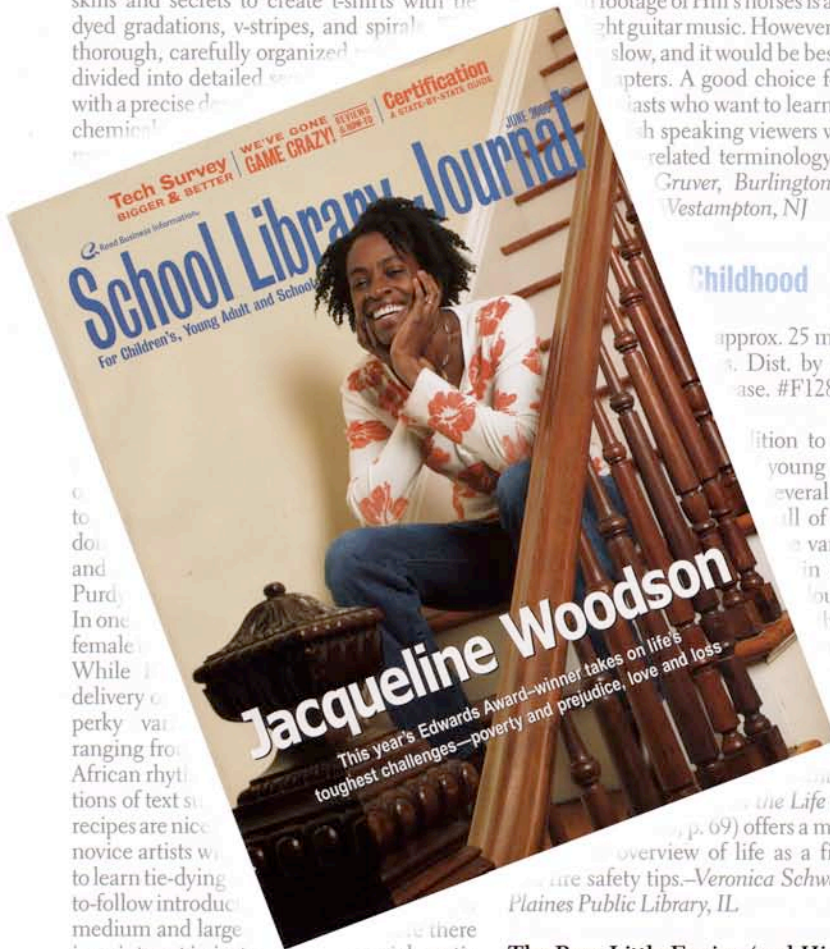


skills and secrets to create t-shirts with tie-dyed gradations, v-stripes, and spirals. The production is thorough, carefully organized, and divided into detailed chapters with a precise description of the chemistry.



to do and Purdy. In one female. While delivery of perky variations ranging from African rhythmic recipes are nice for novice artists who to learn tie-dying to-follow introductory medium and large is an interest in instructional materials on tie-dying.—Lynn Vanca, Akron-Summit County Public Library, OH

Bilingual Education

The Horse—El Caballo: A Journey for Kids. DVD. color. 90 min. Horsekeeping Books and Videos. 2005. \$29.95 (+\$3.50 s/h).
Gr 4 Up—This bilingual production from horse expert Cherry Hill is intended for children and adults who wish to learn Spanish or English terminology related to horses and horse care. It is described as an English/Spanish “video horse book” and consists of 11 chapters on topics such as The Family, Parts of the Horse, Horse Care, and Grooming, with two concluding chapters of vocabulary and quizzes. Each chapter consists of scenes of horses, shown first without subtitles and then with subtitles in English and Spanish with narrator Cherry Hill speaking in English. The scenes are then shown with Spanish and English subtitles and Hill’s narration in Spanish. The sentences are all in the present tense, and the vocabulary becomes more complex as the DVD progresses.

footage of Hill’s horses is accompanied by light guitar music. However, the pace is slow, and it would be best to show chapters. A good choice for young viewers who want to learn Spanish with related terminology in English.—Gruver, Burlington County Public Library, Westampton, NJ

Childhood

approx. 25 min. Produced by Big Kids. Dist. by Big Kids. 2005. #F1280-DVD.

to the fire- young children several different all of his gear, various fire in action is loud, often the action. most impor- is never s and produc- low an tures with the Life of a Fire- (p. 69) offers a more com- overview of life as a firefighter fire safety tips.—Veronica Schwartz, Des Plaines Public Library, IL

The Busy Little Engine (and His Friend, Pig). DVD. color. approx. 34 min. Squirrel Tracks Wooden Trains. 2005. \$15.95.
PreS-Gr 1—This animated adventure featuring a wooden train and his puppet friend, Pig, is a tale about a wooden train who pretends to be a real train. It also offers solid information about actual trains. With the help of an off-screen narrator, Busy Little Engine and Pig explore the world of real trains and encourage viewers to use their imaginations. Three original, catchy songs, written and performed by Jimmy Magoo, are age appropriate and complement the story line. Bonus features include a sing-along of Magoo’s songs and a special short about the making of the video. A nice supplement to general viewing collections, and useful in transportation units for the youngest students.—Kirsten Martindale, formerly Menomonie Public Library, WI

Smart Cookie!, Vol. 2: Yay! Yay! It’s Picnic Day! DVD. color. approx. 50 min. Smart Cookie. 2005. \$8.99 (+\$3 s/h).
PreS-K—Two elementary school-aged children wake up one morning, celebrating the fact that it is the day they are going on a picnic. They sing and dance their way through the

day with a group of friends. Many traditional children’s songs are scattered throughout the production, including “Mr. Sun,” “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe,” and “The Wheels on the Bus.” At times, production values are poor. For example, the eight Indian children, the mother, and the father are very stiff and affected in their acting. There is no spontaneity, as everything is scripted. Production numbers are almost over-choreographed. On occasion, the mouth movements are not synchronized with the words being spoken. Computer generated images sprinkled throughout the production in order to add humor or emphasis serve more as a distraction. Bonus features include an interview with YooHoo the Clown puppet talking about vegetables, sing-along music video clips from the picnic day production complete with lyrics, and a message to parents from the video’s creator. Viewers should be aware that some names for vegetables are ones commonly used in Asian/Indian communities and may be different from Western names (such as capsicum for bell peppers, ladies’ finger for okra). This production will probably be valued in communities serving Indian populations.—Stephanie Bange, Wilmington-Stroop Branch, Dayton Metro Library, OH

Guidance—Careers

Future Stars: An Inside Look at Modeling. DVD. color. 50 min. Blue Wood Films. 2005, 2006 release. \$24.95.
Gr 7 Up—This documentary visits “Future Stars,” a modeling school and talent agency, for a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in the world of aspiring models and actors. Glimpses of runway training, improvisation classes, make-up sessions, and photo shoots alternate with interviews with teens, preteens, and agency staff. Responding to off-camera questions, predominately Caucasian boys and girls talk about their goals and dreams to work as a swimsuit model, become a movie star, or act on stage. In contrast, the director communicates the harsh realities of “making it” in the business. Her talent scouts and booking agents are shown talking to parents about the small number of jobs available to children. Improv sessions are shown in black-and-white footage and include younger children pretending to be animals or practicing facial expressions. The acting instructor believes that all of his students benefit from learning how to look people in the eye and have the opportunity to step out of their “shell.” Some teens realize that they may not become famous, but agree that the classes help them become more self-confident. The program often takes on a reality show aspect where a shaky-handed cameraman follows his subject from room to room asking candid questions. Teens hoping to become famous may be disillusioned, but