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New Titles for Children and Young People

Andersen, Hans Christian. Fairy Tales; retold for young children; illus. by James Caraway. Grosset, 1952. 26p. (Big Treasure Books) \$1.

Shortened and exceedingly dull versions of four of Andersen's fairy tales. Mediocre illustrations. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Bechdolt, John Ernest. Runaway from Riches; front. by Woodi Ishmael. Dutton, 1952. 191p. \$2.50.

A slick magazine type story of a rich girl who takes a whirl at the simple life and falls in love with a poor, but honest, Irish lawyer. Both the characters and the situations are trite and unrealistic. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Beers, Lorna. The Book of Hugh Flower; illus. by Eleanor Mill. Harper, 1952. 186p. \$2.50.

Hugh Flower was a young journeyman stone mason seeking his first job when he came to the town of Lynn, England. He found work with Master Lynde of St. Nicholas lodge and was soon accepted as a full member of the lodge. Woven into the story of Hugh's rise from journeyman to master mason are adventures arising from the rivalry of another lodge in the same town, the details of life in a fifteenth century English town, and Hugh's romance with the daughter of Master Lynde. A stirring and absorbing combination of historical fiction and adventure. (Gr.7-9)

Bothwell, Jean. The Story of India; illus. with drawings by Jeanyee Wong, and with photographs. Harcourt, 1952. 180p. \$3.

An account of the history of India and of the various cultures represented by her people.

The book was reviewed for the Center by a student from India who has lived all her life in Southern India and has traveled widely in the central and northern sections of the country. She reports that the book is reasonably accurate as a history of India up to about 1920 (the descriptions of school and home life, especially in Southern India, are not typical), but is wholly inadequate as a social, economic, or political picture of India or the Indian people of 1952. The superficial treatment of the Indian-British problem further weakens the book. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Boylston, Helen (Dore). Sue Barton, Staff Nurse; front. by Major Felten. Little, 1952. 204p. \$2.75.

Sue Barton, now the mother of four children, returns to hospital work for a brief period while her husband is in a sanatorium recovering from a slight case of tuberculosis. The story of Sue's personal and professional problems follows the same general pattern of the earlier books and much of the story is dependent on the reader's knowledge of the earlier books. The plot is thin and many of the episodes are merely variations on earlier situations. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Briley, Flossie. Three Grandmothers Flew South; A Story for Children; with drawings by Wendell Cook. Exposition Press, 1952. 35p. \$1.50.

An account of the doings of three grandmothers who spend their winters in the South and their summers in the North. Their everyday affairs are hardly such as will have great appeal to children and the written-down, condescending tone of the book does nothing to help the story. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

Brown, Margaret Wise. A Child's Good Morning; with lithographs by Jean Charlot. Scott, 1952. 34p. \$2. (D34)

Simple, rhythmical text describes the coming of day from the first light of dawn through the awakening of the birds, the animals, and finally the children. The illustrations, although uneven in quality, capture the sometimes soft, sometimes bold colors of early morning. A very slight but pleasant introduction to environmental concepts for the pre-school child. (Pre-school)

Brown, Margaret Wise. The Noon Balloon; pictures by Leonard Weisgard. Harper, 1952. 30p. \$2.

Very slight story of a kitten who goes up

in the Noon Balloon to escape the mice who are after him and travels over towns, farms, rivers, and mountains looking for a place to land. He finally finds a place where there are no mice but there is another kitten to keep him company. Weisgard's illustrations are the most important part of the book. (K-Gr.2)

Brunhoff, Jean de. Babar and Father Christmas; tr. from the French by Merle S. Haas. Wonder Books, 1952. 28p. 25¢

A cut version of Brunhoff's story of Babar's search for Father Christmas, designed for "very little folk". Several of the more interesting episodes have been deleted and the result is just a bare skeleton with little of the charm and appeal of the original. Since these books have always had their greatest popularity as read-aloud stories it is difficult to see that such a cut version is any improvement or makes the book any more suitable for young children. The illustrations are poor reproductions of Brunhoff's pictures. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Burton, Virginia Lee. Mabelle the Cable Car. Houghton, 1952. 42p. \$2.75.

The story of the San Francisco cable cars and of the way in which the people of the city saved the cars from being replaced with busses. Cable cars are not as universally known as steam shovels and snow plows, and Mabelle fails to emerge as quite as definite a personality as Katy of Katy and the Big Snow or Mary Anne of Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel. However, the rhythmical prose and colorful illustrations of the book will give it appeal for young children. (K-Gr.2)

Coombs, Charles I. Young Readers Water Sports Stories; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1952. 189p. \$2.50.

Seven short stories about various water sports. The writing is mediocre, the morals are too obvious, and the characterizations are unreal. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Dawson, Carley. Mr. Wicker's Window; illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton, 1952. 272p. \$3.25.

A modern fanciful tale about twelve-year-old Chris, who is transported through time to a period immediately after the Revolutionary War. He learns magic that enables him to change himself into various kinds of animals, thwarts a group of pirates, and saves the United States from bankruptcy by stealing a jewel tree from a Chinese princess. The story brings in all the elements of fantasy and wishful thinking that might make up a youngster's dreams of glory, but goes to such an extreme that it becomes too fantastic to be credible. There are poor values expressed in the idea that the end always justifies the means and that the financial security of the United States depended on money stolen from another country. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Downey, Fairfax Davis. Trail of the Iron Horse; illus. by Manning De V. Lee. Scribner's, 1952. 179p. \$2.50.

The story of the building of the U.P. railroad and of two young men who took part in the building from the time of the first survey of the land to the final joining of the C.P. and U.P. tracks. Although not as interestingly

written as Oakes, Footprints of the Dragon (Winston, 1949), this story will serve as a companion piece to the earlier book since it is primarily concerned with the building of the U.P. road and the Oakes book describes the building of the C.P. road. (Gr.7-9)

Duvoisin, Roger Antoine. A for the Ark. Lothrop, 1952. 40p. \$2. Board bindings.

The story of the Flood combined with an alphabet book. Noah wanted to be sure he got all the animals in the Ark so he took them in alphabetical order. In the first section of the book the alphabet is built up a letter at a time, with all of the letters that have come before repeated at the top of each page. The animals represented by each letter are listed in the text and are pictured in the illustrations. After the alphabet, the remainder of the story of the Flood is told and then the letters are repeated with pictures of additional animals that were not named in the first part of the story. No explanation is given of why these animals were not included in those that went on the Ark. The names in this section are, in general, ones with which the child will not be familiar, so the value of the section as a guessing game is lost. The illustrations in the main part of the book are colorful and humorous and heighten the suspense of the story as the animals are hurrying into the Ark while the clouds become increasingly dark and heavy. With the exception of the last part, which seems to have been tacked on as an after thought and has no relation to the rest of the book, this is an exceptional alphabet and picture-story book. (Pre-school)

Earle, Vana. My Friend Johnny; written and illus. by Vana Earle. Lothrop, 1952. 26p. \$2.

An attempt to show the thinking process of a small boy who has quarreled with his best friend. He tries to convince himself that he can have just as much fun with other boys and girls, but he ends up by admitting that he has the most fun with Johnny and soon he and Johnny make up. The idea is adult and its treatment too subtle and confusing to have any real meaning for young children. Unattractive illustrations. Not recommended. (K-Gr.1)

Eppenstein, Louise. Sally Goes to the Circus Alone; illus. by Jean Staples. Platt & Munk, 1952. 44p. 75¢

Eight-year-old Sally starts out by herself to go to the circus where she is to meet her father. She arrives without mishap, but in the excitement of buying cotton candy, soda pop, and cracker jack she loses her ticket and has a few unhappy minutes until a friendly clown helps her find it. An exceedingly pedestrian story. The illustrations are mediocre and fail to give any real feeling for the color and excitement of the circus. Not recommended. (Gr.3-4)

Freehof, Lillian Simon. Star Light Stories; Holiday and Sabbath Tales; illus. by Jessie B. Robinson. Bloch, 1952. 96p. \$2.50.

Written-to-order stories designed to be read aloud to young children during the various Jewish festivals and holidays. The excessive use of personification and the coy tone of the writing weaken the book's appeal, and the

stories contain little information about the meanings of the festivals or the ways in which they are celebrated. Not recommended. (K-Gr.2)

Freeman, Mae (Blacker). Fun with Ballet. Random House, 1952. 64p. \$1.50.

An excellent book for the beginning ballet dancer in which clear simple instructions and photographs show the five positions and the basic movements in ballet dancing. The dangers of beginning toe dancing too early are discussed and the reasons for the various movements and exercises are shown. Pronunciations and definitions of ballet terms are included at the end. (Gr.5-7)

Frierwood, Elisabeth Hamilton. Geneva Summer; A Romance of College Camp. Doubleday, 1952. 224p. \$2.50.

Priscilla Patton was jilted at the end of her first year in college and thought she could not face life any longer. However, a summer at the George Williams College Camp at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where she worked as a waitress, restored her self-confidence and brought a new boy friend. The characters are not realistically portrayed and the writing is too filled with adult sentimental reminiscences of other days and other romances at College Camp to have much appeal for modern readers. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Girvan, Helen (Masterman). End of a Golden String; illus. by Vaika Low. Dutton, 1952. 192p. \$2.75.

A highly contrived, unconvincing story of a young girl who moves from a farm to New York City where she lives with her erratic aunt and her aunt's eccentric friends. There is a slight and confused mystery that does nothing to help the progress of the story. Too many plots and counter-plots. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Gruelle, Johnny. Raggedy Ann's Merriest Christmas; illus. by Tom Sinnickson. Wonder Books, 1952. 28p. 25¢.

Mild and rather dull story of how Raggedy Ann, the other dolls, and Santa Claus work together to get for Marcella the puppy she wants for Christmas. Mediocre writing and illustrations. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Hall, Marjory. A Year from Now; illus. by Judith Draper. Sloane, 1952. 246p. \$2.75.

Six girls, all of whom majored in home economics in college, decide to meet at the end of their first year of working for a progress report. The story deals with the trials of each girl through that first year as adjustments are made to jobs and new insights into the possibilities of the field of home economics are gained. Several romances are also introduced. The plot is disjointed and, although each girl is different in looks and temperament from the others, none emerges as a clear cut personality. Unsuccessful as fiction, and the information about the various aspects of home economics can be gained from other sources. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Harris, Leon A. The Night Before Christmas, In Texas. That Is; illus. by Meg Wohlberg.

Lothrop, 1952. 20p. \$1.

Somewhat humorous, but very slight, parody on The Night Before Christmas, showing how Santa Claus comes to Texas. The book may appeal to the more chauvinistic of Texas citizens but has little to offer children of other states. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Horowitz, Caroline. The Little Girl's Busybook of Play Ideas and Things-To-Do. Hart, 1951. 95p. \$1.50.

The Girl's Handbook of Play Ideas and Things-To-Do. Hart, 1951. 95p. \$1.50.

Two more titles in the Horowitz Busybook Series. The activities are ones that will appeal to most young girls and can be carried out with a minimum of equipment and of adult supervision. There is considerable repetition of ideas in these books and most of the activities are also included in earlier Horowitz activity books. (Gr.3-5)

Hughes, Langston. The First Book of Negroes; illus. by Ursula Koering. Watts, 1952. 68p. \$1.75. (D59)

A somewhat superficial account of the history of the Negro people, with the emphasis on the Negroes of the United States. The material is interesting but it is less detailed and the style of writing is less appealing than Bontemps, Story of the Negro (Knopf, 1948). The book is adequate as an introduction to some of the problems faced by Negroes in the United States, but it is not an outstanding book in any way. (Gr.4-6)

Hungerford, Edward Buell. Forge for Heroes; pen-line chapter illustrations by Bill Meeker. Wilcox & Follett, 1952. 256p. \$2.50. (D28;D134)

A somewhat slow-paced but absorbing story of Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. Young Mark Meriel had no intention of becoming involved in the fighting when he started out with a wagon load of axeheads his father was sending to General Washington. However, when the need for his wagon and team to help with the foraging for food became apparent, Mark decided to stay and cast his lot with Captain Allen McLane and his Irregulars. Good historical fiction with a slight romance that will heighten the appeal of the book for teenage girls without lessening its appeal for boys. (Gr.7-9)

Jackson, Caary Paul. Shorty Carries the Ball; line drawings by Jackie Boehl. Wilcox & Follett, 1952. 153p. \$2.50.

Another story of Danny Cleary (Shorty) and his friends. This time Danny is just starting high school and, as usual, he begins by quarrelling with a fellow student. The quarrel is carried to the football field where Danny once again almost ruins the team and his own chances of playing by causing dissension among the players. He also, as usual, temporarily loses his eligibility for the team because of his poor class work. There is, of course, the last minute conversion when Danny sees the error of his ways and saves the team from defeat. Except for the fact that Danny is now in high school this might be either of the first two titles in the series. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. Sand in the Bag; and Other Folk Stories of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois; introduction by William T. Utter; illus. by John Moment. Vanguard, 1952. 192p. \$2.75.

Brief stories and anecdotes gathered from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The stories are, for the most part, rather dull and lacking in the humor that is generally expected from Mr. Jagendorf's rendering of folk lore. A disappointing collection and one with limited appeal and usefulness. (Gr.5-7)

Johnson, Siddie Joe. A Month of Christmases; illus. by Henrietta Jones Moon. Longmans, 1952. 132p. \$2.50.

Nine-year-old Mills and seven-year-old John are sent to visit their aunt and uncle in Fredricksburg, Texas during the month of December. While there they are led by a small, black and white kitten through a series of adventures into the early days of Fredricksburg's history. The changes from the past to modern times are confusing and the reader is so overwhelmed with details and events of both past and modern times that he often loses the thread and the meaning of the story. Not recommended. (Gr.4-6)

Kelley, Sam. The Adventures of Walter M. Duffle Duff; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Lothrop, 1952. 79p. \$2.

A very slight story of a small boy and the brown bear he finds on his Christmas tree one year. The bear, whose name is Walter M. Duffle Duff, makes life both difficult and amusing with his antics. A year after Walter arrives the small boy finds a second bear on the Christmas tree. This one is black and has come to keep Walter company while the small boy is in school. The author tries hard for his humor and fantasy but neither quite come off. Not recommended. (Gr.2-4)

Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Trailing Trouble. Holiday House, 1952. 219p. \$2.50.

Sequel to A Nose for Trouble. This time Tom Rainse, his partner Buck Brunt, and his dog Smoky are on the trail of a gang who are trying to defeat a plan to have the Gistache River area made into a regional park. The leader of the gang represents a lumber company that is anxious to buy the stand of first growth white pine on the river and the opposition is led by an ex-lumberman who is primarily interested in conservation. As in his other books, the author brings in a great deal of forest lore without detracting from the excitement and adventure of the story. (Gr.7-9)

Knight, Ruth Adams (Yingling). Halfway to Heaven; the Story of the St. Bernard; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1952. 184p. \$2.75.

A well-told account of the St. Bernard Hospice and of Barry, the most famous of all the St. Bernard dogs. The story is built around the life of a young Italian boy who goes to the hospice as a novice, stays in spite of the difficulties that arise from the extreme cold and hardships of the life there, and eventually is given charge of the training of the dogs. The book makes an interesting companion piece to Bishop's Bernard and His

Dogs (Houghton, 1952). (Gr.7-9)

Laird, Helene. The Lombardy Children; illus. by Peter Burchard. World, 1952. 209p. \$2.50. (D37;D19;D47;D123)

All but one of the five Hilbert children, and all four of the Lombardy children were delighted when Mr. Lombardy and Mrs. Hilbert decided to marry. The Hilberts had lived in New York City all their lives and so were looking forward not only to knowing the Lombardy children but to living on the Lombardy ranch in Nevada. Only thirteen-year-old Penny was unhappy at the prospect and it took most of the first year for her to adjust to the new situation and to realize that the marriage would not mean a loss of her mother's love, but would mean a deepening and enlarging of family relationships. An excellent story of the give-and-take of large families and of the problems of adjustment that arise from second marriages where there are children on both sides. (Gr.7-9)

Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. Captain Apple's Ghost; illus. by Ninon MacKnight. Doubleday, 1952. 249p. \$2.50.

Captain Apple had been dead for many years when his ghost was called back to earth by the plea of a twelve-year-old girl for help in saving the Junior Museum. The museum had once been the Captain's house and he was at first dismayed at the changes that had been made. However, when he saw that the children who were using the house had no place else in which to play, he set about trying to keep the city from tearing down the building and selling the lots for building sites. The story is told with warmth and humor and although Captain Apple is not a very credible ghost - he is too unfamiliar with such things as steamboats, cars, etc. to have lived as late as 1893 and to have traveled as widely as he is pictured as doing - he is a likable character. The story is not as well written as some of Lampman's earlier books but is acceptable as a modern ghost story. (Gr.5-7)

Leighton, Margaret (Carver). The Secret of Bucky Moran; illus. by Mary Leighton Thomson. Ariel, 1952. 216p. \$2.50.

When Slim Moran appeared one night at the Hill family's house and asked the Hills to take care of his "nephew", Bucky, who had broken his leg while trying to ride a rodeo horse, the family welcomed the boy without question. Mr. Hill did have a few moments of wondering because he had known Slim in the army and thought Slim had said then that he had no family. The Hills soon realized that Bucky was not at all what he claimed to be, but it was several weeks and a gunfight with some underworld characters later before they discovered that he was really a Hollywood child actor who had run away from home to join a rodeo. The story is completely implausible. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Levinger, Elma (Ehrlich). Galileo, First Observer of Marvelous Things. Messner, 1952. 180p. \$2.75. (D55;D92)

A well-written, inspiring biography of Galileo that will give the reader a good picture of both the man and the times in which he lived. Woven into the story are brief

accounts of other great astronomers of Galileo's period and later. (Gr.8-10)

Lindgren, Astrid. Bill Bergson, Master Detective; tr. from the Swedish by Herbert Antoine; illus. by Louis S. Glanzman. Viking, 1952. 200p. \$2.

Bill Bergson is a thirteen-year-old Swedish boy who fancies himself as a detective and almost gets himself and two friends killed when they tangle with a gang of jewel thieves. Both the children's and the gangsters' conversations are stilted and unnatural and the whole book reads like a third rate whodunit. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Lobsenz, Amelia. Kay Everett Works DX. Vanguard, 1952. 176p. \$2.50.

Sequel to Kay Everett Calls CQ. This time Kay has just received her "ham" license and has acquired her first set. The story involves her discovery and capture of a group of spies and saboteurs. The plot is almost entirely dependent on coincidence and Kay's actions are not even sensible, much less realistic. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Lovelace, Maud (Hart). Betsy and the Great World; illus. by Vera Neville. Crowell, 1952. 305p. \$2.50.

Followers of the Betsy-Tacy stories will probably enjoy this account of Betsy's "grand tour" more than will newcomers to the series. Betsy seems remarkably immature for a twenty-two-year-old girl and there is so little plot that the book reads more like a travelogue than a story. However, teen-age readers should enjoy the vivid descriptions of the places Betsy visits and the picture that is given of Europe in 1914. (Gr.8-10)

MacAlvay, Nora, ed. First Performance; Plays for the Junior High School Age; selected and ed. by Nora MacAlvay & Virginia Lee Comer. Harcourt, 1952. 300p. \$3.50.

A collection of five plays designed for presentation by or to junior high school students. The plays are of a superior quality not often found in drama written for young players. Two of the plays ("Titian" and "The Utah Trail") are about the past; "The Secret of the Worn-Out Shoes" is a well-known fairy tale adapted for dance drama; "Papa Pompino and the Prizefighter" is a modern comedy-fantasy; and "The Think Machine" is a play of the future. Complete production notes are included with each play. The plays are non-royalty for amateurs giving amateur productions to non-paying audiences. (Gr.7-9)

Machetanz, Sara. Rick of High Ridge; illus. by Fred Machetanz. Scribner's, 1952. 177p. \$2.50.

Rick was so unhappy at the thought of moving with his family from their home in Johnstown to Alaska that his father promised him he could return to the States for school if he would just stay with the family during the summer. By the time they had found a place to live, built a log house, and begun to prove their claim, Rick had decided that Alaska was the place he really wanted to be. A slight mystery is brought in but adds little to the story which has its chief appeal in the

descriptions of the Matanuska Valley and the difficulties of homesteading there. (Gr.5-7)

Mariana. Miss Flora McFlimsey's Birthday. Lothrop, 1952. 34p. \$1.25.

Miss Flora McFlimsey runs away from the Doll House when it appears that everyone there has forgotten her birthday, flies off with a puffin, and then returns in time for the surprise party which the little girl and the other dolls have arranged for her. The story is very slight and somewhat confusing in the puffin episode. Not recommended. (K-Gr.2)

Martin, Marcia. Christmas Is Coming; illus. by Alison Cummings. Wonder Books, 1952. 28p. 25¢.

Uninspired story of the activities of three small children during the Christmas season. Mediocre writing and illustrations. Not recommended. (Pre-school)

Mason, Arthur. The Wee Men of Ballywooden; illus. by Robert Lawson. Viking, 1952. 214p. \$2.50.

New edition of a book first published in 1930, and out of print since 1936. Although the stories move slowly at first and will require considerable interpretation for young listeners, they have all the flavor and humor of true Irish fairy tales and will be fun to read aloud. (Gr.3-5)

Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Yours with Love, Kate; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Houghton, 1952. 277p. \$3.

A biography of Kate Douglas Wiggin in which the emphasis is as much on her part in promoting the kindergarten movement in this country as on her importance as a writer. The style is somewhat sentimental, but since this is in keeping with Mrs. Wiggin's own writings it is not objectionable. (Gr.7-9)

Meader, Stephan Warren. The Fish Hawk's Nest; illus. by Edward Shenton. Harcourt, 1952. 238p. \$2.50.

An exciting adventure-mystery story of smuggling on the Jersey Coast in 1820. Young Andy Corson becomes involved in the trouble when he finds a small wooden box half buried in the sand on Leaming's Island and sets out to solve the mystery of the inscription that is inside the box. The book gives a good picture of life along the Cape May shore and in Philadelphia during this period. (Gr.7-9)

Mirsky, Reba Paeff. Thirty-One Brothers and Sisters; illus. by W. T. Mars. Wilcox & Follett, 1952. 190p. \$2.95. (D59;D151)

A moderately well-written and unusual story of a small Zulu girl living with her family in their village in the South African veld. Nomusa is a very real little girl who would rather go hunting with her father and half-brothers than follow the more sedate ways of her mother and half-sisters. However, she enjoys the strictly feminine activities of dressing in her best clothes when she goes to a party. The picture of life in the Zulu kraal where Nomusa's father lives with his six wives and thirty-two children is handled with a sympathetic understanding that will give the young reader a knowledge of the manners and

customs of Nomusa's people without making them seem strange or unnatural. The book is excellent for intercultural use and will also have wide appeal simply as a good story.

(Gr.4-6)

Norling, Josephine (Stearns). The First Book of Water; written and illus. by Jo and Ernest Norling. Watts, 1952. 45p. \$1.75.

A simplified account of what water is, where it comes from, and how it is used by man. The material is interesting and useful, but the written-down, somewhat condescending style will limit the book to use by young readers.

(Gr.3-4)

North, Sterling. The Birthday of Little Jesus; illus. by Valenti Angelo. Grosset, 1952. 50p. \$2.50.

Beautifully written, imaginative story of the seventh birthday of Jesus. Angelo's illustrations have a delicacy that perfectly matches the writing, giving the book a complete unity of text and illustrations. An excellent gift book for Christmas and a story that will have year round value as religious education material.

(K-Gr.3)

Norton, Andre. Star Man's Son, 2250 A. D.; illus. by Nicolas Mordvinoff. Harcourt, 1952. 248p. \$2.75.

A story set in the period 200 years after the "blow-up" - the war that ends mankind as it is today and leaves a race of mutants that developed from the human beings who survived the effects of radiation. Fors, member of a mountain clan, is an outcast because he is the son of a plains woman and a mountain man. He leaves the tribe and wanders through several deserted cities until he meets a boy from a southern tribe and the two join forces. After many exciting adventures they help set the tribes on the path of world unity against the Beast Things that are out to destroy the remains of civilization. The ideas on world peace are as important a part of the story as the adventures of the two boys and, although the adventures are told with well sustained suspense, the book will probably have its greatest appeal for more thoughtful readers who are interested in the ideas.

(Gr.8-12)

Peck, Anne Merriman. Jo Ann of the Border Country. Dodd, 1952. 216p. \$2.50.

Jo Ann wants to be a writer but she feels that she can never realize her ambition as long as she is forced to remain on the family's ranch in southern Arizona where "nothing ever happens." Then she gets a chance to go to Chicago for the Christmas holidays and while there she learns to appreciate the good things in her life on the ranch. The story is poorly written with typed characters and situations and an over-abundance of cliches. The author preaches to the reader on the subject of interracial understanding and introduces intercultural problems that do little to forward the action of the basic plot. Not recommended.

(Gr.7-9)

Rendina, Laura Cooper. Summer for Two; front. by Ruth King. Little, 1952. 216p. \$2.50.

Further doings of Debbie Jones and her former roommate, Rachele. The story is divided

into three parts. Part one takes Debbie through her summer of waiting tables in a resort hotel up to the end of August. Part two takes Rachele through her summer of playing at painting up to the same time, whereupon the two girls are reunited by a fortunate coincidence. In the few remaining pages all of the problems the two have encountered during the summer are resolved and the two girls are left happily together at Debbie's home. The plot is thin and too disjointed. Not recommended.

(Gr.7-9)

Rietveld, Jane. Great Lakes Sailor; written and illus. by Jane Rietveld. Viking, 1952. 188p. \$2.

Twelve-year-old Tom Corbin wanted, more than anything else, to become a sailor on the Great Lakes. He finally persuaded his father to let him try one cruise to see whether his liking for ships was real or merely romantic dreaming. He sailed from Milwaukee on the Sea Gull for her summer run to Buffalo and later returned on the Silver Spray, one of the early steam ships. In this way he learned the good and bad of both kinds of ships and he decided his future was to be with sails rather than with steam. A mild but pleasant story and a good picture of mid-nineteenth century life on the Great Lakes.

(Gr.6-8)

Schlein, Miriam. Shapes; illus. by Sam Berman. Scott, 1952. 33p. \$1.75.

Rhymed prose relates round and square shapes to objects the child sees around him or to animals with which he is familiar. The section on round shapes is much more satisfactory for concept building than is the section on squares, in which nonsense elements are introduced which are more confusing than helpful.

(K-Gr.2)

Severn, David. Dream Gold; illus. by Isami Kashiwagi. Viking, 1952. 192p. \$2.50.

Completely fantastic story of two English boys who share a dream in which they both go back in time to the days of their early ancestors and a search for hidden gold. The writing is too poor to give the story any plausibility either as fantasy or realism. Not recommended.

(Gr.7-9)

Seymour, Alta Halverson. Arne and the Christmas Star; A Story of Norway; illus. by Frank Nicholas. Wilcox & Follett, 1952. 112p. \$2.50. (D62)

Pleasant story of modern Norway and of how young Arne helped save his brother's ship one stormy Christmas Eve. The story gives a good picture of a small Norwegian coastal village and the life of the people in both summer and winter.

(Gr.4-6)

Tatham, Campbell. The First Book of Trucks; illus. by Jeanne Bendick. Watts, 1952. 45p. \$1.75.

Descriptions of various kinds of trucks and the work they do. Of particular interest are the description of a truck drivers' rodeo and the illustrations showing how a diesel engine operates. The text is written in a semi-fictionalized style that becomes slightly condescending and may limit the appeal of the book to young reader.

(Gr.3-5)

Tibbets, Albert B. The First Book of Bees; illus. by Helene Carter. Watts, 1952. 68p. \$1.75.

Interesting introduction to bees and bee-keeping. The text is written in a simple, lucid style and is profusely illustrated. The material will be useful for nature study classes and the book should also have wide general appeal. (Gr.4-6)

Upham, Elizabeth. Little Brown Bear and His Friends; illus. by Marjorie Harwell. Platt & Munk, 1952. 56p. \$1.25.

Sweetly sentimental stories of Little Brown Bear, his family and his friends. Little Brown Bear talks only in doggerel and this does nothing to improve the situation. Not recommended. (Gr.1-3)

Ward, Lynd Kendall. The Biggest Bear. Houghton, 1952. 84p. \$2.75.

Highly amusing story of a small boy who was perturbed because his family's barn was the only one in the neighborhood that did not have a bear skin tacked up on one wall. He set out one day to remedy the situation - and returned home that night with a bear cub. As the cub grew, the havoc it wrecked increased until finally the boy had to part with his pet, who was sent to a nearby zoo. The text is written with the simplicity and wit of a folk tale and the full-page illustrations add vigor and humor to the telling. (K-Gr.3)

Watson, Helen Orr. Fools over Horses; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Houghton, 1952. 237p. \$2.75.

Trite story of Sally Lee Catlin, a typical Virginia horse-woman who is about to lose her home place, and a young Northern lawyer who falls in love with her and saves the family fortune. The characters are types, the plot lacks originality, and there are false values in the glorified attitude toward the First Families of Virginia. Not recommended. (Gr.8-10)

Wellman, Manly Wade. Wild Dogs of Drowning Creek. Holiday House, 1952. 221p. \$2.50.

Sequel to The Haunts of Drowning Creek. This time the four boys become involved with a pack of supposedly wild dogs that are harrassing the neighborhood and killing pigs and chickens. After the almost supernatural build-up that is given to the mystery of the dogs, the solution seems quite anti-climactic. A neighbor who is blind by day but can see by night (the result of cataracts which have not completely affected his vision) has trained the dogs to obey him and takes them foraging at night because he cannot afford to feed them. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

White, Elwyn Brooks. Charlotte's Web; illus. by Garth Williams. Harper, 1952. 184p. \$2.50.

Charlotte is a large grey spider who sets out to save the life of her dear friend, Wilbur the pig, from the annual fall slaughtering. How she manages to do so makes an engrossing and amusing story that will appeal to young readers for its realism and humor in both characterizations and situations, and that also has a more sophisticated humor and

meaning that will appeal to adults. Garth Williams' illustrations help bring all of the characters to life. (Gr.3-5)

Wilson, Jeanne. Half Pint; illus. by Joan Fayko. Westminster, 1952. 96p. \$2.

Ten-year-old Billy Little resented his nickname - Half Pint - but he could not seem to convince his family that they should call him anything else. Then one day he proved his courage and resourcefulness by saving the life of a valuable colt and after that the family called him "Notso" Little. Pleasant but unimportant story. (Gr.3-5)

Wilson, Leon. This Boy Cody and His Friends; illus. by Ursula Koering. Watts, 1952. 273p. \$2.50.

Another and even better story of this boy Cody. The winter started out to be long and dull for both Cody and his sister, Omalia, until Omalia took up quilting and Cody began making a fiddle. Uncle Jeff helped Cody with his project and also taught him to play. In spite of Omalia's comments about his squeaking and squawking, Cody was certain he would win an award at the Old Time Fiddler's Contest at Liberty Grove. Fate, in the form of a gadfly and the cow Maud, conspired to ruin Cody's fiddle and his hopes for winning the contest, but he did come through with an honorable mention and a determination to begin at once on a new fiddle. The story is less episodic than the first book and has the same vigor of telling and warmth of characterization of This Boy Cody. (Gr.5-7)

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.

"Children's Books 1951-52" N.E.A. Journal 41:513-14 N'52.

Frahm, I. "Thirty-six Ills of Books" Midland Schools. 57:21,38-39. N'52.
Criteria for selecting text-books.

French, J. E. "Children's Preferences for Pictures of Varied Complexity of Pictorial Pattern" Elementary School Journal 53:90-95 O'52.

Gray, W. S., ed. Improving Reading in All Curriculum Areas. Supplementary Educational Monograph #76. Univ. of Chicago Press, 1952. \$3.25

Kenworthy, L. S. Studying the U.S.S.R. Author, Brooklyn College, 1952. 50p
Includes lists of printed and audio-visual materials for teacher and student.

Keohane, R. E. "Education for Citizenship" School Review 60:445-457 N'52.
Excellent discussion of books and other printed materials useful in teaching citizenship.

Newman, J. R. "Children's Books" Scientific American 187:78-83 D'52.
Current science books for children.

Winifred Kea Noy
Hager 111
Fae Exel