

FICTION: X	NON-FICTION:	PAPER: X
RECOMMENDED: Yes		NOT RECOMMENDED:
AUTHOR: Krulik, Nancy		
TITLE: Dawn's Early Light		
PUBLISHER: Simon Pulse	DATE: 2006	PRICE: \$5.99
ISBN #: 978-1-4169-1465-5		
AGE LEVEL: Grade 7+		
REVIEWER'S NAME: Sarah Evans		
LIBRARY: Sno-Isle Libraries		
REVIEW: Despite the typical teen romance cover and the occasional overwrought emotions of the heroine, this book is really a snapshot of sending a young man into military service. We follow 17-year-old Sarah through the last twenty-four hours before her long-time sweetheart, Tim, enters basic training. In this Indiana town, enlisting is seen as one way to secure a solid future, yet the potential hazards are brought to the forefront when a report is received that Sarah's older brother is missing in action in the Middle East. Though the characterizations are brief, the author gives voice to the range of issues and stances around American military service and the emotional impact on everyone involved. While neither the plot nor language is high caliber, this book stands out for the thoughtful consideration of issues. Teens who have dealt with family and friends enlisting will recognize the character's responses and appreciate the author's portraits.		

FICTION: X	NON-FICTION:	PAPER:
RECOMMENDED: Yes		NOT RECOMMENDED:
AUTHOR: Boles, Philana Marie		
TITLE: Little Divas		
PUBLISHER: Harper Collins	DATE: 2006	PRICE: \$16.89
ISBN #: 978-0-06-073300-1		
AGE LEVEL: Grades 7-9		
REVIEWER'S NAME: Sarah Evans		
LIBRARY: Sno-Isle Libraries		
REVIEW: Cassidy has had enough change with her parent's divorce, her mom's departure for a humanitarian mission in Africa and moving into her dad's new house. She's not feeling too sure about turning 13 and about moving on to junior high. Rikki, her bossy best-friend and cousin, is also 12 but has a serious case of the I-can't-waits. Perhaps that's to be expected as the daughter of a very strict preacher and explains why Rikki and her 16-year-old sister Mary are always helping each other deceive their parents. Over the course of the summer, Cassidy learns about having confidence in herself, developing relationships with both girls and boys, and the cost of deception from both sides of the lie. Despite some weak plotting, this book stands out for pitch-perfect writing in the voice of a 12-year-old-girl. It would be perfect for tweens but does deal with physical relationships and condoms are discussed. Older teens might find this read a bit quaint. This book is also to be commended as a contemporary slice of African-American life for young teens. There is a sense of beginning here that we can hope leads to a series.		

FICTION: X	NON-FICTION:	PAPER:
RECOMMENDED: Yes		NOT RECOMMENDED:
AUTHOR: Sachs, Marilyn		
TITLE: First Impressions		
PUBLISHER: Roaring Brook Press	DATE: 2006	PRICE: \$16.95
ISBN #: 1-59643-117-2		
AGE LEVEL: Grades 6+		
REVIEWER'S NAME: Sarah Evans		
LIBRARY: Sno-Isle Libraries		
REVIEW: “It is a truth universally acknowledged that the third child in a family of five is never appreciated.” Alice has accepted that as the smart kid in her blue-collar family she is no one’s favorite. But her top grades are threatened when her paper outlining the tragedy of middle child Mary’s life in Austen’s <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> is returned with a C+. Given the opportunity to rewrite the paper over the holidays, Alice daydreams her way into the story to make improvements, only to be shadowed in her real-life by a mysterious woman whose face she cannot quite see. While this magic is occurring, another kind of magic takes hold in Alice’s life that leads to a boyfriend, a true best-friend, and a better relationship with each of her family members. Although the character’s change of heart is a bit strange (how can she go from totally identifying with Mary to deciding that character is an annoying nerd?), the book is enjoyable. A good title to hand those kids who enjoyed the films of Austen’s works and either aren’t ready for the originals or just want to more reading related to Austen.		

FICTION:	NON-FICTION: X	PAPER: X
RECOMMENDED: Yes		NOT RECOMMENDED:
AUTHOR: Sammons, Mary Beth and Moss, Samantha		
TITLE: Inspiration: A Teen's Guide to Healthy Living Inspired by Today's Top Spas		
PUBLISHER: Watson-Guption Publications	DATE: 2005	PRICE: \$14.95
ISBN #: 0-8230-2641-8		
AGE LEVEL: Grades 5+		
REVIEWER'S NAME: Sarah Evans		
LIBRARY: Sno-Isle Libraries		
REVIEW: A nicely laid-out guide to things you can do at home or with friends to refresh and rejuvenate your body as well as your mind. Sections include skin smoothers, beauty boosters, body builders, stress zappers and spirit lifters. Items have ingredients and supply lists of items that are reasonable and accessible combined with understandable instructions. The featured spa information is meant to tie the product or activity to a real spa but reads like a pseudo-ad in a glamour magazine (on the other hand, teens are used to luxury-life name-dropping in books like Gossip Girls). Despite this, the emphasis on healthy lifestyle choices and the accessibility of the instructions make this a good addition to the collection. Particularly excellent for party planning and even includes some tips along those lines.		