"Dinosaur Roar!" by Paul and Henrietta Stickland
Kindergarten-First Grade

A simple rhyme to tickle the fancy of the youngest dino fans. "Dinosaur roar,/dinosaur squeak,/dinosaur fierce,/ dinosaur meek..." Whether weak or strong, fast or slow, etc., these colorful, slightly daft-looking creatures introduce a series of opposites as they parade across the double-page spreads. And where are the beasts marching? To eat their lunch "gobble, gobble, nibble, nibble, munch, munch, scrunch!"

—Virginia Opocensky, Lincoln City Libraries, NE

"Harold and the Purple Crayon: Dinosaur Days" by Liza Baker,
Kindergarten-First Grade

Looking at his dinosaur book, Harold decides that he'd like to ride a dinosaur, so he sets out to find one by drawing a jungle. He meets several dinosaurs, saves some from a lava flow and one from a pool of tar, rides on one's back, then goes home.

—Carolyn Phelan, American Library Association

"Tyson the Terrible" by Diane and Christian Fox,
Kindergarten–First Grade

Three dinosaur playmates fear fierce Tyson and share rumors of his terrifying reputation. As "Boom...Boom...Boom" sounds in the distance, they realize he is getting closer and their shaking increases. The booms turn to sobs as a tiny tyrannosaurus appears and bemoans his lack of playmates. When the three friends realize he is harmless, they invite him and his "little" brother to join them in a game of soccer, only to meet the real Tyson.

—Lynne Mattern, Robert Seaman School, Jericho, NY

"Dinosaurumpus!" by Tony Mition
First Grade-Second Grade

"Shake, shake, shudder . . . near the sludgy old swamp. The dinosaurs are coming. Get ready to romp." A neon-bright *Brontosaurus,* a dancing *Deinosuchus,* and other raucous dinos gather at the swamp for a wild, earth-pounding party in this exuberant picture book. Mitton's gleeful rhymes introduce dinosaur species as they rumble and boogie across the spreads in irresistible, color-saturated cartoonlike artwork that shows the humor and farce of the giant beasts shaking their scales and tails. The book ends with a nighttime scene of sleeping dinosaurs that's perfect for bedtime reading: "Now the only noise in the deep of the night is dinosaur-snoring 'til the next day's light." It's sure to be a big hit at story hours, too; expect young listeners to jump up and add their own wriggles and shakes to the dinosaur party.

-Gillian Engberg

"Find-a-Saurus" by Mark Sperring
First Grade-Second Grade

Disappointed when his mother tells him that there are no dinosaurs left, Marty decides that they're still around but they're just good at hiding. Searching hard, he locates elves, a silly monster, a unicorn, an alien, a thinga-ma-jig, and even a giant in places ranging from the laundry basket to the lily pond. One night, several dinosaurs reveal themselves to readers, hiding behind moonlit trees and reflected in cloud shapes, star constellations, and shadows. Rock formations, blankets, flowers, etc., feature the distinct shapes of Stegosaurus tails or scales or Apatosaurus heads. At the point where Marty discovers a scaly tail poking out of his toy closet, a double-page illustration with foldout flaps is especially inventive. Disappointment follows when his "mighty tug" on the tail and the opening of the flaps reveal "only a dragon."

-Liza Graybill, Worcester Public Library, MA

"T is for Terrible" by Peter McCarty
First Grade-Second Grade

This picture book begins, "I am Tyrannosaurus Rex. I am a dinosaur, otherwise known as a terrible lizard." The creature continues to reflect on its own identity: "I do not know why I am so terrible." As the carnivore frightens other dinosaurs away, it wonders, "Would I be so terrible if I were pink?" In the end, it concludes: "I am Tyrannosaurus Rex… I cannot help that I am so terrible."

—Judith Constantinides, East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, LA

"Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Creatures" by Althea
Second Grade-Fourth Grade

This book gives a brief overview of a variety of dinosaurs with full color pictures. Similar to an encyclopedia of dinosaurs.

-Heather Jones

"How Big Were the Dinosaurs" by Bernard Most
Second Grade-Fourth Grade

Most takes children's fascination with dinosaurs and applies it to their own world. A Stegosaurus's plates are compared in both shape and size to a school crossing sign. Ankylosaurus is shown waiting in front of a school bus. Diplodocus could simultaneously slam dunk a basketball at both ends of the court with his head and tail. Bright, bold, uncluttered watercolor and pen cartoons with spare text make this book ideal for group sharing as well as independent reading. Simple pronunciation guides untangle the tongue-twisting names while the horizontal format (with a pull-out page) subtly enhances the subjects' bulk. A Most welcome addition to his already impressive dinosaur collection.

-Claudia Cooper, Ft. Stockton Independent School District, TX

"Prehistoric Actual Size" by Steve Jenkins
Second Grade-Fourth Grade

Children fascinated by Jenkins' vibrant cut-paper artwork in *Actual Size* (2004) won't want to miss this oversize album of prehistoric creatures that range from tiny to enormous. Not limited to dinosaurs, the animals pictured here include the

minuscule protozoa, one millimeter in diameter; the eight-foot-tall "terror bird"; and the *Giganotosaurus*, which "may have been the largest predator that ever lived on land." The most arresting spreads are those in which the animal is too large to picture in its entirety. Only the *Giganotosaurus*' huge teeth are pictured (a few of those take up nearly a page), and the head and neck of the large flying reptile *Dsungaripterus* requires a four-page foldout. The dramatic effect of showing creatures at their actual size is even greater this time than in the first book, which featured contemporary animals. It's certainly hard to imagine that a three-inch shark, a dragonfly with a two-foot wingspan, and a six-foot millipede once actually lived on Earth. Information about and an illustration of the entire creature (not to scale) completes this colorful volume.

-Diane Foote

"Fossils" by Sally M. Walker
Third Grade-Fourth Grade

This book is part of the "Early Bird Earth Science Series." How clever of the author to have the first page challenging the readers to find the twelve listed words in the book as they read about fossils. There are five concise chapters with excellent photographs and descriptions found on every page. The text is to the point and is written in simple sentences. There is even a phonetic spelling for words that the author thought might be difficult for a reader to pronounce. The last sentence of each chapter provides the opening of the next chapter. The last chapter actually ends with two questions: "Do you have a favorite fossil?" and "What kind of story does it tell you?" What a great way to urge the reader to do further research and/or provide a prompt for discussion. At the end of the book, the reader will find a reading list, glossary, and an index. There is also a unique section addressed to adults that provides information, questions, and suggestions for methods of sharing this book with a child. A lot of thought has gone into the format of this book, and it would be an excellent selection for a nonfiction book. The vocabulary, shorter sentences, and summarizing chapters make this perfect for low-level readers, budding scientists, and students who have never found nonfiction interesting.

-Kathie M. Josephs, Children's Literature

"Simply Science: Rocks" by Alice K. Flanagan
Third Grade-Fifth Grade

These science primers contain enough specific information to challenge young readers' understanding without overwhelming them. Flanagan describes how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks are formed, gives examples of each, describes erosion, and closes with elementary advice for budding rock hounds. Beginning with the Sun, Rau takes readers on a quick tour of the solar system, including its meteors, comets, and moons, and then looks outward to extra-solar planetary systems. Dashed borders and often-superfluous little arrows give many pages an overdesigned look, but the many color photos and paintings, reproduced with acceptable if not outstanding clarity, are chosen with an eye for content rather than superficial drama. Intellectually stimulating choices for children curious about what's underfoot, and overhead.

-John Peters, New York Public Library

"What Happened to the Dinosaurs?" by Franklyn M. Branley
Third Grade-Fifth Grade

Branley tackles the mystery of what did in the dinosaurs in this addition to his popular science series. True to his intention, he provides a clear, easy-to-understand explanation of several possible causes for the dinosaurs' extinction. He includes disease, temperature change of the Earth, and even the idea that small animals devoured the dinosaurs' eggs as possible causes of death. About half the book is spent discussing the theory which claims that comet showers and the ensuing fires, ash, and dust killed the dinosaurs and their food sources. Simont's soft watercolor illustrations clearly depict, yet effectively tone down the ferocity of the subject matter for young readers. Although Branley states several times that no theory has yet been proven, the attention he gives to the comet/Nemesis theory implies it is a more valid, better-researched theory, as compared to the others which receive only a page or two of attention. He is also reluctant to question the theory; for example, how is it that mammals and some reptiles (such as turtles and alligators) survived the comet catastrophe, while dinosaurs and plants did not?

-Cathryn A. Camper, Minneapolis Public Library

"Science Works: Monster Bones: The Story of a Dinosaur Fossil" by Jacqui Bailey and Matthew Lilly
Third Grade-Fifth Grade

A dinosaur was buried at the bottom of an ocean. Learn how its bones turned to stone, and how they got put back together again. See dinosaur scientists work on a special museum display in this story of fossils.

-Back Cover Description

"Digging up Dinosaurs" by Aliki
Third Grade-Sixth Grade

How did those enormous dinosaur skeletons get inside the museum?

Long ago, dinosaurs ruled the Earth. Then, suddenly, they died out. For thousands of years, no one knew these giant creatures had ever existed. Then people began finding fossils -- bones and teeth and footprints that had turned to stone. Today, teams of experts work together to dig dinosaur fossils out of the ground, bone by fragile bone. Then they put the skeletons together again inside museums, to look just like the dinosaurs of millions of years ago.

-Back Cover Description

"Flying Giants of Dinosaur Time" by Don Lessem
Third Grade-Sixth Grade

These tidily written titles, done in a chatty style, present the facts that young dinophiles want to know. One covers the pterosaurs and pterodactyls, extrapolating some behaviors using modern birds as models, and speculates on beak shapes and sizes in the food-gathering process. The other looks at how paleontologists determine living speed when only the fossil record remains, and cites some prime examples of dinosprinters, such a Gallimimus and Troodon. The realistic, soft illustrations eschew the brightly colored/patterned bodies imagined by many artists, but are lively enough to please budding paleontologists. Simple, eye-catching, and informative, these books will fly off the shelves.

-Patricia Manning, Eastchester Public Library, NY

"Dinosaurs are Different" by Aliki
Fourth Grade-Sixth Grade

How can you tell dinosaurs apart?

You can learn a lot about dinosaurs by looking at their bones. Some dinosaurs were very small; others were huge. Some had sharp, pointy teeth for eating meat; most plant-eaters had flat, dull teeth. Some dinosaurs' hipbones pointed forward, while other dinosaurs' hipbones pointed backward. There were dinosaurs with bony armor on their backs and others with deadly horns on their heads. Today scientists have divided dinosaurs into separate orders according to their special characteristics. It's easy to see--dinosaurs are different.

-Back Cover Description

"How to Take Your Grandmother to the Museum" by Lois Wyse
Fourth Grade-Sixth Grade

Young Molly acts as an amiable guide, showing her grandmother around the American Museum of Natural History and spouting snippets of information on dinosaurs, African animals, underwater creatures, bugs and the Ice Age. While the text effectively mimics a child's varied interests, its haphazard quality sometimes results in confusion. For example, when the pair heads to Africa, the text reads, "We took a shortcut through Asia and turned left at Central America. Soon we were surrounded by antelopes and monkeys and cheetahs"; some readers may be confused about which continent they're visiting. However, Molly's concluding notes clear up most of these questions and also expand on some of her sketchier explanations of the museum's artifacts.

-Publishers Weekly

"Dinosaur Tree" by Douglas Henderson
Fifth Grade-Sixth Grade

Employing beautiful lifelike illustrations and an engaging text, the author takes us through the long life of a tree that lives for more than 500 years. This proud conifer stands tall, silently witnessing the coming and going of a multitude of plant and animal life during the late Triassic period. Even after the tree is felled by a windstorm, its life goes on as a kind of footbridge stretched across a stream. How this tree came to rest in Arizona, on the site of what is now the Petrified Forest National Park, unfolds gracefully with page after page of quiet, simply stated text and luminous paintings.

-Denia Hester

"Kaleidoscope: Fossils" by Roy A. Gallant
Fifth Grade-Sixth Grade

The easy-to-read text offers clear explanations about the ways fossils are formed and information on reading the record they leave behind. It also includes brief descriptions of a paleontologist's work and how museum exhibits are created. In Rocks, the basic formations (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic) are introduced. A "Did You Know?" section provides some additional facts.

-Kathryn Kosiorek, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Brooklyn, OH facts.