

as vital members of society and want to help them overcome obstacles and achieve success. Creighton and Kivel (cofounders, Oakland Men's Project; coauthors, *Making the Peace*) have updated their 1992 publication, *Helping Teens Stop Violence: A Practical Guide for Counselors, Educators, and Parents*, to bring it into the 21st century. Exercises, role-play activities, and agreements are still included, but it has been revised and expanded to include new sections on disabilities, religion, immigrants, and the environment. The authors' goals are to help adults help teens develop into effective community leaders and to help teens improve their lives. **VERDICT** Most parents will not be able to use this manual as intended, and even educators may find it difficult to devote the time needed to follow it completely. But many adults who work directly with teens in a controlled environment, such as a counseling center or a youth ministry program, will find value in this step-by-step guide.—**Terry Christner, Hutchinson P.L., KS**

**Ruben, Marina Koestler. How To Tutor Your Own Child: Boost Grades and Inspire a Lifelong Love of Learning—Without Paying for a Professional Tutor. Ten Speed: Crown Pub. Group. Aug. 2011. c.208p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781607740278. pap. \$13.99. en**

This book is for parents interested in providing holistic learning opportunities for their children. Ruben advocates the importance of "parent-tutoring" as an effective supplement to regular education, and she derives many examples from her experiences as a professional tutor. She begins with tips to engage children in the learning process and proceeds to ideas to make education fun and creative. Parent tutors are also encouraged to model a love of learning for their students. In "Tutor Toolboxes," Ruben recommends everything from mnemonic devices to organizing learning spaces and materials to, most important, encouraging reluctant children. Each chapter ends with a "Tutor Take-Away" table that summarizes the section. Parents with teens will be most interested in the final part of the book, which focuses on how to adjust educational approaches for adolescents. **VERDICT** Parents who have trouble motivating their children will find this book (which considers K-12 students, with a particular focus on teens) useful and will appreciate Ruben's organization and chapter summations; parents of children with special needs or disabilities should look elsewhere.—**Karen McCoy, John F. Reed Lib., Durango, CO**

## HISTORY

**Downing, Taylor. Churchill's War Lab: Code-breakers, Scientists, and the Mavericks**

**Churchill Led to Victory. Overlook, dist. by Penguin. Jun. 2011. c.416p. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781590205655. \$30. HIST**

World War II saw the introduction of numerous new weapons and procedures, with the British prime minister desperate for ways to counter German strength. Churchill enthusiastically supported experiments, new military units, changes in procedures, and unorthodox thinkers who had been disregarded by the establishment. Downing (*Battlestations: War Winning Weapons of the Second World War*) shows here how, unlike President Roosevelt, Churchill took great pleasure in the details of weapons development and military operations. World War II was as much a scientific/mental war as one of sheer force, and Churchill strove to exploit British advantages. Downing reminds readers how Churchill's own military career had been marked by independence and daring. This well-researched book, organized by broad themes (e.g., the air war, the naval war), focuses on the contentious interactions between Churchill and his exasperated top officers and war cabinet, who resented his energetic interference in their departments. It is a good overview of how a visionary leader must encourage and coordinate the talents of various personalities and organizations to achieve a common goal. Readers will also enjoy Stuart Macrae's recently republished *Winston Churchill's Toyshop*. **VERDICT** General readers from high school up will enjoy this fast-paced and informative book. It won't give new information to specialists, but they may enjoy it nonetheless.—**Daniel K. Blewett, Coll. of DuPage Lib., Glen Ellyn, IL**

**Foreman, Amanda. A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War. Random. Jun. 2011. c.1008p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 9780375504945. \$35. HIST**

Whitbread Prize winner Foreman (visiting research fellow, Queen Mary, Univ. of London; *Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire*) weighs in with a big book rich in description and strong in narrative, with a large cast of characters that includes British nobles and American statesmen jockeying for power, British journalists reporting the war, and Englishmen and Irishmen fighting, respectively, with the Union and Confederate armies in what they regarded as noble causes. Foreman's special strength is tracking the social relationships that bound together, or estranged, the movers and shakers in London and Washington, with keen insights on the political maneuverings that kept England out of the war. If her minibiographies sometimes overwhelm the narrative and her battle accounts distract in their

detail, her deftly drawn vignettes remind readers that personal concerns and personalities informed policy as much as national identity and interest. **VERDICT** The result is a very good read and a grand panorama of the war on land and sea, in the press, and in drawing rooms and public assemblies on both sides of the Atlantic. Highly recommended for all students of the Civil War, buffs and scholars alike, and anyone wanting to understand the complicated world of Anglo-American relations. [See Prepub Alert, 11/29/10.]—**Randall M. Miller, Saint Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia**

**★Mansel, Philip. Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean. Yale Univ. 2011. c.496p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780300172645. \$35. HIST**

French and Ottoman historian Mansel (*Constantinople: City of the World's Desire, 1453–1924*) re-creates the daily life and political idiosyncrasies of the three jewels of the Levant: Smyrna (now Izmir, in Turkey); Alexandria, Egypt; and Beirut, Lebanon. Beginning at the start of the Ottoman Empire's relationship with France in the 16th century, Mansel examines thoroughly each city and its people as a study in contrasts. Although Europeans and Ottomans, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, lived and worked side by side in these Levantine ports, all was not cosmopolitan bliss. Mansel skillfully highlights the nationalist, religious, and cultural conflicts that plagued Smyrna, Alexandria, and Beirut well into the 20th century, while at the same time still acknowledging that the diversity of religion, nationalities, and ideas that coexisted in the Levant existed nowhere else in the world. **VERDICT** This is a rich piece of historical storytelling that will satisfy scholars, travelers, readers of travel literature, and everyone in between. Highly recommended for anyone with an interest in this complicated region of the world.—**Veronica Arellano, California, MD**

**Rees, Siân. Sweet Water and Bitter: The Ships That Stopped the Slave Trade. Univ. of New Hampshire: Univ. Pr. of New England. 2011. c.360p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781584659808. \$27.95. HIST**

Rees (*The Floating Brothel*) presents a well-researched account of Britain's attempt to stem the Atlantic slave trade by creating the Preventive Squadron to enforce the 1807 Abolition Act. Royal Navy ships patrolled the African coast, detaining slave traders and freeing their human cargo. This epic, complex story stretches across the Atlantic Ocean, where British antislavers clashed with slavers from throughout Europe and the Americas, and digs deep

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