

1: Sapphire - Wikipedia

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Plot[edit] Claireece Precious Jones is an obese and illiterate year-old girl who lives in Harlem with her abusive mother Mary. When her school discovers the pregnancy, it is decided that she should attend an alternative school. She meets her teacher, Ms. All of the girls come from troubled backgrounds. They start off by learning the basics of phonics and vocabulary building. Despite their academic deficits, Ms. Rain ignites a passion in her students for literature and writing. She believes that the only way to learn to write is to write every day. Each girl is required to keep a journal. Rain reads their entries and provides feedback and advice. Precious is particularly moved by The Color Purple. While in the hospital for the birth of her second child, a boy she names Abdul Jamal Louis Jones, Precious tells a social worker that her first child is living with her grandmother. When Precious returns home with her newborn baby, her mother is enraged and chases her out of the house. Homeless and alone, she first passes a night at the armory, then turns to Ms. Rain who uses all of her resources to get Precious into a halfway house with childcare. Her new environment provides her with the stability and support to continue with school. The accomplishment boosts her spirits. With her attitude changing and her confidence growing, Precious finds herself thinking about having a boyfriend, a real relationship with someone near her age, with someone who attracts her interest. Her only sexual experience thus far has been the rape and sexual abuse by her father and, to a lesser extent, her mother. Testing verifies that Precious is HIV positive, but her children are not. Her classmate Rita encourages Precious to join an incest support group, as well as an HIV positive group. Women of all ages and backgrounds attend the meetings. The book concludes with no specific fate outlined for Precious, with the author leaving her future undetermined. Style[edit] Critics have gone in both directions as far as their opinions of the style in which Push is written. Others have stated that while the dialect is problematic, Precious herself is believable because she "speaks in a darting stream of consciousness of her days in an unexpectedly evocative fashion" Mahoney. She spells words phonetically. She uses a "minimal English that defies the conventions of spelling and usage and dispenses all verbal decorum" Mahoney. She also uses an array of profanity and harsh details that reflect the life she has experienced. Last week we went to the museum. A whole whale is hanging from the ceiling. Ms Rain, Rita, Abdul? Precious herself has died following complications from HIV, but was accepted to college before her death.

2: Push by Sapphire

*The Book of Sapphire [Gilbert Sinoue, Mokha Laget] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Boehm September 10, By Richard W. This book is an indispensable treasure trove of information that will serve as a guide to help navigate the gem underworld. It also rivals any coffee table book, featuring beautiful photos that Hughes, his wife, and their daughter captured over many journeys together. As Hughes points out, however, wealth does not always bring happiness and can often be fleeting. One of my favorite sidebars is the legend of Darky Garnet, who arrived in Rubyvale, Australia, with only a wheelbarrow full of worldly possessions. Garnet struck it rich, lived like a king, shared his wealth with friends and strangers, and left penniless with only his wheelbarrow and the shirt on his back. He is celebrated to this day with an annual tribute one must read to believe. The first chapter features colorful illustrations and photos of ancient frescos, mines, and jewelry dating back hundreds and even thousands of years. Hughes suggests that Sri Lankan traders brought rubies and sapphires to Europe in early Greco-Roman times, making them the earliest stones of value tendered for international trade and commerce. This chapter continues with the varied and abundant history associated with the search for and fashioning of corundum. Ruby and sapphire were frequently mistaken for other gems such as spinel and lapis. It was not until the advancement of mineral science in the 17th and 18th centuries that these two members of the corundum family were fully understood. Thus oriental topaz actually referred to yellow sapphire, while oriental amethyst referred to purple sapphire. The chapter on source countries takes the reader on an incredible adventure to ruby- and sapphire-producing countries, providing a virtual tour of these fascinating locales. Hughes begins with a clear, concise explanation of the geologic forces that led to the conditions required for gemstone mineralization. Fascinating details are provided about the people, mining, and production in the major corundum sources: Hughes then shares many secrets of the trade to help collectors make educated decisions. Details of what to look for in color, clarity, cut, and country of origin are clearly conveyed, but the reader is encouraged to always go with personal preference. In the case of ruby, the market tends to favor stones with a more intense color, but Hughes advises not to overlook those of slightly less saturation that might offer more brightness and versatility. One of the most interesting excerpts features renowned mineral and gem dealer William Larson expounding on his vast connoisseurship of crystals. Larson shares how his passion for minerals, which began when he was just a boy, has grown into one of the finest private collections of specimens in the world. He offers his suggestions on building a meaningful collection. One of my favorite sections examines left-brain objective pricing vs. Understanding gem value is one of the most difficult things to master. Auction results, scattered throughout the book, provide the reader with tangible examples of some of the finest gems and jewelry sold over the past two decades, such as a 6. He also includes wonderful sections on judging stars and cabochons, fancy-color sapphires, and suites. Hughes explains the skills and instrumentation needed to identify synthetics, treatments, and country-of-origin characteristics. Well-deserved tribute is paid to the artistic skills and scientific knowledge required to properly capture, identify, and apply microscopic observations. The benefits and drawbacks of gem treatments are also clearly discussed. Chapter six gives direction on how to accumulate a useful and refined gemological library. As always, Hughes provides a generous and detailed bibliography, recommending numerous volumes and journals. In the final chapter, many of the amazing photos featured throughout the book are beautifully grouped to help communicate the subtle nuances that make up the diverse corundum family. Throughout, Richard Hughes spices up the book with his colorful style, personal anecdotes, quotes, and fascinating sidebars. Every gemologist, dealer, connoisseur, collector, and gem enthusiast should own this indispensable work.

3: Book of Ruby & Sapphire by J.F. Halford-Watkins

Auction results, scattered throughout the book, provide the reader with tangible examples of some of the finest gems and jewelry sold over the past two decades, such as a carat Burmese ruby which sold in for over US\$ million, and an carat Kashmir sapphire which sold in for over US\$ million.

Sapphires are the same as rubies , except that they are not red. Sapphire can be found in the ground or it can be made in large crystal. Blue sapphires are the most famous kind, but they can be many different colors, like amber and orange. Sapphires have a long history. Tradition says that the tablets of the Ten Commandments were made of sapphire, so strong a hammer could not break them, and would break instead if it hit them. The ancient Persians believed that the earth sat on a big sapphire and that the big sapphire made the sky blue. A lot of ancient people thought rubies made people calm down, as well as cure their bruises. Sapphires have been used by kings and queens for a long time as a symbol of luck, virtue , wisdom, and holiness. Princess Diana and Princess Anne both received sapphire engagement rings and the British Crown Jewels are full of large blue sapphires, the symbol of kind and wise rulers. It symbolizes telling the truth and doing what you said you would. Sapphire is actually just corundum and is one of the hardest minerals on the hardness scale. Since sapphire is the second hardest mineral in the hardness scale, it is sometimes used as a polishing tool. This mineral is found in gem gravel deposits. These deposits are formed from the heat of metamorphic or igneous rock plateaus. The most costly and beautiful sapphires are shipped from Kashmir, India. In other words, sapphire is mostly found in Asia. Recent findings of sapphire have taken place in Australia, Kenya, and Tanzania. Sapphire was the first mineral to be lab grown in a strategy called "flame fusion". Another strategy, slightly harder to use, "flux growth" was used to lab grow sapphire. Heating yellow, light yellow, or colorless sapphire from oc can turn into a dark yellow, gold, golden brown, orange, or a reddish brown colored sapphire. There is a specific kind of sapphire called Star sapphires have whitish pieces of rutile or silk as some call it. Star sapphires can be heated to remove the blue color of sapphire and can be heated even more to get the blue color back and remove the white silk. U of Texas, 24 Aug.

4: The Kid by Sapphire – review | Books | The Guardian

Sapphire is the author of American Dreams, a collection of poetry which was cited by Publishers Weekly as, "One of the strongest debut collections of the nineties." Push, her novel, won the Book-of-the-Month Club Stephen Crane award for First Fiction, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's First Novelist Award, and, in Great Britain, the Mind Book of the Year Award.

Edit The first scene introduced is when Faro and Sapphire are sitting on a shore in Senara, which is where they live as of now since the move from St. Pirans ever since the Tide Knot broke and destroyed nearly everything. In this scene, Sapphire is introduced to a tree outside her Trewhella Cottage which determines evil. Soon later, Sapphire is informed a meeting is about to happen and for those reasons, must go to Ingo with Faro to attend it. They pass through the Claw Creatures and through rocks of which one tightens Sapphire for a while but learns on how to relax and it moves apart bit by bit. Sapphire is haunted at this fact and is told by Eryvs to travel to the deep and make the Kraken sleep again, implying he wants Sapphire to be sacrificed to this beast of which Sapphire is worried of. However's tales spoke that the Kraken has slept once only by a man called Sapphire came back from the Deep alive and now hearing this begins to fantasize about what Eryvs is up to and for those reasons takes the offer to travel to the deep to put the Kraken to sleep, most presumably if not with Conor and Faro, to if not put it to sleep, kill it which again shocks the audience. At first, she thought it was a luring trick to bring Conor to Ingo and seduce him to become one of the Mer of which happened to Mathew Trewhella III, but later reluctantly accepts it as a gift for Conor to perhaps remember Elvira is still in care of Conor. When Sapphire returns back to Air, Sapphire puts her clothes in the wash and is talked on the phone by Conor who had to make up a lie that Sapphire was staying with Rainbow and Patrick at their house. Conor refuses to lie to their mother again and tells Sapphire that next time, she has to explain her actions. On the way to St. At the end of the meeting, Granny Carne gives Sapphire some Rowan Berries of which she must not lose and it is laid warm in her palms and sets off once again to St. During midnight, Sadie is frightened by the talisman Elvira carved for Conor and so thus Sadie keeps a distance from Conor, in removal of most of the presence of the talisman. While Conor and Sapphire go out for a midnight stroll, Sapphire tells Conor about the Kraken and how all of Ingo wish for her to save Ingo from the Kraken. Conor believes that Ingo wishes to sacrifice a life for the sakes of their people, and does not let Sapphire go alone on the voyage, along with Faro who unwillingly does not let her go to the Deep herself. Sapphire is later said to be sitting on the doorstep awake, having only slept for four hours. Roger comes by and tells Sapphire that Gloria Fortune saw a girl walking up the path and asks Sapphire if she is that girl. Roger presumes it is and suspects Conor is trying to hide the truth from her mother. Roger backs off eventually walking away and trying not to make any more hurt for both Sapphire and her mother. Later Sapphire is shown to travel to Ingo with Faro and Conor. While arriving near the Groves of Aleph, Faro stated he cleared most of the passing for Saldowr. While chatting to Saldowr, Saldowr recognises the talisman Elvira made for Conor and Conor is asked to bring it forward to have a look. If it is touched, the talisman will gradually lose its power. Sapphire notes this when Saldowr gives Conor the necklace and questions about the ring. Saldowr informs Sapphire that the ring is safe and there is no need for a worry. It is also said that Dad never wore his wedding ring on his hand, but around his neck with a gold necklace. From there, they sent on for adventures in the Deep. Both Faro and Sapphire have one. Sapphire used them against the Kraken, and they were lost to the Deep. The watch is not mentioned again after the first book. Quotes Although she is very sturdy, she tends to talk alot about "i want to be with the mermaids" Trivia Although she has been described as having dark-coloured hair, her hair color is often interpreted as red.

5: Sapphire Trewhella | Ingo Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

The Book of Ruby & Sapphire is the culmination of a lifetime's work by Halford-Watkins. Profusely illustrated, it is something that ranks with the finest works of Kunz, Bauer and Sinkankas. Profusely illustrated, it is something that ranks with the finest works of Kunz, Bauer and Sinkankas.

Penguin Press On the very first page of "The Kid," we learn Precious has died, leaving behind an orphan 9-year-old son, Abdul. Told from his point of view, it is a harrowing, sometimes bewildering tale. There, he is well educated by the men in charge, learning science and Shakespeare. He also suffers abuse at their hands, in sexual scenes that play out an inseparable combination of desire, twisted guardianship and self-loathing. Mature for his age and, as he later comes to understand, physically attractive, J. If it is little surprise, it is no less devastating when J. He slips at night to the beds of younger boys, of weaker boys. In dreamlike language he narrates his sexual conquests: My body is not a stranger. Here in the beat is my life. Often dipping into sexual fevers or dream states, it seems to nod to the subjective narrators of William Faulkner. Desperate to find a place of belonging, he finds his way to the home of a dance teacher who will train him in exchange for sex. Divided into four sections, it is the third in which J. He slips between the cracks of the system, avoiding enrolling in school and instead taking dance classes at a number of places across the city. At 17 and passing for older, he becomes a founding member of an avant-garde dance troupe in Lower Manhattan. He has friends of a sort, and lovers whose encounters are as vividly detailed as his dances: He keeps people at a remove, as his multiple identities and erasures form an indelible barrier. His growing reputation and new clique put pressure on that cloudy center, and he confronts fears about his parentage, figuring out who his father must be. Sapphire has taken the challenges her Kid faces and distilled them into a devastating voice, demanding and raw. When others speak a girlfriend narrates her own, privileged devastations, and his relative tells the story of their family the book loses momentum. It is an accomplished work of art, but it is a grueling story, one whose depictions of brutality and desire may be too challenging for some readers in fact, the excerpts here omit some of the strong language used throughout the book. In its final section, Abdul is institutionalized, swimming into consciousness only intermittently. He is not sure of anything. But he is hard to forget.

6: 'The Kid' by Sapphire: Book review - latimes

This is a more advanced course, based on The Book Of Ruby, that aims to take your Ruby skills to a higher level. The Book Of Ruby (free edition) is a free tutorial to the Ruby language. It contains pages in 20 chapters.

When that novel was turned into the Oscar-winning film *Precious* in , some critics complained that it represented black people too negatively. The idea that black writers and film-makers should censor themselves on these grounds is, of course, absurd. *Push* and *Precious* are no more a guide to "African-American culture" than *Trainspotting* is to being Scottish. Claireece "Precious" Jones is obese, illiterate and, at 16, has had two children by her father. She lives in a gruesome tenement flat in Harlem with her sadistic sloth of a mother whose abuse extends to verbal humiliation, force-feeding and physical violence. *Push* is so gut-wrenching it should be sold with free painkillers. At the start of *The Kid*, Precious is on the verge of dying from Aids. She has risen above the squalor and tragedy of her childhood and educated herself. Her youngest child, Abdul, is the narrator – a bright nine-year-old boy in whom she has instilled good manners, strong moral values and a keen awareness of his cultural heritage. After her death, he still talks to her and relives past conversations in his head. At the funeral, he says to himself: I mean dead dead. Abdul is left to the mercy of the state and, inevitably, what one fears for him comes to pass. Sapphire being Sapphire, we are not spared anything, and what transpires is sexual abuse on a grand scale – in a foster home, in a Catholic orphanage and even with a middle-aged dance teacher who conveniently presumes that his "lover" is older than Sex in this novel is invariably ugly and abusive as its author plunges us into the psychology of how the victim can become the perpetrator. Without a loving parent or guardian to show him the boundaries of real affection, sex for Abdul becomes a toxic, compulsive collision of pain and pleasure. Abdul becomes delusional, psychotic, disengaging from traumatic situations by transforming them into surreal dreams. And his many nightmarish sequences can get repetitious, especially in the confusion, loss and rage he feels about his mother and unknown father: You said I was gonna be something. Where am I going? I hate you, Mommy. She has her own story of abuse to tell, revealing inter-generational cycles of exploitation, degradation and hardship. One of the abusive priests tells him that sex with children is a "little-little kindness". Another yells while raping him: Why do you make me hurt you, black boy! We will not let you down again for a second or third or even fourth time in your short lives. He becomes part of a young troupe of dancers and develops friendships, but when he overhears them talking about him, he feels betrayed. The rage that Abdul carries within him is always boiling away beneath the surface. His language is peppered with the crudest expletives and one fears for him and everyone he comes into contact with. You hope he will triumph over his childhood, and the novel keeps you on tenterhooks. Sapphire is not your average writer. Brave, bold and uncompromising, she first made her name as a performance poet in New York, and the breathtaking velocity and visceral power of her prose soars off the page.

7: Books: Ruby & Sapphire: A Collector's Guide | Research & News

The Book of Star Sapphire (Uncommon) C3G DC WAVE 22 COSMIC FORCES Comic PDF Mini PDF The figure used for this unit is a Heroclix figure from the DC 75th Anniversary set. Its model number and name are #Zamaron.

Chrysolite, our Topaz, bright yellow. Topazion, or Peridot, yellowish green. Chrysoprasus, a darker shade of the same colour. Hyacinthus, Sapphire, sky blue. With this blended harmony of colour the foundation-stones would encircle the heavenly city as with a rainbow belt. The varying tints would glow like pledges of a dayspring from on high. Jasper first, I said; And second, sapphire; third, chalcedony; The rest in order;-last, an amethyst. Pulpit Commentary Verse The first foundation was jasper. Probably the diamond see on Revelation 4: Thought to be the modern lapis lazuli. It was of a clear blue colour Exodus The third, a chalcedony. Not the modern stone of that name, but a green carbonate of copper, found in the mines of Chalcedon. It was, therefore, a kind of inferior emerald. The fourth, an emerald. The same as the modern stone cf. Matthew Henry Commentary Sometimes they sound the trumpet of Divine Providence, and warn a careless world; sometimes they discover things of a heavenly nature of the heirs of salvation. Those who would have clear views of heaven, must get as near to heaven as they can, on the mount of meditation and faith. The subject of the vision is the church of God in a perfect, triumphant state, shining in its lustre; glorious in relation to Christ; which shows that the happiness of heaven consists in intercourse with God, and in conformity to him. The change of emblems from a bride to a city, shows that we are only to take general ideas from this description. The wall is for security. Heaven is a safe state; those who are there, are separated and secured from all evils and enemies. This city is vast; here is room for all the people of God. The foundation of the wall; the promise and power of God, and the purchase of Christ, are the strong foundations of the safety and happiness of the church. These foundations are set forth by twelve sorts of precious stones, denoting the variety and excellence of the doctrines of the gospel, or of the graces of the Holy Spirit, or the personal excellences of the Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven has gates; there is a free admission to all that are sanctified; they shall not find themselves shut out. These gates were all of pearls. Christ is the Pearl of great price, and he is our Way to God. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. The saints in heaven tread gold under foot. The saints are there at rest, yet it is not a state of sleep and idleness; they have communion, not only with God, but with one another. All these glories but faintly represent heaven.

8: Sapphire - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Push (or the movie tie-in title Precious), by Sapphire Luckily, this book does not overstay its welcome. If you ignore the final essays at the end, Push is all of pages long.

Natural sapphires[edit] An uncut, rough yellow sapphire found at the Spokane Sapphire Mine near Helena, Montana Sapphire is one of the two gem-varieties of corundum , the other being ruby defined as corundum in a shade of red. Although blue is the best-known sapphire color, they occur in other colors, including gray and black, and they can be colorless. A pinkish orange variety of sapphire is called padparadscha. For sapphire, Kashmir receives the highest premium although Burma, Sri Lanka, and Madagascar also produce large quantities of fine quality gems. For gems of exceptional quality, an independent determination from a respected laboratory such as the GIA , AGL or Gubelin of origin often adds to value. Blue sapphire[edit] Teardrop-shaped blue sapphire Gemstone color can be described in terms of hue , saturation , and tone. Hue is commonly understood as the " color " of the gemstone. Saturation refers to the vividness or brightness of the hue, and tone is the lightness to darkness of the hue. Blue sapphires are evaluated based upon the purity of their primary hue. Purple , violet , and green are the most common secondary hues found in blue sapphires. Gray is the normal saturation modifier or mask found in blue sapphires. Gray reduces the saturation or brightness of the hue, and therefore has a distinctly negative effect. Dark blue sapphire, probably of Australian origin, showing the brilliant surface luster typical of faceted corundum gemstones. Sapphires of other colors[edit] Sapphires in colors other than blue are called "fancy" or "parti colored" sapphires. Particolored sapphires cannot be created synthetically and only occur naturally. The deeper the pink color, the higher their monetary value. In the United States, a minimum color saturation must be met to be called a ruby, otherwise the stone is referred to as a pink sapphire. Padparadscha sapphires are rare; the rarest of all is the totally natural variety, with no sign of artificial treatment. Recently, more sapphires of this color have appeared on the market as a result of a new artificial treatment method called "lattice diffusion". Star sapphires contain intersecting needle-like inclusions following the underlying crystal structure that causes the appearance of a six-rayed "star"-shaped pattern when viewed with a single overhead light source. The inclusion is often the mineral rutile , a mineral composed primarily of titanium dioxide. Occasionally, twelve-rayed stars are found, typically because two different sets of inclusions are found within the same stone, such as a combination of fine needles of rutile with small platelets of hematite ; the first results in a whitish star and the second results in a golden-colored star. During crystallisation, the two types of inclusions become preferentially oriented in different directions within the crystal, thereby forming two six-rayed stars that are superimposed upon each other to form a twelve-rayed star. The gem was mined in the city of Ratnapura, southern Sri Lanka. The value of a star sapphire depends not only on the weight of the stone, but also the body color, visibility, and intensity of the asterism. Color change sapphires are blue in outdoor light and purple under incandescent indoor light, or green to gray-green in daylight and pink to reddish-violet in incandescent light. Color change sapphires come from a variety of locations, including Thailand and Tanzania. The color-change effect is caused by the interaction of the sapphire, which absorbs specific wavelengths of light, and the light-source, whose spectral output varies depending upon the illuminant. Transition-metal impurities in the sapphire, such as chromium and vanadium, are responsible for the color change. However, the latter term is a misnomer: This is because genuine alexandrite is a variety of chrysoberyl: If trace amounts of iron are present, a very pale yellow to green color may be seen. However, if both titanium and iron impurities are present together, and in the correct valence states, the result is a deep-blue color. Because of the valence change there is a specific change in energy for the electron, and electromagnetic energy is absorbed. The wavelength of the energy absorbed corresponds to yellow light. When this light is subtracted from incident white light, the complementary color blue results. Sometimes when atomic spacing is different in different directions there is resulting blue-green dichroism. Intervalence charge transfer is a process that produces a strong colored appearance at a low percentage of impurity. Treatments[edit] Sapphires can be treated by several methods to enhance and improve their clarity and color. Upon heating, the stone becomes more blue in color, but loses some of the

rutile inclusions silk. When high temperatures are used, the stone loses all silk inclusions and it becomes clear under magnification. Evidence of sapphire and other gemstones being subjected to heating goes back at least to Roman times. Yogo sapphire Yogo sapphires sometimes do not need heat treating because their cornflower blue coloring is uniform and deep, they are generally free of the characteristic inclusions, and they have high uniform clarity. Typically beryllium is diffused into a sapphire under very high heat, just below the melting point of the sapphire. The colored layer can be removed when stones chip or are repolished or refaced, depending on the depth of the impurity layer. Treated padparadschas may be very difficult to detect, and many stones are certified by gemological labs e. Heat-treatment in a reducing or oxidising atmosphere but without the use of any other added impurities is commonly used to improve the color of sapphires, and this process is sometimes known as "heating only" in the gem trade. In contrast, however, heat treatment combined with the deliberate addition of certain specific impurities e. However, despite what the terms "heating only" and "diffusion" might suggest, both of these categories of treatment actually involve diffusion processes. Commercial mining locations for sapphire and ruby include but are not limited to the following countries: Sapphires from different geographic locations may have different appearances or chemical-impurity concentrations, and tend to contain different types of microscopic inclusions. Because of this, sapphires can be divided into three broad categories: Madagascar is the world leader in sapphire production as of specifically its deposits in and around the town of Ilakaka. That area has been exploited for its sapphires started in, but it was practically abandoned just a few years later because of the difficulties in recovering sapphires in their bedrock. Kashmir-origin contributes meaningfully to the value of a sapphire, and most corundum of Kashmir origin can be readily identified by its characteristic silky appearance and exceptional hue. Chemical dopants can be added to create artificial versions of the ruby, and all the other natural colors of sapphire, and in addition, other colors never seen in geological samples. Artificial sapphire material is identical to natural sapphire, except it can be made without the flaws that are found in natural stones. The disadvantage of Verneuil process is that the grown crystals have high internal strains. Many methods of manufacturing sapphire today are variations of the Czochralski process, which was invented in by Polish chemist Jan Czochralski. The first laser was made with a rod of synthetic ruby. Titanium-sapphire lasers are popular due to their relatively rare capacity to be tuned to various wavelengths in the red and near-infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum. They can also be easily mode-locked. In these lasers a synthetically produced sapphire crystal with chromium or titanium impurities is irradiated with intense light from a special lamp, or another laser, to create stimulated emission. Very wide optical transmission band from UV to near-infrared, 0. A second boule is visible in the background. Some sapphire-glass windows are made from pure sapphire boules that have been grown in a specific crystal orientation, typically along the optical axis, the c-axis, for minimum birefringence for the application. Sapphire optical windows can be polished to a wide range of surface finishes due to its crystal structure and its hardness. The surface finishes of optical windows are normally called out by the scratch-dig specifications in accordance with the globally adopted MIL-O specification. Along with zirconia and aluminium oxynitride, synthetic sapphire is used for shatter resistant windows in armored vehicles and various military body armor suits, in association with composites. One type of xenon arc lamp originally called the "Cermax" and now known generically as the "ceramic body xenon lamp" uses sapphire crystal output windows. This product tolerates higher thermal loads and thus higher output powers when compared with conventional Xe lamps with pure silica window. Besides its excellent electrical insulating properties, sapphire has high thermal conductivity. CMOS chips on sapphire are especially useful for high-power radio-frequency RF applications such as those found in cellular telephones, public-safety band radios, and satellite communication systems. In one process, after single crystal sapphire boules are grown, they are core-drilled into cylindrical rods, and wafers are then sliced from these cores. The use of sapphire significantly reduces the cost, because it has about one-seventh the cost of germanium. Gallium nitride on sapphire is commonly used in blue light-emitting diodes LEDs. Queen Elizabeth II marked her sapphire jubilee in

9: NPR Choice page

Sapphire Trewhella is the younger sister of Conor, the daughter of Mathew Trewhella III and Jennie Trewhella, and is the protagonist and narrator of the original Ingo Chronicles later surpassed by Morveren Trevail.

What exactly, do you have the students read? The great works of literature, such as Homer, Emerson yes, Vicky, I am thinking about our conversation the other night? Do you have them read more modern works? How do you teach reading when you also have to teach reference? The best example of this is when my students were reading an essay about wetlands and thought the word crane only referred to the building machine. And no, my students are not stupid, and some are well traveled. When I teach pre-college level reading, I make my students do book reports. They can choose the books. This surprises them, and most of my students will read something by Terry Woods, like The Dutch books a series about a drug dealer. One student was surprised that I let her read them. I just wanted her to read. Literature, she can get in my class. Her last teacher had said she could read whatever she wanted for a book report, until she brought in the Dutch book. Last year, one of my level students asked me to read some of the books that she reads. After all, she said, I was making them read Dracula. For those of you who live in a big city, her books would be those books you can get from a street vendor, sometimes from a bookstore. What has been called Urban African American fiction. These books deal with life in the inner city and are usually, though not always, published by small firms. Out of three books my student loaned me, two could have used more than just spell-check, one was little more than badly written fan fiction; one I understood the appeal of though the writing needed polish, and the last, by Sister Souljah, was good. The flaws were far too many and the plot was eye brow rising, and did explain why my students make some of the mistakes they do. Yet this type of work is important because it reflects something about society. Yet this genre also includes a book such as Precious, a book I will use in my classes. The book is not an easy read for two reasons. One is the subject matter. Precious is abused by both her father and her mother. The second reason is the early spelling. Precious cannot read; therefore, she cannot spell. Unlike two of the books I mentioned above, the errors in Precious are important. They let the reader really know Precious, and come as close to her life as is possible. What is more, the writing improves as Precious changes her life. Sapphire is using language on many different levels. Using language in the strictest terms of communication, and she deserves award after award for this. If the spelling was perfect, the book would lack half of its impact, if not more. Some idiots, and I use this word intentionally, will say a story like this could never happen. I have taught people who came from where Precious comes from. It is shocking what your students will sometimes tell you. Yet, the student is going to school while working two jobs, is a single mother, and has usually come through a violent relationship or two. What Sapphire gives the reader is a true story. An uplifting story with a good dose of sadness, but a story that many teachers will know, will recognize, and will be nodding their heads over. This is far better than those feel good Hollywood teacher movies. This, like *Entre les murs* *The Class*, is what life and teaching are. Additionally, the action in the classroom rings true. Even JoAnn who disappears from the class rings true. Any teacher will tell you that there are students like that in the classroom. The sense of cohesion and togetherness that a good class can achieve is realistically drawn. This is not the Hollywood movie where the white suburban teacher comes into an inner city class room fresh from the suburbs. This is not the story where after a tough first two weeks, she magically touches her students who all start behaving well and gets scholarships to Princeton or some other Ivy League school. If this was a Hollywood story, it would end with Precious, now a successful something, returning to her old school and thanking the white principal and white math teacher who arranged for her to join the alternative school. Teachers have bad days. Students have bad days. True, sometimes there will be that shocking light, where everything comes together. But for days, weeks, months before that, there is hard work. Hard repetitive work, for both the teacher and student. What stands out the most, however, is Precious herself. We see her angry and disruptive. She is, in fact, a victim, though to call her this cheapens her. Instead, Precious gets us on

her side by simply existing. By stating in a matter fact tone of voice what is, and yet because of her frankness, we admire and like her. We root for her simply because she earns our respect. Despite the fact that her story is not ours, there are the roots of everyman, everywoman, in her. We all sometimes feel the way Precious sometimes feels. This makes her real.

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