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Puget Sound Council for Reviewing Children's Books

Llewellyn, Claire      KILLER CREATURES      R      Grades 3-6

Part of the series, the Navigators, this vivid book is filled with photographs, drawings, and detailed information of what the title suggests: killer creatures. Sensitive readers should be warned that the photographs are sometimes gory, with animals shown killing other animals and blood dripping down their mouths. Each page spread shows accurate information about the animals, quotations from books about that animal, and web links, which is perfect for students who have to write an animal report. The book contains a good glossary, an index, and suggestions for further investigations, including websites and other recommended reading.

Mollel, Tololwa M.      THE ORPHAN BOY      R      Grades K-2

A beautifully illustrated re-telling of an East African Massai legend of the night sky and the origin of the planet Venus, the story is about an old man who meets a young orphan boy who changes his life. The boy, Kileken, magically gets morning chores done before the old man wakes up, keeps the lands green, and the cattle fed even in a drought. Despite the boy's warning to avoid discovering his secret, the man's curiosity grows and grows. Will the old man give in to his longing? Originally published in 1990 and the winner of numerous awards, this redesigned edition includes ten new illustrations. The paintings capture the beauty and starkness of East Africa and the text is simple, yet engaging.

Sakai, Komako      THE SNOW DAY      R      Grades preK-1

The Snow Day is a sweet story about a young bunny who wakes up one morning to discover that he has a snow day from kindergarten. Between making snowballs, playing cards with his mom, and listening to the sound of silently falling snow, he's waiting for the snow to stop so he can go play outside. The author studied art in Japan and the artistry is apparent in the illustrations, which include muted colors brightened by touches of yellow and red and focuses on the setting of each scene, whether it's the mom talking to the stranded dad or the mom and son making snow monsters. The story is quiet, capturing the feeling of a snow day perfectly.

Tait, Noel      INSECTS & SPIDERS      R      Grades 3-6

Part of the In-Siders series, this stunning book will captivate readers with the photographic close-ups of insects and the interesting factoids about insects' habitats, body parts, metamorphosis, senses, and food habits. The only drawback is that there isn't detailed information about those facts for every single insect, which would make the book useful as a jumping-off place for an insect report, but not the only source. Divided into four sections: insects, spiders, incredible insects, and spectacular spiders, the book also has a glossary, a detailed index, and a simple diagram of insect and spider families. While the text is aimed at

older elementary school readers, younger readers will enjoy the illustrations and will want to know more about these insects that live among us.

Wright Landolf, Diane

WHAT A GOOD BIG BROTHER!

AD+ Grades preK-1

What a Good Big Brother is a good story for young children who have become big brothers or sisters recently. Cameron wants to know why his baby sister Sadie is crying and learns that sometimes it's because she needs a diaper change, sometimes it's because she's hungry, sometimes because she's sleepy, and sometimes for no reason at all. While the story may seem a bit saccharine at times since Cameron is always a good big brother, the illustrations are brightly colored, close-ups of family members that bring the story to life.