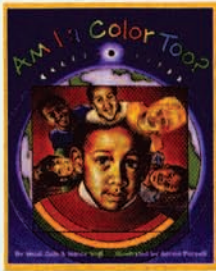


Children's Book Roundup

by Brita Adkinson

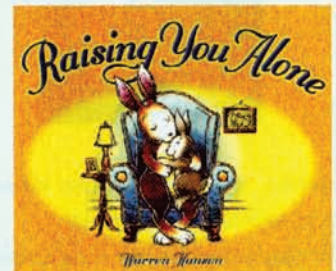


Am I a Color, Too? Heidi Cole and Nancy Vogl, illustrated by Gerald Purnell. In poetic verse, a young boy, Tyler, muses on the fact that people have different skin colors. He wonders why some people define each other by color. Tyler's mom is white, his dad black. Tyler thinks, "I am a human being, not a color, not a word. I have my hopes and dreams, and a voice that will be heard."

Masterful illustrations — such as a close-up of a white child's hand holding onto a black adult's hand — will touch readers' hearts. Purnell demonstrates a fascinating ability to handle light and shadow in his portrait work. (\$15.95 HC, 0-9740190-5-4, Illumination Arts Publishing Co., 888/210-8216, www.illuminationarts.com)

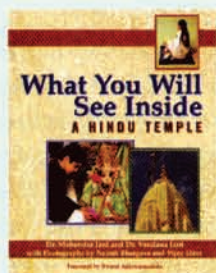
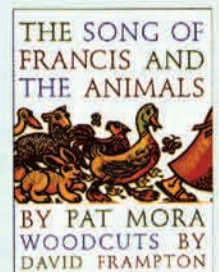
Raising You Alone, Warren Hanson. Delightful illustrations depict the everyday life of a single-parent household in the form of a parent and baby hare in *Raising You Alone*, a sweet exploration of the relationship between a single parent and a child. In gentle words the parent shares the worries, struggles, and joys of being a single parent. Discussions include leaving the child with a baby-sitter, nurturing the child's friendships, and the sensitive situation when the parent invites a new partner home for dinner.

The story concludes with an image of the love bond between parent and child. *Raising You Alone* is just the right book for broadening children's horizons beyond standard concepts of family life. (\$15.95 HC, 0-9726504-6-6, Tristan Publishing, 800/545-1383, www.tristanpublishing.com)



Saint Francis and the Wolf, Richard Egielski. With a hint of humor on every page, Egielski tells the classic tale of a dangerous wolf who threatens the people in the medieval town of Gubbio, Italy. The people have various fights with the wolf, until legendary Saint Francis walks into the forest and makes friends with the animal, thus restoring peace to the town. Each page features an outstanding, detailed illustration by Egielski depicting medieval Italian community life. *Saint Francis and the Wolf* evokes hope that seemingly impossible conflicts can be solved and even the worst enemies can become friends. (\$15.99 HC, 0-06-623870-6, Laura Geringer Books, 800/242-7737 [HarperCollins,] www.harpercollins.com)

The Song of Francis and the Animals, Pat Mora, woodcuts by David Frampton. In a time when many children live in cities and have scant contact with animals, this book extolling affection between man and animal fulfills an important function. Frampton's decorative and engaging woodcuts convey the loving feelings that are shared when Saint Francis talks with a pheasant, a lamb, a worm, a flock of birds, and even insects. Suggest *The Song of Francis and the Animals* as a perfect choice for kindergartens and at home for exploring and discussing relationships between people and animals. (\$16 HC, 0-8028-5253-X, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 800/253-7521, www.eerdmans.com)



What You Will See Inside a Hindu Temple, Mahendra Jani, Ph.D., and Vandana Jani, Ph.D., photos by Neirah Bhargava and Vijayu Dave. This superb description of Hindu faith and worship, enhanced with 55 color photos, will be an excellent asset to school teachers and librarians. Suitable for children of all ages and an attractive read for young adults, the information-packed 31 pages explain the concept of many forms of gods, kirtan singing, rituals, celebrations, and festivals. Contemporary worship in North America is pictured with photos of young people, some dressed in jeans, gathering in temples. Three photos feature Hindu temples in Texas, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

Other titles in SkyLight Paths Publishings' What You Will See Inside series describe worship in a Catholic church, a mosque, and a synagogue. (\$17.99 HC, 1-59473-116-0, SkyLight Paths Publishing, 800/962-4544, www.skylightpaths.com)

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