

The Guide to the *Guide*

The Horn Book Guide strives to include short, critical annotations of all hardcover trade children's and young adult books published in the United States within a six-month period. (Novelty books, board books, and mass market titles are reviewed selectively.) Qualified books that arrive in our offices too late to be included will be reviewed in the next issue.

The reviews are arranged alphabetically by author within categories and are signed with reviewer initials. Fiction is arranged by genre or school grade level. Nonfiction falls within the general divisions of the Dewey decimal system. Further subdivisions are listed at the beginning of each nonfiction section. Books are rated from 1 (outstanding) to 6 (unacceptable), with a ▲ marking books receiving a 1 or 2. The editors determine the final rating.

THE RATING SYSTEM

Each book receives a rating of 1 to 6:

- 1 = Outstanding, noteworthy in style, content, and/or illustration.
- 2 = Superior, well above average.
- 3 = Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and/or illustration.
- 4 = Recommended, with minor flaws.
- 5 = Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.
- 6 = Unacceptable in style, content, and/or illustration.

SAMPLE REVIEW

▲ Frith, Margaret *Frida Kahlo: The Artist Who Painted Herself*
 32 pp. Grosset LE ISBN 0-448-43239-0 \$14.89
 PE ISBN 0-448-42677-3 \$5.99
 (2) K-3 Illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Smart about Art series. As in the previous biographies in this series, the text is presented as a school report, which includes a concession that Kahlo's work (reproduced throughout) may be beyond a child's powers of interpretation. Frith has wisely emphasized aspects of Kahlo's life that will resonate with the book's intended audience. DePaola supplies additional illustrations of Kahlo, complemented with festive, Mexican-flavored borders and motifs. Review 11/03. NB

Labels in diagram:
 - Rating = 1 or 2 (Outstanding or Superior) points to ▲
 - Author points to Frith, Margaret
 - Publisher (see page 210) points to Grosset
 - Trade, library (LE), and/or paper (PE) edition ISBN points to ISBN numbers
 - Title points to Frida Kahlo: The Artist Who Painted Herself
 - Number of pages points to 32 pp.
 - Prices points to \$14.89 and \$5.99
 - Series, if any points to Smart about Art series
 - Grade level, if applicable points to (2) K-3
 - Text of review points to the main body of text
 - Reviewer's initials (see page 206) points to NB
 - Date of review in The Horn Book Magazine, if applicable points to 11/03
 - Date of first issue/edition, if applicable points to 11/03
 - Bibliography, glossary, and/or index (Bib., glos., ind.), if any points to the end of the review