New Titles for Children and Young People

Adshead, Gladys L., comp. An inheritance of poetry; collected and arranged by Gladys L. Adshead and Annis Duff; with decorations by Nora S. Unwin. Houghton Mifflin, c1948. 415 p. $4.00 All ages.

There is a wide range of types and moods of poetry in this anthology - with many of the usual favorites and more that are not often found in collections. A choice collection to own as well as a good source book. Well indexed. The list of "Musical Settings" is particularly valuable.


Based on "Daniel Boone, Master of the Wilderness", this is a shortened and somewhat simplified version of the adult biography. None of the vividness of description is lost in the cutting and the result is a stirring, exciting account of one of the country's most colorful figures. Excellent illustrations.


The adventures of Toby, a little yellow cat, who lives in an apartment. Not a must. The style is simple and the story is pleasant. The introduction of some mediocre verse may keep adults from enjoying reading this story aloud, but probably will not spoil the book for children.

Book Elf Books. Rand McNally, 1948. 50¢ each K-gr. 2


Evers, Alf. A day on the farm; illus. by Dorothy Grider. Shows how every person, animal and plant has its own job to help make farm life pleasant. Useful for a first grade Farm Life Unit.


Reichert, E. C. My truck book; illus. by Dorothy Grider. All kinds of trucks are shown in clear, bright colors. The text is rather long and a bit condescending, but the illustrations are good enough to overcome this weakness.


Mr. Brier's new football story makes us realize with a start that fall is upon us. Here in good style he gives us the standard sports plot with a "photo" finish. It is varied by having four friends comprise the backfield on a high school football team. Their combination, very reminiscent of the immortal "Four Horsemen," is broken up by the closing of the school in their senior year. Fate places them on opposing teams but brings them together again on the All-city team playing for the state championship. The book will serve as bait for the little-reading, sports-minded boy.
Brock, Emma Lillian, Little Duchess. Knopf, c1948. 197 p. $2.50 Gr. 6-8
A well written biography of Anne of Brittany, Queen of France. This is not a particularly well known period of history and this lack of familiarity may lessen the interest in the story although there is a romantic love theme. Useful as supplementary reading for history classes, it will probably not be widely read. Nice illustrations.

Brunhoff, Laurent de. Babar's cousin, that rascal Arthur; translated from the French by Marle Haas. Random House, c1946. 47 p. $3.50
Babar, like Elsie and Dr. Dolittle, goes on and on. He has been a much loved hero with children but somehow this book by de Brunhoff's son does seem to lack the charm of the first book - it is too long and rambling and lacks spontaneity. The pictures, however, are remarkably like those of the original artist.

There is much good material here about contour farming and soil conservation. Like the other Corey books the writing lacks spontaneity and the characters never quite come to life. For these reasons the book will probably have limited appeal. However, there is good material for conservation units and for vocational guidance.

Defoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe; introduction by Angelo Patri; illus. by Robert Ball. Lippincott, c1948. 309 p. $2.50 (A Lippincott Classic)
First title in a new series. Excellent format, sturdy binding, large, clear type, good margins. Good illustrations. A fine edition for library use.

Dunsing, Dee. Swamp shadows; illus. by Ralph Ray, Jr. Longmans, 1948. $2.50 J & a h
The early days of Florida and Tallahassee were fraught with all the dangers and thrills of any frontier of the early 19th century. Two boys, one from New Orleans and the other, New England meet and join forces to develop a piece of land below Tallahassee. The struggles of the Seminoles and the whites, matching wits with a suave but villainous smuggler, and the tragic burning of their house are only part of the excitement that makes this book hard to put down. In fact, certain parts reminded me of some of Alger westerns. We have little on this section of the country - particularly from the historical view point - for young people, so a story of this type is needed. It seems we documented and the excerpts from documents of the period at the beginning of each chapter add authenticity as well as interest to the work. Aside from the fact that the book ends a little abruptly with the "declining action" following the "climax" so spoke and vagus that it may leave the young reader a bit up in the air, - this is a good story that will be popular with the early adolescent boy. The treatment of the Seminole war adds value, for it is not a one-sided picture. One of the heroes at least struggles to clarify his feelings and values with respect to the relationship of the Indians and the whites and puzzles as to who should be blamed.

Elting, Mary. Patch; by Mary Elting and Margaret Gossett; pictures by Ursula Loering. Doubleday, c1948. 158 p. $2.00 Gr. 3-5
Patch may have been the "smartest dog in the world" as Tony insisted, but he certainly brought plenty of trouble to Tony and Joe through his exuberance. However, the train him to obey them and all is well in the end. A slight variation on the usual dog story with an interesting handling of interracial relations.

Dolbier, Maurice. The half-pint jinni and other stories; illus. by Allan Thomas. Random House, c1948. 282 p. $2.50 Gr. 4-6
"Half a jinni is better than none" - so Ali learns when he finds a half-pint jinni while fishing in the sea. These tales of Baghdad have all the mystery one usually associates with the Far East; but they are told with the inimitable humor of Dolbier. For the exceptional reader with a well-developed sense of humor.
Dunlop, Agnes Mary Robertson. *Lost Karin; a mystery* by Elisabeth Kyle [pseud.]; illus. by Nora S. Unwin. Houghton Mifflin, c1946. 266 p. $2.50 Gr. 4-6.

Holly Hotel is again the scene of a mystery. This time it revolves around a young American girl who is sent over by her father when she is threatened with kidnappers. Jane and Julian figure only indirectly, but there are two other English children to help Molly solve her problems.


Folk tales from the American highlands are woven into a frame-work of the celebrating of Old Christmas (Twelfth Night) in the hills of North Carolina. Told with much the same flavor as the Jack tales, these are a rich source of American folk lore.


This is a completely revised edition of a book that has been popular for several years. All sections have been revised and one new section, "Life is more than a job," has been added. New format and illustrations.


Further adventures of Don Morgan and Tubby Miller - main characters of *Starbuck Valley winter*. This time the two boys try their hand at fishing along the coast of British Columbia. The story is centered mainly around Don's maturing in ideas and attitudes, plus a deeper understanding of his own abilities and weaknesses. There is plenty of action and excitement to make a readable book as well as a thought-provoking one.

Haywood, Carolyn. *Penny goes to camp*; written and illus. by Carolyn Haywood. Morrow, c1948. 191 p. $2.00 Gr. 2-4.

Peter and Penny were very unhappy when they learned that their plans for the summer were to be changed and they were to go to camp rather than to the seashore. However, by the time the summer is over they are planning how they can convince their parents that they should come back the next year. Children who have followed Peter and Penny through the first two books will enjoy visiting them in this new situation.

Holling, Holling Clancy. *Seabird*; written and illus. by Holling Clancy Holling. Houghton Mifflin, c1948. 63 p. $3.00 Gr. 5-7.

In the same style as *Paddle to the Sea* and *Tree in the Trail*, this is a pictorial story of the sea. The ivory "Seabird" follows the evolution of ocean-going vessels from the early whalers through modern airplanes. Beautiful illustrations that tell the story as clearly as the text.


A well-written biography of Cyrus McCormick. Gives a good picture of the growth of the country and the part that the inventions of the McCormick family played in that growth.


Neil Vincente learns the hard way that real leadership comes through self-control and consideration for others. A swift-paced story of high-school basketball. The emphasis is on the games but there are also some good pictures of faculty-student relations and of age-mate relations.
Johnson, Siddle Jeo. *Susan's year; illus. by Anne Merriman Peck.* Longmans, Green, c1948. 168 p. $2.25 Gr. 4-6.

Susan has a whole year given to her for a birthday present. A year in which she can keep house, discover a city, and - best of all - get her birthday wish of a dog of her own. Imaginative children will enjoy sharing with Susan her love for poetry and her fun in meeting her new experiences.

Kelsey, Alice (Geer). *Ricardo's white horse; illus. by Joseph W. Hopkins.* Longmans, Green, c1948. 179 p. $2.25

A rather good picture of life in the mountains of Puerto Rico. However, the book is weak in plot and characterization. Criticisms of the school and its curriculum are unnecessary and may even give a distorted idea of the quality of schooling in all Puerto Rico. Stereotypes such as attributing personality traits to racial backgrounds also detract from the book.


There is humor, mystery and excitement in this story of the Cape Ann granite quarries in the early part of this century. The Rantes and most of their neighbors are Finnish workers who had been in this country only a short time, and some of their problems of adjustment are shown. The horse, Polle, is a definite character who adds much humor to the story.


A somewhat contrived story of the friendship between a little Eskimo girl and the American daughter of an Alaskan Trading Post operator. Its purpose is to introduce the beginning social studies group to modern Eskimo life, seeking to emphasize a basic pattern of family and community life among peoples and to abolish the old popular conception of the Eskimo. It uses the "wish fulfillment" theme and builds around a traditional American Christmas. Style is simple and pictures pleasing. Substantially bound.


Children who have enjoyed Miss Lattimore's other books about Chinese children will welcome this new story. Jade, Pearl, and Jasmine are three little girls who look very much alike except that one is the tallest and one is the fattest, and one is the smallest. Jasmine is every little girl who has trouble sitting still, and who must touch everything - and the troubles she gets into as a result are the same troubles all youngsters have.

Lonski, Lois. *Boom town boy; written and illus. by Lois Lonski.* Lippincott, c1948. 178 p. $2.50 Gr. 4-6.

This is the latest in Miss Lonski's series of regional stories. The scene is Oklahoma and the time the beginning of the oil boom. The whole growth of boom towns is so fantastic as to be almost beyond belief. It is understandable, therefore, that the book fails to achieve reality. Orvio is the only character who really comes to life, although the grandfather comes close to it at times. Like all of Miss Lonski's regional stories, this serves a purpose in describing a little-known phenomenon of American society, but it is not one of her best books.


"Summer's over, Now it's fall; Just the nicest time of all." Thus Lois Lonski introduces autumn leaves, nutting, school and the fall holidays to the pre-school child with some gay little verses and her best childlike pictures. This together with the books of Tresselt, Margaret Wise Brown and Keeler form a useful collection of material on the seasons and the more abstract features of nature for the young child.
Lovelace, Maud (Hart). *Betsy and Joe, a Betsey-Tracy high school story*; illus. by Vera Neville. Crowell, c1948. 256 p. $2.50 J & S H.

Nostalgic adults as well as teen-age girls will welcome this chronicle of Betsy's senior year, her romance with Joe and the promise of college days to come. Although of the class of 1910, Betsy's problems, experiences and relationships are timeless and have a message for the girl of today. Old and young will appreciate her gallant sportsmanship in the face of adversity and seek to emulate it. The boy-girl relations are sane and wholesome, too. All in all our hat is off to this young lady and to the author for giving us such a fine picture of the "growing up" process in the Betsey-Tracy series.

McClung, Robert M. *Wings in the woods*; illus. by the author. Morrow, c1948. 251 p. $2.50 Gr. 5-7.

Dan faces all the problems of a ten year old boy adjusting to a new living situation and to his own family. A strong interest in butterflies and moths brings some happy moments, but also leads to trouble when he neglects his work to chase a new specimen. The outdoor "butterfly menagerie" which Dan, his Uncle Bill, and young sister Hildy build and stock is an interesting idea and should be of especial interest to rural children.

MacKaye, David Loring. *The far distant bugle*; Decorations by Avery Johnson. Longmans, Green, c1948. 264 p. $2.50 J & S H.

An exciting story of a Utah out-post during the early days of the Civil War. Well written with good characterizations and plenty of action. Unlike most Civil War stories this one is not built around the problem of slavery, but around the choosing of sides or the basis of basic training and loyalties.


It has been a number of years since a good pirate story last appeared. While this one does not rival Sabatini, it is well-done and should provide the kind of blood-and-thunder excitement boys want in a pirate story. There is plenty of action and suspense. The characterizations are well handled. The scene is laid in and near Barbados in the eighteenth century.

Pinkerton, Kathrene Sutherland (Gedney) *A good partner*. Barcourt, Brace, c1948. 269 p. $2.50 J & S H.

15 year-old Neal learns the value of friendship in his relations with his guardian, Tom Clark on their mink ranch. In studying and experimenting with mutations, he comes to realize that all frontiers are not "out West!"


The plot and theme of this story are good but triteness of style and too many cliches make for dull reading. By the end of the first chapter the reader is heartily sick of the word "Brood" as used to identify the children in the family and it does not help to discover that no other word is used in the entire book. It is unfortunate that such a good idea is weakened through poor style.


This shows the bad effects of "too many fingers in the pie" since Billy Bunny's art masterpiece is certainly not improved by the help of all his friends. Children as well as adults will chuckle at the story and the accompanying pictures but there are some good suggestions for group harmony underlying the fun.
Scholz, Jackson Volney. *Fielder from nowhere.* Morrow, c1948. 222 p. $2.50 j & s h s.
Like most modern sports stories this one has a definite purpose - the universality of baseball and its value as a means of reclaiming boys who have grown up in slums and have learned all the bad traits of such life. There is in addition, however, a definite streak of humor that is a rare quality in such stories. This humor saves the book from being "just another sports story" and makes it worth adding to a library collection.

Singmaster, Elsie. *The Isle of Que*; decorations by Elmer Hadr. Longmans, c1948. 152 p. j & s h s Values; Fear, Overcoming; Responsibility; Growing Up; Brothers; Brothers-sisters relations.
Miss Singmaster's new book deals with the Susquehanna River, a family that lives on its banks, and the devastating floods that sometimes threaten. But more particularly it treats of a 17-year-old boy who has mature responsibility thrust upon him and who fears this responsibility. His fears are particularly manifested in his dread of the flood waters. This story of how he grew up and mastered his fears is sympathetically told. The characters are vivid and human relations are real. The narrative frequently uses an introspective approach which marks the book for the more mature reader than one who relies on a lot of action to help him over the printed page. And yet, there is action, too, which leads us to comment at the last page, "A good story for young people."

Voronkova L. *Little girl from the city;* translated from the Russian by Josef Berger; illus. by Ruth Steed. Little, Brown, c1948. 165 p. $2.00 Gr. 3-5.
Valya is a little Russian girl whose parents were killed during the German invasion of Russia. While fleeing from her home in the city she is taken in by a family on a collective farm. This is the story of her adjustment to farm life and the family's adjustment to her.

Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. *Sunnycove.* Morrow, c1948. 256 p. $2.50 j & s h s.
A book that will be very popular with adolescent girls because it contains the glamour of a summer theatre for background, has a love story and ends with overwhelming success for the 17-year-old heroine. Many of the situations are trite and over-written, but the characterization is excellent and - while the book may not be exceptional, it does in some measure stress the necessity for facing facts and developing a mature approach to emotional situations. At the same time it has all the elements, love, "Cinderella" theme, etc., that girls adore. Can be used in study and teaching of dramatics since the theatre background is authentic.

Widdemer, Mabel Ross (Cleland). *The wishing star, a mystery of old Tarrytown*; drawings by Margaret Ayer. Bobbs-Merrill, c1948. 230 p. $2.50 Gr. 4-6.
A rather slow-paced mystery laid in New York in the early 1800's. Children who have read Washington Irving's stories and know something of their background will enjoy meeting Irving himself and getting still more insight into his stories. Others may find this material too distracting since it has no bearing on the main mystery.

Witty, Paul. *You and the Constitution of the United States*; by Paul Witty and Julilly Kohler; pictures by Lois Fisher. Children's, c1948. 57 p. $1.50 Gr. 5-.
Those who have found Lois Fisher's "You and the United Nations" so valuable in work with all ages will welcome this new book to which she has contributed her unusual graphic interpretation. The text consists of a prize-winning essay "What America means to me" by a high school senior, a simple description and interpretation of the making of the Constitution, particularly the original seven articles and the Bill of Rights, presented by Paul Witty and Julilly Kohler, and finally the Full Constitution. The text is within the comprehension of 5th graders but mature enough for the average adult public. It is hoped that with the appearance of this book, there will be a general re-reading of this document and a fuller realization of how basic it is to us and our American way of life.

Ginnie has never been to a regular school until she enters the 4th grade at Lincoln School. She has many adjustments to make—most of them caused by her shyness and lack of self-confidence. However, she does make friends and learns to fit into the group life. Should be of value in helping newcomers to adjust to groups—and groups to understand the problems of newcomers.

**Items and Sources of Instructional Materials**

Children's Book Week, Nov. 14-20, has as its slogan "Books Tell the Story." The poster this year is by Marquerite de Angeli. A free manual and helpful suggestions for celebrating this event are available from the Children's Book Council, 62 West 45 Street, New York City 19.

We should also like to call your attention again to the very helpful *Children's Book Council Calendar*. This quarterly leaflet lists events that can be featured through reading and libraries, together with sources of helpful materials for reading guidance. You will enjoy the new feature "The Looking Glass". Sybil V. Jacobsen is the Executive Secretary of the Council with Headquarters at 62 West 45th Street, New York City 19.


If you favor using "comics" as instructional materials here is an 8-page one based on "All About Us" by Eva Knox Evans (Capitol Pub. Co. 1947) prepared in cooperation with the Bureau for Intercultural Education. Irma Simonton Black acted as consultant and this has been tested with good results in one of the New York schools.


Lists and annotates plays from the Junior League and from 9 other publishers.

Berman, Rose Bokler. *Happy name day; a play for upper elementary grades*. Pan American Union, Division of Intellectual Cooperation, Washington, D. C. 1947. Based on a children's party as it might be given in Venezuela in observation of a child's "Saint" or "Name" day.

Catton, Iona. "With justice for all," a program guide for junior high groups related to "Puerto Rican puzzles" by Mae Harley Ashworth. Friendship press, 1948. 35¢ 32 p. Although this program is designed for church school, it contains some good material for a public school unit. The reading list should be extended.


Hanson, John W. Instructional materials to build one world. (In *Progressive Education* April, 1948).

Good descriptive notes on pamphlets, audio-visual aids and books.

Good material in introduction on the criteria of selection and the purpose of this body of literature. Compiler is a branch librarian in the Boston Public Library.


A. Indian Education in Canada and the U. S. (for mature student and teacher)

B. References on Indian life for school use (materials for children)


Junior Red Cross, Audio-visual service. *English and dramatics; a listing of available films.* Author, 529 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago 5, April, 1948. 4 p. Mimeographed.


Arranged by grade level.

Madison, Wisconsin, Public Schools, Poetry Committee. *An index to 500 favorite poems for the elementary grades.* Madison Public Schools Curriculum Department, 1946. 25¢ 32 p.

Lists poems by broad areas of elementary usefulness. Also available from Madison at 5¢ each are bibliographies of out-of-door, patriotism, aviation and United Nations titles.

Montgomer, Frank. *Heritage of freedom; the history and significance of the basic documents of American liberty.* (cloth $3.50; paper $2.00)


Rentable exhibits grouped as follows: Painting and sculpture, Graphic arts, Architecture, Industrial designs and crafts, photography, theatre teaching materials. Each exhibit completely annotated, giving space needed, fee and weight.


1947 titles for students in the last four years of secondary school, compiled and annotated by a group of teachers and librarians of private schools. Good in adult material.

The Union Pacific Railroad (There are various addresses but try Suite 350, Rockefeller Center, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York City 20 or 1 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3) has a series of very fine illustrated booklets on the show places of the West, including California, Colorado, Sun Valley, Yellowstone - Grand Teton Parks, Soin-Bryce Grand Canyon Parks, Las Vegas, and Dude Ranches. They are available for the asking.
Helpful in Reading Guidance


Other librarians may find this of help in their reading guidance programs.

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