ILLINOIS
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PRODUCTION NOTE

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Fantasy in the same nonchalant, light-hearted manner as Jonathan and the rainbow. This time the story revolves around a young king who much preferred fishing to ruling. With the help of the blacksmith he finally got his way much to the chagrin of his conniving ministers.

Mediocre mystery in which five English children recover a long buried treasure at great danger to life and limb. The amazing way in which children and adults toss gold bricks (real ones) around would do credit to race of superman. As usual in such stories the children achieve victory in spite of the adults who are involved.

A fanciful tale with a mystical quality that will be lost on the very young reader for whom it is intended. The way in which so many elements are left in a misty, unresolved state will also prove unsatisfactory for teen-age girls who are at the stage of great appreciation of poetry and the super-romantic will probably read the book with enjoyment. Nice illustrations.

Cadell, Elizabeth. Sun in the morning; illus. by Mildred Coughlin McNutt. Morrow, 1950. 280p. $2.50. Gr. 8-10 (D42-D47)
A light novel for teen-age girls. The story begins in India in 1813. Told in the first person by one of a trio of young girls, it relates their experiences from pig-tail days to the marriages of the two older girls. A good picture of the life of English colonials in the early days of the century.

A slight story involving the chase of a pet rabbit by a puppy from the time they both awaken until they go to sleep again. Very young children will enjoy the game of hide-and-seek that the two play. Text is easy enough for beginning readers.

Delightful version of the old folk tale of the man who comes on the scene.
set out to sell his cow and after a series of unsuccessful swaps returned home with a stone. A new angle is given in the ending in which the wife leaves home until she can find three people as silly as her husband. Told in the same manner that makes the Jack Tales so enjoyable. Humorous illustrations that fit the story perfectly.


Henry is a very normal boy with all the problems and fun of a third grader anywhere. His problems center around a stray dog he found and took home — and almost lost again. There is plenty of humor in each episode with none of the coy, tongue-in-cheek style that usually characterizes this type of story.


A pleasant little story of a boy who wanted a pet and tried out several before he found one that was satisfactory. Easy style for beginning readers.


An adult book that will have a great deal of appeal to children and young people. The style is not outstanding, being somewhat sentimental, but the subject will hold the interest of most readers. Illustrated with photographs of the royal family.


A small boy's experiences when he goes sailing with his family and is allowed to handle the boat by himself. Text is not outstanding, but children will enjoy the book for the excellent lithographs.


Joey was greatly perturbed when he lost the tooth he intended to wish on down a man hole in Appleby Street. Then when bulldozers, trucks, and other machines appeared he thought they were after his tooth. In spite of his grief at finding they were merely fixing the street he did get his wish — a baby sister. Joey, in the pictures, looks much too old to get so excited over a lost tooth — or to still be losing teeth for that matter. The style is too slight and the ending too anti-climactic to have much value.


Mr. Dean lived alone and was a most unhappy man. He worried about his house, his garden, and whether or not he should go fishing. When he heard that a neighbor had some puppies to give away he decided to get one to help solve his problems. It was hard to decide which of the three he would take — and he ended up with all three. Children will be amused at his reasons for choosing each dog and pleased with the final solution to his problem.


Interesting illustrations and a most unsatisfactory story. The first chapter is difficult to get into because of the confusing changes of tenses in the middle of sentences and of paragraphs. The reader never knows from one phrase to the next whether the time is today, yesterday, or tomorrow. Add to this an unfamiliar setting and the use of terms and expressions that are not common and the result is a story that will discourage most readers before they have a chance to find out what it is all about.


Adquate, though far from outstanding mystery story. When Mrs. Finucane, Nigel, and Pamela Brown, Nigel's cousin, came to West Wind to escape a measles epidemic they soon found themselves in the midst of a far worse situation involving black marketeers and kidnapped fishermen. The children do much to help solve the mystery but not without adequate assistance from the proper adults.

Eaton, Jeanette. *Gandhi, fighter without a sword;* illus. by Ralph Ray. Morrow, 1950. 255p. $5. Gr.8-10. (D29;D59;D89)

Beautifully written story of the life of Gandhi as his efforts to free India through education and pacifistic non-resistance strikes. The author writes with sympathetic understanding but without sentimentality.


Similar to Big book of fire engines. Large, full-color pictures of cowboys, their horses and their gear. Text is too difficult for beginning reader, but book will have appeal from picture-book age up because of the illustrations.


Story of a toy fire engine who wanted to go to a real fire. When the time comes he discovers the handicap of being just a toy but learns enough to help put out a fire in the toy shop. Slight story based on fantasy that does not quite satisfy.


Another of this author's excellent books about the animals of the Five Rivers Country. The information is authentic, the stories are packed with action and suspense, and there is a real feeling of understanding of the animals described.

Friedman, Frieda. Carol from the country; illus. by Mary Barton. Morrow, 1950. 191p. $2. Gr.5-7. (Dipd4;D42;D19)

Like *Dot for short;* and *Sundae with Judy* this is a story of one of New York City's less prosperous areas. This time the heroine is a young girl whose family has been forced to move to the city from their country home and the difficulties she has adjusting to the new life. The characters seem less real in this book than in the first two. The intergroup ideas expressed by the girls who eventually become Carol's friends are good, but are almost too pat.

A collection of limericks, riddles, and nonsense verses chosen especially for younger children. The cartoon illustrations, though rather crude, add to the humor of the situations described in the rhymes. No credit is given for the poems. Not important enough for general purchase.

Graham, Alberta Powell. *Christopher Columbus, discoverer*; illus. by Janice Holland. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950. 128p. $1.50. Gr. 5-6. (D92)

A simplified biography of Columbus from his childhood through his return to Spain after his first successful voyage to the new world. Well written, very readable, this will serve as an acceptable biography for the 5-6 grade group.


Highly contrived, written-to-order stories that may have been successful when presented over the radio, but are dull reading when considered as a book. The jingles that are a part of each story add to the unreality of the situations and characters.


Dusty is a small burro who is stolen from her master in Mexico, smuggled into the United States, and finally finds a home with a prospector in the Southwest. Although the author sometimes attributes to Dusty powers of reasoning that are more than one would expect from a burro, no one can deny that the animal must have had plenty of good horse sense. The story is somewhat slow-paced, but there is action and excitement in the fights between the wild burros and the big horn sheep.


In this story of Johnny Appleseed, the author has written the entire book as if it were factual biography and at no time indicates that some of it is merely legend. There are enough well-written versions of the Johnny Appleseed legend that it seems unnecessary to give children one that makes no attempt to separate fact from legend.


A collection of riddles, jokes, and guessing games. Illustrations are too small and are not clear enough for the age reader for whom the book is intended. Condescending tone.


Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950. 158p. $2. Gr. 4-6.

A well-told, fictionalized account of the early life of Jesus. Although the author has not limited herself to the facts that are given in the New Testament, she has kept the spirit of the Biblical stories.


An amusing tale of a man who lived alone and who kept letting his dirty dishes pile up until finally he could not get in the house. Children will be delighted with his ingenious solution to the problem. Fun for reading aloud.


A better-than-usual story for the beginning reader. Christopher is a young boy, living in New Orleans, who is not allowed to go out of his house alone—except to the corner to meet his brother. What happens one day when he starts out to show the little girl across the street his pet turtle and ends up covering half of New Orleans makes a story that will appeal to beginning readers, and is easy enough for most of them to handle.

Lawrence, Mildred. *The home made year; with illus. by Susanne Suba*. Harcourt, Brace, 1950. 217p. $2.25. Gr. 5-6. (D75; D154)

When her mother's illness made it necessary for Vicky to go from New York City to a farm in Pennsylvania to spend a year with an aunt and four cousins, she was overwhelmed—with loneliness for her mother and father, with a realization of her inadequacy on the farm, and with
resentment against having everything home made. Before

the year was out she had completely adjusted to farm

life, learned the satisfaction of making things by hand, and

helped restore the Felicity Society village.


$2.50. Gr. 5-7. (D19;D87;D47;D134)

Charlotte Clarissa (better known as Charlie Boy)
lived in Texas at the turn of the century. She was a

real tomboy and, at the time of this story, going

through a stage of thoughtlessness and selfishness that is

often typical of nine-year-olds. As the year pro-
gresses and she helps keep the ranch going in spite of a

drought she comes to a realization of the needs and

rights of others, and begins to grow up. A rough-and-

ready tale that shows a real understanding of tomboys as

well as of the Texas ranch lands.

Levy, Sara C. So we sing; holiday and Bible songs for

young Jewish children; music by Beatrice L. Deutsch; illus.


K-Gr.2. (D65;D105)

A collection of songs for Jewish children based on

holidays and festivals. Of chief value for Jewish

schools and libraries serving Jewish neighborhoods. It

could, however, be useful in any school library for use

as intercultural material.


$2.25.

Mediocre baseball story of a high school team and a

boy who had to learn team work the hard way. Characters

are not realistic and Mike Pavlos' final conversion is

much too abrupt to ring true. The psychological spoutings

of Ron Dobney are dull and unnatural.

Lovelace, Maud (Hart). The tune is in the tree; drawings


A delightful bit of fantasy in which a little girl

is taken care of by the birds when she is inadvertently

left alone while her mother and father are both away.

There is magic in her transformation into a bird-size

girl and magic in all that she experiences with the birds.

McKenny, Margaret. Trees of the countryside; illus.

with lithographs by Alice Bird. Knopf, 1942. 64p.

$2.50. Gr.5-

Reissue of a book first published in 1942. Twenty-

nine trees are identified with a brief textual description

and drawings of the fruit, blossoms, and leaves. Full

page color illustrations that are impressionistic rather

than detailed.

McWhirter, Mary Esther. Prairie church; illus. by


K-Gr.2.

The simply written story of two children, Ruth and

Roger, and their experiences at vacation church school.

Through their activities the reader learns about the

organization and activities of a country church. Useful

for church school collections.

Moore, David William. The Scarlet Jib; illus. by Henry


An acceptable story of the pirates who made life

difficult along the Atlantic coast during the days

immediately after the Revolution. The story is swift-

paced and exciting, although there is little of the

blood-and-thunder usually associated with pirate

stories, and some of the solutions are almost too

easily achieved. The story concerns the adventures of

a young orphan boy who signs on a pirate ship by mistake

and his efforts to escape once he learns the true

nature of the ship.

Morrison, Lillian. Yours till Niagara falls; illus. by


Gr.4-8.

A book to be enjoyed by young and old alike. The

compiler has gathered over 300 rhymes and sayings, funny

and sentimental, from actual autograph albums. A nice

gift item and a book that should be especially popular

in school libraries around graduation time.

Mother Goose. The little kittens' nursery rhymes;

photography by Harry Whittier Frees. Rand McNally,


Collection of Mother Goose rhymes illustrated with

colored photographs of kittens dressed to represent the

other Goose characters. The color photography is

excellent. It is very questionable whether young

children should be given books in which real animals

are used as models since they are likely to try the

same things with their own pets to the discomfort, and

in many instances harm, of the animals.

Neyhart, Louise Albright. Henry Ford, engineer; illus.


$2.75. Gr.7-9. (D14)

An interesting, sympathetically written biography of

Henry Ford that places the emphasis on his service to

others. Excellent illustrations.

Noon, Elizabeth F., ed. The new handcraft book. Owen,

1950. 80p. Gr.2-4.

A handcraft book for adults who are working with

very young children. Has instructions for paper work to
draw and cut out and simple things to make with very

little equipment.

Robinson, Jessie B. Holidays are fun; illus. by the


Things to make and do for Jewish holidays. Essen-
tially a crafts book it will also be useful in giving an

understanding of Jewish holidays and festivals.


250p. $2.50. Gr.7-9.

Acceptable baseball. The plot involves a high school

graduate who goes into the minor leagues as an exception-
ally high paid bonus rookie. When his chance comes to

play with the majors he lets the thought of the bonus

spoil his playing and so lands back in the minors. His

problems, both the bonus money and an unscrupulous

rival, are solved through no particular effort of his,

but through the intervention of his father and a lucky

coincidence. Little character development, but adequate

baseball. Recommended for large collections only.

Selsam, Millicent E. Play with trees; pictures by Fred


Simple experiments with trees that help a child

understand how a tree grows and how to recognize differ-

ent kinds of trees. Excellent for nature study classes

and home libraries as well as general library collection

Shersan, Elizabeth. Let's look ahead; pictures by
courtesy National Safety Council; sketches by Lois


book) $2 (reinforced binding)

Designed to teach safety to the very young child.
The verse is so poor it does more to hinder understanding than to help. Text and illustrations do not always match.

Fedita, small daughter of the Rector of 16th century Broomhill in Devon, has one great desire in life - to see Queen Elizabeth in person. How her wish comes true makes a pleasant and wholly satisfactory story. Imaginative writing that will appeal to girls who have not quite outgrown their belief in fairies.

Aeger and Jillian Shelford are twins living on their uncle's farm while their father is in Norway building a cathedral. When word of his death comes, their uncle tries to cheat them out of their inheritance. They escape to Norway and, after many exciting adventures, find their father alive and well. The scene is laid in the days of the Hanseatic League and the author gives a good picture of life in both England and Norway at this time. Well-written with ample excitement but without melodrama.

Troester, Carl A. Everyday games for children. Owen, 1950. 322p. $2.75. All ages. (D46-D122)
A handbook of games designed for adults to use with children. Has games for all ages and of all types. Useful for game leaders anywhere or for parents who are planning parties.

Wilson, Leon. This boy Cody; with illus. by Ursula Koering. Watts, 1950. 255p. $2.50. Gr. 5-7. (D57)
A delightful story of the Cumberland Mountains and of this boy Cody, who lives there with his mother, father, sister - Osmilla, the cat - Midnight, and the dog - Daybreak (so named because he always comes after Midnight). Written in episodic style and covering the events of one summer of Cody's life, the story has the flavor of mountain dialect without the misspellings that make difficult reading. Readers will especially enjoy the manner in which Osmilla rules Cody without ever letting him know that she is actually smarter than he is and the warm friendly relations between the children and their parents.

Woolley, Catherine. Schoolroom 365; illus. by Iris Beatty Johnson. Morrow, 1950. 191p. $2. Gr. 5-5. (D46-B129)
Ellie loved animals of all kinds and she could not understand people who did not share her enthusiasm. Through the help of a sympathetic teacher and the experience of building a classroom zoo she learns to understand the fears and dislikes of others. At the same time the zoo helps some of the children in the class to overcome their squeamishness. Easy reading for the third grade and a subject that should have appeal.

Wright, Frances Fitzpatrick. Surprise at Sampey Place; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950. 128p. $1.50. Gr. 4-6. (D57)
Continuing the adventures of the Jimson family. Judy's liking for music and her kindness to Aunt Maria help bring happiness to the whole family. Slight, but it will be enjoyed by readers who have liked the earlier books.

A picture book of fire engines and fire equipment. The text is too difficult for any but good readers. The chief appeal, however, is in the pictures which will be enjoyed by all ages.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Material

The materials listed here are not available from the Children's Book Center. Orders should be sent to the publishers of the individual items.

Adventuring with books: a reading list for elementary schools; arranged by topic, with appropriate years indicated. National Council of Teachers of English, 211 West 68th Street, Chicago 21, Illinois. 1950. 60p.

Book Week Materials. The 1950 Book Week poster was designed by William Pene du Bois and is available from the Children's Book Council, 50 West 53rd Street, New York 19, N. Y. at 30¢ each with reductions on quantities. The 1950 free Book Week manual will be sent on request to all who are not already on the Children's Book Council mailing list.
A special set of 4 streamers on the theme of "Make Friends With Books" is also available from the Children's Book Council. The streamers, designed by Slobodkin, McCloskey, Bennett, and Seuss, are very gay and will add much to Book Week displays. They cost 25¢ the set of four, 5 sets for $1, 10 sets for $1.85.


Based on the experiences of the Children's Experimental Theatre.

Folklore. Several mimeographed articles on American folklore are available on request from Dr. Elizabeth Pilant, Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.
North American Folklore; books for boys and girls; compiled by Evelyn Sickels and Alice Lohrer.
Forty-two ax handles; folklore for schools; by Lewis Ott Ward.

