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In Review

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In Review

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In Review

Edward J. Dwyer

Little Books

Christine E. McCormick
and Jana M. Mason
(\$8.95) Good Year Books
Scott, Foresman and Company

The authors, Christine McCormick and Jana Mason, carefully researched the concept of creating single theme, content simple, "little books" for use with young children. The original research focused on students in Head Start programs. Success of the "little books" approach is evident from data provided in the authors' earlier research and from the evident appeal of the 20 stories presented. All the stories can be conveniently reproduced for use with any number of children.

The stories usually have from one to three words per page and an uncomplicated pen and ink illustration. The major objective is to teach children about the structure of books and eventually invite them to read little books of their own. The concept is sound, the procedures enjoyable, and the suggestions for using the little books are comprehensive and clear.

Few materials match **Little Books** as a resource for bringing both the joys of reading and academic basics of learning to read to young children. **Little Books** is clearly an outstanding value, one sure to bring delight to teachers, parents, children, and all

those working to encourage literacy in young children. The stories and format of **Little Books** fit perfectly into the best modes of whole language instruction. For information call the publisher at 1-800-782-2665.

We Didn't Start the Fire

Billy Joel
Scholastic Magazines

The hit song "We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Joel is available on audio cassette along with "A Conversation with Billy Joel." Billy Joel takes the listener from 1949 through 1989 in a powerfully presented musical rendition of significant events and people. The five minute conversation with Billy Joel presents the singer-songwriter as a person with a love of reading and history. The music and dialogue are virtually guaranteed to be a hit in the classroom. A large poster containing all the lyrics accompanies the audio cassette. This material seems most appropriate for middle grade and older students.

The "Billy Joel" package is available for only \$3.00 from Scholastic Magazines, P.O. Box 2700, Monroe, Ohio 45050-2700.

Red Foley's Best Baseball Book Ever (4e)

Red Foley
Simon and Schuster, New York
\$7.95

Baseball is a much beloved game among elementary school students. T-ball, instruction league, Little League and countless impromptu baseball games and numerous variations in the sport delight both boys and girls. Although played mostly by boys, many girls have substantial interest in the sport.

Red Foley's Best Baseball Book Ever (4e) is a collection of anecdotes, historical information, and facts about the game and its players written in an easy-to-read and interesting style. Readers are invited to read about players and teams and then find the appropriate sticker to affix beside the description. Just in case the reader has trouble

finding the sticker, a convenient answer key is available. The stickers are in vivid colors, most with players in action on the field. The paper is of high quality and the stickers peel off easily, don't tear, and readily restick.

Red Foley invites the reader to study, reason, draw conclusions, and perhaps most importantly, have a thoroughly enjoyable time. The text seems best suited for students in grades three to seven and for those in Chapter 1 and tutorial programs.

Red Foley's Best Baseball Book Ever is scheduled to be released in a fifth edition in February, 1991, in time for the beginning of the new baseball season. Schools with accounts with the publisher are entitled to discounts for purchasing this already reasonably priced book. Call Simon and Schuster, the publisher, at 800-223-2348 for ordering information.

Edward J. Dwyer is Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at East Tennessee State University. He has taught grades 4 and 6 in Massachusetts and grades 7 and 8 in Alaska.

Panda

*black, white
eating, playing, running
animal, bear, friend, procyonidae
living, grasping, sleeping
chubby, clumsy
wild*

Krissy Butcher

6th Grade
Capshaw Elementary
Cookeville, Tennessee