

Books make vacations interesting

Continued From 1B

Compiled by Linda Goss, the official story teller of the city of Philadelphia and editor of another fine collection of African American tales, "Talk That Talk" and husband, playwright Clay Goss "Jump Up and Say" features stories that you know, and some you don't by America's most prolific black writers, including Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, and Sweet Honey in The Rock's Bernice Johnson Reagan. Perfect as an introduction to storytelling for older children as well. (Touchstone Books, 1995 \$25)

• "Like Sisters On the Homefront" tells the touching story of 14-year-old mother Gayle. When Gayle gets in trouble a second time, her mother sends her down South to stay with her sanctimonious brother. Gayle's life is forever changed by the experience as

she overcomes her "bad attitude" and negative image of the South. Author Rita Garcia Williams does an excellent job of introducing us to Gayle and her family. Written in today's "hip hop" lingo, "Like Sisters on the Homefront" is perfect for teens and was honored with a Coretta Scott King Award for Non-Violent Social Change. Parents will want to read it too. Williams provides real insight into the thinking of many of today's youth, as well as the negative vibe that engulf many youth. (Lodestar, 1995, \$15.99)

• When Jim, a slave on a Southern plantation decides he wants his freedom, he takes the request to his master in the form of a Christmas day riddle. If the master guesses right Jim will remain, if the master guesses wrong, Jim will finally gain his freedom. A retelling of a William J.

Faulkner tale by Texan Angela Shelf Medearis, "The Freedom Riddle" is an excellent choice for children age 9-13. Beautifully illustrated and wonderfully retold, children will get good mental workout trying to figure out Jim's riddle. I got it wrong. (Lodestar Books, 1995, \$14.95)

Also for older children, Virginia Hamilton's "Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom" is a great way into African American history. Featuring profiles of some of our greatest heroes and sheroes, including my own personal favorite, Henry Box Brown, who built a crate and mailed himself to freedom, "Many Thousand Gone" is a history that will leave children wide-eyed and aware of the profound impact we have had on America. (Knopf, 1993, \$16).

Sounds: Heltah Skeltah

Continued From 1B

I almost liked this Heltah Skeltah CD. They are skilled rappers who have more to say than many of their peers.

But like most other rappers, it indulges to heavily in profanity for no apparent reason. The duo isn't as obsessed with

violence and sex as other rappers. It's more bragging about their skills. They do have some. "Therapy," "The Square (Triple R)" and "Letha Brainz Blo" all could stand on their own without the cursing.

I guess there's a lot of pressure on rappers to do such because such language goes

along with the persona they want to project. Too bad. This project could have been so different.

Rating:
☆☆☆☆ Classic; ☆☆☆ I Excellent; ☆☆☆ Good; ☆☆☆ Fair; ☆ Why? No Stars Given
- A Mess.

'Cable Guy' debuts at No. 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations and Entertainment Data Inc.:

1. "The Cable Guy," Columbia, \$19.8 million, 2,657 locations, \$7,454 per location, \$19.8 million, one week.
2. "The Rock," Disney, \$18.5 million, 2,415 locations, \$7,666 per location, \$56.1 million, two weeks.
3. "Mission: Impossible," Paramount, \$8.6 million, 2,863 locations, \$3,007 per location, \$145 million, four weeks.
4. "Twister," Warner Bros., \$7.7 million, 2,808 locations, \$2,747 per location, \$200 million, six weeks.
5. "Dragonheart," Universal, \$4.6 million, 2,193 locations,

\$2,075 per location, \$35 million, three weeks.

6. "Eddie," Disney, \$3.4 million, 1,959 locations, \$1,713 per location, \$22.3 million, three weeks.

7. "The Phantom," Paramount, \$3.1 million, 2,163 locations, \$1,423 per location, \$10.2 million, two weeks.

8. "Spy Hard," Disney, \$1.3 million, 1,516 locations, \$837 per location, \$23.8 million, four weeks.

9. "The Arrival," Orion, \$1.1 million, 1,134 locations, \$1,000 per location, \$11.1 million, three weeks.

10. "Moll Flanders," MGM, \$956,000, 280 locations, \$3,413 per location, \$956,000, one week.

11. "Flipper," Universal, \$655,000, 1,119 locations, \$585 per location, \$16.5 million, five weeks.

12. "The Truth About Cats and Dogs," Fox, \$448,000, 648 locations, \$691 locations, \$31.9 million, eight weeks.

13. "The Birdcage," MGM, \$445,000, 582 locations, \$764

per location, \$121.2 million, 15 weeks.

14. "Toy Story," Disney, \$408,000, 574 locations, \$711 per location, \$189.5 million, 30 weeks.

15. "Mr. Holland's Opus," Disney, \$373,000, 414 locations, \$901 per location, \$81 million, 22 weeks.

16. "Welcome to the Dollhouse," Sony Classics, \$349,000, 85 locations, \$4,104 per location, \$1.4 million, four weeks.

17. "Cold Comfort Farm," Gramercy, \$349,000, 83 locations, \$4,200 per location, \$2.1 million, six weeks.

18. "Mrs. Winterbourne," TriStar, \$287,000, 300 locations, \$958 per location, \$9.5 million, nine weeks.

19. "The Quest," Universal, \$264,000, 447 locations, \$590 per location, \$20.8 million, eight weeks.

20. "Muppet Treasure Island," Disney, \$192,000, 403 locations, \$475 per location, \$33.7 million, 18 weeks.

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