

Best Books to Read!

The 2000 Skipping Stones Awards



Looking forward to a great summer reading adventure? Check out some of the outstanding books we have chosen this year. We considered 132 titles entered by large and small publishers and producers for the **Seventh Annual Skipping Stones Honor Awards**.

The following selection of multicultural and nature books and two educational videos encourage close relationships with nature, and promote respect and understanding for cultural diversity in our world.

Our selection committee consisted of over twenty reviewers—editors, librarians, parents, students, and teachers. The honored titles in the following four categories are:

Ecology and Nature Books:

These titles promote an understanding of natural systems, specific species or habitats, human, plant and animal relationships, environmental conservation, protection and restoration efforts, community projects, and sustainable living.

El Bebé más dulce del Mundo by Montse Gisbert. In Spanish. Elementary and middle grades. \$15.90. ISBN: 84-8131-238-X5. *Tándem edicions, C/ San Vicente, 93, 1^a, 46007 Valencia, Spain.* (English & French translations available from montse.gisbert@wanadoo.be.)



Zzum's life story is fascinating—once you start learning about her, you'll want to know it all! The text and illustrations

sweep you through to the end.

El Bebé describes the life of a honeybee step by step, and every step shows you the wonder of the process. From birth to death the bee works hard and loves its job. It has a secret, too: humans have not been able to find the recipe for honey. There are many things to learn.

The enthusiasm of the prose and the cheerful and imaginative illustrations make you breeze through the book and encourage you to begin all over again once you reach the end.

El Bebé is a great introduction to the life of

the bee. Children of all ages will love it, and will hopefully be inspired by it to learn more about bees. I am sure it will make all of us enjoy every drop of honey we eat even more. Read this book!

—Esther Celis, from Mexico, is our Spanish editor

One Child by Christopher Cheng. Elementary grades. \$14.95. Crocodile/Interlink Publishing, www.interlinkbooks.com.

"One child saw the trees torn from the ground; saw oceans stained with waste, no longer blue and clean; saw skies choking, blocking the sun."

What can one person do about the devastation of our planet? One child whispered, "I know what I can do."

One Child demonstrates that an individual can make a difference in the restoration of our planet's beauty. Its unique illustrations creatively draw on the imagery of a dirty stained glass window that is gradually cleaned, revealing the underlying color and beauty. Bright, vividly colored pencil drawings bring this story to life.

—Britt Forman, Fine Arts student, Univ. of Oregon