

and *Poetry* author Mary Northrup updates previous editions by including the best children's picture books published in the last decade for older children (four to eight years). The first chapter, "Where Art and Words Come Together," is a brief treatise on how picture books work. Northrup discusses trends in the field and explains how to evaluate books by examining each element of story. She also discusses the elements of art and their importance in portraying the elements of story. A sidebar analysis of illustration styles shows how each technique contributes to the whole of the picture book. Northrup discusses the growing use of technology and digital art as well as the currency of e-books and apps. The remaining chapters of the book reflect the social development of the child. Beginning with personal concerns and family relationships in the "My Family and Myself" chapter, the book continues with "In My Community" and "Out in the World." Northrup ends with chapters on "The World of Imagination" and "Folktales and Fairy Tales." Each chapter is an extensive listing of current picture books, with complete bibliographic information as well as intended audience.

Northrup's prose is spare but elegant. Especially well written are her annotations of the books in the bibliographic chapters, which give thorough descriptions of the books and touch on the most important story and art elements. This book would be useful in supporting curricula for pre-K through first-grade classes.

The book includes a thorough index and several appendixes. The first, "Suggested Resources: For Further Research into Picture Books," is a list for parents, teachers, and librarians who might want to consider delving a little deeper into the subject. Subsequent appendixes are "Picture Books about Art" and "Self Referential Picture Books," the latter of which is a useful bibliography of what the author calls a "type of postmodern" picture book. These books defy the mold of a traditional picture book.

Who is the audience for this book? Anyone who reads picture books: parents, teachers, childcare providers, elementary teachers, and librarians. It is just as useful for supporting curriculum units in childcare centers and schools as it is simply for finding a book for the pleasure of sharing a good story.—Jenny Foster Stenis, *Coordinator of Children's Services, Pioneer Library System, Norman, Oklahoma*

Small Public Library Management. By Jane Pearlmutter and Paul Nelson. Chicago: ALA, 2012. 152 p. Paper \$50 (ISBN: 9780838910856).

Comprehensive and entertaining, but ultimately rather superfluous—in a nutshell, this describes this new title in the ALA Fundamentals series. To begin with, the title of the book is misleading. When most people think of a "small public library," the image that comes to mind is a shoestring operation in a rural area, where the director is often the only full-time professional staff member. The challenges of running this type of library are significantly unique to warrant a management handbook just on that topic. However, this book reads more like a manual about life in suburbia. For advice on running a *truly* small library, a better option is Herbert B. Landau's *The Small Public Library Survival Guide: Thriving on Less* (ALA, 2008).

The excellent organization of this book makes it easy for the reader to delve in at any point of need, whether the task is preparing one's first budget, hiring staff, or weeding the collection. Visually, there is a suitable mix of bulleted lists, pictures, and tables. The boxes labeled "tales from the field" are particularly useful, as they provide concrete details about how specific libraries have risen to the occasion to meet specific needs. However, the authors might have worked a little harder to make their examples more geographically diverse, instead of drawing almost exclusively on Wisconsin's public libraries. The tone of the book is down-to-earth, as though the library director settled the reader into an armchair in her office the day before she retired to tell the reader everything he needed to know to fill her shoes. The problem is that, because she could only spare an hour, she covered everything superficially. Landau's 2008 book, on the other hand, is much more original. However, this book might be helpful as a starting point. Another good choice for an up-and-coming "small" library manager is Wayne Disher's *Crash Course in Public Library Administration* (Libraries Unlimited, 2010), which meets library managers' need to grasp basic principles of public administration that are not taught in library school.

This book is an optional purchase for academic libraries supporting LIS programs and for librarians stepping into management roles.—Dana M. Lucisano, *Reference Librarian, Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, Connecticut*