

TODAY

JAZZ IT UP: Who needs instruments? At "What is a Jazz Singer?," part of Lincoln Center's Jazz for Young People concert series, Wynton Marsalis and singers Carla Cook and Gregory Porter show how the human voice can slide like a trombone, shout like a trumpet and swing like a horn. Free pre-show snacks and games for ticket holders at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; show times are noon and 2 p.m.; \$19.50 to \$39.50. Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at 60th Street; (212) 721-6500.

WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS: Enter the quirky world of Shel Silverstein at the New York Public Library's "Shel-ebriation," which includes games, a concert by the bluegrass band Astrograss and the chance to win a copy of "Don't Bump the Gump! and Other Fantasies," Silverstein's re-released first book of poetry. 2:30 p.m., free. The Donnell Library Center, second floor, 20 W. 53rd St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues; (212) 621-0636.

TOMORROW



TINY DANCERS: If you've ever watched PBS at the crack of dawn, chances are you caught "The Toy Castle," about enchanted toys that turn into ballet dancers while their owners sleep. The New York Theatre Ballet's live version is at a much less painful time of day, though it's still short and sweet: just one hour, for ages 2 to 6. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; other times through April 13. \$30 for adults, \$25 for kids. Florence Gould Hall, 55 E. 59th St., between Park and Madison avenues; (212) 355-6160.

BIG APPLE BEAT: Just as all Aussie kids own at least one Wiggles CD, New York tots have something by Music for Aardvarks. Expect them (and their parents) to sing along to tunes such as "Taxi" and "Staten Island Ferry" when David Weinstone and the Music for Aardvarks band play two shows at the Jewish Museum. 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids. 109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; (212) 423-3200.

STILL TO COME

IN SHORT: Flix are for kids at Cobble Hill Cinemas, where this week's "Big Movies for Little Kids" installment includes shorts by Maurice Sendak ("Where the Wild Things Are") and Ezra Jack Keats ("Whistle for Willie"). Ages 2 to 7; children under 2 admitted free (but must sit on adult's lap). Monday, 4 p.m., \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinemas, 265 Court St. at Butler Street, Brooklyn; (718) 596-9113. jburtwang@hotmail.com

Read on!

New titles recall old favorites

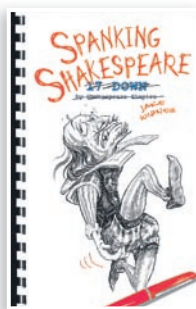
By MAXINE SHEN

JUST because "Harry Potter" is over and it's months until the next "Twilight" saga hits the stores doesn't mean there's nothing new to read. Quite the opposite. Here are our picks for fans of . . .

■ **ADRIAN MOLE**

Like Sue Townsend's Mole books, Jake Wizner's "**Spanking Shakespeare**" (Random House Books for Young Readers, ages 12 and up) is set somewhere in New York and has a similar "why me?" confessional tone. While not technically a diary, it captures 10 months in the life of one Shakespeare Shapiro, a high-school senior whose project is to write a memoir.

Sandwiched between deadpan excerpts of that memoir — with topics such as "The Time My Mother Used Emotional Blackmail to Deprive Me of the Only Thing I Ever Wanted" (a dog) — are snapshots of friendship, dysfunctional family relationships, getting into college and falling in love: high-school life at its most embarrassing, hilarious best.



■ **NANCY DREW**

Anyone who needs a new heroine will find one in Melissa A. Calderone's "**Anna Smudge: Professional Shrink**" (Toasted Coconut Media, ages 10 and up), part of the Professionals series of books, which uses dynamic comic-book-style layout and art by famed artists Greg Horn and Glenn Fabry.

Though only 11, Anna is the top shrink in the Big Apple. Through therapy sessions, she uncovers a mystery involving blackmail, a cannoli-loving hit man and an art teacher who's gone straitjacket-mad. All that, and she's got ridiculous amounts of homework to contend with, too — and no Ned to help her. Out May 2, "Anna Smudge" is worth waiting for.

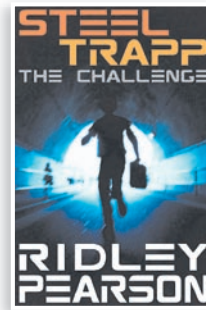
■ **ENCYCLOPEDIA BROWN**

Too old for Donald J. Sobel's young gumshoe, too young for Tom Clancy's thrillers? Try Ridley Pearson's "**Steel Trapp: The Challenge**" (Hyperion Books for Children, ages 10 and up). It hits the ground running with a tense, cross-country train ride to the National Science Challenge, where Steven



"Steel" Trapp — so nicknamed for his photographic memory — sees something he shouldn't have: a photo of a kidnapped woman tied to a chair.

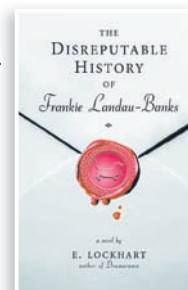
Teaming with a fellow science nerd (and runaway), it takes all of Steel's smarts to crack the case — all while being chased by federal agents and a mysterious man named Grym. Even Encyclopedia would have a hard time keeping up with all the plot twists and turns.



■ **JUDY BLUME**

The hero of E. Lockhart's "**The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks**" (Hyperion Books for Children; ages 12 and up) starts off like so many of Blume's heroes — as an awkward girl whose mother doesn't take her seriously. Almost overnight, she blossoms into a curvaceous 15-year-old and gets a boyfriend, who doesn't take her seriously, either.

To get the respect she thinks she deserves, she masquerades as the leader of her boarding school's all-male Loyal Order of the Basset Hounds, goading them into pulling increasingly bizarre pranks, such as



draping male school officials' statues with female undergarments. Frankie's attitude might not be very Blume-like, but the self-confidence she achieves by the end of the book definitely is.

■ **THE FALLEN SERIES**

Like the Fallen books, Cassandra Clare's Mortal Instruments trilogy involves nephilim — humans with angel blood running through their veins. This time, the nephilim are a secret and elite group of warriors, called Shadowhunters, charged with protecting humanity from demons.

Set in Manhattan and Brooklyn, "**City of Bones**" (Simon Pulse, ages 14 and up) drops a seemingly normal 15-year-old named Clary Fray into a world where humans unknowingly exist alongside vampires, the Fair Folk (faeries) and werewolves. Hours after encountering teen Shadowhunters in action, Clary's mother is kidnapped, a demon tries to kill her and she's thrust into the Shadowhunter world, where she might not be as normal as she thinks.

The just-released sequel, "**City of Ashes**," continues the story, which wraps up with "**City of Glass**," due next March. Meet the author at Books of Wonder, 18 W. 18th St., tomorrow at 1 p.m.



Next week: Books for beginning readers.