



Cock of the Walk By Haldeen Braddy/174 Pages Reviewed by Laura Ibarra

The Library Staff Recommends to Students and/or Staff:

Cindy: *The Wedding* by
Danielle Steel

Melissa: *Gap Creek* by
Robert Morgan

Jessie: *Beyond the West-
ern Sea: Escape From
Home* by Avi

Kim: *True Betrayals* by
Nora Roberts

Victoria: *In the Middle
of the Night* by Robert
Cormier

This issue covers

Fiction and Biography.

*Read a good book this
summer and have your
review published in
the fall.*

When it comes to reading biographies, I always like to read about famous people who have done something out of the ordinary or have fought for something they believe in. Since I come from a Hispanic background, I decided to read about a person who is famous in my country. I chose Doroteo Arango. He is most famously known as Pancho Villa. In *The Cock of the Walk*, I found Villa's whole life story, his failures and achievements. Included in the biography are the battles fought against the Mexican Government.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa came from a poor family in Durango, Mexico. Villa's father, Austin Arango and his mother, Micaela Arambula, were 'peones' who lived on a ranch owned by Don Arturo Lopez Negrete. Villa, the oldest child, had two sisters and two brothers. The climax of his life occurred when Villa's father died, and he was forced to leave the ranch and work to help the family. While he was gone, Leonardo, a son of Don Arturo Lopez Negrete, took advantage of Villa's sister Mariana. When Villa heard what had happened, he returned to the ranch and killed Leonardo in revenge. From here, Villa became a fugitive, was cap-

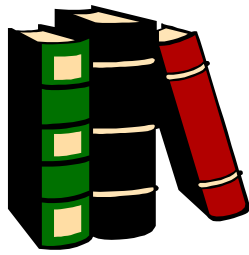
tured, and learned to be a real bandit. When he finally got out of jail, he became involved in the Revolution, eventually becoming a general. He formed his own army, saying, "In life you have friends or enemies, there can be no neutrals" (126).

There were many important characters in Villa's life. His best friend was General Rodolfo Fierro. Villa's most hated enemy was General Carranza, the leader of the Mexican Federalist Army, against whom Villa fought. Villa is also known for having many women but his heart belonged to Maria Luz Corral, his wife.

Villa's life was very interesting and full of action. He would help the poor by robbing the rich, and is known as the Mexican Robin Hood. If you are interested in knowing how he accomplished forming his own army with horses and guns when he was really poor, read this book which explains it. Villa's theme of his life was to fight for his land. "We shall sell the bull and cow; we shall sell the calf; we shall sell everything, my love, everything except the land" (62).

Braddy's writing style





Most Popular Books

Go Ask Alice

By Anonymous/188 Pages
Reviewed by Claudia Lopez

Go Ask Alice is the diary of a teenage girl. It's really interesting because it talks about how a girl really gets messed up because of drugs. Her first time using drugs was when someone put it in her drink. Later, she runs away twice and will do almost anything just to get a hit, just to get a little buzzed. When she decides to turn her life around, everyone at school bugs her and tries to force her to do drugs. Well,



then they put acid in her food, and she went crazy, pulling her hair out and getting a concussion. After going to a mental hospital, she is happy and finally meets a guy she loves. But the drugs still affect her life. . .

The Lost Boy

By Dave Pelzer/340 Pages
Reviewed by Samuel Fierro

The Lost Boy by Dave Pelzer, is a biography of inspiration and desire. Throughout the book, Dave speaks of his life in the foster care system and the struggles he went through after leaving his abusive mother and alcoholic father. *The Lost Boy* is the sequel to the *New York Times*' best seller *A Child Called "It."* In this chapter of Dave's life, he was moved five different times from foster home to foster home, which made it difficult for Dave to find the love of a family.

Dave spent most of his life confused and questioning. He became really involved with the courts and juvenile hall system after getting into a big deal of trouble. Mrs. Gold, Dave's social worker, devoted many hours of her time in the

effort to help him find a peaceful home, but it seemed that wherever Dave went, trouble followed. Dave ran away from his foster homes several times, feeling lost and alone, in hopes for a better life. But to Dave's misfortune, he ended up the same place he started.

Personally, I feel this is a great book for anyone who has gone through a rough childhood or someone just trying to understand the life of a scared and tragic kid. This book is filled with laughter and also with tears as it describes the journey of a lost boy.

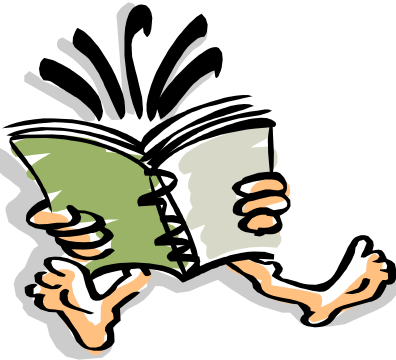


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Chicken Soup Books in Our Library

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage
Soul*

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage
Soul II*

Chicken Soup for the Soul

*Chicken Soup for the Christian
Soul*

Taste Berries for Teens

*Sopa de Pollo Para el Alma del
Adolescente (Spanish)*

A Family Affair By Andrew Cable/214 Pages Reviewed by Crystal Davis

A Family Affair, about Sean Puffy Combs, is a great book. After reading the first chapter, you will not want to stop. Just reading the first chapter taught me a lot about music, the inside scoop on Hip Hop and many other things. Puff Daddy is a dancer, a mourner, and a preacher. He is also one of the most successful music artists of our time. He has launched the careers of artists such as The Notorious Big, Faith Evans, 112, and Mase. He is a producer for top sellers such as Mariah Carey, Aretha Franklin, and Boys II Men. Puff Daddy is an enterprising talent known as Hip Hop's soul, who created a multimillion dollar empire.



This is only a peek at the interesting information you find out about in this book. The book is full of tragedy, laughs, cries, good times, bad times, action, death, struggle and love. What more can you ask for than a book that keeps you on the edge of your seat the whole time you're reading? I suggest this book to anyone who is into Hip Hop music or just music period. Any information you need on your favorite Hip Hop artist is in this book. So go out and pick up *A Family Affair*.

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II By Various Authors/333 Pages Reviewed by Erika Peña

This book doesn't really have an end because it has many little stories, poems and jokes. The poem I especially liked from this book is "The Athlete's Prayer." It talks about how God can't help you win a game. He'll help you not get hurt if you ask Him, and He'll bless your game, but if you want to win, you have to play the game for yourself.

A joke I like the most is one about three chickens. One's dead in the road because a car hit him. The detective asks the officer, "So why exactly did he try to cross the road?"

The officer answered, "According to witnesses, he was trying to prove to his friends that he wasn't a chicken."