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## Book Reviews: Picturebooks for Older Children

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# BOOK REVIEWS PICTUREBOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

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Anno, Mitsumasa. Anno's Medieval World. Philomel, 1980. 49 pps.

Anno has taken a revolutionary discovery that occurred during the Middle Ages—the sun rather than the earth being the center of the universe—and shown its gradual impact on a small medieval village. With his usual imaginative attention to detail (e.g., medieval symbols, tools, and scientific instruments), the author-illustrator has created an authentic graphic masterpiece. (Listed at \$9.95)

Bang, Molly. The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher. Four Winds, 1980. 48 pps. (\$10.95)

This wordless picturebook tells the unusual story of a grey lady who after buying a quart of strawberries is pursued by a strange looking slimy creature—the Strawberry Snatcher. Because the Grey Lady blends into the pages so well, the creature fails to catch her. The surreal illustrations are complex and the Grey Lady is sometimes difficult to find, the older children always enjoy the search.

Carrick, Carol. The Climb, illustrated by Donald Carrick. Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Books, 1980. 32 pps. (\$8.95)

When Brandon becomes frightened of the steep rocks while climbing a mountain, his older cousin, Nora, is there to comfort the younger boy. Later, because of an unexpected event, it is Nora who needs and gets help from Brandon. Realistic illustrations done in shades of gold and red complement the credible dialogue in the text and work together to portray the changing emotions of the children.

Chaffin, Lillie D. We Be Warm Til Springtime Comes, illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. MacMillan, 1980. 32 pps. (\$9.95)

Young Jimmy Blackburn is determined to find wood for fuel to keep his mother and baby sister from freezing in a severe Appalachian winter. The first-person poetic narrative and the stark black and white oil paintings effectively reveal the contrast between the harsh, bleak winter and an Appalachian family's love for one another.

Goffstein, M. B. An Artist. Harper, 1980. 32 pps. (\$7.95)

This quiet and spiritually full book reflects Goffstein's view of the role of art and artist in society. The story follows an artist as he sets up his easel and paints in order to recreate the beauty of nature. The delicate watercolors and poetic text combine to make an abstract subject accessible.

Lobel, Arnold. Fables. Harper and Row, 1980. 41 pps. (\$8.95)

This Caldecott Award winner is a delightful collection of twenty original fables written and illustrated by Lobel. Readers will enjoy the humorous antics of a variety of animals in stories like "The Crocodile in the Bedroom" and "The Hippopotamus at Dinner." The full page illustrations showing the animals in preposterous situations add to the wit and charm of the tales.

Macaulay, David. Unbuilding. Houghton Mifflin, 1980. 80 pps.

Set in the not so distant future of 1989, the story tells of an Arab oil magnate who buys the Empire State Building with the idea of having it taken apart, shipped, and reassembled in the Arabian desert. A construction company, Krunchit and Sons, is hired to do the job. Macaulay then guides us through the page-by-page dismantling with pen and ink drawings that expertly depict unique structural perspectives and carefully detailed cross sections. The author-illustrator's satiric style and wry sense of humor can be appreciated by children in the upper elementary and middle grades. (List price - \$9.95)