

## Children's books make great stocking stuffers

By Barb Frazee and Margaret Krause  
Catholic News Service

The following children's books are suitable for Christmas gift-giving:

*What Makes a Rembrandt a Rembrandt? What Makes a Van Gogh a Van Gogh?* (series), text by Richard Muhlberger, art from The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Viking Press (New York, 1993); 48 pages each; \$9.95 each.

This is a wonderful series of books exposing children to different artists (Van Gogh, Monet, Raphael, Rembrandt, Bruegel and Degas). The author, former vice director for education at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, uses 12 masterpieces from the museum to illustrate points about each of the artists' techniques. Full-page paintings and close-ups to show detail coupled with lively text make these sure winners. Ages 10 and up. (BF)

*The Lost Children*, by Paul Goble; Bradbury Press (New York, 1993); 27 pp.; \$14.95.

This Blackfoot Indian story encourages parents to keep track of their children at all times. The Southwestern drawings are exquisite and bring this folktale to life. Children of all ages will enjoy Goble's work. All ages. (MK)

*A is for Africa*, by Ifeoma Onyefulu; Cobblehill Books (New York, 1993); 24 pp.; \$14.99.

Vivid color photographs of African village life make this a captivating alphabet book. Onyefulu, who was born in Nigeria, has captured the beauty, warmth and strength of Africa in her photographs, and her words teach children some of the history behind the traditions. Although as an alphabet book this was written for young children, it is strongly recommended for all ages. Ages 2 and up. (BF)

*Bears*, by Helen Gilks, illustrated by Andrew Bale. *Apes*, by Tess Lemmon, illustrated by John Butler; Ticknor & Fields (New York, 1993); 32 pp. each; \$15.95 each.

These two large picture books are full of interesting facts on the eating habits, habitats and lives of apes and bears. Young readers will be fascinated to learn about these wild animals in these exquisitely illustrated editions. Ages 7-10. (MK)

*End of the Race*, by Dean Hughes; Atheneum (New York, 1993); 152 pp.; \$13.95.

The pain and joy of running track, growing up, friendship, racial relations and relating to fathers are rolled into the adventures of two boys, Jared Olsen and Davin Carter. Hughes has created believable, likable characters with a story line that should be especially appealing to boys. Ages 11-14. (BF)

*The Moon and You*, by E.C. Krupp; illustrated by Robin Rector Krupp; Macmillan Publishing Co. (New York, 1993); 48 pp.; \$13.95.

Scientific facts, humor, folk tales, analogies. This book is jam packed about information on the moon. Krupp, director of



Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, writes in a conversational tone that will keep children reading. Robin Rector Krupp's black-and-white illustrations and diagrams reveal a great sense of humor as well as convey information in a straightforward manner. This book is especially good for a child who claims to not like science. Ages 9-13. (BF)

*Stardust*, by Alane Ferguson; Bradbury Press (New York, 1993); 155 pp.; \$13.95.

Haley Loring, the star of a weekly family sitcom, has grown accustomed to the glamour of Hollywood living. However, when she is dropped from the show and her family moves to a small town, she is faced with the challenge of growing up as an average young adult. This is an endearing story of Haley's sixth grade in Garland Elementary. Ages 8-12. (MK)

*Mommy Loves Jesus*, by Catherine Snider, illustrated by Katy Keck Arnsteen; St. Paul Books and Media (Boston, 1993); 23 pp.; \$3.95.

Snider offers a simple way to show children how the things a parent does — reading the Bible, cuddling, cheering up a friend — are ways of showing love for Jesus. Simple concepts, multicultural illustrations, and one or two sentences per page make this a great read-aloud story for children. Ages 2-5. (BF)

*The Boggart*, by Susan Cooper; Margaret K. McElderberry Books (New York, 1993); 196 pp.; \$14.95.

The Boggart is an invisible, fascinating yet devilish spirit that lives in a castle in the Scottish highlands. When a Canadian family inherits the castle from a long-lost uncle, the Boggart travels back to Toronto with them. This fantasy, written by Newbery award winner Susan Cooper, is an entertaining adventure novel for the preteen. Ages 9-12. (MK)

*Animal Parade*, by Jakki Wood; Bradbury Press (New York, 1993); 27 pp.; \$14.95.

Preschoolers will spend hours with this simple ABC book. Animals beginning with each letter of the alphabet parade across the pages in bright color. The author introduces youngsters to animals often seen only in large zoos, such as aardvarks and wart hogs. Ages 3-6. (MK)

Frazee, CNS assistant foreign editor, is the mother of three. Krause, director of search services for the Georgetown University Law Library, has a degree in library science with a special interest in children's literature.



Buena Vista Pictures

*The Joy Luck Club* tells the complex story involving two generations of Chinese women and their American daughters.

## Theaters offer varied fare worthy of holiday viewing

By Gerri Pare  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — As the studios well know, Christmastime is movietime. With youngsters out of school, and so many new films pouring into the theaters, here's a short list of what parents might consider in the way of good movie-going choices over the holidays.

Among the better new releases rated A-I (general patronage) and A-II (adults and adolescents) are:

*Cool Runnings* (A-II) — charmingly funny, fact-based story of the Jamaican Olympic bobsled team that parents and older children can enjoy together.

*The Nutcracker* (A-I) — shimmering ballet Christmas tale for the whole family, though the under-8 set may get a tad antsy.

*Rudy* (A-II) — true story of a youth who refused to give up on his virtually impossible dream of playing football for Notre Dame.

*Mrs. Doubtfire* (A-II) — Robin Williams in drag as the delightful British nanny who just wants to be able to see his three children everyday.

*We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story* (A-I) — it may not thrill adults but is geared to Barney-loving tykes too tiny for the jaws of "Jurassic Park."

*Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* (A-II) — this habit has lost its starch but the movie presents a positive message about teens staying in school and developing their talents.

*The Remains of the Day* (A-II) — repressed romance between the head maid and butler on a grand English estate as the master unwittingly promotes the Nazi cause in the late 1930s.

*My Life* (A-II) — uplifting story of a young husband with terminal cancer who opens up emotionally to his neglected loved ones and prepares for the birth of his son by making a video about himself to leave behind.

*Addams Family Values* (A-II) — not for



Savoy Pictures

Debra Winger and Anthony Hopkins star in the romance *Shadowlands*.

small children but zany enough to amuse teens and parents who don't take it too literally.

*Shadowlands* (A-II) — Anthony Hopkins portrays Anglican author C.S. Lewis falling in love with an American woman (Debra Winger) in his autumn years.

More for adults, though some older adolescents might also appreciate the following:

*The Joy Luck Club* (A-III — adults) — splendidly told tale of the lives of four Chinese women who wind up in San Francisco and raise four Americanized daughters.

*Schindler's List* (A-III) — Steven Spielberg's powerful account of how a Catholic war profiteer ended up saving over 1,100 Polish Jews from the Nazi death camps. Will be in limited release for a few months until Oscar nominations are announced, and then it will open nationwide.

*The Pelican Brief* (A-III) — an all-around swell cast adds to the crackling suspense in this political thriller.

Finally, some interesting older releases still hanging in there and possibly available in your area are *The Fugitive*, *The Age of Innocence* and *Jurassic Park*, all classified A-II.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ MOVIE ★ TRIVIA ★ ★ ★ ★

WIN ONE YEAR OF RENTALS FROM

Wegmans HOME VIDEO

RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 14. Random drawing of correct entries to be held January 17 by Catholic Courier Representatives. Entries must be returned by mail to: Catholic Courier, Movie Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899. Winner will be notified by mail. Prize is one year of Wegmans Video Rentals, membership is free and is required. Prize is not exchangeable for cash or other merchandise.

Question: What was the name of the Angel in the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Last month's winner: Fred Stanzel of Rochester correctly identified Jafar as the evil Sultan in *Aladdin*.

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