



I L L I N O I S

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

BULLETIN

OF THE

CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Published by

The University of Chicago Library - Center for Children's Books

VOL. VI

November, 1952

No. 3

BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Library, Center for Children's Books. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this BULLETIN are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

Published monthly except August. Subscription price is \$1.75 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Library. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the Center for Children's Books, University of Chicago, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

New Titles for Children and Young People

Balch, Glenn. Squaw Boy; illus. by Paul Valentino. Crowell, 1952. 180p. \$2.50.

Reed Chesington started out with his parents on a pack trip, became lost from the rest of the party, and ended up spending a winter with a young Indian boy, Wolf Runner, in the mountain cabin that had belonged to Wolf Runner's uncle. Reed had always suffered from a feeling of inferiority because he could not equal his father's athletic ability, but in the woods he learned to be completely self-sufficient. The setting is interesting, but much of the action is too improbable for discriminating readers to accept without questioning. The entire problem of Wolf Runner's trouble at the Indian reservation, from which he had run away, and his decision to live at the pack station are handled in a manner that is unrealistic. Not recommended. (Gr.6-8)

Barrett, Sarah Louise. A Leaf of Gold. Dodd, 1952. 238p. \$2.50.

When Jean Wentworth had to leave college at the end of her junior year because of her father's ill health, she found herself with nothing to look forward to and not prepared for any kind of work. During an unhappy summer at her grandparents', where the family had been forced to move because of financial difficulties, Jean started a play school and liked it so well she decided to try teaching. From the very first she realized she was totally unprepared for the job - teaching the first four grades in a rural school - so after two months of struggling she quit and enrolled in the nearby teachers college. Both the situations and the characters are highly implausible. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Beatty, Hetty Burlingame. Bronto; written and illus. by Hetty Burlingame Beatty. Doubleday, 1952. 136p. \$2.

Improbable story of a small boy who proves his own courage and the worth of his horse by capturing a horse thief singlehanded. Bronto, the horse, is described by the author as thinking and reasoning like a human being. The major action of the story is based on a situation in which a young and inexperienced boy succeeds where the experienced ranchers failed. The black-and-white illustrations are excellent but do not make up for the poorly handled story. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

Beim, Lorraine (Levey). Sunshine and Shadow; by Lorraine and Jerrold Beim. Harcourt, 1952. 182p. \$2.50. (D48c)

In this sequel to Triumph Clear, Marsh Evans, still wearing a brace as a result of her bout with polio, goes to Arizona to enroll at Southwestern University after her doctor persuades her that the warm climate will be good for her leg. At first she tries to over-compensate for her handicap, but she eventually realizes her limitations and settles down to a happy career of stage designing. During the course of her first semester she quarrels and makes up with Andy, the home-town boy friend, and the reader is left with the assurance that her romance is as settled as her career. Although the book is obviously written for the purpose of depicting the problems of the handicapped, the story seems only slightly contrived and the characters are well drawn. The book succeeds in giving a good insight into the physical and mental adjustments that must be made by persons with physical handicaps. (Gr.8-10)

Bialk, Elise. The Silver Purse; illus. by Paul Galdone. World, 1952. 169p. \$2.50.

Melanie Dawes approached her year in New Orleans with her Aunt Stass with mixed feelings. She was shy and disliked the thought of a new school and new acquaintances, but she also welcomed the chance of a year in New Orleans where she could search for the silver purse which her mother had lost years ago at a Mardi Gras ball. The purse had become a symbol to Melanie of her own special roots. During the year she found the purse and gained a large measure of self-confidence. The writing is stilted, the plot hinges on coincidence, and the characters are completely unrealistic. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Bishop, Claire Huchet. Twenty and Ten; illus. by William Pène du Bois. Viking, 1952. 76p. \$2.50. (D22;D116)

Absorbing story of twenty French children and ten Jewish refugee children during the Second World War. The French children were living in a mountain school and cared for by a nun. When they were asked to help hide the ten Jewish children and share with them their meager rations, they did so gladly. It seemed just another game until the Nazi soldiers came for the first time and even then, in the face of possible disaster, the children managed to turn the soldiers' search into a joke and caused them to give up in disgust. There is a stark realism to the telling that conveys to the reader the desperateness of the situation in which the children found themselves. This realism may seem too strong for some more sensitive readers but through it all there is the indomitable courage of the children to give a heartwarming note of hope to the story. The book can give to children of this country an understanding of the very real and important part many European children played in the last war; a part that involved personal danger as well as the discomforts of inadequate food and clothing. (Gr.5-7)

Boyle, Joyce. Timothy's Twelve Months; illus. by Georgia Middlebrook. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1952. 94p. \$1.50.

An account of the doings of a four-year-old during each of the twelve months of a year. The writing is mediocre and some of the episodes seem a bit far-fetched for a four-year-old. The chapters are too long to hold the attention of pre-school children in group story-hours, and the extreme youth of the main character will keep the book from having appeal for the third graders who would be able to read the text alone. The book might be used in homes for reading aloud to one or two children but will have little value for nursery school or public library collections. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Bromhall, Winifred. The Chipmunk That Went to Church; written and illus. by Winifred Bromhall. Knopf, 1952. 32p. \$2.

A mild and gentle story of Penny who is sent to her Great Aunt Amelia's when her brother has the measles and while there makes friends with a chipmunk. She unintentionally takes the chipmunk to church and creates something of a furor, but all ends well with a reunion with her family and a birthday party. Pleasant illustrations. (K-Gr.2)

Burke, Dorothy. Thanks to Letty; illus. by Gertrude Howe. Rand McNally, 1952. 271p. \$2.75. (D92; D84)

Sixteen-year-old Letty was determined to keep the farm after her father's death even though her older sister wanted the family to sell and move to town. It was a hard pull but with the help of her cousin, Joan, Uncle Charley, and the neighbors Letty made it through the first summer and proved she could handle the work. Characters are not always convincing but the picture of farm life is an accurate one. (Gr.7-9)

Carden, Priscilla. The Vanilla Village; illus. by Jay Hyde Barnum. Ariel, 1952. 58p. \$2.

Two small Mexican children are accidentally captured by a group of bandits who are after the load of vanilla beans in which the children are riding. They escape, and then help lead the villagers back to the cave where the bandits have their hide-out. Slight story that fails to give any real feeling for the country or the people. On several pages the inking has come through from the opposite side and makes the text difficult to read. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

Coggins, Jack. By Space Ship to the Moon; by Jack Coggins and Fletcher Pratt. Random House, 1952. 56p. \$1.

In brief text and clear illustrations, many of them in color, the authors show what has been done thus far toward making a trip to the moon possible and what will need to be done in the future. The text is written at about the fifth grade reading level. The illustrations are numerous enough and explicit enough for the book to be used successfully with younger readers who cannot handle the text alone but who will find the pictures meaningful, and the subject will give the book appeal for older readers. (Gr.3-9)

Colver, Alice Mary Ross. Joan Foster, Bride. Dodd, 1952. 236p. \$2.50.

Continues the fortunes of Joan Foster through the first year of her marriage to Todd. The two have the usual run of first year troubles, both financial and family, and end the year with a bright future and a baby ahead. Both the characters and their problems are superficially treated. Objectionable Negro dialect used. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Cournos, John. Famous British Novelists; by John Cournos and Sybil Norton; illus. with photographs. Dodd, 1952. 130p. \$2.50.

Brief biographies of thirteen famous British novelists, plus one chapter devoted to eight authors described as "Famous for One Novel". The writing is uneven and dull. Much space is given to uninteresting résumés of the plots of the more famous works of each author. The page set-up is unattractive and makes difficult reading. Not recommended. (Gr.6-8)

Goy, Harold. The Real Book about Andrew Jackson; illus. by Frank Nicholas; ed. by Helen Hoke. Garden City Publishing Co., 1952. 182p. \$1.25.

The life of Andrew Jackson told with a nice blend of sympathetic understanding and objectivity. The style is somewhat less vigorous than Foster's Andrew Jackson (Scribner, 1951) but the information is more complete. The author has not glossed over Jackson's weaknesses or their effects, and neither has he overemphasized them. The result is a well-rounded, realistic characterization that will give young readers a good picture of both the man and his times. (Gr.5-7)

Duvoisin, Roger Antoine. Petunia's Christmas; written and illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Knopf, 1952. 32p. \$2.

More about the precocious goose, Petunia. This time she sets out to save a neighboring goose from being eaten for Christmas, succeeds in her mission, marries the goose, and they live happily ever after. Some of the illustrations have great charm, but the story is too slight and flat. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Ehrlich, Bettina (Bauer). A Horse for the Island; illus. by the author. Harper, 1952. 213p. \$2.75.

A tender novel of the Tarlao family who move to the Italian island of Limore and face the full force of the suspicion which the islanders feel toward all people from the mainland. Tarlao is a farmer and to him it is a natural thing that he should bring a horse to the island to help with the farm work. However, to the island children, who have never before seen a horse, Cavallo is a creature of wonder and mystery. The result of bringing a horse to the island is greater than anyone could have foretold and eventually causes a complete change in the lives of all the island people. The story is told with a delicate touch that loses none of the robustness of the island's native fishermen while pointing up all the poignancy of the love affair between the Tarlao's mute son and Margherita, a fisherman's daughter. (Gr.9-12)

Eichenberg, Fritz. Ape in a Cape; An Alphabet of Odd Animals. Harcourt, 1952. 32p. \$2.

Each letter of the alphabet is represented by an animal. The name of each animal is coupled with a word that rhymes with the name but does not necessarily make sense. The result is nonsense of a kind that children usually enjoy. Unfortunately the author has not been able to maintain a constant level of nonsense throughout the book; due in part to the attempt to stay with the alphabet formula which is too stilted and confining for this type of humor. In the case of the letter "X" the author has departed from the pattern set for the other letters and has used words that are completely meaningless and are not even nonsense. Some of the illustrations catch the humor of the text but others are repelling (as the grim black of the "Ape in a cape") or are too sentimental (the pink and blue of "Dove in love"). Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Emery, Anne. Scarlet Royal; illus. by Manning deV. Lee. Macrae, 1952. 223p. \$2.50.

A horse story that follows the traditional pattern of girl loves horse, girl loses horse, girl regains horse. And, to add to the appeal for teen-agers, the girl not only gets the horse but also the man. In spite of the lack of originality in both characters and plot, the writing is good, and there is a real warmth to the relation-

ships within the family that make it a better than average horse story. (Gr.7-9)

Fenner, Phyllis Reid, ed. Crack of the Bat; Stories of Baseball. Knopf, 1952. 160p. \$2.50.

A collection of short stories and excerpts from longer books, all of them about baseball. The authors are from the top ranks of juvenile sports stories writers, and the excerpts represent their best works. Authors included are: Stephen Meader, Jackson V. Scholz, Paschal N. Strong, John R. Tunis, B. J. Chute, Harold M. Sherman, Frank Graham, Babe Ruth, R. G. Emery. (Gr.5-8)

Fisher, Dorothea Frances (Canfield). A Fair World for All; The Meaning of the Declaration of Human Rights; foreword by Eleanor Roosevelt; illus. by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1952. 159p. \$2.75. (D28;D137;D59)

A simplified explanation of each of the articles in the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights that puts them into terms young people will understand. In spite of the author's condescending tone, the book will be useful for social studies classes and for parents to use in helping their children understand some of the problems of today's world. (Gr.4-8)

Frost, Frances Mary. Little Fox; illus. by Morgan Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1952. 112p. \$2.25.

Little Fox was the runt of the litter - and the most troublesome of the lot. He finally let his curiosity and carelessness get him into serious difficulties when he broke his leg in a woodchuck's hole and was captured by a young boy. At the farm he was given gentle care but he did not like captivity, so as soon as his leg healed he dug his way out of his pen and returned home. Little Fox is too highly personified to be a realistic fox, but the author's adept descriptions and poetic style put the book in the class of fanciful literature and as such it should have wide appeal for imaginative readers. (Gr.3-5)

Gianakoulis, Theodore. The Land and People of Greece; illus. from photographs. Lippincott, 1952. 113p. (Portraits of the Nations Series) \$2.50. (D62)

Brief outlines of the physical geography of Greece and the present social, economic, and cultural state of her people are placed against a detailed background of Greek history from earliest to modern times. Although the author has given a seemingly disproportionate amount of his book to Greek history, he has succeeded in conveying to the reader a real understanding of the Greek people of today and the place of Greece in the modern world. Fairly small print and full pages. (Gr.7-9)

Goldberg, Martha. Wait for the Rain; illus. by Christine Price. Holiday House, 1952. 48p. \$1.50.

Extremely simple and slow paced story of a small boy who has new rain apparel and can hardly wait to wear it. When the opportunity comes he makes the most of it by splashing

through every puddle, wading in the gutter, and standing under a broken spout. Like the author's Lunch Box Story this is not outstanding writing but will be useful with beginning readers. (Gr.1-2)

Gruenberg, Sidonie Matsner. The Wonderful Story of How You Were Born; illus. by Hildegard Woodward. Garden City, 1952. 38p. (A Hanover House Book) \$2.

Interesting presentation of the facts about human birth and growth for young children. The straightforward style, which is neither coy nor condescending, will appeal to fourth and fifth grade readers who can handle the text alone, and the information is simplified enough for kindergarten and primary youngsters to understand it. The illustrations are pleasing and help clarify some of the more difficult parts of the text. (K-Gr.5)

Harkins, Philip. Center Ice. Holiday House, 1952. 208p. \$2.50.

The story of a college hockey star, Pete Grenville, who tries professional hockey and fails because he is not fast enough and cannot understand his French speaking companions. Pete finally leaves the team and takes a job at a Laurentian resort where he will teach skiing and play on the local hockey team, until such time as he is good enough to re-join the pros. Throughout the story the author is obviously trying to teach some lesson in intercultural understanding, but the reader is never sure just what it is he is trying to teach and sometimes it seems that the author does not fully subscribe to his own teachings. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Haywood, Carolyn. The Mixed-up Twins; written and illus. by Carolyn Haywood. Morrow, 1952. 125p. \$2.50.

Four-year-old Vickie was lonesome after the children in her neighborhood started to school until the twins, Ronald and Donald, came to visit their grandmother. The twins looked exactly alike - much to the confusion of Vickie and everyone else except the twins and their grandmother. The chapters are too long to hold the interest of pre-school children in story-hour groups and many of them would find the twins' identities as confusing as did Vickie. The characters are too young to have much interest for first and second graders to whom the story might be read or for third graders who could handle the text alone. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

Hinkle, Thomas Clarke. Black Tiger; The Story of a Faithful Horse. Morrow, 1952. 188p. \$2.

Follows the usual Hinkle horse story pattern of a wild horse that is captured, spends enough time in captivity to learn to like a man, escapes, and finally returns of his own will to his original owner. The writing is extremely poor and is padded with much needless repetition. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Hoffmann, Eleanor. The Search for the Gold Fishhook; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, 1951. 228p. \$2.75.

Twelve-year-old Luis Randall was a boy with two countries. His father was a citizen

of the U. S. and his mother was a native Colombian. Luis lived with his parents in Colombia but spent enough time in the U.S. to know the good and bad features of both countries and he often found his loyalties divided. After one visit with his American grandmother in California, Luis returned to his parents in Colombia with the avowed purpose of finding a genuine Indian gold fishhook to replace the one that had belonged to his grandmother and that he had lost. His search led him into some dangerous places but he finally got the fishhook and was instrumental in reuniting his Colombian grandmother and his parents. The story moves slowly but the reader interest is well sustained and there are some well-drawn contrasts between life in the two countries. (Gr.6-8)

Horowitz, Caroline. The Young Boy's Busybook of Play Ideas and Things-to-do. Hart, 1951. 95p. \$1.50.

An activity book for young boys. (Girls can use it too). Contents include things to do when playing alone and things to do with a playmate. The activities cover games to play, gifts to make, home-made toys, activities for rainy days and for convalescence. The materials required can generally be found around the home and most of the activities can be handled by the child with a minimum of adult help and supervision. (Gr.1-5)

Hubbard, Freeman Henry. The Train That Never Came Back and Other Railroad Stories; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Whittlesey House, 1952. 127p. \$2.25.

True stories of famous trains and the people connected with them. Three of the eight stories are also to be found in Wolfe's Clear the Track (Lippincott, 1952). The stories are well told and will be of interest to railroad fans. (Gr.5-7)

Johnson, Crockett. Who's Upside Down? words and pictures by Crockett Johnson. Scott, 1952. 24p. \$1.75.

A mother kangaroo finds a book in which there is a picture of the globe with two children at the top and a kangaroo at the bottom. She is perturbed to think that she is standing upside down until her baby turns the picture book around and then she is right side up. The idea of gravity is a difficult one to present to children and this book does little to make the concept any easier to understand. The humor is essentially adult rather than childlike. Not recommended. (K-Gr.2)

Kepes, Juliet. Five Little Monkeys; story and illus. by Juliet Kepes. Houghton, 1952. 33p. \$2.50.

Amusing story of five mischievous monkeys living in the jungle. The monkeys try the patience of all the other animals but just when they are about to be seriously punished they perform a deed of great service and are forgiven. Illustrations are highly stylized but humorous. (K-Gr.3)

Kohler, Julilly H. The Boy Who Stole the Elephant; illus. by Lee Ames. Knopf, 1952. 89p. \$2.50.

Twelve-year-old Gyp had lived most of his life with Mr. Catfish Williams, owner of a run-down circus that toured Kentucky and Illinois.

Gyp had never known real affection for either people or animals until the year when Mr. Williams was loaned an elephant from one of the larger circus companies. Gyp fell in love with Queenie and when he overheard Gattfish making plans to sell her to a Chicago zoo, "stole" the elephant and tried to return her to her rightful owner. His plan went slightly awry and caused him some unhappy moments before Queenie's owner appeared and settled the matter. The story should have wide appeal both for its humor and for the unusual picture it gives of rural life in the early 1900's. (Gr.4-6)

Kubie, Nora Benjamin. Joel; A Novel of Young America. Harper, 1952. 207p. \$2.50.

Joel was a young Polish-Jewish refugee who came to this country just before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. At first he could not sympathize with the colonists - their reasons for rebellion seemed very minor when compared with some of the things he had experienced in Poland, and life in the new country seemed perfect by comparison with what he had known before. However, after he had been wrongly imprisoned by the British he accepted the colonists' views and served valiantly until the end of the war. Woven into the story is Joel's love affair with a Christian girl, and their eventual realization that marriage was impossible for them in the light of their differences in religion. Both the battle and the love scenes are handled with a restraint that gives them added reality. Joel does not participate in any of the major battles of the war but his unswerving loyalty through good and bad times is made as important as the more glamorous role of participant in a spectacular fight. Likewise the love affair, which could not have ended happily under such circumstances, is given a realistic ending with the added note of hope that a time would come when such marriages would not only be possible but would be the accepted thing. (Gr.8-12)

Lansing, Elizabeth Carleton (Hubbard). The Pony That Kept a Secret; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Crowell, 1952. 117p. \$2.

More about the twins, Ted and Sue, and their pony, Twinkle. There is a mystery to solve; this time involving the disappearance of several round objects belonging to Ted, Sue, and the hired man, Pete. After a summer of detecting, with side excursions in building a swimming pool and entering Twinkle in the county fair pony-riding contest, the mystery is solved. Young Robbie has decided that Jemima, the duck, wants to set so he has been collecting all the round objects he can find to use as "yeggs" for her. Amusing stories of everyday doings on a farm with enough of a mystery to give added appeal. (Gr.4-6)

Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Lively Victoria; written and illus. by Eleanor Frances Lattimore. Morrow, 1952. 128p. \$2.

Victoria is a lively four-year-old living in Miami. Her adventures include riding down town on the bus by mistake, getting lost in the supermarket, and being unable to get out of the banyan tree after she had climbed up into it. To these are added the everyday affairs that keep a four-year-old interested and amused.

The reading level is third-grade but few eight year olds will be interested in the doings of a four-year-old. The chapters are too long for the book to be used as nursery school story-hour material although it might be used in a home with one or two children. (Gr.3-4)

Lewis, Howard Claude. Children and Their Books; Lessons for Children and Adults on the Right Way to Treat Books; drawings by Jane Lewis Swensen. Exposition Press, 1952. 63p. \$1.00.

Revised edition of a book first published in 1938. The information on the proper method of opening a book, on how to turn leaves, and what to use for bookmarks is good but the author has presented it in a didactic, querulous tone that repels the reader from the very beginning. Not recommended. (All ages)

Lowrey, Janette (Sebring). Mr. Heff and Mr. Ho; The Story of Mr. Floweryfield and the Organ Grinder; illus. by Peggy Bacon. Harper, 1952. 148p. \$2.50.

An attempt at fantasy that employs all the tricks of whimsy but fails to achieve its purpose. Mr. Heff (whose real name is Floweryfield) arrives at the town of Odd Corners to find its residents in verbal conflict with the neighboring town of Even Green over the disappearance of the pet monkey belonging to Mr. Ho, Odd Corner's organ grinder-train engineer. Mr. Heff helps solve the mystery and reunites the two towns. The story employs the flashback style, with the major portion of the text relating the events of the days when Mr. Heff first came to Odd Corners and the intervening passages forming a kind of day by day diary of the present. The result is sometimes confusing and more often dull. Not recommended. (Gr.4-6)

Lyon, Jessica. This My Desire; a junior novel. Macrae, 1952. 208p. \$2.50.

Joanne Locke had never known love or affection in her own family so she sought it elsewhere - usually in the form of a violent crush on one of her teachers or one of the boys or girls she knew in school. These affairs always ended unhappily and she would be moody and unhappy until the next affair began. The climax came when she met Rod Wyatt, fell in love with him and thought he returned her affection; only to realize at last that he was using her to try to get a job from her father. After this disillusioning experience she was ready, although not yet quite willing, to listen to what people said about her emotional instability and to work out her problems. In the end she grew up enough to recognize and be ready for real love when it came along. The emphasis of the book is on the problem that is being presented rather than on character delineation. (Gr.8-10)

McFarland, Wilma, ed. Then It Happened - Stories of Unforgettable Moments. Watts, 1952. 320p. \$3.

A collection of teen-age stories, mostly about girls, and covering the many problems, emotional and otherwise, that young people experience. The stories have been taken from magazines such as Senior Prom, McCall's, and

Savanteen, and some are excerpts from longer books. (Gr.8-10)

McIlvaine, Jane S. The Sea Sprite. Macrae, 1952. 204p. \$2.50.

When Callie Pritchard and her parents returned to Pritchard's Point from Europe where Mr. Pritchard had served for years as ambassador, Callie tried at once to break into the social life of the local yacht club group. This was made difficult by her shyness which was mistaken for snobbishness, her wealth which was resented, and her friendship with Terry Drake, a young man with a reputation for unethical conduct. In spite of the obstacles she won her place in the group, gained the love of the most eligible young man in the area, and reformed Terry. There is no depth to the characterizations and some of the standards of value, such as Mrs. Pritchard's rationalizing about Callie's debut, are questionable. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Mallette, Gertrude Ethel. "Calling Doctor Marcia". Doubleday, 1952. 296p. \$1.50.

A new edition of a book originally published in 1940 under the title Single Stones. Following a typical pattern for medical career stories, Marcia, a young medical student, dedicates herself to a bit of research, comes close to losing all her friends and ruining her health, and ends in a fog of fatigue, on the verge of collapse, but with the answer that has baffled all of the older research men. Unrealistic characters and situations. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Musgrave, Florence. Dogs in the Family; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Houghton, 1952. 246p. \$2.50.

When the Gardens moved from the city to their Uncle Jim's farm to take care of his dogs while he was in Florida, they were not quite prepared for the rigors of country living or the difficulties involved in caring for the dogs. The burden of responsibility fell on fifteen-year-old Win and was more than any young boy should have been expected to carry. The other members of the family (Mrs. Garden, twelve-year-old Boots, ten-year-old Shirley, and six-year-old Georgie) helped somewhat but they were as inexperienced as Win. The author displays a considerable lack of familiarity with country living and the entire situation of the uncle's leaving a valuable kennel in the hands of such inexperienced people is unrealistic. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Newberry, Clare (Turlay). Percy, Polly, and Pete; story and pictures by Clare Turlay Newberry. Harper, 1952. 30p. \$2.

Percy, Polly and Pete are three kittens whose mother has a difficult time protecting them from two-year-old Shasha who loves the kittens but does not know how to be gentle in handling or playing with them. Then comes the day when Shasha is three and from then on she knows how to handle the kittens. Beautifully illustrated. (Pre-school)

Palazzo, Tony. The Great Othello; The Story of a Seal. Viking, 1952. 48p. \$2.

Othello, a performing seal, likes the Carnival but he longs for the company of other seals. His wish is fulfilled when he appears on a TV show and is afterward invited to Seal Island - first to perform and then to stay. Seals have a quality of humor all their own and Palazzo has captured that humor perfectly in his illustrations. (K-Gr.1)

Prishvin, M. The Treasure Trove of the Sun; tr. by Tatiana Balkoff-Drowne; illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Viking, 1952. 79p. \$2.75. (D13; D19; D134)

The story of one day's adventure in the lives of Ana and Peterkin, two orphaned children living on a farm in post-war Russia. While on an expedition to a cranberry bog, they decide to follow separate paths and both become lost. Through the fortunate arrival of Tress, a dog whose master has recently died, Peterkin is saved from the bog into which he has fallen and he and Ana are reunited. The story moves somewhat slowly and occasionally wanders away from the main plot. It is not a book for the general reader, but the unusually perceptive child will enjoy its folk quality and will get some of its deeper meanings. The illustrations are beautifully done, in full color, and will add greatly to the reader's enjoyment of the story. (Gr.5-7)

Rey, Hans Augusto. Curious George Rides a Bike. Houghton, 1952. 48p. \$2.75.

Curious George, the small monkey, is given a bike by his explorer friend, the man with the yellow hat. In the course of his first day's riding, he helps a newboy deliver papers (but makes paper boats of most of them and sails them down the river), breaks the front wheel of his bike, and ends up performing with a carnival, before he is rescued by the explorer and taken home to bed. Children who have enjoyed the first two Curious George stories will find this one equally amusing. The illustrations add greatly to the humor of the story. (Gr.2-4)

Richard, James Robert. Fighting Halfback. Lothrop, 1952. 183p. \$2.50.

Charlie Gale was falsely accused of stealing some money while attending Tate University and then faced a further blow when he learned that his father's will stipulated that unless he graduated from that particular school he would lose his inheritance. Not knowing where to turn he joined the army and by a strange coincidence met Billy Allen, a young man who looked enough like Charlie to be his twin. In Korea their plane was shot down, Billy was killed, and Charlie seriously wounded. By further strange coincidence, the report was falsely made that it was Charlie who had died and when he returned to the States he did nothing to correct the mistake. He not only assumed Billy's identity but returned to the college Billy had once attended and won fame there in a crucial game in which he helped defeat Tate University. Although his identity was finally discovered by the lawyer who handled his inheritance, Charlie insisted that no one else must know because

it might tarnish the memory of Billy Allen. Fantastic. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Rodman, Maia. Market Day for Ti André; illus. by Wilson Bigaud. Viking, 1952. 48p. \$2.

Mild but pleasant story of a young boy and his mother who travel from their mountain home in Haiti to the market town of Port-au-Prince. Ti André dreams the night before about flying, so when his mother gives him a nickel to spend in the market, he sets out to buy a plane. His search is not only fruitless but he becomes lost and has trouble finding his mother. However, all ends well and he returns to his mountain home satisfied to leave flying to the tiny white bird in the palm tree. (Gr.2-4)

Rosenheim, Lucile G. Sunny, the New Camp Counselor. Messner, 1952. 179p. \$2.50.

Sunny went straight from college to her first real job, that of counselor in a camp for underprivileged children, with little understanding of what the work involved. After a false start she came to realize that the children needed guidance rather than indulgence and her work thereafter was more successful. It was, in fact, too successful for the story to seem true to life. Sunny is too incompetent at the beginning of the month and too adept at the end for the change to seem real; the children with whom she works make too rapid and too complete adjustments in their personality problems; and Sunny's romance with the camp doctor seems dragged in to fit a pattern typical of so many career stories rather than being a natural development of the situation. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Ross, Margaret Isabel. Wilderness River; Adventure in the Fur Trapping Country. Harper, 1952. 214p. \$2.50.

The adventures of a fourteen-year-old boy serving as apprentice to the North West Trade Company at the beginning of that company's rivalry with the well-established Hudson Bay Company. The story covers Alex's experiences with Mackenzie and Macpherson during the exciting days of the establishment of posts through the mountains to the Pacific coast. The first three chapters are told in the first person, the remaining are told in the third person, and the reader is left with no knowledge of the identity of the person who began telling the story. There is, however, enough action and suspense to the story to overcome the weakness of the inconsistency in style. (Gr.7-9)

Sawyer, Ruth. Maggie Rose; Her Birthday Christmas; illus. by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1952. 151p. \$2. (D37;D84;D92)

Nine-year-old Maggie Rose was the only one of "those Bunkers" who was dissatisfied with their make-shift, happy-go-lucky way of life. When she set out to earn enough money to have a real celebration on her birthday, which was also Christmas, the rest of the family watched in amazement that any one could want to expend so much energy. However, by Christmastime they had come to realize the seriousness of the project for Maggie Rose and were helping make her wish come true. A warm and tender story with excellent

characterizations, not only of Maggie Rose but of her family and neighbors as well, and with a realistic handling of the situations and problems. Sendak's illustrations add greatly to the charm of the story. (Gr.4-6)

Schlein, Miriam. Go with the Sun; illus. by Symeon Shimin. Scott, 1952. \$2.

A small boy watches the various animals around his home prepare for winter, tries to imitate some of them, and eventually learns that each animal has a way of spending the cold months that is best suited to that particular animal and no other. In the spring he watches the animals return from the lands to which they had migrated or from their caves and burrows. The story is similar to many other books about the seasons but the writing has a nice lilt to it that makes it pleasant for reading aloud. Illustrations are just average. (K-Gr.2)

Simont, Marc. The Lovely Summer. Harper, 1952. 44p. \$2.

Gladys and Jerome are two rabbits who had lived a rather uneventful life until two summer residents came to live in the cottage near their home, and started a garden. The rabbits thought the garden was just for them and considered it especially nice of the people to put up a fence so the dog could not get in and disturb them. Everything the people did to protect their garden turned out to be a help to the rabbits, and Gladys and Jerome were truly sorry when the summer ended and the people left. The straight-faced, matter-of-fact telling becomes hilarious when combined with the exaggerated humor of the illustrations. (Gr.1-3)

Snow, Dorothea J. Come, Chucky, Come; pictures by Joshua Telford. Houghton, 1952. 45p. \$2.

There is a real folklore flavor to this story of a small mountain boy and his pet woodchuck. Lonnie thought he would sell Chucky for enough to finish paying for the fiddle he wanted more than anything else in the world but when the time came he could not part with his pet. However, Chucky solved the problem by performing with Lonnie one day when a stuffed whale that was supposed to be on exhibit was late in reaching the town, and the money the two earned was enough to pay for the fiddle and to have the molasses jug filled clear up to the cork. (Gr.4-6)

Steiner, Charlotte. Make-believe Puppy; photographs by Helen Heller. Lothrop, 1952. 24p. \$1.50.

Bobby wanted a dog so when his parents told him he would have to wait until his birthday, he made believe he had a puppy named Flopsy. The illustrations are a combination of photographs and line drawings to show the difference between the real boy and the make-believe puppy. The result does not achieve the desired effect since the puppy does not look like any breed of dog that ever lived, and any child who was pretending to own a dog would visualize a dog of a recognizable breed. The story is too slight and the writing too stilted to have much interest. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Symonds, John. The Magic Current Bun; illus. by André François. Lippincott, 1952. 38p. \$2.

A small boy was watching a bun in the bakery store window when it asked him to rescue it. He did so but was immediately set upon by the store owner, the customers, and twenty-seven and a half members of the Paris police force, who tried to arrest him as a thief. As he ran through the city the bun, which proved to be magic, came to his rescue by granting him a wish every time he ate a current. He caused considerable confusion in the city after that but eventually won his freedom. Sophisticated illustrations that are imitations of child art but are not truly childlike and a story that does not quite succeed as fantasy. Not recommended.

(Gr.2-4)

Thomas, Joan Gale. Our Father. Lothrop, 1952. 20p. \$1.

Somewhat sentimental attempts to interpret the Lord's Prayer in verse. The book is designed to make the prayer more understandable for very young children, but the verses that have been used do not completely achieve this purpose. They would need as much interpretation as the prayer itself. The only difference between the Catholic and the Protestant editions is in the ending of the prayer. Could be used by Sunday Schools but of little value otherwise.

(Pre-school)

Todd, Ruthven. Space Cat; illus. by Paul Galdone. Scribner's, 1952. 70p. \$2.

Flyball is a rather unusual cat who makes friends with a space ship pilot and goes with him on the first trip to the moon. The story is slightly amusing as a cat story but will hardly satisfy young science fiction fans.

(Gr.3-5)

Trease, Geoffrey. Web of Traitors; An Adventure Story of Ancient Athens. Vanguard, 1952. 190p. \$2.50.

A story of political intrigue in Athens during the time of Socrates and of a young boy who uses his ability as a dramatist to plead the cause of the philosopher. The author's use of modern idioms and slang is rather startling at first but since he is consistent in the usage it becomes less noticeable as the story unfolds. The action is swift-paced, the characters are realistically portrayed, and the book provides a good picture of the life of the period.

(Gr.7-9)

Vinton, Iris. The Story of Robert E. Lee; illus. by John Alan Maxwell. Grosset, 1952. 182p. \$1.50. (Signature Books).

Poorly written biography of Lee that fails to make either the man or his times come alive. The style is choppy and the tone condescending. The Emery, Robert E. Lee (Messner, 1951) and the Commager, America's Robert E. Lee (Houghton, 1951) are better and more interestingly written. Not recommended.

(Gr.5-7)

Whitehead, Roberta M. Wish I May; illus. by William Moyers. Houghton, 1952. 124p. \$2.

In this sequel to Why Not? young Sarah Jane Brown from Virginia goes with her friend, Julia, to Julia's family's summer cottage in Maine. There the two girls swim, hunt sea shells, picnic, and have all the fun of a summer at the beach. Not an outstanding book, but pleasant, and young girls will enjoy the everyday doings of these two friends. (Gr.2-4)

Will. Even Steven; by Will and Nicolas. Harcourt, 1952. 48p. \$2.25.

When Hobie Yates was allowed to choose a horse for his very own, he chose Steven, a small white horse. The cowhands all thought he had made a poor choice but Steven soon proved himself the smartest horse on Barnacle Ranch. After Steven and Hobie thwarted an unscrupulous rival rancher and saved the ranch's honor at the local Fair no one ever questioned the horse's worth again. The subject will have strong appeal for cowboy fans. The blue and orange illustrations are in softer, less bold colors than those of Two Reds or Finders Keepers and some are strongly cartoonish.

(K-Gr.3)

Wood, Ray. Fun in American Folk Rhymes; drawings by Ed Hargis; introduction by Carl Carmer. Lippincott, 1952. 109p. \$2.50.

A collection of American folk rhymes, gathered from city and country. There are jingles, ballads, counting-out rhymes, school-yard games, jump rope and skipping verses - some old and some new. The illustrations add to the humor of the collection. (All ages)

Woody, Regina Llewellyn (Jones). Ballet in the Barn; illus. by Arline K. Thompson. Ariel, 1952. 308p. \$3.

Twelve-year-old Janet Sherwood did not want to leave New York City and especially the American School of Ballet, but when her parents decided to move to Martha's Vineyard she had little choice. Once there she discovered ample opportunities to continue her dancing and in time even learned to appreciate modern dance as well as her beloved classical ballet. Some real dancers are introduced as minor characters in the story and interesting information about their various styles of dancing is given. The characterizations are adequate and the situations are realistic. (Gr.6-8)

Woolley, Catherine. Lunch for Lennie; illus. by Meg Wohlberg. Morrow, 1952. 48p. \$2.

The activities of a four-year-old boy who pretends to be a dog, a giraffe, a lion, a frog, and a kangaroo. His mother enters into the spirit of the game by offering him a lunch suitable for each of the animals he pretends to be. When she sits down to her own meal, Lennie decides to be just himself and eats his own lunch in the right way. The fantasy is too drawn out to be either realistic or to hold the interest of pre-school children and the extreme youth of the main character will keep the book from having appeal for independent reading. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). The Storm Book; illus. by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper, 1952. 32p. \$2.

Picture book showing a summer storm and its effect on the country, the city, the ocean, and the mountains. Good for nature study concepts and for reading aloud to young children to help them overcome fear of storms. The illustrations are beautifully done and capture the force and power of the storm without making it something to fear. (K-Gr.3)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Materials

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

Cadwallader, D. K. Annotated List of Books for Supplementary Reading, Kindergarten - Grade 9. Children's Reading Service, 1078 St. John's Place, Brooklyn 13, N. Y., 1953. 10¢.

Design for Elementary Libraries. Prepared by the Elementary Library Committee, Department of Elementary Curriculum, South Bend, Indiana. 75¢.

Edwards, Margaret A. "How Do I Love Thee?" The English Journal 41:335-340. S'52.
A discussion of love stories for teen-age readers.

Gallagher, J. Roswell. Your Child's Health: A Handbook for Parents and Teachers. Better Living Booklet for Parents and Teachers. Chicago, Science Research Associates. 40¢

Merriam, Robert E. Politics for Boys and Girls. Junior Life Adjustment Booklet. Chicago, Science Research Associates. 40¢

Merriam, Robert E. and Bethea, John W. Understanding Politics. Life Adjustment Booklet. Chicago, Science Research Associates. 40¢

Oftedal, Laura. A Classroom Breakfast Party and Other Classroom Activities for Grades 1, 2, 3. Cereal Institute Inc., 135 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

Oftedal, Laura. Two Better Breakfast Plays and Other Classroom Activities for Grades 4, 5, 6. Chicago, Cereal Institute Inc.

Puner, Helen W. Helping Brothers and Sisters Get Along. Better Living Booklet for Parents and Teachers. Chicago, Science Research Associates. 40¢

Wheat, Harry Grove and Wilson, Phyllis. Ways You Can Help Your Child With Arithmetic. Row, Peterson Co., 1952. Free.

Whiteside-Taylor, Katharine. Getting Along With Parents. Junior Life Adjustment Booklet. Chicago, Science Research Associates. 40¢

Carnival of Books programs for November-December, 1952.

The dates listed below refer to the date the show is released to the network. Actual hour and day of re-broadcast will vary according to city. Consult your local NBC station for hour and day of the program in your city.

- Nov. 1 - Robert McCloskey, ONE MORNING IN MAINE
- Nov. 8 - Tom Robinson, LOST DOG JERRY
- Nov. 15 - Genevieve Foster, BIRTHDAYS OF FREEDOM
- Nov. 22 - Alvena Seckar, ZUSKA OF THE BURNING HILLS
- Nov. 29 - Helen and George Papashvily, THANKS TO NOAH
- Dec. 6 - Maud and Miska Petersham, THE BOX WITH RED WHEELS and CIRCUS BABY
- Dec. 13 - Ann Weil, RED SAILS TO CAPRI
- Dec. 20 - Maud Hart Lovelace, THE TREES KNEEL AT CHRISTMAS
- Dec. 27 - Gladys Malvern, BEHOLD YOUR QUEEN

Miss Unifred Lee Noy

Ref. Dept.

Harper 111

Fac. Exch.