

# School Library Journal

For Children's, Young Adult and School Librarians

**BESSESEN, Brooke.** *Look Who Lives in the Desert! Bouncing and Pouncing, Hiding and Gliding, Sleeping and Creeping.* illus. by author. unpagged. photos. Arizona Highways. 2004. Tr. \$16.95. ISBN 1-932082-09-3; pap. \$9.95. ISBN 1-932082-25-5. LC 2003112982.

**Gr 1-3**—Anyone who lives near the desert might identify with the humorous accounts of 20 animals in these cartoon parodies of their habitats. A roadrunner runs in jogging garb; a cougar reclines on a red sofa. Accompanied by bulleted facts and a tiny color photograph, the combined fanciful and factual study of these creatures reveals the desert's diversity. Rhyming couplets and a riot of patterned collage art in deep jewel tones pair with large-eyed creatures of arid regions in scenarios showing absurdly human activities, while the "Fascinating Facts" boxes for each animal instruct readers. "Tortoises can walk up to seven miles a day." "A cougar... makes a purring sound. For this reason it is considered a 'small cat.'" Bessesen's years with the Phoenix Zoo provide inspiration for the text in a book designed for both entertainment and information.—*Mary Elam, Forman Elementary School, Plano, TX*