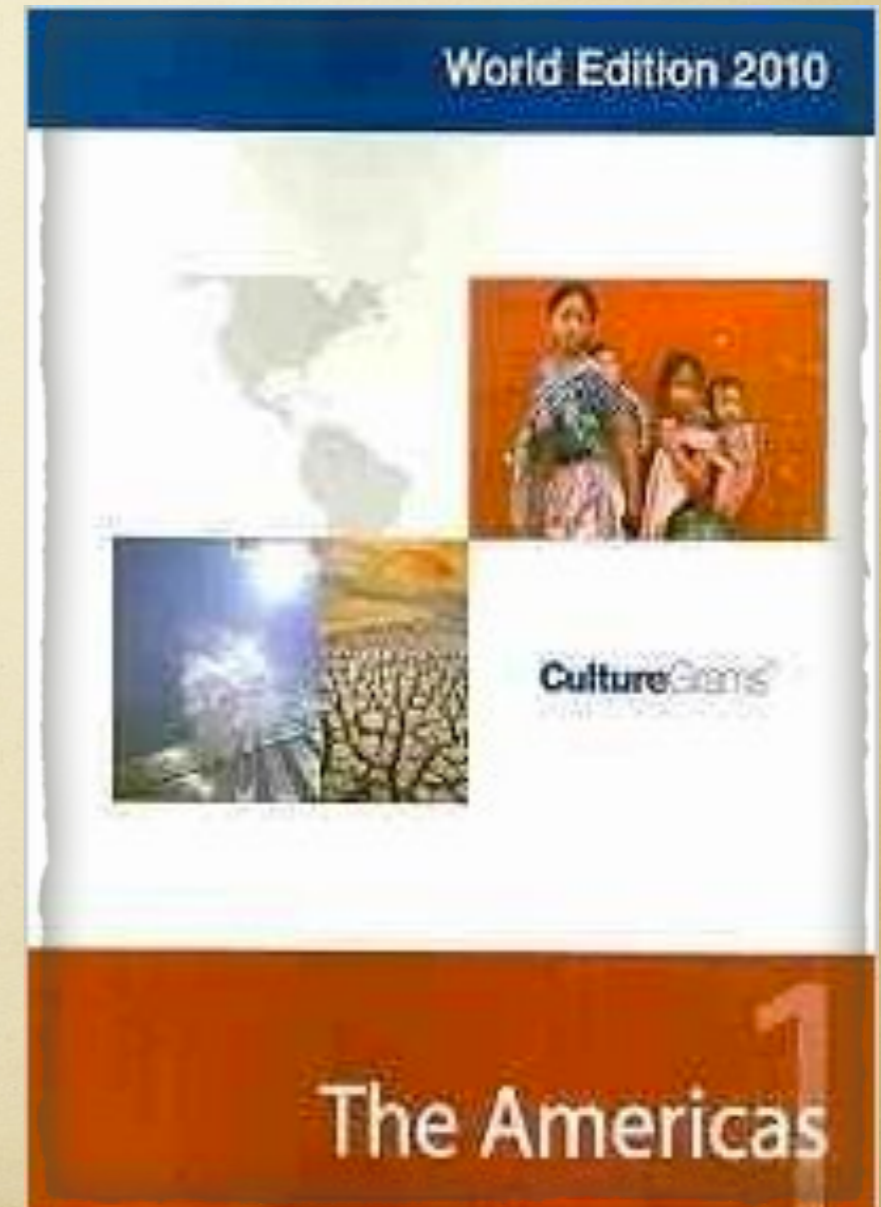
Perennial Assignments

- For public libraries, consider how online sources compliment print ones
- For school libraries, work with classroom teachers to determine information needs for the curriculum
- How can you balance print collections to meet both imposed queries and self-imposed queries? (adults vs. youth is interesting)



The Great Online Migration

- Consider how teaming up with other libraries could extend your resources



Deselection & Disposal

- ▶ Weeding continuously can help
- ▶ Manage community perceptions...
- ▶ Friends & book sales
- ▶ Better World Books



Creating a Plan: The Weeding Year

- ▶ When does a kid's year begin?
- ▶ How to ensure shelves are vibrant year round
- ▶ Anticipate displays & need ahead of time
- ▶ Think global and local: what's important to your customers?

What Happens When?

- ▶ Grab a buddy!
- ▶ Starting in August, think about what questions you get on the desk.
- ▶ What is frequently requested, and when?
- ▶ For a young person, what is happening to them at school... at home... with friends... in the world?

Weeding Schedule

Think like a kid again.

Spring = poetry, homework, sports

Summer = games/hobbies, leisure reading, vacations

Fall = weather, scary stories, back-to-school

Winter = weather, holiday activities, technology

Weeding Schedule Ideas

Calculate how long replacements will take to get in, then plan ahead.

January/February: poetry, seasonal books for preschoolers, replacements for returned winter holiday books

March/April: popular fiction part 1, hobbies & games, sports, high-interest pop culture biographies

May/June: back-to-school, frequently assigned topics in NF

Weeding Schedule Ideas

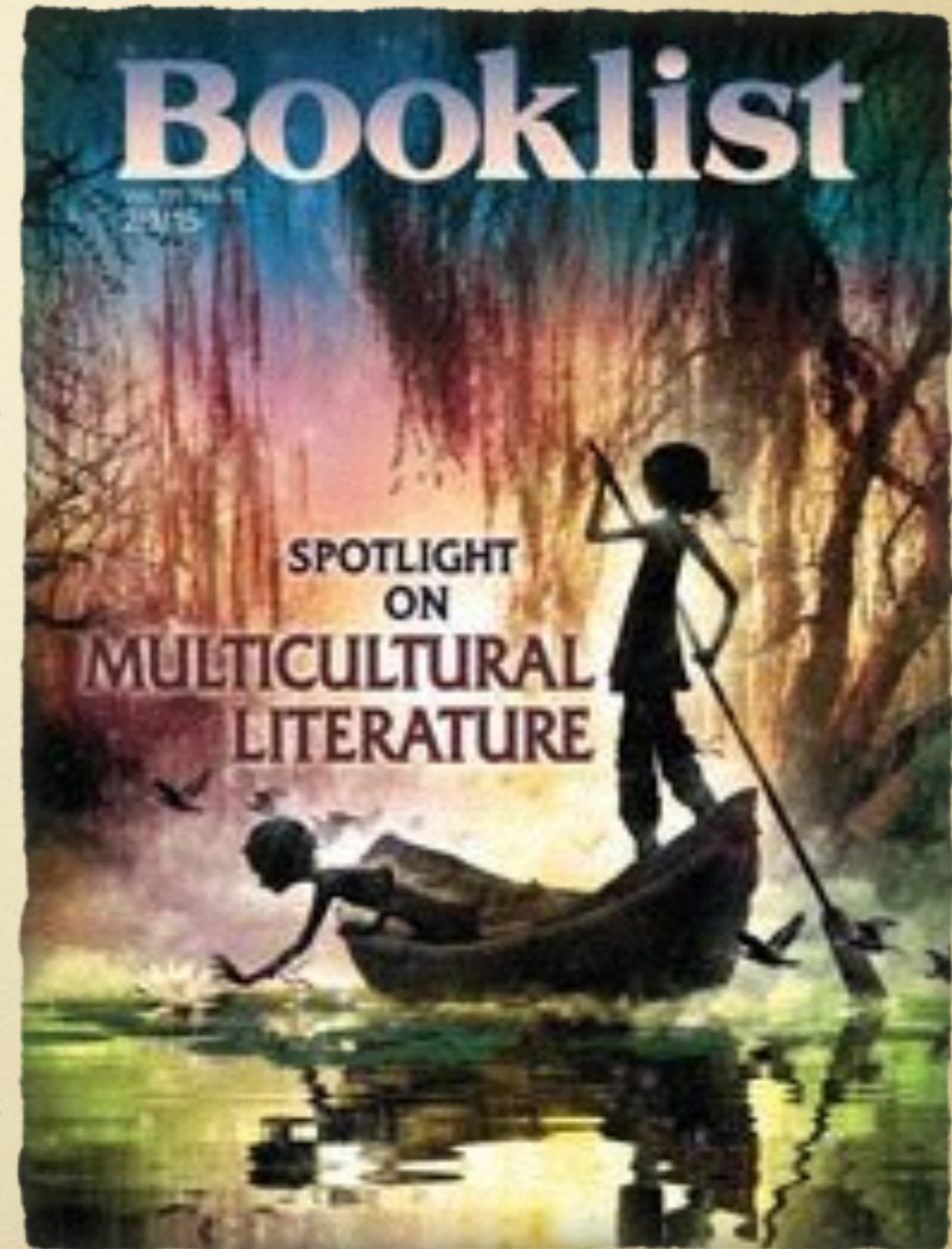
July/August: horror/scary stories, 000
unexplained, harvest holidays

September/October: popular fiction part
2, technology & maker books

November/December: board books,
spring holidays

Booklist Issue Themes

- ▶ January: past year's Top of the List & Editor's Choice
- ▶ February: Multicultural Literature
- ▶ February 2: Humor
- ▶ March: Women's Fiction
- ▶ March 2: Graphic Novels
- ▶ April: Series Nonfiction
- ▶ April 2: Historical Fiction



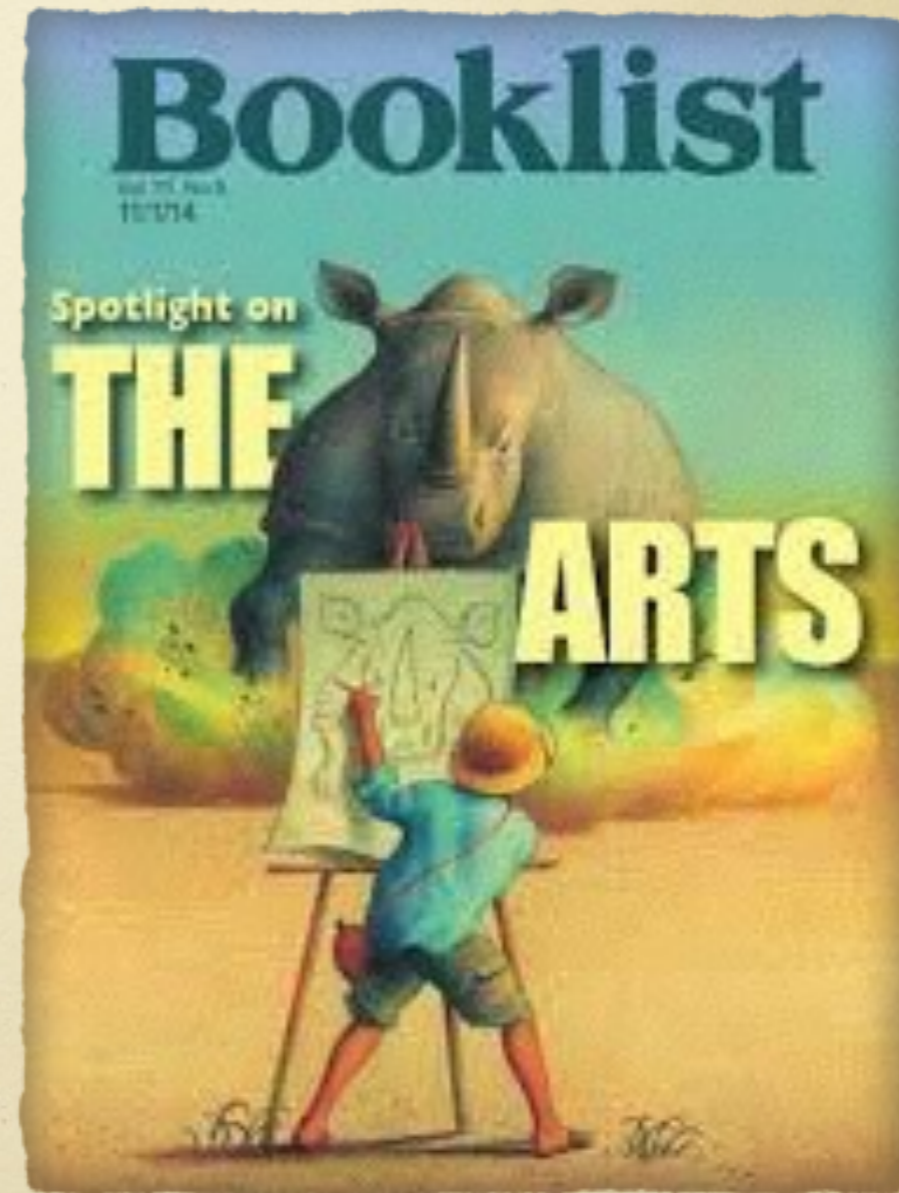
Booklist Issue Themes

- ▶ May: Mystery Month! Mystery, Crime, Adrenaline
- ▶ May 2: Crafts, Gardening, and Reference Showcase
- ▶ June: Biographies and Audiobooks
- ▶ July: Middle Grade Fiction
- ▶ August: Science Fiction, Fantasy, & Horror
- ▶ September: Sports
- ▶ September 2: Romance and Travel



Booklist Issue Themes

- ▶ October: Food and Series
Nonfiction
- ▶ October 2: First Novels
- ▶ November: Arts
- ▶ November 2: Religion &
Spirituality
- ▶ December: Science & Health
- ▶ December 2: Book Discussions



Other Journal Strengths

▶ School Library Journal

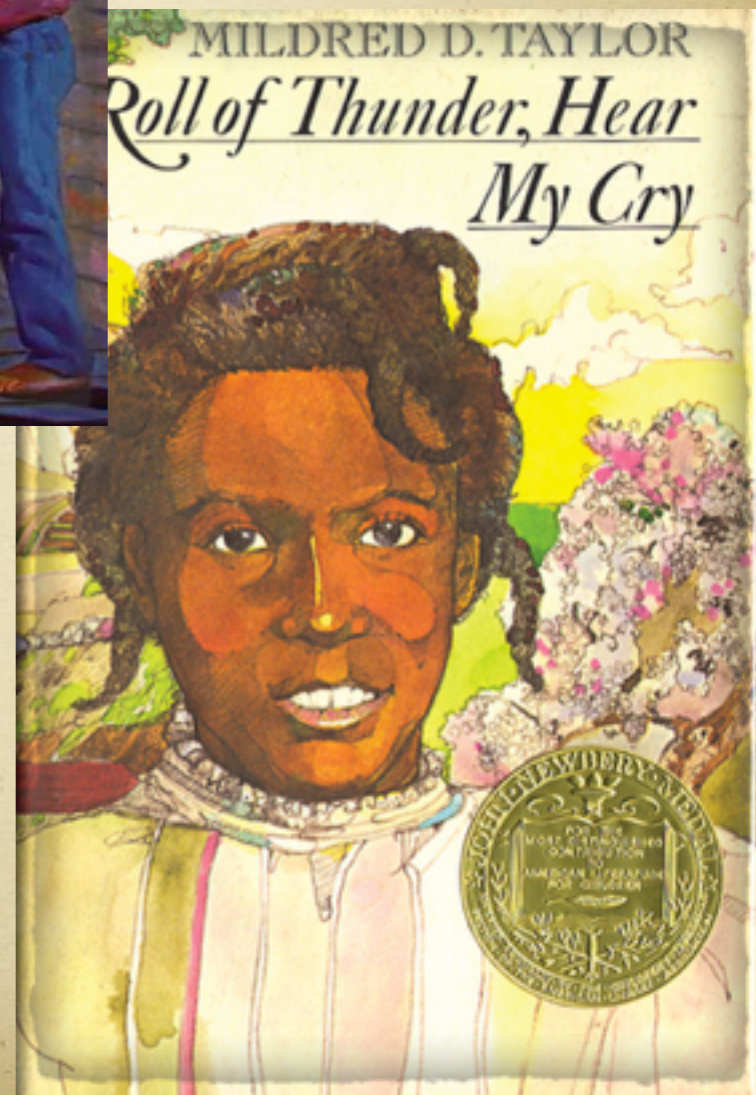
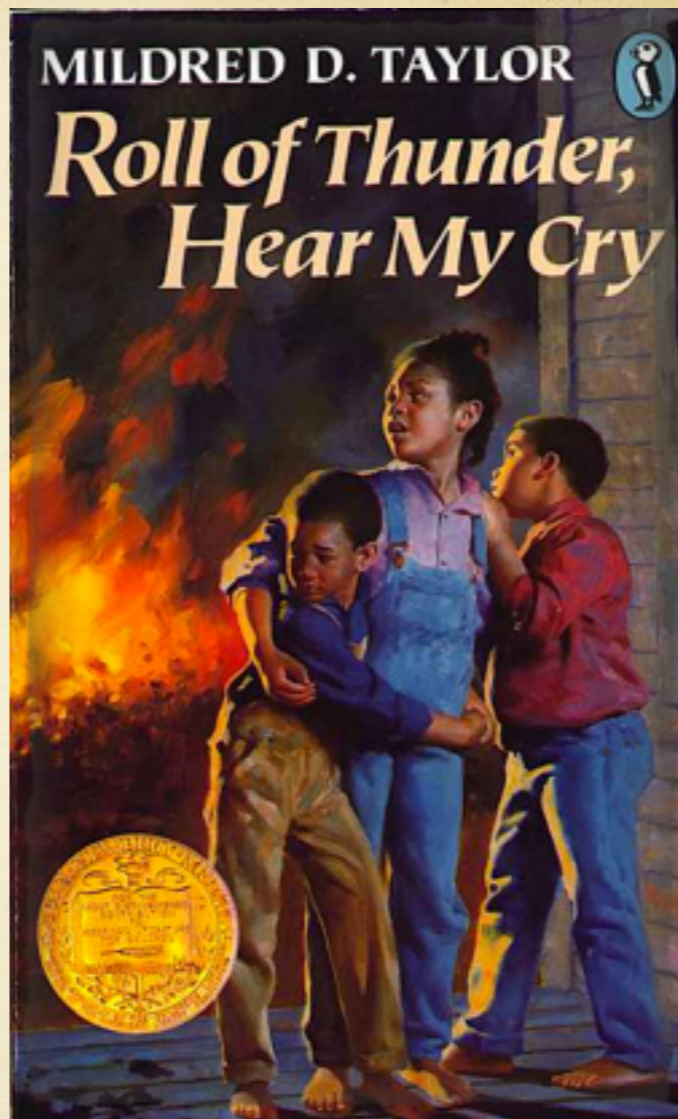
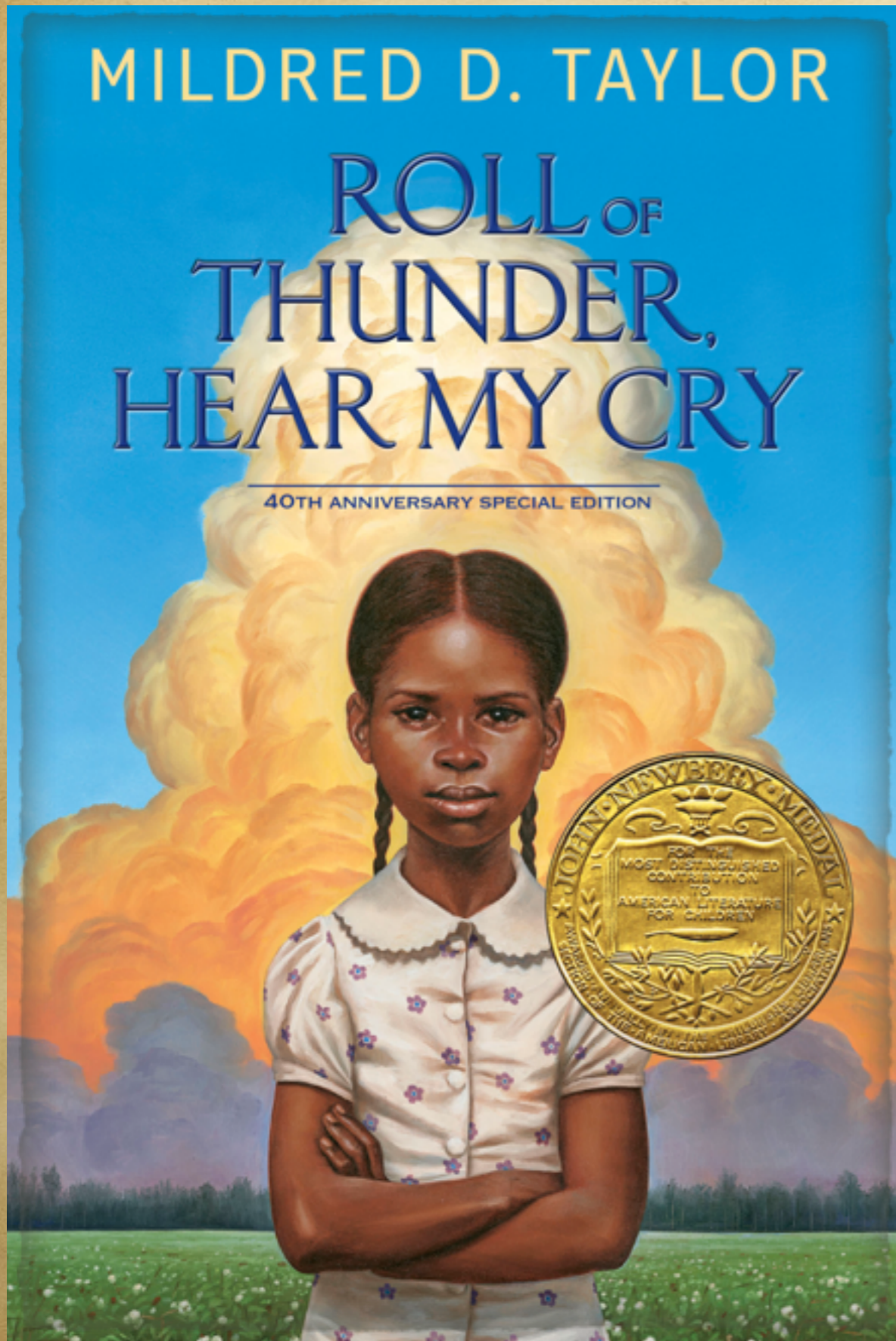
▶ Kirkus

▶ VOYA

Ready to Replace?

Case Study:

CLASSIC PAPERBACK FICTION



THE EGYPT GAME



Zilpha Keatley Snyder

THREE-TIME NEWBERY HONOR WINNER

Zilpha Keatley Snyder

The Egypt Game

SPECIAL LOW PRICE \$2.49

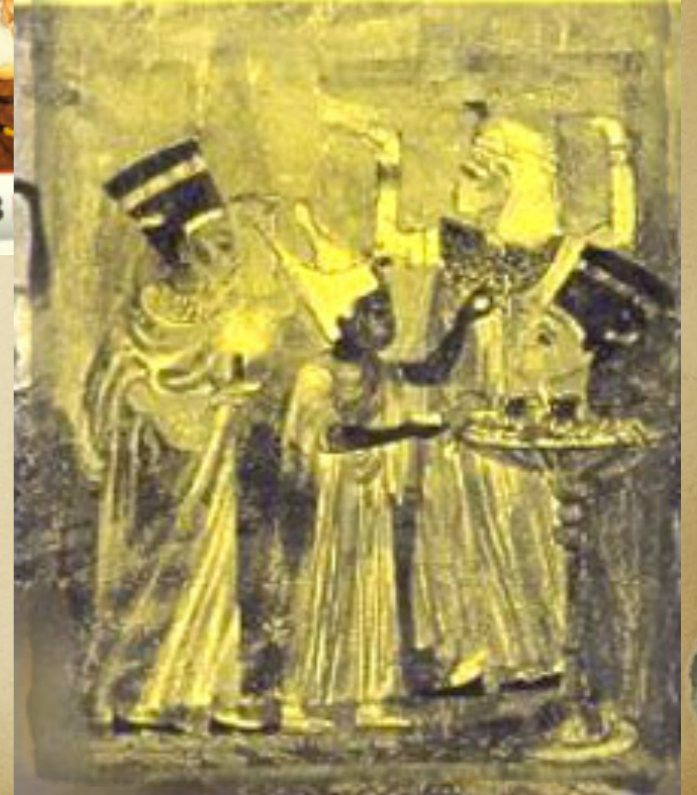


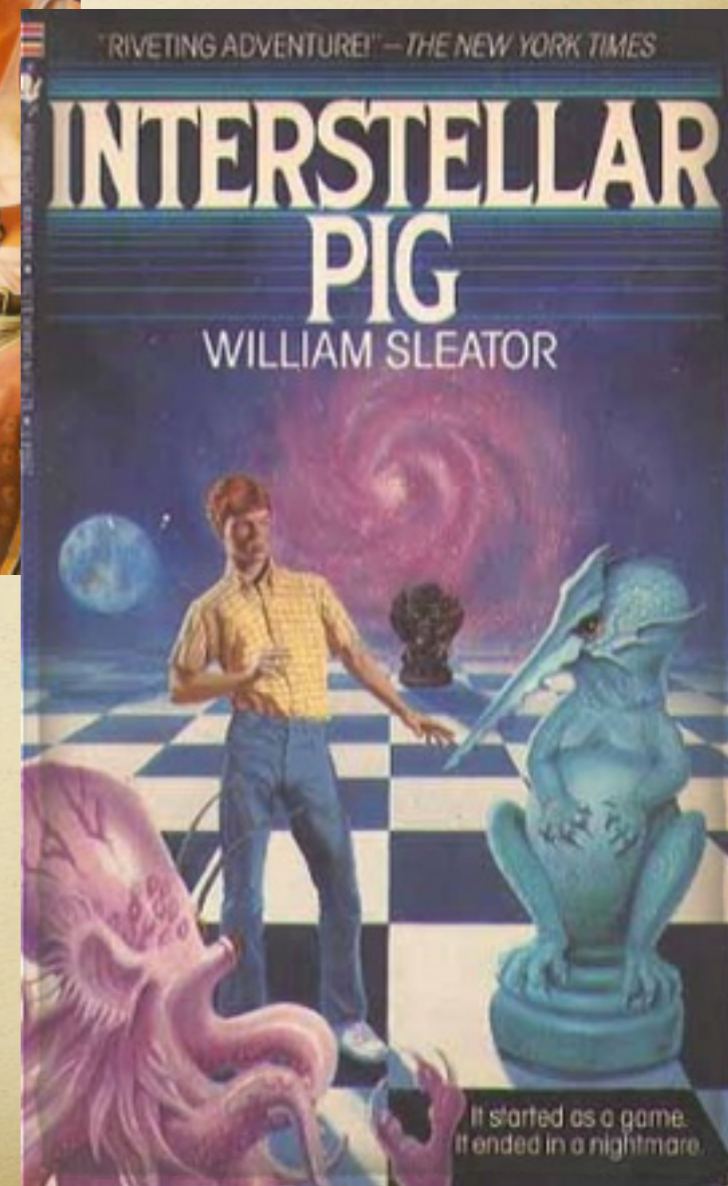
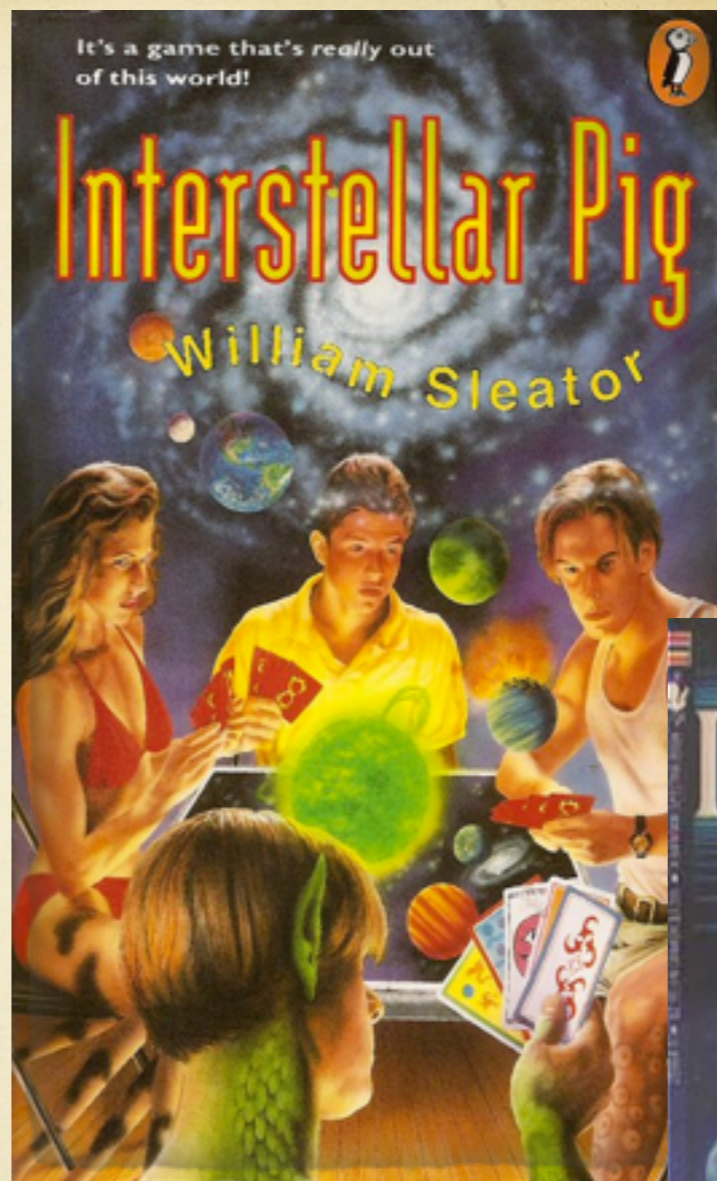
YEARLING NEWB

The Egypt Game

ZILPHA KEATLEY SNYDER

Illustrations by Alice LaPlante

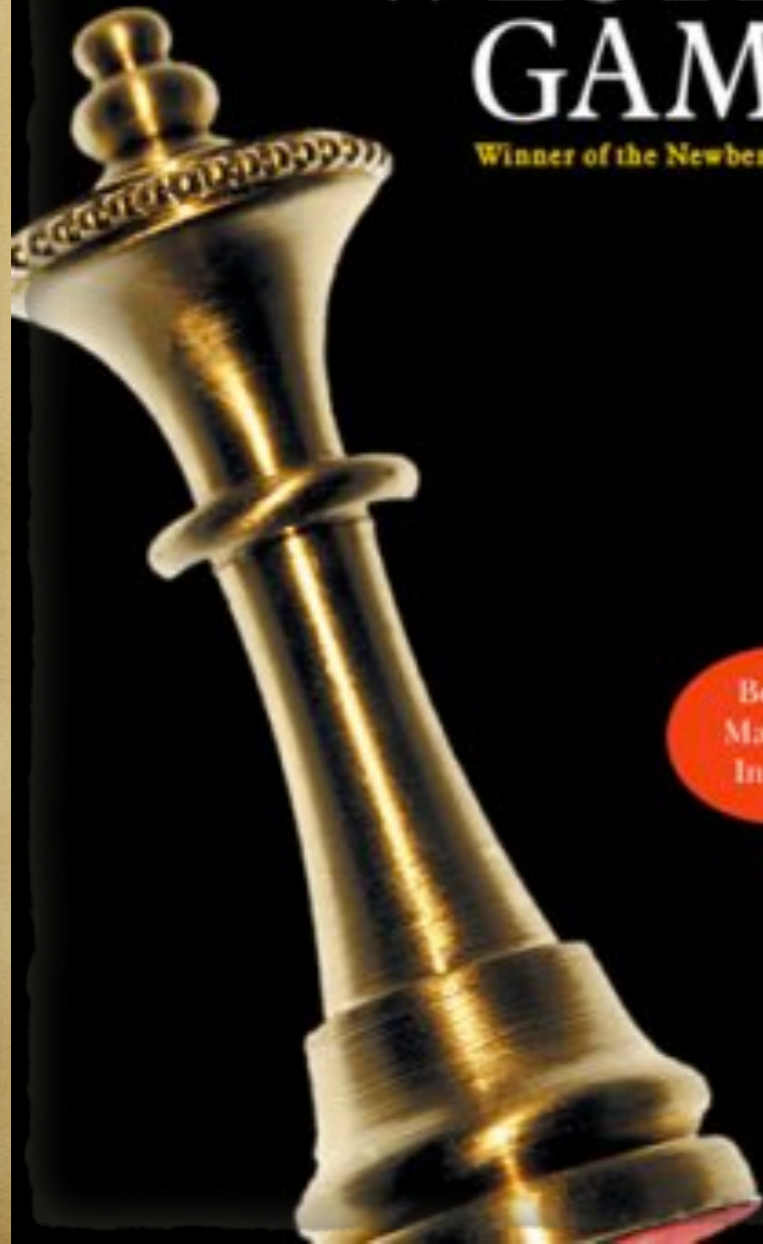




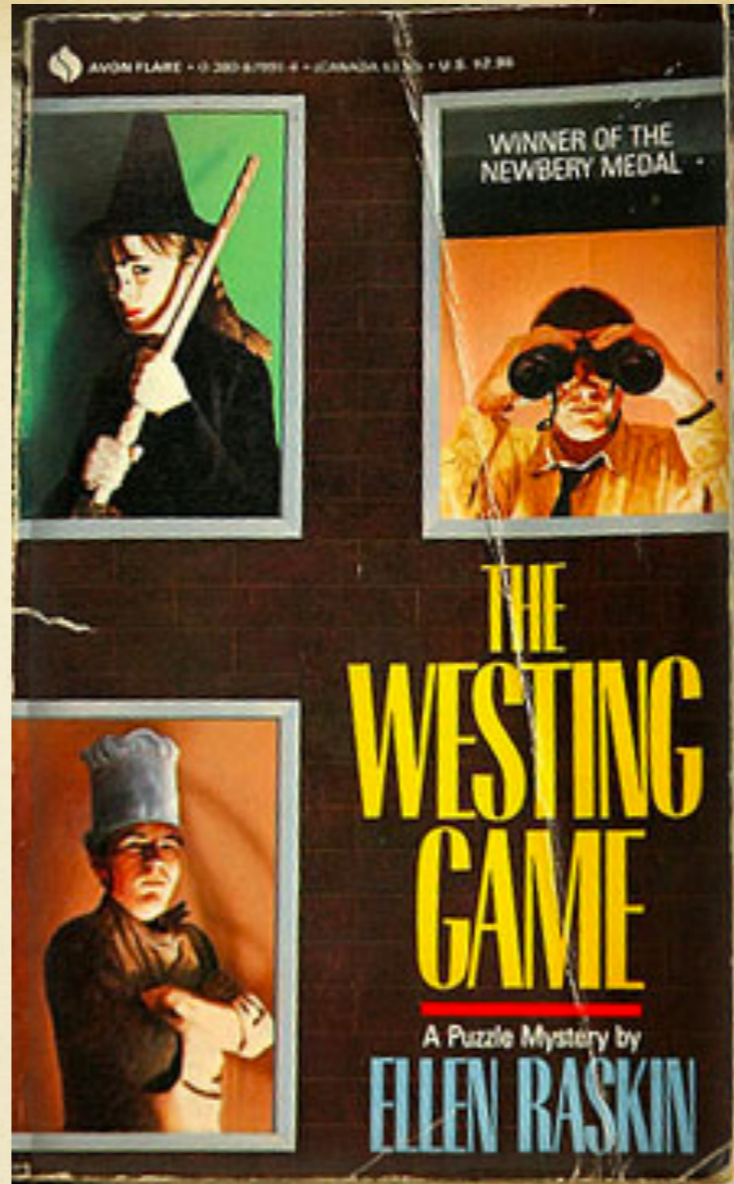
ELLEN RASKIN

THE WESTING GAME

Winner of the Newbery Medal



Bonus
Material
Inside!



The Benefits Are Many!

- Reduce damage in tightly packed shelves
- Create desirability and ease of choice
- Enable more face out displays
- Keep the library on trend with new faces, covers, experiences to discover
- Increase circulation

Thanks!

Let me know how it goes.

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