

the cover. Nevertheless, this volume will be well used for literary research papers and will be a worthwhile introduction to these much-studied writers.—*Marilyn Heath, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City*

**MUNYAN, Russ, ed.** *Readings on Twelve Angry Men*. 156p. (Literary Companion to American Literature Series). bibliog. chron. index. notes. CIP. Greenhaven. 2000. PLB \$21.96. ISBN 0-7377-0314-8; pap. \$13.96. ISBN 0-7377-0313-X. LC 99-055869.

**Gr 9 Up**—This excellent anthology focuses on Reginald Rose's play about a jury deliberating the fate of a disadvantaged Hispanic teen accused of murdering his father. It was originally produced live for the television series *Studio One* in 1954 and later made into the classic film starring Henry Fonda. In recent years, it has found new life as a Broadway production and in another television version. This volume brings together a wealth of information, from a biography of the playwright to interviews with Fonda, and a concluding chapter on "Jury Behavior in Real Life." Also included is criticism of the productions and the screenplay itself, as well as brief insights from a variety of observers, including Eleanor Roosevelt, François Truffaut, and Pauline Kael. The book concludes with an excellent bibliography and an index. It will be a valuable addition to both American literary-criticism and film-studies collections. It also might be of use in criminal justice courses, where jury behavior is explored.—*Elizabeth M. Reardon, McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN*

**NARDO, Don, ed.** *The Decline and Fall of Ancient Greece*. 272p. (Turning Points in World History Series). map. photos. reprods. appendix. chron. further reading. index. notes. CIP. Greenhaven. 2000. PLB \$21.96. ISBN 0-7377-0241-9; pap. \$13.96. ISBN 0-7377-0240-0. LC 99-36891.

**Gr 9 Up**—This anthology covers the struggle of ancient Greece in its attempt to become a unified empire, its contributions to the ancient world, and its ultimate demise. The contributors include well-known historians and each of the essays or excerpts from larger works has a brief introduction that summarizes its argument. Entries address such topics as politics, military, social, and cultural conditions. Additionally, this book also provides a chronology, excerpts from primary documents, an extensive list of ancient and modern sources for further reading, and a thorough index. This excellent title is organized with researchers in mind and gives concrete examples of writing to support a thesis. Unfortunately there are no illustrations or maps. Although the value of this book lies in its information for reports, anyone interested in the subject will find the text fascinating.—*Lana Miles, Duchesne Academy, Houston, TX*

**★PATENT, Dorothy Hinshaw.** *The Bald Eagle Returns*. rev. ed. photos. by William Muñoz. 68p. index. CIP. Clarion. 2000. Tr \$15. ISBN 0-395-91416-7. LC 00-021751.

**Gr 4-8**—This revision of *Where the Bald Eagles Gather* (Clarion, 1984) has a triumphant new title; exciting new information about the status of our national bird; and crisp, beautiful, full-color photos. When the first book was written, bald eagles were endangered in 43 states and threatened in 5. The maps that open this new title show the amazing progress the species has made in fewer than 20 years. The earlier title focused on an area of Glacier National Park where hundreds of endangered eagles could be seen. Ironically, the revised book, which celebrates the growth of the eagle population because of positive human intervention, reports that the raptors no longer return to Glacier because that environment was damaged by misguided human interference intended to help them. Large parts of the book remain unchanged. Basic information on the appearance and habits of eagles has been retained. Anecdotes about human threats to eagles are the same (although the black-market price for their feathers has dramatically increased). The color photos are large, well captioned and carefully placed. In one sense, this title makes the old one obsolete, but comparing the two is a delightful experience in seeing how far both children's nonfiction books and the bald eagle have come.—*Ellen Heath, Orchard School, Ridgewood, NJ*

**PFLUEGER, Lynda.** *Thomas Nast: Political Cartoonist*. 128p. (Historical American Biographies Series). maps. photos. reprods. chron. further reading. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Enslow. 2000. PLB \$19.95. ISBN 0-7660-1251-4. LC 99-043631.

**Gr 4-8**—This well-written, informative, and entertaining title can go a long way toward expanding the horizons of young people. The opening chapter introduces Nast in the prime of his career as he was going head to head with Boss Tweed. The next chapter backtracks to the subject's birth and proceeds to trace his life chronologically. Pflueger successfully gives readers a sense of Nast the man, not just Nast the cartoonist. She provides glimpses of his personality, his foibles, and his principles, and relates many colorful anecdotes about his career, such as his creation of the elephant and donkey as symbols for our political parties. The numerous illustrations include photos, maps, and, of course, cartoons. While the maps are not particularly helpful, and the photographs of Nast's famous contemporaries (such as Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain) are readily available in any encyclopedia, there is still much to commend in this well-done effort.—*Marilyn Heath, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City*

**RASH, Andy.** *The Robots Are Coming*. illus. by author. unpag. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Bks. 2000. RTE \$15.95. ISBN 0-439-06306-X. LC number unavailable.

**Gr 4-6**—It's difficult to imagine the audience for the 16 poems in this collection. The title piece concerns caffeine-induced robots "perking/more mugs than required." So, "We'll have to start jerking/their heads off with pliers." On the next page, Dr. X (who has X-ray vision) is jailed because "he failed/to NOT see what we can't/He has seen our bones and spleens/and bras and underpants." Another poem, concerning a conversation with the devil, replaces every "L" with the words "hockey stick": "In H-E-double hockey sticks...." The concluding rhyme, meant to reassure a terrified boy with covers pulled up to his chin, recaps the cast of characters and anticipates the return of the robots. Readers won't find any of the heart or silliness of Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky in these verses. The characters are at times adult, as are some of the themes, and the few selections that are kid-oriented (pirates, snowmen) have a decidedly dark edge. The gouache-and-India-ink cartoons vary from double spreads to multi-panel designs. The grotesque caricatures and in-your-face presentation will be most appreciated by adult fans of Rash's work and the "tween" and adolescent readers of graphic novels and *Mad* magazine.—*Wendy Lukehart, Dauphin County Library, Harrisburg, PA*

**ROSS, Lillian Hammer.** *Daughters of Eve: Strong Women of the Bible*. illus. by Kyra Teis. 96p. bibliog. glossary. CIP. Barefoot. 2000. PLB \$19.99. ISBN 1-902283-82-1. LC number unavailable.

**Gr 4-6**—Ross has expanded the stories of Old Testament women such as Miriam, Ruth, and Esther, and included such lesser-known figures as Moses's wife Zipporah and the daughters of Zelophehad, who rate only a paragraph in the Bible. Each selection opens with a brief introduction that covers the history and political climate of the times. The information is mostly accurate, and the goal of introducing children to these women is admirable. Unfortunately, the language used in some of the introductions is so convoluted as to be incomprehensible, and the author's depictions of certain women are modernized to the point that they completely lose the flavor of the times. The retellings are rather simplistic and colorless, as if geared to younger readers, yet Ross includes stories and ideas that seem better suited to an older audience. Teis's use of collage and paint to add decorative borders and illustrate certain scenes is very effective and for the most part the artwork is lovely, although it is a bit unrealistic in places (Moses looks overly clean and healthy for having been wandering in the desert). As a whole, though, the book never quite overcomes its uninspired language.—*Amy Lilien-Harper, Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT*