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REVIEW: Life As We Knew It

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the way through the novel, culminating in an ending that makes the book a good candidate for a discussion.

Recommended for public and high school libraries. »»

— Reviewed by **Carol Malcolm**
Riverside Military Academy

Life As We Knew It by *Susan Beth Pfeffer* (Harcourt Children's Books, October 2006; ISBN 0-1520-5-8265, \$17.00).

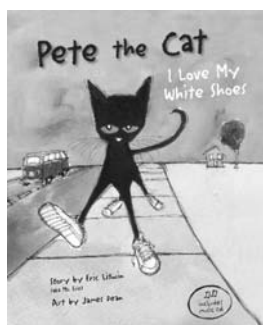
Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers Nominee

The moon. It's beautiful, romantic and mysterious. But never before has it been terrifying. In *Life As We Knew It*, a meteor knocks the moon out of its orbit and that much closer to earth. This has a profound effect on the climate and the tides, and the globe is plunged into a stage of unexpected emergency. Through the eyes of one family's struggle, we see a catastrophe of global proportions unfold. In Miranda's diary, we see a 16-year-old girl whose high school worries quickly get overshadowed in the battle for survival. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of this story is the example set by Miranda that ordinary people are capable of extraordinary sacrifice, courage and heroism in times of need. The fact that global warming and subsequent climate change are part of our everyday political and social dialogue puts *Life As We Knew It* very close to the realm of possibility. This eerie realism makes the story that much more suspenseful and terrifying. After reading *Life As We Knew It*, you'll never look at the moon the same way again. »»

— Reviewed by **Jessica De Maria**
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by *Eric Litwin*, illustrated by *James Dean* (United Writers Press, 2008; ISBN: 978-1-934216-51-8, \$17.95).

Pete the Cat, the iconic creation of artist Dean and subject of dozens of paintings, debuts as a children's picture book hero in this rollicking, rhyming ditty (music CD included). Children's musical entertainer Litwin outfits his hero in spanking new white shoes. Proud of these sparkling treads, Pete strides along until he steps in a large pile of something colorful (strawberries), transforming the shining sneakers. Poor Pete the Cat! But Pete doesn't let his shoes' new hues get him down: "Did



Pete cry? Goodness, no!" Pete repeats his cheerful refrain through several colorful if unlikely fashion mishaps and concludes, "It's all good." The illustrations, in vibrant primary colors, pace the story in much the same way as Litwin's musical telling does. Part color concept book, part tribute to optimism, part sing-along, *I Love My White Shoes* is recommended for ages 3 to 7 and for library story programs. Count on an even wider age range of appeal if pairing the book with musical storytelling. »»

— Reviewed by **Vanessa Cowie**
Forsyth County Public Library

Saturdays and Teacakes by *Lester L. Laminack*, illustrated by *Chris Soentpiet* (Peachtree Publishers, 2004; ISBN 1-56145-303-X, \$16.95).

What's the best thing about Saturdays? According to the main character in *Saturdays and Teacakes*, the best thing is going to see Mawmaw who is always waiting, just for him. Lester L. Laminack's story is a summertime account of one young boy's weekly ritual — bicycling to his grandmother's house to spend the day with her. The reader watches his trip, including his stop at the traffic light near the gasoline station where he remembers his mother's stricture "You stop and look both ways ... I don't care if the light is green. I'll hear about it if you don't." Once he gets to Mawmaw's, tomatoes are picked, grass is cut so that the clippings cling to bare legs and lunch is made of juicy tomato sandwiches. Then he and Mawmaw make the teacakes of the title, enjoying their time together before he returns home with a basket of teacakes and vegetables. Lester Laminack's words draw a picture of the special relationship between a grandmother and grandson as well as childhood in a small Southern town. Chris Soentpiet's paintings are a charming visual telling of the story. The incredible details of the paintings, from the cars at the gasoline station to the inside of Mawmaw's house, draw the reader further into the story and help to create an enjoyable reading experience. Grandparents will enjoy reading this story to grandchildren for the story itself and its illustrations. Children will enjoy the use of repetitive words such as pedal and criiick-craaack as well as following the story through the pictures. Recommended for most children's collections. »»

— Reviewed by **Beth Pye**
Gordon College

