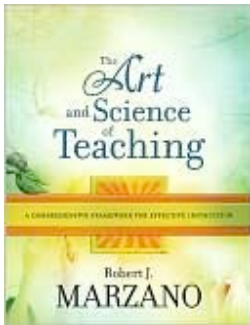


New Non-Fiction January 2008



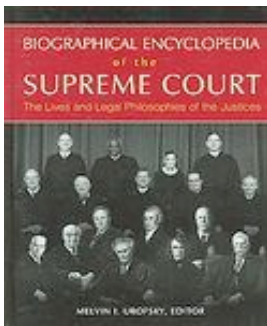
Art and Science of Teaching: A Comprehensive Framework For Effective Instruction

By Robert J. Marzano

Though classroom instructional strategies should clearly be based on sound science and research, knowing when to use them and with whom is more of an art. In *The Art and Science of Teaching: A Comprehensive Framework for Effective Instruction*, author Robert J. Marzano presents a model for ensuring quality teaching that balances the necessity of research-based data with the equally vital need to understand the strengths and weaknesses of individual students. He articulates his framework in the form of 10 questions that represent a logical planning sequence for successful instructional design:

1. What will I do to establish and communicate learning goals, track student progress, and celebrate success?
2. What will I do to help students effectively interact with new knowledge?
3. What will I do to help students practice and deepen their understanding of new knowledge?
4. What will I do to help students generate and test hypotheses about new knowledge?
5. What will I do to engage students?
6. What will I do to establish or maintain classroom rules and procedures?
7. What will I do to recognize and acknowledge adherence and lack of adherence to classroom rules and procedures?
8. What will I do to establish and maintain effective relationships with students?
9. What will I do to communicate high expectations for all students?
10. What will I do to develop effective lessons organized into a cohesive unit?

For classroom lessons to be truly effective, educators must examine every component of the teaching process with equal resolve. Filled with charts, rubrics, and organizers, this methodical, user-friendly guide will help teachers examine and develop their knowledge and skills, so they can achieve that dynamic fusion of art and science that results in exceptional teaching and outstanding student achievement (*From the Publisher, Barnesandnoble.com*).

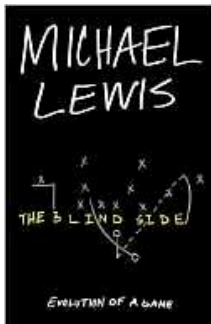


Biographical Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court: The Lives and Legal Philosophies of the Justices

Melvin I. Urofsky, Editor

This fact-filled volume contains individual essays on each of the 110 members of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1789 to 2005. Entries describe each justice's work and impact on the court. The pieces are arranged alphabetically by the subject's last name, and chronological, case-name, and subject indexes are provided. Urofsky's preface expresses his perspectives on the operation of the court and how individual justices can influence it, and while contributors don't shy away from offering their own opinions, they are careful to place them into context and support them within the text. Articles range from 2 to 15 pages, with well-known and/or contemporary members rating the longer entries. The essays begin with a listing of the justice's birth and death dates; education; previous jobs; and Supreme Court service, including the president who nominated them, whose seat they took, and the individual who replaced them. Each entry includes a black-and-white portrait and ends with a short narrative bibliography and listing of noteworthy opinions. These are strictly career biographies; mentions of life outside of the court are few and far between. Also included are descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of supporting personnel, such as the Clerk of the Court and the Reporter of Decisions, and a list of all such officeholders. This update to *The Supreme Court Justices: A Biographical Dictionary* (Garland,

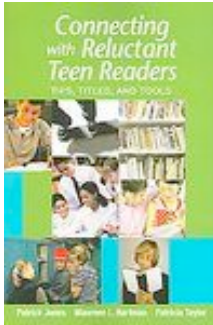
1994) portrays the world's oldest constitutional court as a living, breathing, powerful institution (*School Library Journal*).



Blind Side: Evolution of a Game

By Michael Lewis

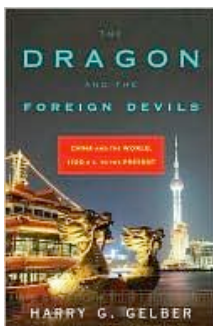
The titular "blind side" is a right-handed NFL quarterback's left side. The defensive linemen rushing the quarterback from that side often arrive undetected and thus can inflict great damage on the opponent's key offensive player as he sets himself to pass. The key to minimizing quarterback damage is an effective offensive left tackle. Lewis, most recognizable as the author of the best-selling *Moneyball* (2003)--about the growing reliance on statistical analysis in baseball--describes the NFL's ever-growing obsession with left tackles as a means to counter defenders who seem to grow bigger, stronger, and more vicious each season. He juxtaposes that narrative with the unlikely story of Michael Oher, who was living on the streets of Memphis when he was 15 years old. He also happened to be six-feet-five-inches tall, weigh 350 pounds, and possess definite athletic talent. Almost through sheer serendipity, he is adopted by a wealthy family whose members make it their mission to see that he has an opportunity to benefit from his amazing physical gifts. The book works on three levels. First as a shrewd analysis of the NFL; second, as an expose of the insanity of big-time college football recruiting; and, third, as a moving portrait of the positive effect that love, family, and education can have in reversing the path of a life that was destined to be lived unhappily and, most likely, end badly (*Booklist*).



Connecting with Reluctant Teen Readers: Tips, Titles, and Tools

By Patrick Jones, Maureen L. Hartman, and Patricia Taylor

It's no secret that many teens don't like to read, but what is less apparent are the reasons why. The authors of this practical guide relied on surveys and interviews with young adults, teachers, and librarians to determine why so many kids can't, won't, or don't read. They've analyzed their findings to create innovative solutions, presented here in three sections: helpful tips, recommended titles (annotated bibliographies sorted by genre and format), and effective tools (booktalk styles and scripts and a sample reader's survey). Several young adult authors have contributed essays or observations. These realistic, field-tested strategies will appeal to classroom teachers and media specialists, and all youth librarians will appreciate the collection-development guidance. Any collection that serves teens should make this a first-priority purchase (*Booklist*).

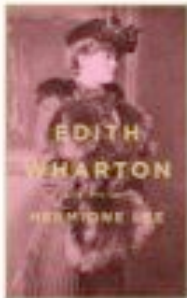


Dragon and the Foreign Devils: China and the World, 1100 B.C. to the Present

By Harry G. Gelber

A survey of China's foreign relations, Gelber's narrative discusses China's rulers over millennia. Their realm was the civilized world; beyond were the barbarians. This worldview prevented the Chinese from regarding foreign relations as interactions between nominally equal sovereignties; instead, the ruling dynasty compelled obeisance from bordering peoples. Gelber ably relates this process, the sense of cultural superiority behind it, and

an emperor's power to impose relations, from the first unification of China by the Qin in 221 BCE to China's tumults of the twentieth century. Gelber presents these notions, associated with xenophobia, as deep continuities in Chinese history, and dynamically illustrates them through the threats a dynasty confronted on its borders, such as nomadic Mongols. The protracted nineteenth-century decline of China's final Qing dynasty and territorial encroachment upon China dominate the latter half of this fluent text and, argues Gelber, inform China's contemporary approach to foreign affairs. With maps, illustrations, and sidebars about the kowtow and Mao, Gelber lends a comprehensible structure to the vastness of Chinese history (*Booklist*).

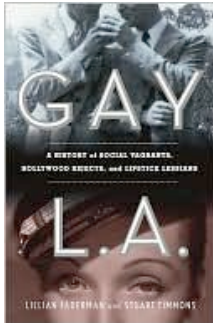


Edith Wharton

By Hermione Lee

Likely to replace R. W. B. Lewis' groundbreaking *Edith Wharton* (1975) as the definitive biographical treatment, because of new sources (as well as the author's sensitive interpretation of these sources), Lee's tremendous biography of one of the most important American writers rises to landmark status, the same level achieved by her previous *Virginia Woolf* (1997). Generally thought of as the grand dame of American letters, Edith Wharton grew up and married in New York City high society and subsequently wrote about that milieu. Her popular image as handed down from her generation onward is that of a character from the pages of her own fiction: a grand, stiff society matron. But the formidable Mrs. Wharton is given great humanity here. Lee conducts an enlightening exploration of the rarefied yet, ironically, provincial and narrow world of Wharton's formative years, which were undergoing a "jostle of social forces" between old and new money. Those very conflicts supplied her with the material she exploited throughout her long career. Upon her sad marriage, which eventually ended in divorce, Lee casts sympathetic and clarifying light. And in weighing Wharton's considerable time spent living in Europe, Lee brings to the fore Wharton's continued American

consciousness. As expected for such a respected biographer of writers, Lee nimbly integrates analysis of Wharton's works into the bigger life story (*Booklist*).



Gay L.A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians

By Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons

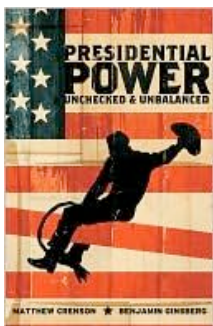
Focusing on Los Angeles, Faderman and Timmons fill a gap in American gay history. Archival sources dating back to the nineteenth century; interviews of 250 people, many now elderly; recovered court transcripts; private mementos; scrapbooks; and many other resources, public and private, furnished the raw materials for their informative, detailed account, which finds that "historically, more lesbian and gay institutions started in Los Angeles than anywhere else on the planet." The work spans from the 1800s, when invading Euro-Americans came to outnumber southern California's Indian population and quash its sexually ambivalent and tolerant culture; to the 1920s, when "the lesbian cavortings of silent film stars . . . were Hollywood's open secret"; the 1950s and the LAPD's entrapments of gays; and the 1960s and the extraordinary growth of LA's out gay male population; to the present, when L.A. continues to set fashion and social trends (Western-wear sales are soaring, thanks to *Brokeback Mountain*). This meticulously researched, very readable text merits a place in sociology, gender--studies, and urban-history collections (*Booklist*).



Hothouse Kids: The Dilemma of the Gifted Child

By Alissa Quart

Parental obsession with identifying and nurturing the slightest giftedness in children has produced a "prodigy industry" that is robbing children of simple childhood experiences, according to Quart, a former child prodigy who traveled the country to research the frenzied trend to identify and market products, services, and activities for gifted children. She examined research and talked to parents, educators, and child psychologists as well as current and former child prodigies for a portrait of what she calls the Icarus Effect. Quart includes her own story, describing herself as insufferable, an early reader who skipped a grade and wrote her first novel at seven. She visits an amazing range of competitions for gifted children, including spelling bees, Scrabble contests, and poetry slams, all part of enormous pressures placed on gifted children that sometimes result in resentment and rebellion as the gifted look back on stunted childhoods, haunted by not living up to their promise, being "a cross between a has-been and a never-was." A fascinating cautionary tale for overzealous parents of gifted children (*Booklist*).

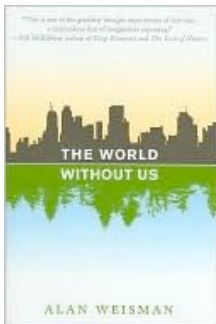


Presidential Power: Unchecked & Unbalanced

By Matthew Crenson and Benjamin Ginsberg

As envisioned by our founders, the office of chief executive was to exercise primarily a supervisory role, curbing the excesses of a popularly elected legislature. During wartime, of course, the powers of the

executive were expected to increase. However, as Arthur Schlesinger indicated in *The Imperial Presidency* (1973), the powers of the presidency have vastly expanded, even in peacetime. Crenson and Ginsberg, both political science professors, explain the reasons and consequences. They convincingly assert that the decline in popular participation in our political life has led to a dangerous power vacuum, this manifesting itself most clearly in the diminished role of political parties in selecting presidential candidates. Instead, presidential candidates today are generally able to define themselves without being moored to the beliefs of their party; thus, if elected, they feel free to pursue their own agendas. At the same time, the public withdrawal from politics has undermined both the prestige and the power of Congress. The result is a great increase in the power of the presidency, abetted by an accelerating expansion of the bureaucratic state (*Booklist*).



World Without Us

By Alan Weisman

Given the burgeoning human population and the phenomenal reach of our technologies, humankind has literally become a force of nature. We are inadvertently changing the climate; altering, polluting, and eradicating ecosystems; and driving evolution as other organisms struggle to adapt to a new human-made world. So what would happen if humankind suddenly vanished? Journalist Weisman, author of *Echo in My Blood* (1999), traveled the world to consult with experts and visit key sites, and his findings are arresting to say the least. He learned that without constant vigilance, New York's subways would immediately flood, and Houston's complex "petroscape" would spectacularly self-destruct. Weisman visits an abandoned resort on the coast of Cyprus and marvels over nature's ready reclamation. Marine biologists share sobering information about the staggering amount of plastic particles in ocean waters as well as vast floating islands of trash. Weisman is a thoroughly engaging and clarion writer fueled by curiosity and determined to cast light rather than spread despair. His superbly well researched and skillfully

crafted stop-you-in-your-tracks report stresses the underappreciated fact that humankind's actions create a ripple effect across the web of life. As for the question of what would endure in our absence, Weisman lists a "redesigned atmosphere," astronomical amounts of plastic and automobile tires, nuclear waste and other inorganic poisons, and, eerily, the radio waves that will carry our television broadcasts through the universe for all time (*Booklist*).