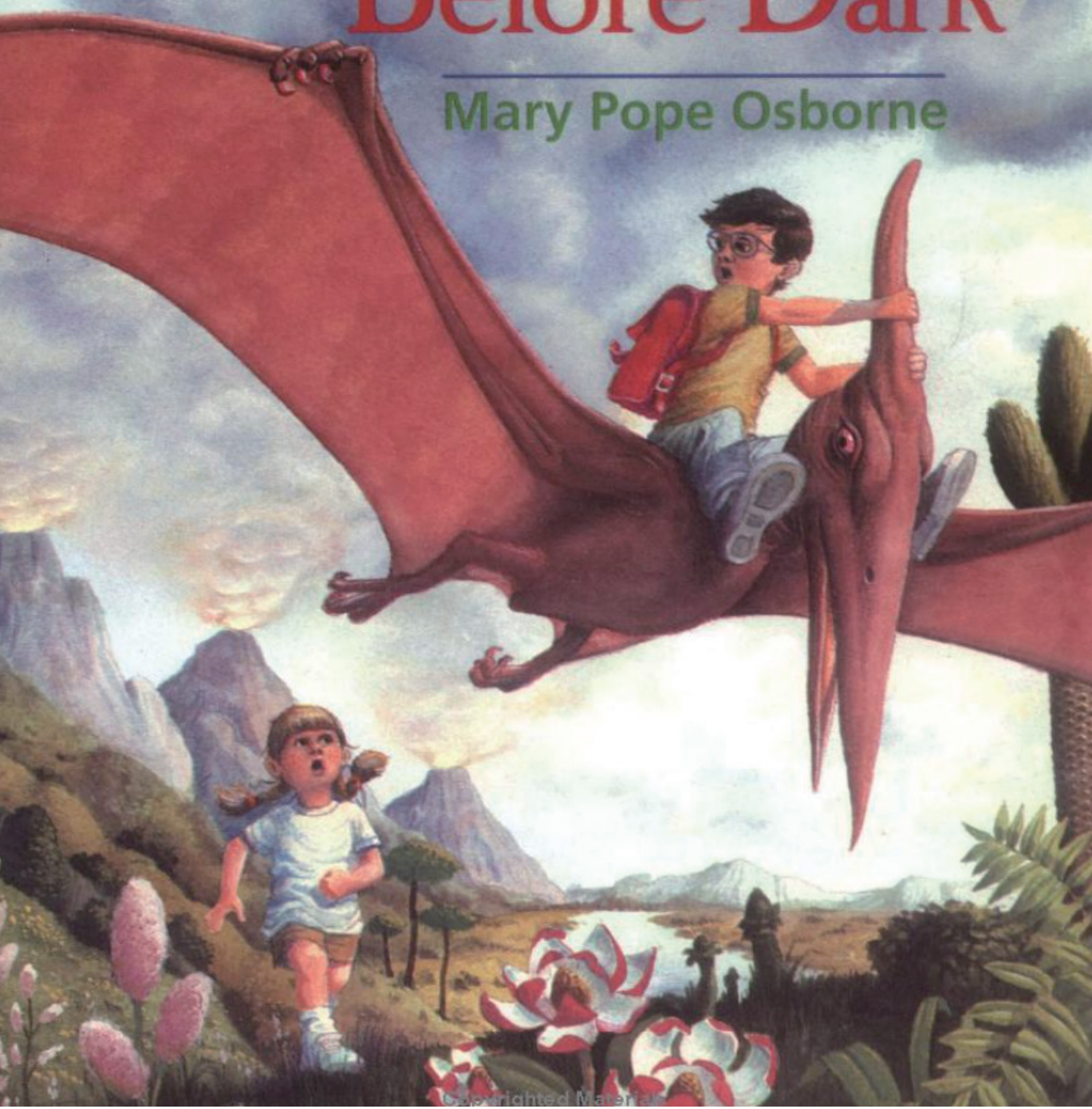


MAGIC TREE HOUSE #1

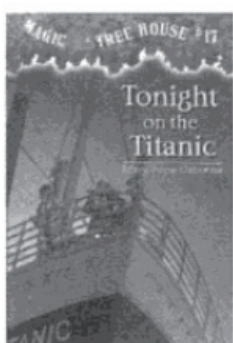
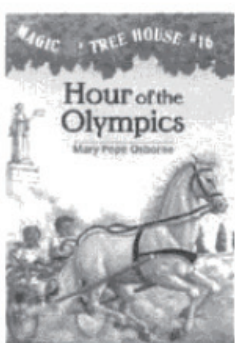
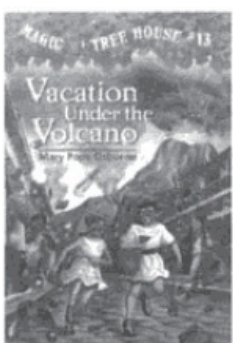
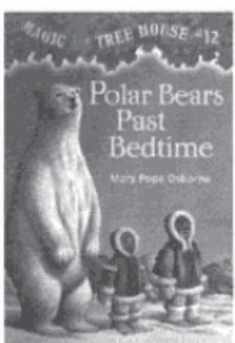
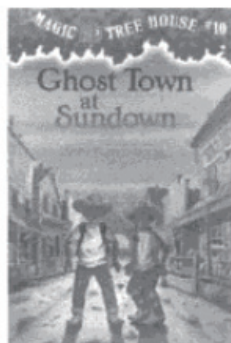
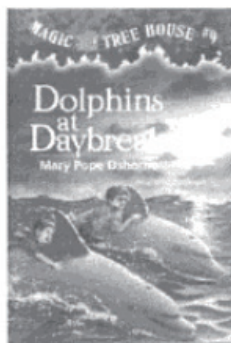
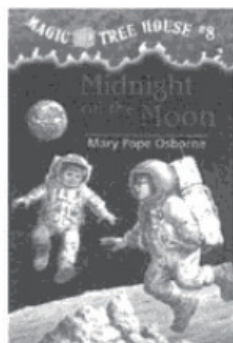
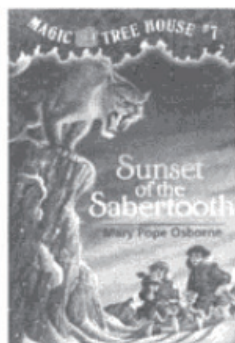
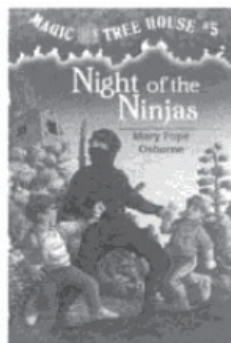
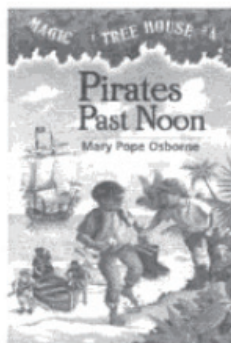
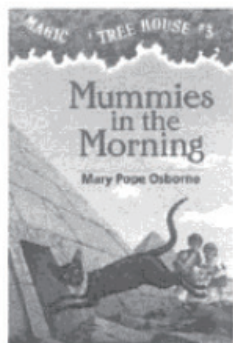
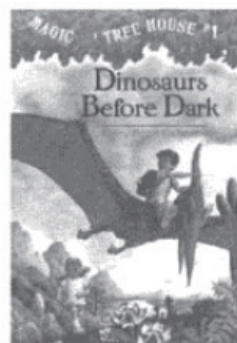
Dinosaurs Before Dark

Mary Pope Osborne



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Step into a world of adventure.



EAN



ISBN 0-679-82411-1

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Here's what kids have to say to
Mary Pope Osborne, author of
the Magic Tree House series:

I wish I could keep all your books in a glass case with a golden key.—Luke R.

I love your books because they are funny and scary.—Michael C.

I'd like to be a writer just like you.
—Meghan G.

I hope you come out with more than one hundred Jack and Annie books.—Brock G.

Your books really make me dream.—Kurt K.

I think you are the best writer in all mankind!—Heather O.

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the May-Apple*

Magic Tree House #1

**Dinosaurs
Before Dark**

by Mary Pope Osborne

illustrated by Sal Murdocca

Random House  New York

*For Linda and Mallory,
who took the trip with me*

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(The Magic Tree House) A First Stepping Stone book

SUMMARY: Eight-year-old Jack and his younger sister Annie find a magic tree house, which whisks them back to an ancient time zone where they see live dinosaurs.

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Dinosaurs Before Dark



1

Into the Woods

“Help! A monster!” said Annie.

“Yeah, sure,” said Jack. “A real monster in Frog Creek, Pennsylvania.”

“Run, Jack!” said Annie. She ran up the road.

Oh, brother.

This is what he got for spending time with his seven-year-old sister.

Annie loved pretend stuff. But Jack was eight and a half. He liked *real* things.

“Watch out, Jack! The monster’s coming! Race you!”

“No, thanks,” said Jack.

Annie raced alone into the woods.

Jack looked at the sky. The sun was about to set.

“Come on, Annie! It’s time to go home!”

But Annie had disappeared.

Jack waited.

No Annie.

“Annie!” he shouted again.

“Jack! Jack! Come here!”

Jack groaned. “This better be good,” he said.

Jack left the road and headed into the woods. The trees were lit with a golden late-afternoon light.

“Come here!” called Annie.

There she was. Standing under a tall oak tree. “Look,” she said. She was pointing at a rope ladder.

The longest rope ladder Jack had ever seen.

“Wow,” he whispered.

The ladder went all the way up to the top of the tree.

There—at the top—was a tree house. It was tucked between two branches.

“That must be the highest tree house in the world,” said Annie.

“Who built it?” asked Jack. “I’ve never seen it before.”

“I don’t know. But I’m going up,” said Annie.

“No. We don’t know who it belongs to,” said Jack.

“Just for a teeny minute,” said Annie. She started up the ladder.

“Annie, come back!”

She kept climbing.



Jack sighed. "Annie, it's almost dark. We have to go home."

Annie disappeared inside the tree house.

"An-nie!"

Jack waited a moment. He was about to call again when Annie poked her head out of the tree house window.

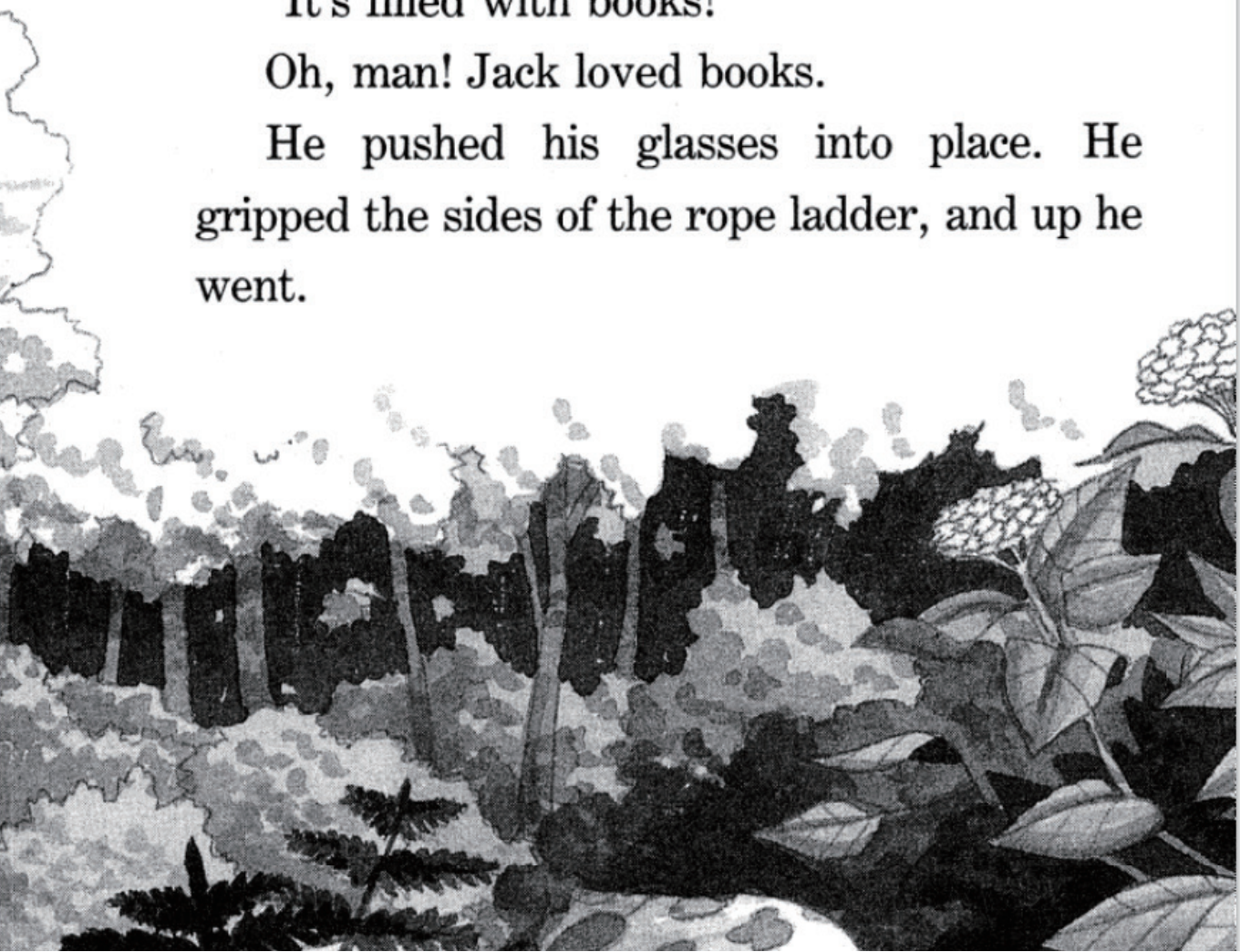
"Books!" she shouted.

"What?"

"It's filled with books!"

Oh, man! Jack loved books.

He pushed his glasses into place. He gripped the sides of the rope ladder, and up he went.



2

The Monster

Jack crawled through a hole in the tree house floor.

Wow. The tree house *was* filled with books. Books everywhere. Very old books with dusty covers. New books with shiny, bright covers.

“Look. You can see far, far away,” said Annie. She was peering out the tree house window.

Jack looked out the window with her. Down below were the tops of the other trees. In the distance he saw the Frog Creek library.



P. Coughlin/J. Dratfield: Photography, Inc.

About the Author

Mary Pope Osborne is the award-winning author of over forty books for young people, including *American Tall Tales*, *Favorite Greek Myths*, the *Spider Kane* mystery books, and *One World, Many Religions*, an Orbis Pictus Honor Book. She recently completed two terms as president of the Authors Guild, the leading writers' organization in the United States. She lives in New York City with her husband, Will, and their Norfolk terrier, Bailey. They also have a cabin in Pennsylvania.

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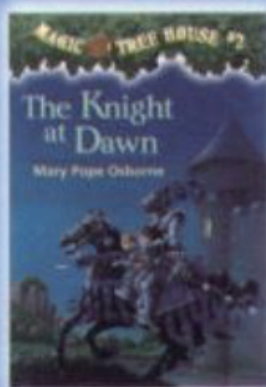
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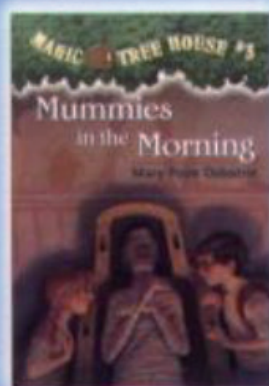
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—an anonymous reader