***Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story*** by Beverly Naidoo, illustrated by Eric Velasquez (Harper Trophy, 1988).
During the time of apartheid in South Africa, a brother and sister, Naledi and Tiro, travel from their small village to bring back their "Mma" from her job in the city because their baby sister is very ill. 96 pages. [Krisha Roach](http://www.greatschools.org/cgi-bin/showarticle/677#krisha)



***Keeping Score*** by Linda Sue Park (Clarion Books, 2008).
Linda Sue Park is familiar to readers as the winner of the 2002 Newbery Medal for her book, *A Single Shard*. A daughter of Korean immigrants, Linda grew up outside of Chicago as an avid baseball fan. She wrote *Keeping Score*, about a girl living in Brooklyn during the Korean War, combining her passion for baseball with her own family's past. Being a Brooklyn Dodgers fan in the early 1950s meant season after season of dashed hopes, but main character Maggie goes on rooting for the Dodgers. Against a background of major league baseball and the Korean War on the home front, Maggie looks for, and finds, a way to make a difference. A wonderful, heartwarming story that harkens back to the greatest children's literature. 208 pages.
Danielle Marshall and the Kids' Team at [Powells.com](http://www.greatschools.org/cgi-bin/showarticle/677#powells)



***The Shakespeare Stealer*** by Gary Blackwood (Dutton Children's Books, 1998).
This book has found a ready audience among the upper-elementary and middle-school set. With a little luck, children may want to know more about the Shakespearean plays mentioned here, as well as the period. Also worth discussing is the ethical dilemma Widge is in: to risk his life or betray his new friends. 216 pages.
Read the [complete review](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/Shakespeare-Stealer.html) on the Common Sense Media Web site.
Read Aloud: Ages 9+. Read Alone: Ages 10+.
[Common Sense Media](http://www.greatschools.org/cgi-bin/showarticle/677#csm)