Annotated & Illustrated Bibliography of Children’s Lighthouse Books

American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee Education Committee

Book Review Authors

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Guest Reviewers from Booklist, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, Amazon, com, and Publisher Reviews

Editor’s Note: While this list is comprehensive, not all children’s lighthouse books are included. If you have a favorite title we omitted, please send us a review. We will update this list periodically.


Some books never lose their appeal. The “Tim” series is among them, combining history with good, old-fashioned adventure. This is a reprint of an older version.

On a wretched stormy night, Tim and his pals discover that the local lighthouse has gone dark. Without its bright beacon, ships can’t steer clear of the rocky coast and will crash into the shore. Tim and his friends row out to the lighthouse, only to find its lightkeeper knocked unconscious and unscrupulous men called wreckers occupying the tower. The men have turned off the light and are waiting to plunder the ships that wreck. While Tim and Charlotte guard the lighthouse, Ginger rows for help. The night is dark and the sea is rough. Will the kids save the lighthouse and the ships? Elinor DeWire

When they discover that their lighthouse is 200 years old, Mr. and Mrs. Grinling decide that a celebration is in order. The community plans an all-night costume party, followed by a birthday breakfast. Mr. and Mrs. Grinling get a bit carried away with their pirate costumes. Will their friends be able to convince them that life as pirates is less appealing than life as lighthouse keepers? Part of a series. **Ruth King**


Hamish, the Grinlings’ cat, is not happy when he’s put on a diet. Misunderstanding that the lighthouse keeper is encouraging him to catch the mice that are overwhelming the lighthouse—not starve him—Hamish sets off to find a new home where he is better appreciated. After several misadventures, Hamish is lured back home by the smell of his favorite dish, specially prepared by Mrs. Grinling. Part of a series. **Ruth King**


When Mr. Grinling locks his cat, Hamish, and the lighthouse key inside the lighthouse, he worries that he’ll be unable to light the beacon for the night. Luckily, Mrs. Grinling remembers that they have a spare key, and together the couple is able to free their cat and ensure that the beam shines brightly for passing ships. Part of a series. **Ruth King**


The Grinling adventures continue when Mr. Grinling and his great-nephew, George, are stranded at the lighthouse on Christmas Eve. Mrs. Grinling is gone and there is no food. There are no Christmas presents either. The boy and his great-uncle wonder if this will be the worst Christmas ever. But then they discover how special it really is. Part of a series. **Elinor DeWire**
Three "Lighthouse Keeper" stories in one book. In "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch," seagulls are stealing Mr Grinling's sandwiches; "The Lighthouse Keeper's Picnic" follows Mr and Mrs Grinling's day out; and in "The Lighthouse Keeper's Cat," the resident moggie decides to leave home. **Publisher Review**


Every day, Mr. Grinling devotedly tends to a pretty red and white striped lighthouse. Always at mid-day, his wife sends him his lunch via a special cable system that runs from the house on shore to the lighthouse on a rock at sea. But when seagulls begin stealing Mr. Grinling’s lunch, the couple must find a way to outsmart the thieving birds. One of their ideas involves their clever cat, Hamish.

This fun story of problem-solving and determination inspired “Lighthouse Kitty,” the mascot of the American Lighthouse Foundation’s “Kids on the Beam.” Part of a series.  **Elinor DeWire**


Stories of lighthouse dogs abound. Yet another canine lighthouse tale unfolds when Mr. Grinling is searching for mermaids and finds a golden-haired siren. A closer looks reveals the mermaid is really a yellow dog! Every lighthouse keeper needs a four-footed, cold-nosed companion, and Mr. Grinling has found one—much to the dismay of his cat, Hamish, already made famous in the Armitage’s earlier books. Part of a series.  **Elinor DeWire**


The Armitages continue their delightful lighthouse series with another fun tale of human interest and lighthouse keeping on the British coast. The back cover of this one reads: “Mr Grinling the lighthouse keeper loves to eat and Mrs Grinling is the best cook in the whole world. She puts on a truly scrumptious spread for the
village picnic, but later on Mr. Grinling wishes he hadn't eaten quite so much....” Part of a series. **Elinor DeWire**


Mr. Grinling knows the lighthouse must always be lit at night. But one night he falls asleep, not once but twice, while rowing across the water on his way to kindle the light. That’s when the trouble begins! Part of a series. **Elinor DeWire**


Now that Sam is assisting Mr. Grinling with his duties, the lighthouse keeper finds that he has too much free time. To stave off boredom, he decides to take up a new hobby. After unsuccessful attempts at cooking, bird-watching, and playing the violin, Mr. Grinling decides to try surfing. There is just one problem—he can’t swim! With the help of local children, Mr. Grinling learns to swim and proves to be a gifted surfer. Vivid illustrations and the comical situations in which Mr. Grinling finds himself during his search for a hobby will amuse young readers. Part of a series. **Ruth King**


The old lighthouse on the coast of Chelton has been in ruins for years. Now, all of a sudden, strange lights are flashing there. Who is doing it, and why? The Suzman and Levine kids, always ready for a new adventure, are eager to find out. The trail they follow leads them on an exciting journey full of secret passageways, fantastic twists and old lost ships. **Publisher Review**

Ruth Benjamin is the author of numerous children’s books. Her Chelton series includes several mystery titles. She is the originator of the “My Little Pony” concept that leapt off the pages of her books into a line of toys. **Elinor DeWire**

The Berenstain Bears are looking forward to an exciting summer vacation by the beach on Gull Island. There's just one problem: Papa neglected to rent a beach house in advance and all of the beach houses are taken! The family ends up in the only house available, an abandoned lighthouse on a nearby island. When the family stops at a store for supplies, the store keeper gives them a book about the area. The book recounts a legend about pirates who sailed the nearby waters and are now rumored to haunt the lighthouse. Sister is scared when she hears this, but Mama and Papa reassure her that there's nothing to worry about. However, once they get to the lighthouse, strange things start to happen. Despite being abandoned for years, the lighthouse's interior is spotless. A clam shell comes clattering down the stairs of the lighthouse tower while the family is eating dinner. A fish shows up in their fishing basket despite the fact that Papa didn't catch anything. Could the lighthouse really be haunted or is there a less sinister explanation? The answer will teach the cubs a lesson in loyalty, bravery and friendship.

Short, easy sentences and large print make this an excellent choice for a child who has mastered easy reader books but might find a traditional chapter book too challenging.

Ruth King


Kindl is a walking, talking symbol of light whose adventures are a blend of historical fact or legend. As Kindl meets events like Groundhog Day, of the symbolic Statue of Liberty, and the Olympic torch, he comes away with a deeper understanding of their significance. It's almost as though Kindl is in search of trivia about the events as much as having a good time. These adventures follow the 3E's to Reading: Education, Entertainment and Enjoyment) with many books having music as well as stories based on events.

In this book, Kindl finds himself an elfkin in Santaville, Santa's workplace. In his rush to help, he loses the bundle going to children of the lighthouses. His forgetfulness sends him in all directions to give a message to the children of the lighthouses. In his travels, he lands in Knowville, where they know everything there is to know. And they know he is not an official elfkin, so won't send him to a lighthouse until getting verification from Santa as to who he is. But Santa is on a practice run to places named Christmas around the world. Kindl learns names of Santa around the world. His travels help him realize that size isn't everything when it comes to being an elf. Mrs. Claus helps him become a true Christmas elfkin who helps Santa solve a lighthouse dilemma.

Publisher Review

George, aged nine, and Timmy the puppy continue their adventures in this exciting story. George has spotted an escaped convict in Kirrin Village. She recognizes his picture from the local paper. But why is he hanging around the boarded-up old lighthouse? George and Timmy don't have a clue until they overhear a secret conversation about a hoard of stolen jewels... These prequels are an ideal lead up to the Famous Five books for contemporary 7-10 year old readers. George was Enid Blyton's favorite and most fully realized character, whom she based on herself. Timmy was based on her own spaniel, Laddie.

Publisher Review


Spending the Christmas season with his aunt on a "damp little island somewhere off the country's upper left-hand corner," Red discovers that the reclusive, ill, and ancient man living nearby is Santa Claus. Red (short for his hero Buck Tweed, the Red Ranger of Mars) is too jaded to believe in Santa, and yet when the Santa asks him to believe, he tries. On Christmas morning, hoping against hope for his heart's desire, a Buck Tweed bicycle, Red finds instead a treasure unlooked for, within himself. While Breathed, author/artist of the cartoon strip "Bloom County," often seems to look over the heads of children to wink at the adults in the audience, there's enough that's childlike to keep kids involved, whether it’s the reassuring homeliness of the hero or his wholehearted longing for the bicycle. The extraordinary, full-color illustrations seem three-dimensional and will intrigue children and adults alike. A most original Christmas book.

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Berkeley Breathed based this book on a bicycle stuck in a tree on Vashon-Maury Island in Puget Sound, a place he lived for a time in his youth. The lighthouse featured in the story is Point Robinson Lighthouse. Although the illustrations of the lighthouse bear little resemblance to the real Point Robinson Light, the flavor of the book is distinctly Vashonian—a bit Bohemian mixed with mischief and mystery. Visitors to the island can find the now-famous "bicycle in the tree" just north of the intersection of Vashon Highway (the island’s main two-lane road) and Cemetery Road. The tree has grown into the frame of the bike. After reading the story and finding the bike, a visit to the lighthouse adds more fun to the post-reading adventure.

Elinor DeWire


Brett (The Mitten; Armadillo Rodeo), a Massachusetts resident, stays close to home with this latest book, setting it on Nantucket. Capturing the island's rustic charm, her characteristically bustling, elaborately bordered art showcases weathered shingle buildings, a gray-blue sea and shell-sprinkled beaches. Comet, the
protagonist, appears to be just about the sole feline in a Nantucket otherwise populated by nattily dressed canines. In search of a home as well as adventure the roaming cat meets with peril. Snoozing in a bookstore, he is buried under a pile of books; taking a ride on a scallop boat, he's swept overboard by a huge wave; visiting an ice cream shop, he falls headfirst into a milkshake. Though some of these scenarios have comic potential, all eight of them prove fatal to poor Comet, whose ghostlike, winged image is in each case seen fleeing the scene. Brett, of course, makes it all better in the end; observant readers will have noticed that Comet isn't the island's only cat: side panels throughout show another cat in obvious search of a companion. Though not the author/artist's most finely wrought story, the book delivers a visual treat her fans (and Nantucket admirers) shouldn't miss. Publishers Weekly

Jan Brett’s fabulous artwork is what makes this book so beguiling! Every illustration is rich with details kids will love and, collectively, the illustrations truly capture the flavor and color of Nantucket. (That’s quaint little Brandt Point on the cover!) The text is slightly weak—more so than other Jan Brett stories, like The Hat—but the moral of the story is worldly: Keep searching for your place in the scheme of things, even through adversity, and you’ll find it. I’ve met several cats named Comet who owe their moniker to this book. Elinor DeWire


Imagine a snowy evening on a distant island a hundred years ago. The lighthouse keeper and his family are warm and secure. All around the island, every creature is settling in for the night—the farm animals in the barn, the wild creatures in their burrows, and the children in a warm bed, watched over by loving parents. In soothing cadences and exquisitely rendered illustrations, Kelly Paul Briggs recalls a time of simple pleasures and carries readers of all ages to that wonderful moment when it’s time to pull up the covers and look forward to a night’s sleep and a bright new day.

Ms. Briggs’ childhood included many visits to Maine islands. She has sailed extensively in Penobscot bay and currently lives in the coastal town of Camden, Maine. Lighthouse Depot Review

Creatively composed of minuscule dots and razor-thin lines, Briggs's pointillistic, pastel-toned pictures give this gentle book its luster. Inspired by the true story of a lighthouse keeper who lived on a Maine island 100 years ago, the middling verse and intimate paintings offer a snapshot of his family's life on a seaside farm during a snowy winter. Only three scenes feature the ocean: an introductory image of the exterior of the lighthouse, the father standing guard in the lighthouse tower and, lastly, a schooner passing the lighthouse at night. More often, the volume focuses on the warmth of the farmhouse's cozy interior and the contrasting snow-filled outdoors: "Island home built snug and true/ Where the stone hearth's fire glows./ Mama bakes while Papa leaves/ To
bring the flock in from the snow." Youngsters will likely be drawn to the cherubic son who accompanies his father as he ushers sheep, goats and a horse into the barn and then snuggles with both parents before settling into his quilt-covered bed. Though Briggs's poetry has a suitably lulling cadence, the rhyme scheme sometimes stumbles (e.g., home/stone; scenes/dreams). Still, this pleasing period portrait should have considerable appeal for sea lovers everywhere. Publishers Weekly

This book was inspired by lonely Boon Island Lighthouse, a tall masonry tower nine miles off the coast of Southern Maine. Getting ready for bed on a snowy night at a lighthouse becomes a boy’s lullaby. Elinor DeWire


A boy growing up with his foster father on a lighthouse off the coast of Maine discovers that his cloistered life hardly prepares him for going ashore to school. He is mocked and jeered by his classmates for being different and meets the school bully and other memorable characters. He discovers his life as lighthouse child has equipped him, in many ways, to deal with things his peers cannot. But how can he make them understand his way of seeing the world? Will he ever find any friends? Eventually, he befriends and helps a few others who, like himself, don’t seem to fit in.

Some young readers will relate to the main character’s identity and acceptance struggles. Long out of print, this excellent story is available in libraries and from used booksellers. Elinor DeWire


When an old lighthouse named Lindy discovers she is being replaced by a brand-new, brighter lighthouse, her self-esteem starts to fade. When everyone abandons her, Lindy quickly begins to doubt herself and her value to the sea. The day a destructive hurricane hits the shore, tried-and-true Lindy knows she must prove her worth to the townspeople. They soon learn that the new lighthouse may not be as dependable as old Lindy. Author Gloria Dean Butler was inspired to write Lighthouse Lindy by her son, Patrick. Through this delightful children’s story, she teaches that self-worth is defined by your spirit and not by your possessions, and demonstrates that working together to build a friendship, despite differences, is more important than the material things in life. Publisher Review

In this tender story inspired by a popular lighthouse legend, Toni Buzzeo gives the reader a timeless tale about the meaning of family and the unique bond shared by sisters. As her great-great-niece sits close beside her, holding a worn photograph of a baby, Aunt Maita tells the young girl the story of her life at Sanctuary Island. When Aunt Maita was ten years old, she was a lonely only child living at a lighthouse in Maine. During a particularly violent winter storm, Maita and her parents stay up all night; her father tending the light while Maita and her mother watch and worry as a ship tries to make safe passage through the churning seas. Despite their best efforts, the ship is lost to the sea.

The next day, Maita and her father go down to the shoreline to search for sea glass. Instead of bits of colored glass, they find a bundle of mattresses that washed ashore from the ship that was lost in the night. Within the mattresses they find a wooden chest; within the chest they find a baby girl. Her parents’ last act was to bundle her in the sea chest and hope that their daughter would survive. Maita names the baby Seaborne, and her parents raise the girl as their own. Seaborne sleeps in the sea chest that protected her until she grows too large for it.

As the years pass, Maita is delighted to have a sister to share with; she's no longer a lonely little girl wishing for a friend. Aunt Maita finishes her story and her young niece looks at the old sea chest. It is now waiting to be used for a new occupant: "the tiny stranger my mama and papa have gone to fetch from so far across the wide Atlantic. To be my sister."

Beautifully illustrated by Mary GrandPre (best known for her work on the Harry Potter series), this lyrical story of adoption and sisterly love is not to be missed. Ruth King


As an editor at PepperMill Press, I reviewed The Adventures of Port Herman Lighthouse and I must say it was a delight to read. I grew up in Michigan and love lighthouses. This story makes you cheer for Herman and also appreciate the treasure of lighthouses and how they shine proudly "FOR EVERY SINGLE ONE!" Jackie Oliveras

This rhyming story is based on Point Hueneme Lighthouse in California. Rose Castro-Bran is a Coast Guard Auxiliarist who has researched the lighthouse extensively and gives public tours of the facility. Her love of lighthouses, and this one in particular, inspired her to write this wonderful little book about a lighthouse who realizes he’s different than others but who learns that he’s still very important. Elinor DeWire

This is a poignant story of life on a Hudson River lighthouse in the Great Depression, but more so it’s a tale of a family trying to cope with the sudden and inexplicable loss of a mother. Told through the viewpoint of the keeper’s 13-year-old daughter, Weezie (short for Louise), the book brings to light the loneliness, tedium, and hardship of living on a water-bound sentinel where the only tie to the mainland is a boat and the sight of shore a half-mile away.

The keeper’s wife grows so bored, restless, and unhappy with her confined life and the lighthouse, which she thinks is ugly, that one day she leaves her family, thinking she’ll find a better lot elsewhere. The keeper and his children do their best to continue as a family without her. They depend on each other and share the tasks the mother once did, but they have trouble with their sequestered existence too. Weezie anxiously fetches the mail each day after school, sure her mother will send a letter saying she’ll return soon. Her little brother often cries for his mother, but the older brother staidly insists she’s gone forever.

A single Christmas card arrives one winter, signed. “Love, Mother.” It gives Weezie hope for a time, but gradually, the children realize their mother will never come home. Later, in a boating accident, one of the sons drowns. The keeper and his remaining two children cling to each other and continue on.

The author does not sanitized or sugar-coated lighthouse life. The reader senses this story may have taken place—historical fiction with the names changed. The setting is the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, a caisson sentinel, and the story appropriately begins in autumn, a time of dying away and coming darkness. This book does not end happily ever after, but it does offer a satisfying ending on a note of hope. This is one of my favorite lighthouse books for children. **Elinor DeWire**


Superbly researched and written, this biography of Robbins Reef Lighthouse keeper, Katie Walker, captures the strength, tenacity, and sturdiness of lightkeeping wives everywhere. Katie Walker took over the duties at a New York Harbor lighthouse after the death of her husband, Jacob Walker. His parting words to her as he lay on his deathbed were: “Mind the light, Katie!” The Lighthouse Service deemed her too small to do the work, but Katie fought for the job and got it.

This tiny dynamo of a woman served many years as lightkeeper, rowing back and forth to Staten Island as needed for groceries and to visit her grown children and her husband’s grave. Her lonely existence was punctuated only by occasional visits from ships’ crews, curious boaters, and the Lighthouse Service inspector. She once rescued a
little dog from a shipwreck and adopted him for a short time, only to lose him when his owner discovered his whereabouts and came to the lighthouse to fetch him.

This is an excellent biography to read for Women’s History Month. Not all lighthouse wives were so dedicated and tough. Katie Walker set the bar high. Her story is heartwarming and inspiring. She was honored by the U.S. Coast Guard in the naming of a Keeper Class buoy tender, the Katie Walker, based in New York. Elinor DeWire Copeland, Cynthia L. Elin’s Island. Brookfiled, CT: Millbrook Press, 2003.

Thirteen-year-old Elin is the daughter of a lighthouse keeper and his wife on the coast of Maine. Her parents adopted her after she washed ashore in a box from a shipwreck. She loves her littoral home and thinks she will live there forever in peace and happiness. Her parents have homeschooled her and are protective of her. However, events within the family and in the world at large change her life. Her mother becomes dangerously ill, and her father must take the mother to a mainland hospital. He leaves the lighthouse in Elin’s care. Meanwhile, enemy submarines begin prowling off the shore. Elin’s tranquil existence plunges into worry and fear.

An amalgamation of true-to-life stories from lighthouse history, woven into world events of the day, this tale is well written and gives children a glimpse of coastal lighthouse life during World War II. Elinor DeWire Costopoulos, Nina. Lighthouse Ghosts and Legends. Birmingham, AL: Crane Hill, 2003.

Steeped in history, it is no surprise that lighthouses find themselves so closely linked to ghost stories. The author recounts haunting tales from lighthouses, such as Maine’s Cape Neddick Nubble Light, the Alcatraz Island Lighthouse, Owl’s Head Lighthouse and New London Ledge Light, which is home to the most notable lighthouse ghost, an entity that has come to be known as Ernie. Visitor information for the featured lighthouses is provided. Ruth King Lighthouse ghosts sometimes seem to outshine the true history of the lighthouses they inhabit. There is a surfeit of books on lighthouse ghosts, and sooner or later, all children find at least one of these fun tomes. This one is about as good as any on the market. Ghost tales are deliciously entertaining, and what makes them valuable in education is the factual background material that can be learned from them. Learn about a lighthouse ghost, and you’re apt to learn about the lighthouse and keepers too!

I tell lighthouse ghost stories to grab children’s interest in lighthouses and then use the supernatural aspect as a springboard for learning the true stories. I am always careful to remind children that lighthouses are the perfect places for ghost tales to emerge, but no proof exists for them and they are most likely figments of overactive
imaginations and senses. Lighthouses stand in perilous places, operate in the dark at the edge of the sea, are full of peculiar sounds, smells, and shadows, and terrible shipwrecks and drowning sometimes occurs at their feet. Lighthouses stir the imagination!

A book like Lighthouse Ghosts and Legends can be fun for kids and may encourage them to learn more about lighthouses or visit lighthouses. It also might trigger questions parents and children can discuss, such as: “Are ghosts real?”

Elinor DeWire


Suffering from nightmares about her fisherman father adrift on stormy seas, a little girl decides to build a lighthouse. In her imagination, she piles wooden blocks into a tower reaching the sky, and she plucks a star, a light to guide her father home. The final illustration shows her bedroom window, where a small candle glows softly in the dark.

Portuguese artist Cunha brings to the illustrations a cartoonist’s strong, purposeful lines as well as rich colors and a good sense of how to use them. Translated from the Portuguese, the story is both simple and subtle, acknowledging that children (and even adults) sometimes fear for their loved ones during a separation. For the many little ones dealing with the absence of a parent who may be in peril on the sea or on land, this beautifully illustrated book brings comfort not by solving the problem but by recognizing it and lighting a small beacon of hope.

Booklist


Jules is a Bernese Mountain dog with nothing to do. He lives at a lighthouse but there's not much for a dog to do there other than howl at the sea. Jules tries to think of jobs he might be good at: Show dog? He gets stage fright. Avalanche rescue dog? There are no mountains or snow on the island. Sheep dog? He's allergic to wool and would get too tired chasing after sheep all day. When he can't come up with a career for himself, Jules mopes. As a fog rolls in, he decides to practice his howling, which sounds more like a "Moo!" than a regular dog's bark. He howls so loud that passing ships are able to hear him and steer clear of the rocks, despite the poor visibility. Jules is hailed as a hero for his service and decides that being a lighthouse dog is the perfect job for him. Jules is based on a real dog that lived at Pt. Loma Lighthouse in San Diego.

Ruth King

Jules believes that he is just perfect. He's just the right height to see over a wall, he's the perfect weight to withstand being knocked over by the ocean wind, his beautiful coat is ideally suited for warmth, and he has a howl that can be heard for miles. He thinks he’s perfectly suited for his job as a lighthouse dog!

One day Jules visits a dog park and sees all sorts of different dogs. Jules is sad that these dogs aren't perfect like he is, until he notices that these dogs can do things that he can't. Some of the dogs can run faster than Jules. Others are stronger and are able to lift heavier objects than he can. The smaller dogs can fit into places that Jules is too big to enjoy. Is it possible that Jules isn't "just perfect" after all? After some thought, Jules realizes that being "just perfect" isn't how fast you can run or how high you can jump; it's being happy with who you are and what you can accomplish.

The art in this book is better and more consistent than the art in first Jules book, Jules the Lighthouse Dog. However, the book is too heavy-handed in getting its message across. The overuse of the word "perfect" and Jules' initial arrogant attitude towards dogs that differ from him may send the wrong message to young children. Ruth King
Who doesn’t love a good animal tale? I’ve been collecting lighthouse animal stories since 1972. It seemed every lighthouse I researched or visited had an animal story to tell. In 2006 I decided the four-footed, furry, feathered, and slithery lightkeepers deserved their own book.

Students from about fourth grade up will enjoy this collection of true tales from around the world. Meet Jinx the dog, who was afraid of the ghostly sounds inside St. Simons Lighthouse, and Jiggs the cat, who lived at several lighthouses and is buried at Point Pinos Light. Old Bill and Patty were mules that worked on Farallon Island Light. Mr. & Mrs. Pete were the arctic foxes fed and loved by the keepers at Cape St. Elias Lighthouse, Alaska. Stories like these, and more tales of cows, birds, and wild animals are included. The narrative is written anecdotal-style. Antique postcards, historic photos, and modern-day images compliment the text.

Elinor DeWire

Edgar Font, an eccentric adventurer, decides that when he dies he wants to haunt a house as unusual as he is. The hunt for Edgar’s home in the hereafter begins when his grandchildren, Audrey and Garrett, visit him over summer break from school. They find an abandoned lighthouse they think might be perfect for their grandfather to haunt someday, but the place is full of riddles, ghosts, mysteries, and danger. To escape the lighthouse unharmed, the children must free the spirit of a young girl using clues and information they learn as the story progresses. The first book in a series.

Elinor DeWire

High above the crashing waves on the rugged west coast of Canada stands the lighthouse Nell calls home. It's a tiny world, just the ocean in front and the rainforest in back, but she loves every inch. So when Nell's father wants to send her away to school in Victoria, she refuses to go. Nell decides to become so helpful to her father that he can't send her away. Her big chance comes when the government runs a telegraph line though the forest, connecting the isolated lighthouses. Nell studies the Morse code manual, teaching herself how to be a telegraph operator. And her study pays off the night she sends an S.O.S. for a stricken ship, aground on the rocks. She feels like a hero, until the telegraph
tells her that the rescue went terribly wrong. What is the use of talking to other people if they can't help? Nell is through with rescues. But early one morning after a terrible storm, she sees yet another ship run aground in the Graveyard of the Pacific. Nell has to get help, but the storm has taken the telegraph lines down. All alone at the lighthouse, is there nothing she can do?

This title is based on two famous west coast shipwrecks. In January 1906, the Valencia, carrying over 100 passengers and 65 crew, missed the turn into Juan de Fuca Strait and ran aground on the west coast of Vancouver Island. A mere eleven months later the Coloma followed. It was a deadly year for the Graveyard of the Pacific, one that spurred the government to build the West Coast Lifesaving Trail as a rescue route for shipwrecked mariners. Publisher Review.


Who Sees the Lighthouse? starts out well with a wonderful rhyming cadence (“Swirl around, twirl around. / The narrow beam / Slices the night. / Who sees the light?”) and beautiful illustrations. The book counts different things that can see the lighthouse's beams (One sailor, two pilots, three seagulls) but it seems as though the author ran out of nautical-related items by number seven (cats). The pages featuring numbers eight and nine are even more of a stretch: ghost pirates and aliens also use the light to guide them on their way. The unrealistic departure is made more improbable by the fact that all of the beacons pictured in the book are real United States lighthouses. Cape Hatteras Light, Heceta Head Light, Split Rock Lighthouse, Pigeon Point Light and seven other lighthouses are beautifully depicted by illustrator Giles Laroche. Young children will probably be too engaged by the colorful illustrations and rhyming text to notice the implausibility of aliens and ghosts needing a lighthouse. Ruth King


When a young horse on the Outer Banks of North Carolina notices the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, his grandfather tells him the story of Kinnakeet, a horse who assisted shipwrecked sailors before the light was constructed. This colorful picture book nicely blends fiction with the history of the Outer Banks lighthouses. Ruth King

The U.S. Lifesaving Service and U.S. Lighthouse Service worked hand in hand before they became part of the present-day U.S. Coast Guard. This book blends the two services nicely, detailing how the lighthouses were intended to prevent shipwreck, but when it occurred the lifesavers came to the rescue. Horses were hardworking members of
lifesaving and lighthouse crews, as well common to the Outer Banks as wild herds, so it's appropriate that the authors chose a horse to tell the story. Kinnakeet, the name of the main character, is also a local place name and the name given to a lifesaving station on the Outer Banks. **Elinor DeWire**


Gibbons combines clear, colorful illustrations with lucid, simple text in tracing the history of lighthouses in this country. The important role of these "beacons of light" from the earliest lighthouse in Boston harbor to those existing today is outlined. Mention is also made of the lonely, sometimes arduous life of lighthouse keepers and their families, who lived year-round on these isolated outposts. Gibbons details in depth how the sources of light changed over the centuries, from the earliest oil-fueled wick lamps to modern electricity-powered signals. **School Library Journal**


A charming little story about a young tugboat named Toot and his father, who take a trip together to Maine to visit some friends. As they chug Down East, Toot's father explains to him that to find his way back home, he must remember the landmarks that he sees on the way, including lighthouses. Sure enough, Little Toot needs the advice. He meets a new friend named Bob and they go exploring together. Darkness comes and neither of the little tugs knows how to get back home. But Toot remembers the landmarks, and with the help of a lighthouse he soon discovers which way is home. Both little tugs receive a stern warning from their parents about wandering away without telling where they are going.

Young children will find the lesson of the lost tugboats memorable and will enjoy the colorful illustrations by Mark Weber. **Elinor DeWire**


*The Lighthouse Summer* is book two of *The Velvet Bag Memoirs*. The story opens during a summer vacation in which nine-year-old twins Asa and Prentiss Fallmark spend time with their eccentric aunt, Eugenia. She lives at a lighthouse in Serendipity with her granddaughters and the twins’ cousins Sandy and Twinkletoes. The brother and sister discover that they are part of a rare breed, human sprites, and learn how to use their special powers. They meet
many new friends, who provide the children with adventures in which they must use their minds and imaginations to overcome conflict. Explorations take them through an aquifer to an oasis in the middle of a desert, and to the discovery of treasure belonging to a good pirate, Barnabus Crimp. The twins emerge from the summer a little older and much wiser, looking forward to the hints they receive regarding next summer’s adventures.

**Publisher Review**


Magical, wistful illustrations and distinctive prose help narrate the story of Kate, a lighthouse attendant who lives on a small island far out at sea. Day in and day out it rains on the cloudy island, making it perpetually dark and preventing the islanders from seeing the sun or moon. Their only light is the circling beam of the lighthouse. When Kate and her friend Tom climb above the cloud cover, they discover an expansive blue sky and golden sun. Soon, all the islanders wonder at the spectacle. Teaching children how to think creatively to solve problems, this encouraging story illustrates the rewards of working as a team to reach goals and realize dreams. **Publisher Review**


The Dawson Creek teens of TV series fame meet a lighthouse ghost in this first book in the Dawson Creek suspense series, written by two of the TV series writers. Assigned to work at an oceanographic institute for the summer, their job is to give tours of an old dilapidated lighthouse. They quickly discover they aren’t the only ones aiming to entertain visitors. Joey begins hearing the voice of a little girl. Who is she and what does she want?

Suitable for teens, this is a page-turner. Younger children may find it too scary. The lighthouse facts are few but those mentioned are fairly accurate. **Elinor DeWire**


Little Doris Hanson lived in the lighthouse on Chambers Island, Wisconsin, every summer from the age of 11 days to 10 years. Doris's father, Sam O. Hanson, was the assistant lighthouse keeper in the early 1900's. What was it like to live on a remote island in a lighthouse?

Doris tells of her adventures and unique experiences of a
young girl living in just such a place for much of her childhood. Having lost her mother at the age of 3, Doris was forced to learn the importance of having loving relationships with the rest of her family. Her experiences shaped her life and taught her self-reliance. This is the story of one summer on the island. **Publisher Review**


Part of the popular Dear America series, *A Light in the Storm* chronicles a year in the life of a 16-year-old girl at the start of the Civil War. Amelia Martin begins her diary in the final days of 1860. Amelia is the daughter of a lighthouse keeper on Fenwick Island, Delaware. The reader experiences the events that led to the Civil War through Amelia's eyes. She is very distressed when South Carolina secedes from the Union and wonders what that will mean for President-Elect Abraham Lincoln. The conflict also has a much more personal effect on Amelia and her family. Amelia's parents are bitterly divided over the issue of slavery, which creates a very tense home life. Her mother is also prone to depression and Amelia struggles to understand her mother's sudden mood changes.

As war becomes inevitable, Amelia's friend Daniel enlists in the Union army. Amelia worries for his safety and anxiously anticipates his letters from the front. The other lighthouse keeper at Fenwick Island also enlists, and a new keeper with a large family takes his place. Their joyful home life is a stark contrast to the tension present in Amelia's family.

Eventually, writing in her diary during the nightly watch is one of the few things that bring Amelia peace. She worries about the uncertain future of the country as well as the toll the conflict will take on her parents' marriage: "I feel as if I am the Light in my family. I must keep my hope burning, so that Father and Mother, even in the darkness that seems to engulf them, might find their way back."

Amelia's diary, though fictional, is very moving. *A Light in the Storm* provides a unique look at life in Delaware during the early days of the Civil War. Delaware permitted slavery but never joined the Confederacy. Amelia's voice is compelling and young people will be able to relate to her hopes and fears. The book includes an interesting and informative appendix of historical information related to the story. **Ruth King**

The setting is Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Delaware. The main character is Amelia, also called “Wickie” because she works as her father’s assistant lighthouse keeper. She relates through her journal entries the daily life and the political times in 1861. Amelia’s mother is very discontent living at an isolated lighthouse and there is frequent reference to the friction between her mother and father. **Libby Anderson**

After a fierce storm destroys their lighthouse home, Sam and Rose must find a way for their beloved seagulls to find their new home on the mainland. Part of the popular “I Can Read” series, the rhyming text and short sentences make this an excellent selection for a child who is just learning to read. **Ruth King**

Sam and Rose live in a lighthouse where they have names for all the gulls. A storm wrecks their lighthouse and when they relocate they put a light on their ordinary house so that the gulls (their lighthouse children) can always find them. **Libby Anderson**


Written in diary format, *Birdie’s Lighthouse* tells the story of ten-year-old Birdie Holland. When her father is appointed lighthouse keeper at secluded Turtle Island, Birdie must leave behind the only life she’s ever known. As seasons pass, Birdie comes to love life at the light. After her father becomes ill during a northeaster, Birdie is the only person who can keep the light shining. Her valiant work saves her brother’s ship from hitting the rocks. Drawing from tales of real-life lighthouse heroines, this fictional story captures the period perfectly. Pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations bring the story to life. **Ruth King**


Science and lighthouse history blend nicely in this activity book. Aimed at ages 9 and up, the book explains the different types of lighthouses and their purposes, details how they were constructed and sheds light on the science that kept the beacons burning. The projects include simple crafts, such as making a lighthouse keeper’s cap to more advanced scientific experiments like making your own brass polish. The instructions for the activities are clear and concise, making this an excellent choice for educators. Extensive resources include recommended web sites, organizations, places to visit, a glossary and a selected bibliography. **Ruth King**

Katherine House is to be commended for assembling a usable collection of thoughtful educational activities for upper elementary and middle school students. All the disciplines are represented, including the often overlooked math and science activities. Solid background information is provided for all activities, and there are ample pictures and illustrations. Demos are easy for most students to assemble and do, but some will require adult help. This is a must for all educators! **Elinor DeWire**

Little Henry the mouse loves helping the lighthouse keeper care for the light. But one night he’s on his own. The keeper is gone and Henry must keep the light himself. He’s just a small mouse in a big lighthouse. But he knows what to do! This is a wonderful story to buoy the confidence of any child who feels small and unimportant.

Comically, it reminded me of the 1955 cartoon in which Sylvester the cat lives with a lighthouse keeper and is put in charge of guarding the light, which the little mouse in the story tries to unplug! **Elinor DeWire**


Kate is the daughter of a lighthouse keeper living on an isolated island off the coast of Maine in the 1870s. To fill her lonely existence, she daydreams about mermaids and draws pictures of them. Her father grows weary of Kate’s merfolk obsession and decides she must learn how to be his assistant at the lighthouse. His instruction proves useful in winter when the family's food runs low and he must leave the island and row his dory to the mainland for supplies.

Kate's mother is pregnant, so Kate must take over the keeper's job. Drama unfolds as a terrible storm blows in and Kate’s father cannot return safely to the lighthouse. Her mother’s birth labor begins and a shipwreck is eminent. Will Kate be able to rescue the castaways and care for her mother, the new baby, and the lighthouse too?

This story has obvious similarities to the true tale of Abbie Burgess of Matinicus Rock Lighthouse and the terrible storm of 1851. Abbie cared for an invalid mother and younger siblings, while keeping the lighthouse and battling a storm. Elements of various other Maine lighthouse tales are incorporated into the fictional tale.

Kathleen Karr is a noted children’s author who develops educational materials to complement her books. **Elinor DeWire**


Whether she's spearing eels with her brothers or exploring the shoreline with renegade Ralph, Eliza Charity Brown, 16, is not easily contained by the tedium of life at Stepping Stones Lighthouse off the coast of Long Island. In the tumultuous year beginning in September, 1903, she experiences great loss, liberation from her routine, and heart-wrenching romance with a feckless dreamer. She also encounters the strict social expectations of a traditional community, where young women do not go
abroad at night or think independently. Liza does both, and consequently is expelled from her beloved school. When she sees a loveless marriage as her only viable option, she is rescued, at the last moment, by a job offer that takes her away from the closed society of City Island.

The plot is engaging and enriched with substantial historical detail, bringing time and place vividly to light. While the resolution may strain credibility, it is effectively presented and satisfying. Liza's personality is vibrant and irresistible; secondary characters are varied and multidimensional. Formal diction is appropriate for the narrative and, in contrast, the dialogue is more natural. Overall, this is an outstanding book with a truly contemporary heroine in a historical setting. Readers of L.M. Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables" series will find in Liza a kindred spirit. *School Library Journal*


During the War of 1812, sisters Abbie and Rebecca Bates are tending Scituate Light while their father makes a brief trip to shore. When a British warship arrives in the harbor, the girls must think quickly to protect their home. Armed with only a fife and drum, the girls play “Yankee Doodle Dandy.” The British, fearing what they assume is the imminent approach of American soldiers, retreat and never return to Scituate Light. Abbie and Rebecca are later hailed as heroines in the community. Krensky uses the sisters’ own words (gleaned from later accounts of the incident) for the dialogue. Vibrant illustrations enrich the retelling of this classic lighthouse legend, although the depiction of the British soldiers as sneering villains is too stereotypical and does not match the style of the rest of the art. *Ruth King*


Beautifully illustrated, this charming story written in pleasant rhyme tells of a stormy night when a lighthouse goes dark and fireflies come to the rescue. The fireflies learn about love, trust, and friendship, and the lighthouse family learns about the beautiful natural nightlights of Lake Michigan—glowworms and fireflies. Though the tale is imaginary, the story is rife with good information about the era of staffed lighthouses and their families. If you remember catching fireflies on summer nights in childhood, you’ll love this one! Lewis used Point Betsie Lighthouse in Michigan as her setting. Frey’s ethereal illustrations and firefly faces are priceless. *Elinor DeWire*

This is a rhyming book that tells of a young lighthouse boy’s capture of fireflies. He releases the “king” of the fireflies from captivity so that this insect can lead all the
other fireflies to safety during a storm. The fireflies return later to “light” the Fresnel lens when the keeper could not get it to shine. Libby Anderson


With mixed emotions, fifteen-year-old Ida Lewis said good-bye to the little house on Spring Street on a sunny June day in 1857. Though her new home would still be in Newport, Rhode Island, it sat on a tiny outcropping of rocks out in the harbor, completely surrounded by water. Ida's father, Captain Hosea Lewis, was the keeper of the Lime Rock Light. The new lighthouse was big enough for the entire family of six. Then just four months later, tragedy struck. Captain Lewis was no longer able to man the lighthouse. Responsibility for keeping the lifesaving beacon aglow soon fell on Ida's young shoulders. It was an awesome task, but she was determined to do a good job. She knew sailors would be depending on her for their safety. As time went on, plenty more people would have petite, amazing Ida Lewis to thank for their lives. Publisher Review


Lobel's beautiful watercolor-and-gouache paintings are the heart of this concept book, which is divided into three "chapters." The first section shows a different pair of shoes in a different color for each day of the week. The middle section introduces the months of the year via the activities and antics of a cat named Nini. The final section is a seaside counting exercise from "ONE lighthouse" to "TEN trees bent in the wind. And ONE HUNDRED stars and ONE moon lit up the sky." Although there is no story line per se, the book combines text and illustration quite successfully and really works. There is humor and repetition throughout, and Nini appears on each double-page spread even when she is not the focus of attention. The artwork provides the essential information and adds richness and texture through the use of bold colors and detailed brushwork. This is a fresh approach to the concepts covered, and has great visual appeal. School Library Journal


An adaptation by Allison Sage of the original Hugh Lofting tale in the Dr. Doolittle series, the story centers on a lone seagull who warns the good doctor that Cape Stephens Lighthouse has gone dark. In Lofting’s typical, peculiarly anthropomorphized manner, Dr. Doolittle and the animals save the day. Elinor DeWire

The life of a lighthouse keeper's daughter can be lonely, especially when her father is transferred to a lighthouse far from the mainland. As Sarah and her family approach their new home, she thinks it is like a desert, despite being surrounded with seemingly endless water. The child is startled by the bleakness; her mother becomes seriously depressed by the lack of her beloved flowers. To rescue her, young Sarah makes a plan to bring a garden to the barren ledge. Based on a true lighthouse garden, this gentle story of love and adaptation off the coast of Maine is a family snapshot of finding contentment in harsh surroundings. While the story is predictable and the text is a bit stiff, the tale is worth telling. Warner's watercolors are at their best when showing the flowers. Although facial expressions seem awkward, the artist successfully uses contrast between water and ledge, hard and soft, bleakness and beauty to add dimension to the story. *School Library Journal*


Pete and his friends on Michigan's Mackinac Island find themselves fascinated by the legends and rumors about an old lighthouse on nearby Round Island and about its former keeper, who may or may not still be a presence there. Intrigued, the four teens pack a lunch, borrow a dinghy, ride over, and explore-and then find their belongings scattered and a note telling them to go away. Instead of being scared off, they decide to find out what is going on and, in so doing, become involved in a dangerous robbery plot. Readers who are unfamiliar with the area will probably miss some of the subtleties, but will still be able to follow the rather simplistic story line. Written in the style of a Hardy Boys mystery, the plot moves forward at an even pace; at the end, the ghost of the lighthouse keeper intervenes to help save the teens from a fire set by the thieves, a device that seems contrived. None of the characters is particularly well developed, and the author seems to assume that readers are familiar with them from previous books. Sketches of island landmarks decorate chapter openings. Not a first purchase, but an adequate mystery that might have regional interest. *School Library Journal*

In the first volume of a science fiction/fantasy trilogy, 13-year-old Jamie and his mother move from Harlem to Ireland after they inherit an island estate. Jamie has become selectively mute after losing his left arm to bone cancer, but views the move as a chance for a fresh start. He quickly befriends a local boy named Ramsay. While exploring the lighthouse on Muck Island, the boys find a device that transports them to the world of Altair, where Jamie’s arm is once again whole and he can speak. Book one of three. **Ruth King**


Jamie O’Neill is back on earth, where no one but his best friend, Ramsay, knows he’s the hero of a great war that saved an alien nation. Now he’s back to being a kid with one arm, no girlfriend, and a band that plays bad songs about intergalactic romance. Then news breaks on the Internet: A space probe has picked up a coded message from far across the galaxy. NASA’s best scientists can’t figure out what it says. Only Jamie and Ramsay realize it’s a message from Altair. They’re needed again.

This thrilling sequel to *The Lighthouse Land* is packed with even more adventure, battles, and humor than its predecessor, and secures Adrian McKinty’s place as one of science fiction’s most exciting new voices. Book two of three. **Publisher Review**


Fans of the Lighthouse Trilogy will want to know how it all ends, but this installment takes more than 200 pages to get to the heart of the action, when Jamie, Ramsey and Wishaway teleport back to Altair and are, once again, just in time to save the city of Alden from siege. Before they leave, they encounter a comatose alien who escapes the hospital and a CIA plot to kill Jamie (a secret psychic team has foreseen that he will cause Earth to destruct). Snarky dialogue gems sparkle in an otherwise bloated fantasy. Book three of three. **Booklist**


The Stoneybrook Lighthouse was boarded up under mysterious circumstances years ago, and shortly thereafter the owners left town. Now the Hatt family has returned to Stoneybrook with plans to restore and sell the property. The Hatts are staying with Claudia's family while they get settled. When the Hatts begin receiving threatening letters, Claudia and her friends want to know why. Do the letters have something to do with a tragic accident that took place at the lighthouse all those years
ago? Claudia and the rest of the Baby-Sitters Club are determined to find out. The Baby-Sitters Club books are formulaic, but, judging by the popularity the series enjoyed during the 1990's, it's a formula that works. **Ruth King**


Eight-year-old Bella Baxter is delighted when her favorite filmmaker, Mason Hawk, comes to stay at her parents’ New England bed and breakfast, the Sea Inn. Hawk is there to research his new documentary about East Coast lighthouses. When Bella learns that Hawk is interested in the Sandy Point Lighthouse, she decides to become a lighthouse expert. With the help of her librarian friend, Trudy, Bella discovers that the lighthouse is said to be haunted by Salty Dobin, the light’s last keeper. It looks as though someone has been in the lighthouse recently. Has Salty Dobin returned to haunt his beloved light? Salty's journal will provide the clues they need to unravel the mystery surrounding the Sandy Point Lighthouse. A plus in this story is the fact that when Bella wanted to learn more about lighthouses, her first thought was to head to the library rather than turn to an Internet search engine. Bella's thirst for knowledge and adventurous spirit make her a very likable character who will surely appeal to young readers. **Ruth King**


Written in beautiful verse, this is a very sad and touching story about Caleb, a lighthouse keeper, who believes that his wife and son die in a treacherous storm. Neither one dies during the storm, and he is later reunited with his son. **Libby Anderson**

*Caleb's Lighthouse* is an epic tale of romance and the true meaning of love. With colorful, sweeping illustrations by artist Stewart Sherwood and a story written by Mark Kimball Moulton, author of "A Snowman Named Just Bob", this grand new book from Lang Books is certain to become a treasure to be read over and over again. A perfect book for all ages! Each Lang Book is encased in a beautiful keepsake sleeve. **Publisher Review**


Sarah's father has often told her about the late night trips he and his father took to a nearby lighthouse when he was young.
Sarah awakens her father in the middle of the night and tells him that "tonight is the night to take me." He agrees, and the pair set off on their nocturnal trip to the lighthouse. They stop at a doughnut shop, the way Sarah's grandfather and father always did. When they reach the road that leads to the lighthouse, they get out of the car and walk the rest of the way. Her father tells her that he always wanted to climb the lighthouse tower, but the door was always locked. Tonight, when Sarah tries the door, it's open. She and her father decide that her grandfather would have gone up, so they climb the stairs. When they reach the top, Sarah wants to know if her grandfather can see and hear her. She shouts "GRANDPA!" but receives no reply. Taking the flower from her hair, a flower she saved from her grandfather's funeral, Sarah gently tosses it into the sea. As they head home, Sarah tells her father that someday she'll bring her own child to the lighthouse. Janet Wilson's tranquil oil on canvas illustrations are the perfect accompaniment to this poignant story of honoring the memory of a loved one. **Ruth King**


Ten-year-old cousins Sarah-Jane Cooper, Timothy Dawson and Titus McKay call themselves the Three Cousins Detective Club. When a friend of Mr. Cooper's decides he wants to purchase and restore a decommissioned lighthouse, the cousins are excited to see it. Sarah-Jane has a very active imagination and is a little worried that the lighthouse might be scary. What if it's haunted? When they arrive and find that the lighthouse has been vandalized, the Three Cousins Detectives Club start searching for clues. Sarah-Jane is relieved that the lighthouse doesn't seem too scary until she sees a haunting image in the lighthouse tower. The "ghost" turns out to be a teenage boy who was close friends with the last lighthouse keeper. The lighthouse is a very special place for him; he often comes there to remember his friend, the now-deceased lighthouse keeper. He's been trying to scare off potential buyers so he can continue to visit the lighthouse. This book is part of an excellent Christian fiction series for children. Each book has a theme based on Biblical principles. **The Mystery of the Haunted Lighthouse's theme is faithfulness.** Spooky but not scary, this is an entertaining read. **Ruth King**


This is a children's story about a lighthouse that did not realize the value he played in the world. He felt sad and lonely and forgotten. Then a captain was out at sea during a storm and needed his light to get to safety. This book was inspired by the author's sister's death. He wants people young and old to recognize their value to other people and not discount the role they play is important. **Publisher Review**
Rocky was happy and always smiling. He enjoyed visiting with friends. Fish, mussels, tourists, seamen, starfish, and the stars were all his friends. Rocky sensed excitement and importance in his role as protector of travelers and as the light of the sea coast. Rocky became devastated and brokenhearted after overhearing a tour guide tell the tourists that in this modern age of electronics and satellites, lighthouses are not too necessary. Rocky thought about it and that since he was not needed he deserved some rest. He soon stopped smiling and slept the nights and days away. In the midst of a terrible storm he was awakened to the danger. Captain Crabby was in distress in the storm. Rocky suddenly recognized his purpose and his joyful twinkle again lit up the sea around him. Captain Crabby and his crew were saved. Rocky truly did make a difference. Rocky learned an important lesson about letting his light shine in times of adversity and difficulty.

This delightful children's story is dedicated to promote the love and the philosophy of Susan Carroll Holmes-Noel. The story is inspired by the verse from Matthew, chapter five: "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel." "Rocky the Lighthouse Makes a Difference" is an excellent choice for read aloud family fun and as a pleasurable reading experience for the young reader. The characters are enjoyable, genuine, and memorable. The plot is engaging and encourages character building virtues in the young child. This is an important and timely book, ideal for gift giving. Richard R. Blake for Amazon.com


Split Rock Lighthouse was built in 1910 at the edge of Lake Superior. The lighthouse is now maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society. Children who grew up at Split Rock have written letters to the historical society to share what it was like to grow up at a lighthouse. The families who lived at the Split Rock Light Station often faced dangerous weather conditions. During a storm in 1932, lightning struck a keeper's house. The bolt followed the water pipes and blue and orange flames came out of the water faucets! The light station's location could be dangerous as well. The station stands on a 130-foot cliff. The 2-year-old daughter of an assistant keeper once fell near the cliff's edge. She was able to hold onto a tree branch and call for help. The head keeper and his wife heard the little girl's cries and were able to save the child from certain death.

Children who lived at Split Rock played with toy boats and enjoyed long walks in the woods near the light station. They also enjoyed guessing games such as Twenty Questions or crafts like making silhouettes of each other. The rules for Twenty Questions and instructions for making silhouettes are included in the book. During the winter, the children went sledding, and helped their mothers cook and clean. Reading was another favorite way to pass the time.
The book provides a wealth of information about the duties and daily lives of lighthouse keepers and their families. Dozens of photographs show children at work and play around the lighthouse. *Lighthouse: Living in a Great Lakes Lighthouse 1910-1940* would be an excellent book for classroom or home-school use. **Ruth King**


While her father is away, 10-year-old Miranda must take up his role as lighthouse keeper. The young girl will have to overcome inclement weather conditions, hunger and illness to keep the light burning brightly until her father returns. She bravely rescues the family’s chickens before the chicken coop is washed away. As days stretch into weeks, supplies run so low that the only food Miranda and her mother have are the eggs provided by the hens each day and a small amount of cornmeal mush. Despite their dire situation, Miranda never complains. She simply does what needs to be done to keep the light in operation. Her father finally returns with much-needed food and a special surprise for Miranda: soil for a garden. The waves scour the rocky island of its soil each winter, making it difficult to maintain a garden, something Miranda had hoped to do. By spring, the story of Miranda's courage is well-known to passing sailors and they bring her soil on an almost daily basis. Miranda packs the soil between the rocks and soon the island is teeming with colorful flowers. Lovely watercolor illustrations compliment the story. *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter* was inspired by real-life lighthouse heroine Abbie Burgess and the rock gardens of lightkeeping families at Mount Desert Rock Lighthouse. **Ruth King**


In upper Michigan, a haunted lighthouse looms over Lake Superior watching everything and everyone that comes by. In its day, it saved many ships from storms, but it also didn’t save others. These ghosts have found their way to the lighthouse where they haunt three children that have come to stay in it. Stuart, Dawn, and Ron find that there is another mystery to the lighthouse. When their father disappears one night, the three children learn that they can go back in time through the lighthouse. They decide they have to go back to find their father because an evil man is after him. **Publisher Review**

Life as a sea captain's dog means protecting your owner's ship, but there is little that a dog can do against a dangerous winter storm. When the ship hits the rocks near Maine's Great Duck Island Lighthouse, the sailors must abandon ship. As the captain's dog tries to climb into the safety of the lifeboat, one of the men panics. Fearing that the dog's weight will cause the lifeboat to capsize, the man strikes the dog with an oar. The sailors are helped to safety by the lighthouse keeper, but the dog is presumed to have drowned.

Life as a lighthouse keeper's daughter can be lonely. Young Sarah wishes for a friend. While exploring the island the day after the sailors were rescued, Sarah finds the dog washed up on the shore. Her father helps her bring the dog to the house, and Sarah nurses him back to health. She names the dog Seaboy and the two become constant companions.

When the sea captain returns to the lighthouse months later to say thank you, will he take Sarah's best friend away from her? This pleasant picture book is based on true events. The addition of rhyming verses to the main narrative seems a little awkward, but this is only a small detraction from an otherwise excellent book. **Ruth King**


Pauline Hamor’s springer spaniel, Spot, loves life as a lighthouse dog. Whenever ships pass by the Owl’s Head Lighthouse, Spot eagerly rings the fog bell in greeting. Stuart Ames, captain of the local mail boat, is especially fond of the spaniel. He passes Owl’s Head Light twice a day and always blows his whistle in response to Spot. When the mail boat becomes lost during a winter storm, Keeper Hamor is distressed to find the fog bell frozen solid. There is no way to signal Captain Ames – until Spot begins to bark. Captain Ames hears the barking and is able to return home safely thanks to the brave dog.

Based on true events that took place in Maine’s Penobscot Bay during the 1930’s, this beautifully illustrated picture book is a fitting tribute to a courageous lighthouse dog. **Ruth King**


During the winter of 1897, young Nathan and his loyal Newfoundland dog, Sirius, are aboard the *Goldhunter*. The book begins with the young ship crewman pointing out the constellation that the dog was named for -- Sirius, the Dog Star.

When the *Goldhunter* strikes a ledge during a storm, the sailors abandon ship. After rowing for more than six hours, the men in the lifeboat are exhausted. As they approach Maine's Boon Island Light, Nathan asks Sirius to help. The strong Newfie takes the bow line and swims to the waiting lighthouse.
keeper, delivering his friend Nathan and his shipmates to safety. This is another beautifully illustrated book by Angeli Perrow and Emily Harris. The storm scenes in particular are quite eye-catching. *Sirius, the Dog Star* will delight both dog lovers and lighthouse enthusiasts. **Ruth King**


In the fourth book of the Lily Quench series, Lily and her companion, Queen Dragon, continue their quest to save the land of Ashby from an invading army. Lily must seek answers from a magical library on the enchanted archipelago of Skellig Lir. Through the course of her travels, Lily is asked to aid in the search for a missing lighthouse keeper, Ariane. Ariane lives on the nearby island of Skellig Mor, where it is her duty to tend the lighthouse and care for the sea dragons that protect the archipelago. The lighthouse keeper, unhappy with her situation, has fled. With Lily’s help and friendship, Ariane realizes the value of her work at the lighthouse. Action packed and imaginative, this fantasy series would be a good choice for a reluctant reader. **Ruth King**


Recollections of childhood at lighthouses around the United States are compiled in a wonderful format. The author captures growing up at lighthouses in the early twentieth century era of manned light stations in stories, old pictures, and modern day information. This is a marvelous primary source woven together from the memories of thirteen people who lived the cloistered life as children of lightkeepers. Stories range from scary to dangerous to fun. Family recipes are included.

Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts are well-known lighthouse preservationists and the founders of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society. Cheryl is a former teacher and has written several books about lighthouses. Bruce, an award winning photographer, has contributed pictures for many lighthouse books. **Elinor DeWire**


Cats cavorting in a lighthouse in the dead of night create so much havoc and noise that they wake the two children who live there. Following the beam from the lighthouse lantern as it sweeps from room to room, Jill and her brother see that they have been invaded by "...a
million or so cats." The rhythmic, rhyming text describes what the children see, and what readers can also see in the bold, graphic, yellow-and-black illustrations. "Cats in the cupboard. Cats here and cats there./Cats chasing yarn balls. Cats everywhere!" The book is interesting and appealing to this point, but then it suddenly goes off track. The cats all disappear without any explanation, leaving only the children's own small kitty. Readers will agree with the youngsters in the text: "This just cannot be!" It is not clear how one kitten could have created all the disturbance, and there is no indication that it was all a dream. Readers will want to know where all the animals came from, and where they went. School Library Journal

As a cat lover, and especially a lighthouse cat lover, I was disappointed with this one. While Bonnie Bishop’s artwork is cute, and the yellow, gray, and black tones seem to create a feeling of night time, the story line leaves much to be desired. Children may be confused about what’s going on. First there are many cats causing mischief at the lighthouse, and then just one in the end. It’s hard to guess what happened. Were the children just dreaming? Did all the cats run away? Was one little cat making all that clamor? The rhymes are fun and the illustrations are beguiling, but kids probably will have questions at the end about what was really happening. Elinor DeWire


Who is Ichabod Hayes Hart and his mysterious friend Clementine Arabella Oakes? More importantly, what is the Major Ulysses Rutherford Marshall's burning secret, a secret so deep that he'll risk not only his life, but those of the children? What's the deal with Mr Shyler Colfax Bowman, the oddly eccentric railway tycoon with the toy locomotive in his back garden? And what does Steampunk mean anyway? This is the first in James Roy's new and excitingly innovative Steampunk series - science-fiction with a rather dark twist. It's a bit gothic, a bit creepy, and totally addictive. Publisher Review


A brave seafaring cat at the turn of the (last) century narrates her unusual tale at the ripe old age of 31, in this charming little book. Named Mrs. Moore (though she was no "kitten-bride" and never wed) she looks back on an eventful life, commenting on the human (and animal) condition for her human readers. Descended from a long line of sea-voyaging felines, Mrs. Moore is born in 1899 on the schooner Estella Gomez, where she lives among a superstitious crew, including a cat-hating mate and an animal-loving cook. She and her brother barely survive a shipwreck, and only because a
little boy, Griffin, finds them washed up on the beach and fiercely nurses them back to life. Griffin gives Mrs. Moore her name and dubs her brother Fafner. The boy lives with his fussy sister, Ada, and his mother, Mary Bishop, who tends the lighthouse on what is now Key West. A Northern girl, Mary came to the island with her husband, remaining there after his death. Though romance blossoms with a local clergyman, Mary's life takes a surprising twist when an oddly dressed, limping stranger stumbles to their door. Mrs. Moore is shocked to recognize the man as the cat-friendly cook from the ship. But Mary's relationship to the weary survivor is complicated, leading her to wrestle with, and finally resolve, old family traumas. Commendably, Rutledge (A Cat's Little Instruction Book), recounts his lighthearted story with no lapses into sentimentality or cuteness. Cat lovers will be delighted with the wise Mrs. Moore, whose feline observations have wisdom, a lilting grace and the charm of a fairy tale. Publishers Weekly


Pandora the cat, Seabold the dog, and Whistler, Lila and Tiny; three orphaned mice, make up an unconventional but loving family. When a 100-year-old sea turtle, Aurora, becomes stranded near the lighthouse after fulfilling her life’s dream of seeing the Northern Lights, Pandora and her family must find a way to return the turtle to warmer waters. In a clever solution, pelicans are used to fly Aurora back to her home. Ruth King

This series of chapter books has unusual main characters: Pandora (the lighthouse keeper cat), Seabold, (the dog sea captain), and Whistler, Lila and Tiny (the shipwrecked mice). The sea-inspired series has this “family” involved in many adventures. Libby Anderson


While searching for shells near their lighthouse home, Whistler and Lila hear the cries of a baby beluga whale named Sebastian. Sebastian has become separated from his mother, and the young mice are determined to find her. Pandora enlists Huck, a grumpy but well-meaning cormorant, to aid in the search. Whimsical illustrations accompany this heartwarming chapter book. Ruth King

Ronnie and his Aunt Martha agree to tend the Tern Rock Lighthouse while its keeper takes a trip to the mainland. The keeper promises to return for them in time for Christmas, but as the holiday approaches, there’s no sign of him. When Ronnie finds a note that indicates the keeper had never intended to come back for them by Christmas, the boy feels betrayed. He thinks his Christmas is ruined. With a little guidance from Aunt Martha, Ronnie ultimately realizes that one’s circumstances do not have to dictate one’s happiness. Heartwarming with a strong moral message, The Light at Tern Rock is an excellent holiday read. **Ruth King**


This is one of my favorite books! Warm, detailed illustrations tell the story of Nellie, who lives near the Marshall Point Lighthouse in Port Clyde, Maine. If, like me, you've been to Marshall Point and love the area, this book will make you nostalgic. If you've never been there, this book will make you want to plan a trip. **Jeremy D’Entremont**

Nellie the exuberant fox terrier takes readers on a lively tour of the Port Clyde area of Maine. She visits the post office and general store, trots pasts barns, uniquely connected houses and outbuildings, and along the coast. She makes an extended stop at the lighthouse, revealing its purpose and some of its past. The book is rich with details that will appeal to anyone who has lived Down East or simply loves Maine. Robert Ensor’s illustrations are priceless! **Elinor DeWire**


Santa…does he really exist? For the lighthouse keepers of the New England Coast there was never any doubt. From Christmas 1936 to Christmas 1980, Edward Rowe Snow, a high school teacher, rented a pilot and a plane and dropped holiday presents to the keepers and their families stationed at some of the most desolate lighthouses on the Eastern Seaboard. Buckle your seatbelt and come fly along with Santa Snow as he encounters adventure and hardship on his missions to deliver "love from above." **Publisher Review**


A thrilling, brand-new adventure story - with an ecological edge. Dad looked at us solemnly. "We've been sent here by a very important international organization to engage in undercover
surveillance." Tommo and I sat up. Had we heard right? "You mean you're spies?"
gasped Thomas; When Mr. and Mrs. Pickford announce that they are moving the family
to a lighthouse on a deserted island, Polly and her brother Tommo, think their parents
have "finally flipped". Until they learn the truth: their mum and dad are spies, working to
expose the illegal smuggling of endangered species. The risks are high, but it is not until
a suspicious stranger is shipwrecked on their island, and Polly and Tommo make a
horrifying discovery, that they realize just how much danger the family is in... Publisher
Review

Ida Lewis looms larger in legend than she was in life. At least the cover of this
book says so: Its lighthouse is much more dramatic than the one Lewis kept—a two-
story house on a rock in Newport Harbor with a lantern in the west-facing bedroom
window. Women as lightkeepers were largely unsung throughout the world when Ida
Lewis hit the news in the 1870s. She was the tabloid story of her day, a keeper in skirts
who was fit for the duty but who was forced to beg for the job after her father died. Her
entreaty was backed by the citizens of Newport, who knew she was a woman of mettle.

Once she obtained the job, reporters never ceased their coverage of her every
move. Being the “girl power” poster gal of her day and the object of late nineteenth
century paparazzi was no easy task. Perhaps it hastened her death from a stroke in 1911.
This enigmatic woman, who when asked why she no children replied, “the light is my
child,” continues to amaze us. I suspect she was more ordinary than we think, that
hundreds like her served at lighthouses everywhere, but with little or no credit given.

This book is a good tribute to America’s Grace Darling, although a bit
romanticized and a little unbalanced. We know Ida probably wasn’t all that amazing!
Elinor DeWire

Set on South Manitou Island in Lake Michigan during the fall
of 1871, To Keep the South Manitou Light tells the fictional tale of a
twelve-year-old girl named Jessie, whose family has been taking care
of the lighthouse on the island for generations. Jessie’s mother has
kept the light by herself since Jessie’s grandfather died of a heart
attack ten days before the story begins. Afraid her family will lose the lighthouse; Jessie decides not to mail her mother’s letter informing the Lighthouse Service of her grandfather’s death and instead puts it in one of her mother’s canning jars and tosses it into the lake. Later, as a fierce November ice storm hits the island, the repercussions of this action will not only teach Jessie about honor and responsibility but will also give her hard-earned insight into what it means to be brave. Written for children between the ages of 8 and 12, To Keep the South Manitou Light provides regional history along with everyday lessons, all while engrossing young readers in an exciting story.

Publisher Review


Boston Light on Little Brewster Island is the last lighthouse in the United States still staffed by the Coast Guard. Sammy, a black Labrador, moved to Boston Light in 1997, where he remained the only official coast guard lighthouse dog until his death in 2004. Sammy quickly adjusted to life on the island and his duties which consisted of keeping watch at the porch door of the keeper’s house, greeting visitors, and exploring the island. A constant companion to Keeper Scott Stanton, Sammy once fell over 50 feet down the spiral stairs of the lighthouse tower. Remarkably, he was not seriously injured. As the years passed, it became clear that the aging dog would need to retire. Sammy trained the next Boston Light Dog, a black lab puppy named Samantha Anne. A loving tribute to Boston Light’s canine protector, the book includes pencil and ink illustrations, a glossary, and study questions and activities related to the story.

Ruth King

Lighthouse history has inspired many books of true tales, and this one is no exception. Sammy was one of a long line of dogs that lived and served at America’s oldest light station—Boston Light. In 1992 when I visited the station, a German shepherd named Shadwell was on duty, named for the very first lightkeeper’s black slave who lived at the station in 1716-17 and drowned in an unfortunate accident at the lighthouse. Farrah was another much-loved light station dog, whose grave can be found on the grounds nestled among the dandelions. There are countless others, many unknown to us. Sammy’s caretaker, Dr. Sally Snowman, knew she had to tell his story so that young readers could share in this unique chapter of lighthouse history. Lighthouse animals deserve credit for their roles as companions and workers, and Dr. Snowman brought Sammy to life in this tidy little book with fun illustrations by Beverly Hillard. Sammy’s adventures illustrate the singular experience of living at a lighthouse, whether you’re a dog or a cat or a horse or a person. He worked as a watchdog, a rodent-eradicater, and a companion. He chased the birds, took long peaceful naps in the grass or on the lighthouse porch, and was the four-footed greeting committee when visitors arrived. His footprints left an indelible mark on the station grounds and remind us of the wonderful service of lighthouse animals.

Elinor DeWire

Being a lighthouse keeper is a lonely job that requires much dedication. Each night the lighthouse keeper climbs up, up, up the stairs to light the twenty four candles in the lighthouse beacon. Each morning he climbs the stairs again to extinguish the candles and perform the daily maintenance that keeps the light visible to passing ships.

One afternoon, the supply ship arrives with groceries for the lighthouse keeper. In addition to the usual food and supplies, the supply ship is also carrying a stowaway: a small silver cat. The keeper names the cat Mackeral and the cat becomes a steadfast companion to the lighthouse keeper. Mackeral has many adventures on the island. He makes friends with puffins and seagulls, helps the keeper collect driftwood that is used to make furniture, finds a message in a bottle and scans the sea for passing ships.

During a very stormy night, wind extinguishes the candles in the lighthouse tower. The keeper tries to signal passing ships with a hand lantern, but the wind blows that out as well. Seeing this, Mackeral springs into action. He climbs to the top of the lighthouse tower and meows loudly. Eleven cats from nearby homes answer his call and join him in the lighthouse. Moonlight is reflected in the cats' eyes so that there are twenty four small glowing lights in the lantern room and ships can safely navigate to port.

Colorful illustrations and the repetitive language ("Up, up, up") will make this book a read aloud favorite. The lighthouse featured in The Lighthouse Cat was inspired by Smeaton's Tower, which stood for over 100 years just south of Plymouth, England. The lighthouse was lit by twenty four large candles. Ruth King


This book brings to life true stories of actual Great Lakes shipwrecks, rescues and lighthouses through the eyes of Luke the Dane, captain of the Griffon, the first ship to disappear on the Great Lakes. I am especially excited because it is my first effort at producing a book for young readers. I especially enjoyed bringing Luke back to life to tell the stories. I feel he is one of the forgotten men of Great Lakes history. The illustrations by Susan Meyer depicting the various stories are wonderful and captivating.

www.frederickstonehouse.com

Luke the Dane, captain of the Griffon, retells true stories of Great Lakes shipwrecks, rescues and lighthouses. The twist is the Griffon was the first ship to disappear on the Great Lakes. Libby Anderson

*My Summer* tells the exciting story of a young boy's summer at a lighthouse. He learns everything needed to operate the lighthouse from his lighthouse keeper grandfather. An exciting shipwreck rescue caps off his summer adventures. The illustrations by Susan Meyer are truly captivating.

[www.frederickstonehouse.com](http://www.frederickstonehouse.com)

Twelve year old Johnny spends the summer at his grandfather’s lighthouse. Johnny is required to keep a journal. Through his writings, the daily life at a lighthouse is thoroughly explained. **Libby Anderson**

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There is a place in the world for everything, big or small. This is the lesson a little red lighthouse learns when a huge brightly lighted bridge is built over it. The lighthouse believes it is no longer needed, until the bridge calls to it one foggy night to signal to the ships on the river, far below the bridge lights. The little lighthouse waits for the keeper to come light it up; it waits a very long time and then hears the jingle of the keeper’s keys. At last, it takes its place alongside the big bridge signaling to river traffic.

Based on an actual lighthouse and bridge—Jeffries Hook Light and the George Washington Bridge in New York City—the story gained fame when it rallied the public to save the little Jeffries Hook Lighthouse after it was discontinued and had deteriorated due to neglect. Today, the lighthouse is part of park and is visited by thousands of families every year.

This classic story continues to inspire children and lighthouse preservationists alike. **Elinor DeWire**

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The year is late 1905, and thirteen-year-old Amanda Morgan has not had it easy since her Mother died while giving birth to her six-year-old sister Hannah, when she was a mere seven-years-old. Since then, she has taken the role of Mother, and has kept house for her Father, the minister of Cape Light. When Amanda meets Jed Langford, a wonderful sixteen-year-old boy whom she thinks she may be in love with, she thinks that her Father will be happy. But soon finds that he doesn't like Jed at all, and doesn't want her to have
male callers at such a young age. So Amanda and Jed begin a secret correspondence, leaving letters for each other on an almost daily basis, which only leads Amanda to wonder, whether she and Jed will ever be able to have a real relationship, or if they will have to keep it secret forever. As a fan of Thomas Kinkade's magnificent paintings, as well as a fan of historical fiction, I found that AMANDA'S STORY was all that I'd hoped for and more. Amanda is a wonderful character, whose personality shines through in every letter that she sends to Jed, as well as through her actions in taking care of her sister, her Father, and spending time with her friends. Her wonderful outlook on life is uplifting, and will put a smile on the faces of all readers. A must have. Erica Sorocco, The Community Bugle Newspaper

Thomas Kinkade is known for his sensitive and ethereal paintings of lighthouses, which have inspired spinoffs of everything from jewelry to clothing to house wares and more. His Cape Light and Girls of Lighthouse Lane series have been well-received for their wholesome and heartwarming stories. Elinor DeWire


In 1905 New England, thirteen-year old Katherine Williams loves life in the quaint village of Cape Light. Known to her friends as Kat, she dreams of one day being a famous artist living in a big city. Kat's father is a lighthouse keeper and Kat helps with many of the lighthouse duties. Each night she takes the first watch from dusk until midnight. When the light fails during a storm, Kat is instrumental in helping a Boston couple avoid a shipwreck. The couple is so grateful for Kat's help that they arrange an invitation to a prestigious art school in Boston for the girl. Tuition is expensive, though, and Kat's parents cannot afford it. However, if Kat can come up with half of the tuition fee, her parents will pay the other half. With the help of her friend Amanda and her cousin Lizabeth, Kat tries to earn her half of the money. After two failed entrepreneurial attempts, Kat has success selling hand-painted wrapping paper to several local shops. This allows her to earn her half of the tuition fee. When an unexpected expense leaves her father unable to pay the rest, Kat is furious at her parents. She makes a rash decision that could cost her something far more precious than just the chance to attend art school - it could cost her her life.

Erika Tamar captures the ups and downs of teenage emotions very well; unfortunately this meant that Kat's character irritated me for most of the book. With each poor decision she made, I found her more difficult to like. However, Cape Light is a very charming setting and the friendship between the three girls seems genuine. Inspired by the paintings of Thomas Kinkade, this entertaining and wholesome series will likely appeal to young girls. All books in the series have a template cover featuring the different characters' faces in cameo-like ovals. Ruth King

Thirteen-year-old Lizabeth Merchant comes from the richest family in Cape Light and, as such, leads a very privileged life. Her biggest worry is that she might not be crowned Strawberry Queen in Cape Light's upcoming Strawberry Festival. She has little patience for her four-year-old sister, Tracy, who often seeks Lizabeth's attention. Lizabeth is sent to stay with her cousin Kat's family when Tracy contracts scarlet fever. For Lizabeth, who is used to servants doing all the work in her own home, seeing Kat's entire family pitch in to maintain the lighthouse is an eye-opening experience.

Lizabeth worries that she won't be allowed to go back to her home before the Strawberry Festival. Her dress for the festival is still in her room and the house is under quarantine. Lizabeth sneaks out of Kat's bedroom one evening and returns to her home for the dress. While she's there, she checks on Tracy and is shocked to see how sick her young sister has become. Suddenly the Strawberry Festival doesn't seem so important any more. The events that follow Tracy's illness will drastically change Lizabeth's view of herself and the people around her. In the previous Lighthouse Lane books, Lizabeth was the character I liked least, but her story turned out to be my favorite of the series. She's a very self-centered character, but also a very insecure one. She doesn't feel that she has anything to offer beyond her good looks and privileged upbringing, but her sister's illness teaches her a difficult lesson. She realizes that money and material possessions cannot bring her happiness or prevent bad things from happening, and she's a better person for this realization. Ruth King


In New York City in 1905, Rose Forbes desperately tries to fit in at her exclusive all-girl school. When her mother's support of the suffragist movement becomes common knowledge, the other girls treat her as an outcast. Her father's medical practice also suffers after Rose's mother is arrested during a protest. Rose's parents decide that a change of scenery would be beneficial and settle on Cape Light as their new home.

Rose is excited about the possibility of new friends and a chance to start over. Kat, Amanda and Lizabeth welcome Rose warmly, but Rose lives in fear that they will shun her if they discover her mother's involvement in the women's rights movement. Rose is more interested in horses than politics and doesn't understand her mother's dedication to the suffragist cause. Rose begins working with an abused race horse, Midnight Star. When she's barred from participating in a jumping competition because of her gender, Rose finally understands and embraces her mother's political views. While the plot is predictable from the start, Rose's love of horses will resonate with many young readers. Ruth King

On the night of the Harvest Festival, Thomas is sent to repair the lighthouse. He can't wait to get back in time for the fireworks, but will he make it there safely? **Publisher Review**


This fascinating coloring book provides a fact-filled look at the world of lighthouses, which appeal to so many because they evoke a romantic vision of the ocean. Through informative text and ready-to-color illustrations, readers will learn about the history of these picturesque and practical structures. In writing appropriate for children -- but also informative enough to engage adults -- the book explores the best known lighthouses in the United States and Canada, with folklore and statistics on each. Intriguing sidebars focus on lenses, technology, and interior architecture of these unique sentinels of the sea. **Publisher Review**

There are a number of lighthouse coloring books on the market—too many to list here. We chose this one for its text. The coloring pages are lovely, but there is more than just coloring involved or simple captions. Caroline Tiger has included an engaging narrative, something unusual for most coloring books. For visual-spatial and kinesthetic learners, this is an excellent activity book. Some kids need to look and move as they learn. Doodling and coloring, once forbidden in classrooms, is now recognized by educators as a viable learning pathway, so long as it’s related to content. The engaging text of this coloring book compliments the coloring pages for active learners. Kids can color happily while reading and listening. **Elinor DeWire**


With fun, hands-on activities, dramatic play, and creative thinking, children will discover the wonder of lighthouses and the geography that made lighthouses necessary, as well as the science that improved the strength of the light itself. See specific lighthouses of North
America, while you light an (indoor) cliff, make a rocky reef and a rough current, name a lighthouse, write a captain's log entry and a lighthouse poem, learn the color codes of lighthouses, and explore lighthouse shapes. Learn the strengths and weaknesses of tower lighthouses, screw piles, caissons, skeleton lighthouses, and more. Let it Shine! - learn all about the kinds of lights including the spider lamp, reflected light, Fresnel light, lights of different brightness, occult lights, fixed and flashing lights, and making a blinking beacon. Let there be light! - explore the science of light and see how both sound and light travel, bend a light, reflect light, and diffuse light in water. Be a Keeper! - learn all about living in a lighthouse and growing up in one, too, and chronicle a storm, write about a daring rescue, imagine living far from all others, and write lighthouse poetry.

Kaleidoscope Kids series. Publisher Review


On a cliff overlooking Lake Ontario, the Genesee River, and the port of Rochester, New York, a lonely lighthouse stood watch. Its windows were boarded up and its roof was leaking. Its face was dirty and its light had long since gone out. Its front door was hidden with brush and its stairs were crumbling. But maybe you wouldn't look so good either if you were 127 years old! From inside the lighthouse tower came the sound of scratching, but no one was there to hear it. That is, no human ears were there to hear it because the lighthouse had been abandoned for eighteen years. Across town, life was very different. Susan B. Anthony School #27 was vibrating with energy. For this class, saving the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse would become more than just a school project, it would become the adventure of a lifetime. Publisher Review


Based on the true story of lighthouse heroine Abbie Burgess, *Abbie Against the Storm* is an inspiring story of courage complimented by beautiful artwork. When her family moves to Matinicus Rock Lighthouse in Maine, Abbie quickly becomes an invaluable assistant to her lighthouse keeper father. Abbie understands that keeping the beacon burning is a matter of life and death to sailors like her brother Ben.

When the supply ship does not arrive as scheduled, Abbie's father must head to the mainland for much-needed supplies and food for his family. He leaves Abbie in charge of the lights, knowing that she will be able to keep them burning in his absence. As a violent storm threatens the area, Abbie's quick thinking and determination enable her to avert disaster. The young woman saves the family's hens just before the hen house is washed...
away. When the dangerous waves also claim the oil shed and fog bell, Abbie fears that
the family's home will be destroyed next. After moving her family to the safety of the
sturdy north tower, Abbie stays up all night to keep the lighthouse's beams shining
through the storm. The family's supply of food dwindles, and Abbie worries that her
father may not return before the family starves. Despite the intense cold, hunger pangs,
and an uncertain future, Abbie tirelessly tends the light until her father returns.

Farnsworth's vivid illustrations bring the daily duties of a 19th century lighthouse
keeper to life. There is an especially striking illustration of Abbie polishing the lantern
reflectors in the lighthouse tower. **Abbie Against the Storm** is an excellent book for
lighthouse enthusiasts of all ages. **Ruth King**

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Von Ahnen uses the familiar folktale of “The Three Little Pigs” to tell the story of the Cape May Lighthouse. Like the first two houses built by the Three Little Pigs, the first two lighthouses in Cape May were destroyed. The two stories mesh well, and children’s familiarity with “The Three Little Pigs” will deepen their understanding of the history of the lighthouse. The book includes coloring pages, a word search, maze, cryptogram and other activities. **Ruth King**

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This title has individual descriptions of 22 lighthouses on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes. There is also a brief discussion of Fresnel lenses, a short history of lighthouse keepers, and some information about lighthouses today. Watercolor-and-ink illustrations, which accompany each entry, have detail and clarity. Several of the structures are shown on spreads. Profiles are offered on keepers Ida Lewis of Lime Rock Lighthouse (Newport, RI), Juliet Nichols of Angel Island Light Station (CA), Abbie Burgess of Matinicus Rock Lighthouse (Rockland, ME), and Russ Ahlgren of Cape Neddick Light (York Beach, ME). The strength of this book lies in the number and variety of lighthouses featured. *School Library Journal*

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In the eighth book of “The Boxcar Children” series, the Alden children and their grandfather are renting a lighthouse for the summer.
They anticipate a quiet summer by the sea, but find themselves investigating a mystery instead. Their dog wakes up growling each evening, and an unknown woman is seen wandering the grounds. When the children befriend a troubled but gifted young man, Larry Cook, they discover that he is using the abandoned lighthouse keeper’s cottage for scientific experiments. The boy’s father has forbidden him from attending college, so Larry continues his studies in secret. When Larry becomes lost during a summer storm but is ultimately recovered safely, his father has a change of heart. A charming, timeless story. Ruth King


Eddie, Joe, Tuyet, Hally and Jason make up the Kerry Hill Casecrackers. When Tuyet tells the others that her uncle thinks he saw a ghost while fishing near the Hazard Island Lighthouse, the friends decide to investigate. When they arrive at Hazard Island, it isn't long before strange things begin to happen. They hear an odd groaning sound, their food disappears from where they left it, and they find "Tod, 1878" scrawled on the wall of the lighthouse.

Tod Hazard's story has become a local legend. He was lost at sea when Hazard Island Lighthouse's beam failed. It's said that his ghost still haunts the light. Is Tod trying to scare the young sleuths away from the island? The Casecrackers will need to gather clues, solve coded messages and summon all of their bravery to uncover the truth of the lighthouse ghost.

The main characters, who are supposed to be between the ages of twelve and thirteen, read as much younger. The youngest character, 8-year-old Jason, comes across as the right age. The solution to the mystery is far-fetched, but solving the codes along with the characters may interest young readers. Ruth King


Dean Griffiths, the illustrator, has done an incredible job depicting both the nobility and the potential goofiness of this breed! The story is very funny (although there is a harrowing rescue at the end) about an overgrown puppy adopted by an older lighthouse captain and his wife. The "puppy" proves to be a great deal of trouble because of his enthusiasm and his insecurity (he tries to send the lighthouse cat away because he's worried the people like the cat better) until he shows his true colors in a daring rescue during a storm. A fantastic book with a lot of whimsy and sincerity. Courtney L. Lewis, “The Sassy Librarian”

After his father dies, 13 year old Louie Hollander and his mother must move away from their old home and find a way to make a living. They are hired as keepers of Two Tree Island Lighthouse on Windlass Bay - temporarily. In order to keep the job, Louie and his ma must prove that they can handle the hard work. Tending to the urgent task of protecting sea-going vessels from storm and fog keeps Louie scrambling, especially when equipment breaks down. And even with visits from mainland friends, island living is lonely. An injured sea gull becomes an unexpected pet and a visiting preacher becomes a new fishing buddy. But Louie grieves for his father and misses his best friend Charlie. Then Louie receives wonderful news. Charlie plans to spend the month of August on Two Tree Island. August can't come quickly enough. But, Louie finds that Charlie has changed a lot. Suddenly Louie must face difficult choices, especially when Charlie's behavior endangers the operation of the lighthouse. "Manning the Light maintains family values and spiritual foundations that are important in my family's life today. As a homeschooling mom, I recommend this book as part of a literature based American history curriculum." Elizabeth Giles Griner for Amazon.com


For readers of Manning the Light this second novel in the Louie Lighthouse Series is a must read. The story continues in the fall of 1903 with the adventures of 13-year-old Louie and his friend, Charlie. Be with these two characters as they face their fears and find that faith helps them deal with the stormy challenges of nature, sports, abuses, accidents, and relationships. In Weathering the Storms, meet Louie's new pet, and go with Louie and Charlie to the First World Series' games at Boston's Huntington Park Fairgrounds. Find out what happens when a hurricane hits Two Tree Island and a fishing fleet. The second book in the Louie Hollander series. Publisher Review


When 13-year-old Louie, a junior lighthouse keeper, comes across a body washed up on the shore one cold winter morning, it sets off a tantalizing mystery. Who is this mysterious person? How did he-or she-die? And how did the body wind up on Two Tree Island? As Louie begins the search for clues, he has no idea where this mystery will lead him or the incredible events that will transpire over the next few months. A whiteout Christmas . . . a strange illness . . . a shipwrecked crew . . . a time of testing . . . it's all here in Mystery and Mishap, the third installment in the adventures of Louie Hollander and his friends. "Terry Webb's style is always enjoyable and never preachy. She presents a realistic picture of
life at an island lighthouse more than a century ago with all its harshness, dangers and beauty. This book series provides an ideal way for young people to learn about this important part of our nation's maritime history. This newest book in the series is the best yet!" -- The third book in the Louie Hollander series. **Jeremy D'Entremont**


In this fourth and final book in Terry Webb’s lighthouse series, Louie leaves his much-loved lighthouse on Two Tree Island to stay with his Uncle Sam while his mother recovers from a serious illness. Louie wonders when and if he’ll return to the island. His friend Abram’s mother dies, and Louie worries it may not have been an accident. Did Abram's father have anything to do with her death?

Louie and his friends also face daily challenges as sweeping changes take place in the world and their lives—new forms of transportation, communication, and entertainment. This is the fourth and final book in the Louie Hollander series. **Elinor DeWire**


Eleven-year-old twins Jen and Zeke live at the Mystic Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast with their Aunt Bee. As guests gather to celebrate the lighthouse's bicentennial, a storm causes a power outage. After Jen and Zeke discover a young guest, Karen Mills, searching for something in the B&B, they're intrigued. Karen is related to Catherine Markham, the daughter of Mystic Lighthouse's first keeper. Karen has Catherine's diaries and is searching for secret passages that are mentioned in the diary. There are also rumors of a treasure hidden somewhere in the lighthouse and it quickly becomes apparent that each guest is searching for it. Can Jen, Zeke and Karen find it first?

The reader is encouraged to gather clues and solve the mystery along with the main characters. A blank suspect sheet like the one Jen and Zeke use in the story is provided for the reader. *The Mystery of the Dark Lighthouse* is a fun and exciting story in a great setting. **Ruth King**


Another busy day at the lighthouse! Bert and Buster are trying to keep the place tidy, but there's a host of animals ready to make mischief. **Publisher Review**
Left in the care of his aunt while his father is at sea, 11-year-old Digory Beale is plagued by nightmares of his father dying in a terrible storm. Digory has always been afraid of the sea, preferring to draw when other boys were competing for sailing jobs. When word comes that his father’s ship has gone down, it seems that his worst fear has been realized. Digory must set out for Plymouth to learn his father’s fate. His aunt tells him not to return unless he finds his father alive. With eleven children of her own, she can’t afford another mouth to feed. Digory and his 9-year-old brother Cubby (who decides to follow Digory rather than stay with their aunt) face a difficult journey with little food, no money, and dwindling hope that their father is still alive.

In Plymouth, Digory and Cubby receive the crushing news that there were no survivors from their father’s ship. With their hopes of reuniting with their father dashed, the boys are alone and scared. Just when they think things can’t get any worse, Digory and Cubby are framed for stealing. A man named Henry Winstanley intercedes on their behalf and this chance meeting will drastically alter Digory’s life.

Henry Winstanley takes the boys to be servants at his home in Essex, but Winstanley’s home is no ordinary country estate. An engineer with a fondness for gadgets, Winstanley has filled his home with many whimsical inventions including a “Flying Chair” (an early version of the roller coaster), a mechanical dragon, and fountains that shoot colored water into the air. When Winstanley discovers Digory’s artistic talent, he offers him an apprenticeship. Digory thrives under the engineer’s tutelage.

When Winstanley receives news that the Eddystone Lighthouse, a beacon that he designed, is in need of repair after severe storms, he and Digory rush to Plymouth. Digory will finally have to face his fear of the sea in order to assist his beloved mentor.

While Digory and Cubby are fictional characters, Henry Winstanley was real. In 1698, he took on what many thought was an impossible task: construction of a lighthouse off the treacherous Eddystone reef near Plymouth, England. The Eddystone Lighthouse sustained severe damage during its first year of operation and was rebuilt with a modified design. For five years not a single ship was lost to the reef. In 1703, the lighthouse was destroyed during the Great Storm, the worst weather disaster in Britain’s history. Henry Winstanley and five others were killed when the lighthouse succumbed to the sea. The Eddystone Lighthouse was later rebuilt, and thanks to Winstanley’s vision, thousands of lives have been saved.

Elvira Woodruff has written an exciting and well-researched tale of courage and friendship. The book includes a glossary, a map of England in 1700 highlighting the key locations in the story as well as an extensive author’s note about the life and accomplishments of Henry Winstanley. Highly recommended. **Ruth King**