

family, career, awards, and address or contact; and a list of sources—not just books, periodical articles, and Web sites, but filmographies and discographies, when applicable, as well. While ample information on some of these figures can be found easily in a number of reference sources, others—for instance, Daniel Rodríguez, the New York City policeman whose singing moved the crowd at the September 11 memorial—would be more challenging to research. Entertainment and sports personalities abound—but other fields of excellence and endeavor are well represented, too. The figures profiled in all three volumes are indexed in Volume 3 by nationality, occupation, subject, and name. Libraries already owning the first two volumes will appreciate the many important people of Hispanic heritage included here; those without its predecessors will probably find themselves looking to purchase the entire set. **Recommended.** *Catherine M. Andronik, Library Media Specialist, Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk, Connecticut*

Fredriksen, John C.

Biographical Dictionary of Modern World Leaders: 1992 to the Present

2003. 566pp. \$65 hc. *Facts on File, Inc.* 0-8160-4723-5. Grades 9-12

9-12 Readers will find approximately 400 biographical essays that detail the lives and achievements of men and women who have been world leaders from 1992 to the present. The scope of the book covers at least one leader from each of the 190 countries of the world and many heads of state or government of regions that are only nominally independent. Arranged alphabetically, entries include famous world leaders such as Yassar Arafat, Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, and Saddam Hussein, and less known world leaders such as Fernando Cardoso, president of Brazil, John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, Le Kha Phieu, secretary general of Vietnam, and Abdullah II, King of Jordan. The text is scholarly, and offers a balanced blend of biographical facts and the author's personal insights. Biographies vary in length depending on the significance of the subject. Some entries have b&w photographs. Each biographical essay includes the ethnic background, religion, education level, party affiliation and the subject's performance in office. Fredriksen often cites direct quotations. The book concludes with an index of leaders by country, an extensive index, and a bibliography. Although not all of these leaders will be researched, this reference book is a useful resource for those who need current information about world leaders and figures. **Recommended.** *Judith M. Garner, Media Specialist, Rock Hill (South Carolina) High School*

Houghton Mifflin Dictionary of Biography: The Most Comprehensive Coverage, From Ancient Time to the Present Day

Introduced by Justin Kaplan. 2003. 1677pp. \$48 hc. Houghton Mifflin. 0-618-25210-X. Grades 10-12

9-12 This new entry into the world of collective biographies is a sure bet for your

collection. It includes more than 18,000 people from all time periods and fields of interest. Each entry has the person's full name, birth and death dates, nationality, and occupation. The person's life, education, and achievements are detailed and the historical perspective of why the person is important to the time period is given. The subject's name is in bold type but there is no pronunciation guide. There are 300 feature boxes that highlight a variety of noteworthy people, such as Edmund Burke, Sir John Gielgud, and Immanuel Kant. These boxes go into greater detail about the person and include quotations. This will be an excellent purchase for your library; however, one drawback is the small print. Overall, this will be a worthy addition to your collection. **Recommended.** *Harolyn Legg, District Media Specialist, Liberty-Benton High School, Findlay, Ohio*

Journey to Freedom: The African-American Library

Cannarella, Deborah

James Baldwin: African-American Writer and Activist

2004. 40pp. \$19.95 hc. *The Child's World.* 1-56766-531-4. Grades 3-6

K-5 Sixteen years after his death, James **6-8** Baldwin remains one of America's literary giants and is remembered as a crusader whose legacy of words brought a peaceful change in the Civil Rights Movement. This slender volume traces significant milestones in Baldwin's life: his troubled childhood, his expatriation to France and subsequent return to the United States to crusade for social justice for African Americans, and his final years in France. Born in Harlem in 1924, Baldwin sought refuge in books. He quickly discovered that he wanted to be a writer. Despair of the prejudice against African Americans and homosexuals drove him to Paris where he felt accepted. His works established him as a major American author, and crusader for truth about the African-American experience in the United States. Feeling obligated to fight against racial injustice, he returned to the United States. Attractively formatted with a plethora of large b&w and sepia photos, the book catches students' eyes; its short length appeals to nonreaders. A personal timeline, glossary, list of suggested books and Web sites, and index are included. This title will serve biography and Black history units for intermediate grades. Librarians should note that Baldwin's homosexuality is frankly discussed. **Recommended.** *Tena Natale Litherland, Director of Upper and Middle School Library, Webb School, Knoxville, Tennessee [Editor's Note: For a listing of all titles in the series, visit <www.childsworld.com/>.]*

Keenan, Sheila

Scholastic Book of Outstanding Americans: Profiles of More than 450 Famous and Infamous Figures in U.S. History

2003. 256pp. \$19.95 hc. *Scholastic, Inc.* 0-439-28358-2. Grades 7-12

6-8 More than 450 Americans whose lives **9-12** and achievements stand out in our

history during the past five centuries adorn this fascinating and readable book. Each brief profile has a photograph of the person and there are numerous quotations, as well as biographical information students will need for reports. There are also several longer entries. Some of the men and women are very well known and some like Clarence Birdseye—inventor of the frozen dinner, and Ruth Handler—the brains behind the Barbie doll, are less well known but just as interesting. This title has further value because of its content and its easy-to-use alphabetical format. A glossary, selected bibliography, and an index are included. **Recommended.** *Barbara J. McKee, Media Specialist, Streetsboro (Ohio) High School*

Presidential Leaders

2004. 112pp. ea. \$26.60 ea. hc. *Lerner Publishing Group.* Grades 4-8

K-5 Each of these engaging books starts **6-8** with a chapter to raise interest. The president's personal life is intermingled with political and presidential incidents. In Lincoln's case, the author makes the point that Lincoln's formal schooling "did not amount to one year." Readers are lead to wonder how did he become president? The characters of these men are revealed by their actions. Historical events and social issues of the times are included to show readers their impact on the man. Quotations from historical sources and from the men themselves are interspersed. The text is enhanced with color maps and prints from the times. Each volume has a timeline, source notes, bibliography, and further reading, and Web sites for information, as well as an index. **Recommended.** *Louise Miller, Library Media Specialist, Round Valley Middle School, Lebanon, New Jersey [Editor's Note: For a listing of current titles in the series, visit <www.lernerbooks.com>. The series will eventually cover every U.S. president.]*

You Never Knew

Collier, James Lincoln

The Sitting Bull You Never Knew

Illustrated by Greg Copeland. 2003. 80pp. \$24.50 lb. Children's Press (Scholastic Library Publishing). 0-516-24344-6. Grades 4-6

K-5 In this title, the facts and information **6-8** about what life was like for the Native Americans at that time in history is extremely well described. The author's writing draws readers in. The many historical photographs and paintings add color and help explain events. None of the quotations used are cited in the "Author's Note on Sources," making me uncomfortable not knowing the source of these quotes. Otherwise, this would be an outstanding biography for young readers. Index. **Additional Selection.** *Kay Boyes, Children's Librarian, Brandywine Hundred Library, Wilmington, Delaware [Editor's Note: Others profiled in this series include Clara Barton, Frederick Douglass, Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington.]*

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