

Disasters!

An Extreme Dozen

Menaces ranging from fire to tectonic movement, snow and water to lava have plagued the world throughout history; here are a baker's dozen of books, all chronicling or revolving around genuine historical disasters, that give these events their dramatic due.



*Deborah Stevenson, Editor
November 2007*

THE BULLETIN

OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The *Bulletin* Dozen is a monthly theme-based booklist available from the Bulletin's website. Since we're awfully fond of bakers here at the Bulletin, we thought we'd adopt their philosophy of generosity and throw in an extra one or two when we have them to offer — so don't expect an even dozen.

Please feel free to copy, download, link to, and freely distribute these lists. We ask only that you cite the source.



See the Bulletin's website for more Dozens:

<http://bccb.lis.uiuc.edu/>

A Publication of the University of Illinois
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
501 E. Daniel Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Disasters!



An Extreme Dozen

*A Bulletin Dozen
Booklist*

Barnard, Bryn. *Dangerous Planet: Natural Disasters That Changed History*; written and illus. by Bryn Barnard. Crown, 2003. Gr. 6-10

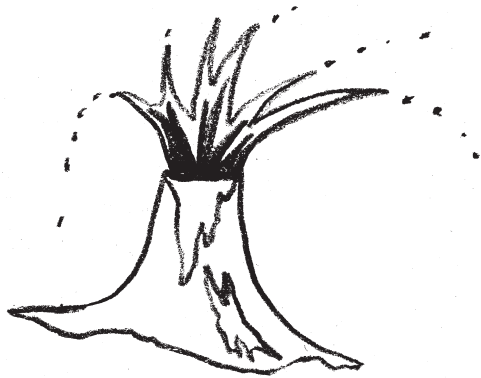
Breezy text and entertainingly lurid artwork offer overviews of historical disasters, from meteor impacts to volcanic eruptions to fires, and the effects they have had on the world. (BCCB 11/03)

Calhoun, Mary. *Flood*; illus. by Erick Ingraham. Morrow, 1997. 6-9 yrs

This picture-book account of a young girl's experience during the Midwestern flood of 1993 reflects the strengths as well as the fears of the disaster's victims. (BCCB 4/97)

Deem, James. *Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii*. Houghton, 2005. Gr. 5-8

Grim and gripping images highlight this overview of one of the most famous historical disasters and its subsequent archeological fate. (BCCB 12/05)



Gross, Virginia *The Day It Rained Forever: A Story of the Johnstown Flood*; illus. by Ronald Himler. Viking, 1991. Gr. 3-6

This compact historical novel chronicles a fictional family's experiences in the all-too-real Johnstown Flood. (BCCB 4/91)

Disasters! An Extreme Dozen

Hurst, Carol Otis. *Terrible Storm*; illus. by S. D. Schindler. Greenwillow, 2007. 5-8 yrs

Reminiscing crosstalk adds humor to this retrospective tale in the voice of the author's two grandfathers, who, when they were young, waited out the Great Blizzard of 1888 in each other's homes. (BCCB 2/07)

Kroll, Virginia. *Selvakumar Knew Better*; illus. by Xiaojun Li. Shen's 2006. 6-9 yrs

A dog's keen instincts save his family in the tsunami of 2004. (BCCB 9/06)

Kudlinski, Kathleen *Earthquake! A Story of Old San Francisco*; illus. by Ronald Himler. Viking, 1993. Gr. 4-6

This fictional tale of a young San Franciscan gives a you-are-there immediacy to its account of the tragic 1906 earthquake and fire. (BCCB 5/93)

Murphy, Jim. *The Great Fire*. Scholastic 1995. Gr. 4-7

This deservedly acclaimed volume uses first-person accounts as a basis for its gripping and thoughtful examination of the Chicago Fire of 1871. (BCCB 5/95) See also the author's *Blizzard!*

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Blizzard's Wake*. Atheneum, 2002. Gr. 6-9

The massive blizzard of 1941 is both background and catalyst in this dramatic story where snow traps a criminal with his victim's family. (BCCB 1/03)

Vogel, Carole Garbuny. *The Great Midwest Flood*. Little, 1995. Gr. 3-6

The 1993 floods that surged over the floodplains of the Mississippi are documented with tense prose and sobering photographs. (BCCB 10/95)

Wetterer, Margaret K. *The Snow Walker*; written by Margaret K. and Charles M. Wetterer; illus. by Mary O'Keefe Young. Carolrhoda, 1996. Gr. 1-3

Twelve-year-old Milton is just trying to perform a family errand when he's caught in the Northeast's record-holding blizzard of 1888. (BCCB 12/96)

Winter, Jeanette. *Mama: A True Story in Which a Baby Hippo Loses His Mama during a Tsunami, but Finds a New Home, and a New Mama*; written and illus. by Jeanette Winter. Harcourt, 2006. 5-8 yrs

The title is also an effective annotation for this simply texted account of little hippo Owen's tsunami loss and post-disaster finding of his tortoise friend. (BCCB 5/06)



Yep, Laurence. *The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco*

Earthquake of 1906. HarperCollins, 2006. Gr. 3-5

Chin is the son of the Travis family houseboy, and he and young Henry are always seeking adventure together; they get more than they bargained for in the dramatic events of 1906. (BCCB 6/06)