

VOYA presents its eleventh annual list of poetry titles that reviewers have rated highly between June 2008 and April 2009. Treat yourself to these literary art pieces, which are sure to please all different types of readers. Only those titles earning the 5Q or 4Q rating have been included on this list.

Block, Francesca Lia. **How to (Un)Cage a Girl.** HarperTeen, 2008. 128p. \$15.99. 978-0-06-135836-4. PLB \$16.89. 978-0-06-135837-1. VOYA December 2008. **5Q 4P M J S**



"In [this] semi-autobiographical collection of poems, Block skillfully articulates the insecurities and emotions of a girl . . . Block's legions of fans will devour this collection."—Ed Goldberg.

Bryant, Jen. **Ringside, 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial.** Knopf, 2008. 240p. \$15.99. 978-0-375-84047-0. PLB \$18.99. 978-0-375-94047-7. Further Reading. VOYA June 2008. **4Q 3P S A/YA**

"Bryant skillfully weaves her fictionalized narrators with the historical characters . . . and creates a simple, clear, and accessible account that will engage adolescent readers."—Marla K. Unruh.

Chaltas, Thalia. **Because I Am Furniture.** Viking, 2009. 368p. \$16.99. 978-0-670-06298-0. **4Q 4P S**

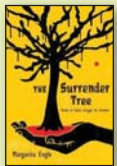
"[I]n short, powerful poems . . . the results of the abuse are illustrated in an unflinching account . . . [that] will make an excellent addition to libraries serving older teens."—Sherrie Williams.



¿De Veras? **Young Voices from the National Hispanic Cultural Center.** Mikaela Jae Renz and Shelle VanEtten-Luaces, Eds. University of New Mexico Press, 2008. 192p. \$24.95. 978-0-8263-4359-8. Photos. VOYA October 2008. **4Q 4P J S**

"[T]een poets exhibit their diverse voices in these . . . accounts of their lives, society, and often celebrations of their own uniqueness . . . The poems are inspirational, brave, candid, loving, angry, yearning, and raw but not without beauty."—Ava Ehde.

Engle, Margarita. **The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom.** Henry Holt, 2008. 169p. \$16.95. 978-0-8050-8674-4. Biblio. Chronology. VOYA June 2008. **4Q 4P M J S**



"Cuba's fight for independence from Spain in the 1800s is told here through short poems that . . . [are] incredibly evocative of what it feels like to be fighting oppression."—Stephanie Petruso.

Falling Hard: 100 Love Poems by Teenagers. Betsy Franco, Ed. Candlewick, 2008. 147p. \$15.99. 978-0-7636-3437-7. VOYA August 2008. **5Q 4P S A/YA**

"Brutally honest, achingly tender, these glimpses of love through poetry are erotic, sibilant, and sexy . . . Eloquent and evocative, this anthology deserves a place on every high school and public library shelf."—Nancy K. Wallace.

First Kiss (Then Tell). Cynlin Busby, Ed. Bloomsbury, 2008. 212p. \$15.95. 978-1-59990-199-2. VOYA June 2008. **4Q 4P M J S**

"Nineteen favorite teen authors team up to share their first kiss experiences . . . from prose, poetry, and graphic novel formats . . . making this book a quick and entertaining read."—Jennifer Rummel.



Frost, Helen. **Diamond Willow.** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008. 128p. \$16. 978-0-374-31776-8. VOYA October 2008. **4Q 4P M J**

"This lyrical gem of a story reveals the inner beauty of a seemingly ordinary Athabaskan girl. Each page . . . is a poem in the shape of a diamond . . . an engaging survival tale, it is also the story of a girl who finds within herself the grace to grow up."—Marla K. Unruh.

GirlSpoken: From Pen, Brush, and Tongue. Jessica Hein, et al., Eds. Second Story Press/Orcia, 2008. 216p. \$18.95 Trade pb. 978-1-897187-30-2. Illus. Photos. Source Notes. VOYA June 2008. **4Q 4P J S**



"[D]esigned to effect change by giving creative voice to teen girls . . . this collection is exceptional . . . unabashedly feminist in its perspective . . . [and] a welcome addition to the teen poetry genre."—Jan Chapman.

Hopkins, Ellen. **Identical.** Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster, 2008. 576p. \$17.99. 978-1-4169-5005-9. VOYA October 2008. **4Q 3P S A/YA**

"This disturbing story in blank verse . . . [told] through images that sting like hot tar on raw flesh . . . is powerful and sometimes cleverly displayed visually . . . underscore[ing] the sordidness that can soil young lives."—Barbara Johnston.

Kasichke, Laura. **Feathered.** HarperTeen, 2008. 261p. \$16.99. 978-0-06-081317-8. PLB \$17.89. 978-0-06-081318-5. VOYA October 2008. **4Q 4P J S**



*"In this haunting page turner . . . [t]he two girls' often lyrical accounts build a novel as tough and frightening as Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* . . . [in] an important read for teens and their parents to share."*—Lucy Schall.

Listen to Me: Shared Secrets from WriteGirl. Karen Taylor, Ed. WriteGirl Publications, 2009. 304p. \$19.95 Trade pb. 978-0-9741251-6-9. Index. Illus. VOYA December 2008. **4Q 3P M J S**

"[S]elections are by turns raw, crackling with energy, naïve, knowing, and above all, deeply personal . . . Like all good literary works, these writings leave the reader wanting more."—Jamie S. Hansen.

River of Words: Young Poets and Artists on the Nature of Things. Pamela Michael, Ed. Milkweed Editions, 2008. 304p. \$30. 978-1-57131-685-1. \$18 Trade pb. 978-1-57131-680-6. Illus. VOYA December 2008. **4Q 4P M J S**

"[T]he poems . . . share a poignancy that can only be conveyed by children . . . making these poems unpretentious and accessible for any student . . . those interested in poetry are sure to be inspired."—Valerie Ott.

Smith, Hope Anita. **Mother Poems.** Henry Holt, 2009. 80p. \$16.95. 978-0-8050-8231-9. Illus. VOYA April 2009. **4Q 3P M J S**

"[Smith] accomplishes the difficult task of taking readers from the banal to the extraordinary . . . Teens of all ages . . . will find comfort in this powerful and affecting book of poetry."—Jan Chapman.

Soto, Gary. **Partly Cloudy: Poems of Love and Longing.** Houghton Mifflin, 2009. 112p. \$16. 978-0-15-206301-6. VOYA February 2009. **5Q 4P M J S**

"[S]pare but evocative [language] . . . invokes the power of a simple daily moment . . . Despite their deceptively simple surface, these poems are nuanced and complex, striking deep into the human experience."—Jan Chapman.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **Becoming Billie Holiday.** Illus. by Floyd Cooper. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2008. 122p. \$19.95. 978-1-59078-507-2. Illus. Biblio. Further Reading. VOYA December 2008. **4Q 3P J S**



"What better way to present a musician's memoir than through poetry? Weatherford's intoxicating rhythmical words . . . zip, punch, bebop, and sing through ninety-plus powerful first-person poems."—Angelica Delgado. ■

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