ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Inconsequential story of a family that

Andrews, Mary Evans. *Messenger by Night*; illus. by Avery Johnson. Longmans, 1953. 206p. $2.75. (D62;D22;D22).

A story of the island of Rhodes during the second world war. Young Tasso wanted to go with his brother Gregory who had escaped to Turkey, but his family refused to let him leave. However, in time, Tasso proved that he could serve his country well in spite of his youth. The story gives an interesting picture of Greek life during the war period. (Gr.6-8)


A novelty book. The book has a rectangular hole cut in each of the pages through which a grasshopper cut-out on a plastic spring hops from page to page. The story is contrived and unrealistic. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


A scholarly, well-written biography of Stephen F. Austin, who more than any other one man was responsible for the growth and development of Texas. The mature style will appeal to high school readers who will find the book of interest both as a biography of Austin and as supplementary material for this period in United States history. (Gr.10-12)


The story of Saint Francis and his experience with the wolf at Gubbio told with dignity and simplicity. The distinctive illustrations portray Saint Francis as a robust character in refreshing contrast to the emaciated, almost ethereal character he is so often pictured as being. (K-Gr.3)


Simply written story of a small boy who moves, with his family, to the desert and proves himself worthy of membership in the Desert Rat's Club by saving a family from a flash flood. The story is slight but contains interesting desert lore and is easy enough for upper second grade or third grade readers to handle alone. (Gr.2-4)


Inconsequential story of a family that
travels over Europe while the father is presumably selling machinery. There is not enough about any one country for the book to have value in developing international understandings and the slight information that is given is more likely to lead to misconcepts than to understanding. The last two pages contain play money and play travel tickets that are to be cut out. Not recommended.  (K-Gr.2)


Vapid story of a mother cat who helps her kittens from two small children until the kittens are old enough to fend for themselves. Newberry does the same thing but infinitely better in Percy, Polly and Pete (Harper, 1952). Not recommended. (Pre-school)


Eleven-year-old Clint Matthews was unhappy when his family gave up their ranch and moved across the ridge to Cripple Creek, where Mr. Matthews had leased a section of the Mollie Kathleen mine. Cripple Creek was a pleasant town in which to live and the mine was exciting, but Clint found it hard to become reconciled to having to leave his beloved colt, Gingerbread, behind. In time Clint became interested in the affairs of the Cripple Creek school and worked out a plan whereby he could help the building fund for the new school and have his colt with him through the summer. A well-written, satisfying horse and boy story, into which the author has woven an account of an actual campaign by the Cripple Creek, Colorado children to earn money for a new school building by selling samples of gold ore. (Gr.5-7)


Two young boys go west for a summer's vacation on a ranch belonging to the uncle of one of them. Almost immediately on arrival they become involved with a gang of horse thieves who capture one of the boys and hold him captive for most of the book. The plot is too melodramatic and sensational. The writing is poor quality, with an over-use of slang. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


A slight but amusing story of an old woman who decided to give a party on her one hundredth birthday and invite all of the neighborhood children. She begins popping corn and matters get out of hand when she tries to pop five pounds of corn at once. The story has a nice blend of exaggeration and realism that young children will find humorous. (Pre-school)


Steve Potter finished high school as track champion for his region. Although he was interested in continuing his studies, and his family and friends insisted that he should enroll in college, he also felt that he should stay at home and help his father. Mr. Potter, owner and editor of the local weekly newspaper, had been overworking and Steve wanted to relieve him as much as possible. After considerable vacillating, Steve was finally prodded into continuing his education. Steve is a muddled unconvincing character with no mind of his own but with a pig-headed kind of stubbornness prevents him from taking advantage of most of the good advice that comes his way. The only reaction he is likely to arouse in readers is irritation that anyone should be so stupid through so many pages. The other characters are equally poorly drawn and the situations are too dependent on coincidence to have much reality. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


Skeedaddle, a misunderstood puppy, runs away from home and has many adventures before he finally returned to his rightful owner. Too condescending and written down in tone. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


A "Black Beautyish" kind of story in that the horse is more human than equine. Penny, a riding school pony is the epitome of gentleness, common sense, and mannerliness. She longs for the day when she will be "Privately Owned", and gets her wish when she is purchased as a riding horse for a sickly young boy. Through the years she teaches the boy to ride, restores him to health, and one time saves his life. Not recommended. (Gr.4-6)


A small duck ignores his mother's warning to stay in the home pond and goes adventuring down the brook and the river until he reaches the sea. There he regrets the entire venture and is rescued by a sea gull who takes him home on her back. After that he is satisfied with his pond. A threadbare plot with nothing new in the telling. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


A collection of mediocre, highly moralistic stories about various indoor sports. The writing is poor and the tone is didactic and condescending. Not recommended. (Gr.5-8)

Dehkes, Evelyn S.  The Young Viking Warrior; A Story of the Ninth Century; illus. by John Moment. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 211p. $2.50. Olav longed to go on trading voyages with his father or to join the court of the great chief Halfdan. He was bitterly disappointed when, on his twelfth birthday, his father decreed that he should stay at home and learn to manage the family estate. Adventure came to Olav, however, when he accidentally learned of the lawless Bjorn's plot to overthrow Halfdan,
ad set out to thwart the outlaw's plans. A stirring adventure story of ninth century Jorway. (Gr.6-8)


Further adventures of Jeff White in the pine woods. This time he joins a lumber camp and helps solve a murder mystery. Too melodramatic. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


Standardized pattern of a young animal who ignores his parents' teaching until his life is endangered and then puts into practice all that he has been taught. Trivial. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


The story of the robins from the time they first arrive north in the spring, through the mating, nesting, rearing of the young, and final return south in the fall. A simply written realistic account that makes good reading as well as being useful nature study material. The illustrations, in black and white, are attractive and informative. Extra large print. (Gr.3-7)


A story of a quail that is intended to teach nature lore to young children. The extreme personification of the bird and the use of imagery such as describing a bird's egg as a jail will make the material more confusing and misleading than enlightening. Not recommended. (Gr.3-6)


Accounts of famous rescues at sea made by Coast Guard cutters, weather ships, tugs, and merchant vessels. Some of the material is taken from first hand accounts as told to the author by persons taking part in the rescues. Exciting and interesting. (Gr.7-9)


Laborer story of a goat who leaves home and is not accepted anywhere until he comes to a school and becomes the playmate of the children. Meaningless. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


Slight but amusing story of a white goat that is bought to supply milk for a small girl who has been sick. Young children will enjoy the incongruity of a goat that goes traveling in a red coat and a yellow scarf. Gay and colorful pictures. (K-Gr.1)

Wg, Flavia. Four Legs and a Tail; illus. by the author. Holt, 1952. 150p. $2.50.

Mildly pleasant story of two children whose father brings them a broad tailed Chinese sheep from Australia. The story is not outstanding and the ending, in which the children turn the sheep over to the owner of a side-show, is unrealistic. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)


Uninspired versions of some familiar American tall tales. Stories of these same heroes are available in other versions that are better written, more humorous, and equally easy to read. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Harrinett, Cynthia. Nicholas and the Wool-Pack: An Adventure Story of the Middle Ages; written and illus. by Cynthia Harrinett. Putnam's, 1953. 181p. $2.50.

A mystery story set in England during the Middle Ages. As an apprentice to his father, a wealthy wool merchant, young Nicholas Fetterlook not only learns the details of the wool trade but is instrumental in saving his father from ruin at the hands of a thieving packer and unscrupulous money lenders. The somewhat full print makes the book look more difficult than it actually is. The story moves smoothly, with many unusual and enlightening details about life at this period, and with enough action and suspense to hold the reader's interest throughout. (Gr.7-9)

Harrison, Caroline. Allan and Trisha Visit Science Park; story by Caroline Harrison and Bradford Washburn; photographs by Robert J. Keller. Little, 1953. 56p. $2.

Contrived story and posed photographs tall of the visit to Boston's Museum of Science by eight-year-old Allan and seven-year-old Trisha. There is no real feeling for a museum as such, and the book contains such a hodge-podge of information that it becomes more confusing than instructive. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)


Nuki is a young Eskimo boy who is forced to take on the care of his family after his father is lost while seal hunting. The story is similar in plot and subject matter to Freuchen's Eskimo Boy (Lothrop, 1951) but the writing does not have the vigor and forcefulness of the Freuchen book. As an adventure story this book is acceptable. For a picture of Eskimo life the Freuchen, Eskimo Boy, the Helsersvers, Olak's Brother (Little, 1953), or the Illingworth, Tale of Joe Bay (Coward, 1951) are preferable. (Gr.5-7)


A readable account of the various kinds of farms that are to be found around the world. The major portion of the book records, in semi-fictionalized style, life on a diversified farm in New York State. The information is detailed and will be useful for farm units or as vocational guidance material. The book is marred by some careless writing and editing, as, for example, when the author attributes to Ford the invention of the gasoline engine, or a calf is referred to as "he" throughout one
paragraph and "her" throughout the next. Brief mention is made of the work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U. N. (Gr.5-7)

Hubbard, Ethel Daniels. The Moffats; decorations by Kurt Wiese. New ed. Friendship Press, 1952. 164p. $2.50 cloth; $1.50 paper. A biography of one of the early missionary families in Africa. The Moffats lived in Central South Africa, north of the Orange River, from 1819 to 1870. One of their daughters, born and reared in Africa, married David Livingston. It is unfortunate that the book has been given the same title as another, exceedingly popular, children's book. Adequate, although not outstanding, writing. (Gr.7-9)

Hull, Eleanor (Means). Papi; illus. by Steven Vech. Friendship Press, 1953. 137p. $2 cloth; $1.25 paper. Papi is a small Puerto Rican boy living in the East Harlem section of New York. He almost becomes involved with a dope peddling gang but is saved by the minister of the local mission. The setting is interesting but the characters are poorly drawn and unrealistic. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Hutchinson, Veronica Somerville, ed. Tales of the Rails; illus. by Bernard Saffran. World, 1953. 339p. $2.50. A collection of railroad stories, many of them taken from Railroad Magazine. Some of the stories have appeared in other recent collections and others are less well known. The writing is more mature than either the Hubbard, Train that Never Came Back (Whittlesey House, 1952) or the Wolfe, Near the Track (Lippincott, 1952) and the book will be primarily useful at the high school level. Of especial interest is the "Vocabulary of Railroad Lingo" at the beginning of the book. (Gr.9-12)

Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Sam and the Inkspot; written and illus. by Margaret S. Johnson. Morrow, 1953. 62p. $2. A simply written, rather plodding story of a white Samoyed dog and a coal black cat, Sam, the dog, protects Inkspot, the cat, and helps to find her when she is lost. Like the other books by Johnson, this one has little merit as a story but can be useful as remedial reading material because of its easy style and subject interest. The reading level is upper third grade. The interest level could run as high as the sixth or seventh grade although the extremely large print may make the book difficult to introduce to older readers. (Gr.3-4)

Jones, Mary Alice. Bible Stories; illus. by Manning dev. Lee. Rand McNally, 1952. 110p. $2.95. Simplified re-tellings of some of the Old and New Testament stories, in which the dignity and reverence of the earlier versions are retained without the archaic language that often makes the stories difficult for modern children to understand. Many of the more brutal episodes have been omitted from the Old Testament stories. The illustrations, black and white marginal drawings and full page color, are of the style that is usually associated with early collections of Bible stories for children. (Gr.4-6)

Lau, Josephine Sanger. Slave Boy in Judea; illus. by Joseph G. Farris. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1953. 189p. $2. The story of a thirteen-year-old Gaul slave and his Roman master living in Judea in the early days of Christianity. Madoc, the slave, and Cornelius, his master, are, in many ways, appealing characters, but their conversion to Christianity is handled in a manner that is wholly unconvincing and that spoils what might otherwise have been an interesting period story. Not recommended. (Gr.4-6)

Learned, Rachel. Mrs. Roo and the Bunnies; illus. by Tom Funk. Houghton, 1953. 29p. $2.25. A rhymed story of the adventures of Mrs. Roe, a kangaroo who undertakes to baby sit with a rabbit's children one afternoon. The story is somewhat amusing in the first part but soon becomes flat and confused. Much of the humor in both the text and illustrations is forced and not always in good taste. Not recommended. (K-Gr.1)

Leeming, Joseph. Fun for Young Collectors; illus. by Jessie Robinson. Lippincott, 1953. 88p. $2.86. "An introduction to thirty-two collection projects with information on sources for finds and on making cases for effective display." A useful book for home libraries and hobby collections. Includes a bibliography of books and magazines relating to the various collections which are discussed. (Gr.4-)

Lillie, Amy Norris. Everybody's Island; illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse. Dutton, 1952. 182p. $2.75. A contrived story of three children who move with their parents to New York City where they set about learning all they can of the history of Manhattan Island. In order to convey her information through as much conversation as possible the author has made the children excessively precocious and the parents little more than walking encyclopedias. A Puerto Rican family is dragged in for the obvious purpose of teaching a lesson in democracy. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Lockridge, Frances. The Lucky Cat; by Frances and Richard Lockridge; with illus. by Chenya Dev. Lippincott, 1953. 86p. $2.25. The adventures of Flutters, a Siamese kitten whose mother was Diana, The Proud Cat (1951). Flutters had lived most of her life in a city apartment until the day she escaped by accident and had several harrowing adventures with other cats, dogs, traffic, and boys before being returned to her family. The story is told with the same warmth and understanding of cat and human nature that marked the first book. (Gr.4-6)

McDonald, Lucile Saunders. Storey Year; by Lucille McDonald and Zola Helen Ross. Nelson, 1952. 164p. $2.50. (Dt:p37). Fourteen-year-old Nancy Kadderly longed to study art but there seemed little possibility...
that she could do so as long as her father was serving as Indian Agent on the Quinalt Agency. Washington Territory in 1885 offered few opportunities for advanced schooling, and an Indian Agent’s salary was not sufficient to cover the cost of what was available. Nancy’s adjustment to her problem and its final solution make an interesting if somewhat slow-paced, story of family life in an unusual setting.


Denny and Lester are two modern Indian boys living on the Yakima Washington Reservation. Denny has become rather thoroughly indoctrinated with the white man’s ways of thinking and living; Lester is training to become a medicine man. By the end of the book Denny and Lester will have their way of converting Lester. The smug attitude toward the missionaries and the condescending attitude toward the Indians will do little to foster intercultural understanding. Not recommended. (Gr.6-9)

McInerney, Phyllis Louise. The Make-Believe Thing; illus. by Roberta MacDonald. Lippincott, 1953. 46p. $2.50.

Rhymed prose stories of two young children and their games of make-believe. Some of the episodes, such as the pirates and the circus, will have great appeal. Others seem somewhat forced and meaningless. Most of the stories appeared originally in The Ladies Home Journal. The illustrations are overly precious and forced fantasy. Too slight and limited in appeal. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)


Routine biography of George Washington, with the emphasis on his boyhood and early youth. The style is slightly easier than either the Foster, George Washington (Scribner’s, 1949) or the Judson, George Washington, Leader of the People (Wilcox & Follett, 1951), but cannot compare with either in quality of writing. (Gr.3-5)


Dull and trite story of a black cocker spaniel who has trouble finding a home. The illustrations are worse and do not always match the text. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


Sequel to The Capture of the Golden Stallion. Charlie Carter gains his father’s reluctant permission to move Golden Boy and the ranch mares to Snug Valley where the stallion had lived before his capture. The idea would have been fine except for a flash flood and the presence of two horses thing in that vicinity. The result is almost fatal for both Charlie and Golden Boy but they come through in fine style. The major portion of the book is devoted to Charlie’s romance with Ellen Sprague and his jealousy of a visiting artist. The characters are types, the situations are trite, the title is misleading, and the entire book is an exceedingly mediocre piece of writing. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


Except for the end-papers this is the same collection of riddles as the compiler’s Big Treasure Book edition published in 1950. The illustrations and types have been reduced in size to fit the smaller pages of this edition but they are otherwise the same. The end-papers from the larger edition have been omitted from this one. The collection is not outstanding but could be used where there is great need for this kind of material. (Gr.3-)

Parks, Edd Winfield. Safe on Second; The Story of a Little Leaguer; illus. by Al Wenzel. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 199p. $2. (D480;D22)

Eleven-year-old Tom Winton loved baseball and wanted to be a member of one of the town’s Little League teams. First, however, he had two difficulties to overcome: his small size and his mother’s opposition to his playing. Tom had been lame as a baby and his mother was afraid for him to take part in any sports. By promising to be careful and to wear the ankle supports the doctor recommended, Tom overcame his mother’s objections and by constant practice he improved his playing until his size was no longer a handicap. A pleasant story of Little League ball and of a small boy’s overcoming handicaps. (Gr.4-6)


A collection of twenty-seven selections from the autobiographies of famous Americans. Some of the selections are humorous, some are serious, and some are exciting — all are interesting. Brief notes at the beginning and/or end of the selections give pertinent information about the writers and indicate the things for which they are famous. The selections may serve to interest readers in the full length works from which they are taken. (Gr.8-12)

Potter, Miriam (Clark). Here Comes Mrs. Goose; illus. by Miriam and Zenos Potter. Lippincott, 1953 152p. $2.65.

More about Mrs. Goose and her neighbors. Mrs. Goose is not overly bright and her activities often lead to trouble for herself and her friends. The humor is quite obvious and sometimes forced, but young children who have enjoyed Mrs. Goose’s antics in the earlier books will probably find these equally enjoyable. (Gr.2-4)


Similar in style and arrangement to the author’s Wild Animals (1952). There is one page of text and a full-page colored
illustration for each animal. The text is somewhat confusing in that the author uses the same word as a proper noun standing for the name of the animal shown in the picture, and as a class term for other animals of that same species. Not outstanding. (K-Gr.2)

A fairly simply written but engrossing biography of Buffalo Bill. Here the emphasis is on the character's boyhood and youth is natural because Cody's most exciting and dangerous adventures occurred before he was out of his twenties. The book will make entertaining reading for a wide age range. (Gr.4-8)

Dull story of two small children who visit a planetarium and make believe they take a trip to the moon. There are some inaccuracies in the text and illustrations which younger children are T-V and comic book space fans will be certain to catch. The tone is written down and condescending. Not recommended. (Gr.1-3)

Roer, Frank Xavier. Ben Franklin-Scientist; illus., with line drawings by Ava Morgan. Lothrop, 1952. 128p. $2.75.
A biography of Benjamin Franklin in which the emphasis is on his scientific achievements rather than his social reforms or political activities. The story of how one man could make so many scientific discoveries by being intensely aware of and curious about his surroundings will make interesting reading for young would-be scientists. (Gr.7-9)

An excellent, clearly written and very readable discussion of microbes, what they are and how they work. The book includes the history of the discovery of microbes and the ways in which man has learned to use and to control some of them. There are simple experiments that may be carried out at home with a minimum of equipment. (Gr.6-8)

Sequel to Molave Joe. The coyote, Molave Joe, is back in his home territory in the hills of California where he helps bring about the downfall of the trapper who in the earlier book, stole him from young Kiel and sent him to an Ohio zoo. At the end of the book Molave Joe's mate, an Indiana coyote, deserts him to return to the east, but one of his sons remains. Molave Joe is too highly personified to seem real. The plot is thin and some of the episodes are improbable. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Words and music to eleven familiar hymns, interspersed with six Psalms. Four of the hymns are Christmas songs. The music arrangements are simple and easy to play. Full color illustrations. Laminated board bindings. (Gr.1-3)

An introduction to insects and their relatives that will serve to interest young readers in the field and lead them on to more detailed books on the subject. The material is presented in a very readable style. The illustrations are not outstanding and are not completely satisfactory for use in insect identification, but they are adequate for an introductory book of this type. A bibliography of other books about insects is included. Indexed. (Gr.4-6)

Slight story of a small boy with a large dog. Leander, the dog, is too big to stay in the house and he does not like to be left in the garage at night. To solve the problem, Peter's uncle, an architect, draws up blueprints for a dog house that will suit Leander's special requirements. The book includes the blueprint of Leander's house and an interesting discussion of how houses are designed to meet the special needs of their occupants. Both the illustrations and the page lay-out have a text-book look and the book will be more useful as supplementary reading material than for its general story interest. (Gr.3-5)

Highly fictionalized biography of John Sevier who, as "Nolachucky Jack", became famous as an Indian fighter, and who became the first governor of Tennessee. The emphasis is on Sevier's boyhood, with his later life summed up in the last two chapters. The stilted writing gives little reality to either the characters or the period in which they lived. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

New edition of a book first published in 1945. Eight little bunnies decide to give their mother a surprise on her birthday. They make her a basket, gather some eggs, and then each rabbit paints his egg a different color. A slight story but one that might be used to help children learn to identify various colors. (K-Gr.1)

Streeter, Floyd R. The Phantom Steer; by Floyd B. Streeter and H. D. Francis; illus. by Tom Leamon. Ariel, 1953. 154p. $2.50.
Twelve-year-old Rusty McKay lived with his parents and grandmother on a New Mexico homestead in 1877. Mr. McKay was a farmer and was
interested in little else. Rusty and his uncle, who owned an adjoining homestead, were both anxious to own a cattle herd. Luck seemed to be with Rusty when he found an unbranded steer, and even the fact that the steer was believed to be hoodoo could not dampen his love for the animal. The story of the building of the McKay herd and of Rusty's first cattle drive to bodge City follows a traditional pattern but readers of western ranch stories will find it appealing.

Summers, J. L. Girl Trouble. Westminster, 1953. 216p. $2.50. (D579:D471;D104)

A story of teen-age problems, especially the boy-girl variety, told from a boy's point of view. High school junior, Don Morley's troubles began the night his best girl made it plain she was no longer interested in him. His worry about one problem led him into thoughtless actions that resulted in more problems, not the least of which was a fifty dollar fine for speeding. Don's parents and teachers are sympathetic and try to be helpful, although their efforts are not always successful in getting Don to bend to their help. The story has a maturity and understanding of both young people and their parents that should give it appeal for boys and girls alike.


The story of six-year-old Susan and her pony, and of their life on a western ranch. The story is too long and the writing too involved to hold the interest of six-year-olds, and older readers who could handle the text will not find young Susan's affairs particularly entertaining. Not recommended. (Gr.1-3)


Pointless story of a Central Park horse who is too dispirited to attract trade to his owner’s carriage until he accidentally gets an Easter bonnet. After that his owner is able to charge twice the rate and the two can afford a good meal. Both the story and the illustrations are flat and without appeal. Not recommended. (K-Gr.2)


A story of California in the days immediately following the overthrow of the Spanish Missions. The story employs a typical pattern for this period in which a poor boy dreams of owning a fabulous horse and eventually wins him in spite of the efforts of a wealthy competitor. The plot lacks freshness and originality and there is not enough action to hold the reader's interest. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


Beautiful illustrations and simply written text describe the various kinds of bodies of water that are to be found in the world and touch briefly on how each kind can benefit or harm mankind. The treatment is too superficial for the book to be wholly satisfactory and some material is included at the end which has only an indirect bearing on the subject. The book could be used to supplement other more detailed books on the same subject. (Gr.5-7)


Slight biography of Thomas Alva Edison, with the emphasis on his boyhood rather than on the inventions which made him famous. Covers Edison's life from the ages of two to thirty-two. This biography could be used to supplement the Clark Thomas Alva Edison (Aladdin, 1950) which has more information about Edison's inventions but is less accurate in the details of his early life. (Gr.4-6)

White, Bessie F. A Bear Named Grummes; illus. by Sari, Houghton, 1953. 81p. $2.50.

The Krogs are a poor Swedish family who solve their financial problems by capturing a bear cub and training it to perform. The cub, Grummes, not only makes a fortune for the Krogs but becomes just like a member of the family. When the Krogs finally decide that they should reward Grummes by giving him his freedom, he refuses to stay in the woods and follows their wagon until they let him in. An amusing story with illustrations that add to the appeal and humor. (Gr.4-6)


Melodramatic story of three young boys who battle a gang of Nazi spies to recover a sunken fortune. Overly sensational and lacking reality in both characters and incidents. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


Trite story of a boy who defends an unwanted dog, loses him, regains him, and finally proves his real worth. Poor writing and a lack of originality in the handling of both plot and characters. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)


Tale of a small donkey who likes to play tricks on her owner by running away each night after he shuts her in her stall. One night she stops on a railroad track and unwittingly prevents a train wreck. After that she has free run of the farm, but she then perversely is contented with staying where she belongs. Moderately amusing. (Pre-school)
Buzzby children. They insist on bringing her home with them at the end of a summer on the farm and then discover all the problems a donkey can create in the city. Rosalinda solves her problem by attracting the attention of a store owner who uses her in a publicity stunt. The illustrations are more humorous than the text, which is somewhat forced. The back of the book contains a punch-out toy donkey and boy. The tight stitching will make the book difficult for young children to handle by themselves. Too much of a toy book for library use. Not recommended. (Pre-school)


Grimsel is a retired Saint Bernard dog belonging to ten-year-old Peterli, the son of a Swiss mountain guide. One stormy day Grimsel is responsible for saving the lives of a young American boy and a Swiss boy and, indirectly, clears up a mystery involving the loss of the climbing equipment belonging to Peterli's father. The story is nothing more than a run-of-the-mill dog story, but the interesting setting somewhat compensates for the lack of originality in the plot. (Gr.5-7)


David's mother was baking a cake and promised him that he could lick the bowl, the spoon, and the egg beater if he would say the magic word. David guessed a number of strange words before getting the right one which was, of course, "please". Slight story and obvious lesson. (Pre-school)

Instructonal 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.


Donahue, Rosemary S. "A Problem in Developmental Reading". The English Journal 42:142-147 Mr'53.

Edmonds, Edith. "Dramatic Play from Books". Elementary English 30:159-162 Mr'53.


This listing is the fourth annual supplement to the 48 page bulletin published in September 1949 by the National Council for the Social Studies. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained for 75¢ each; reprints of the supplement listings, 10¢ each. Send orders to Merrill F. Hartenorn, Executive Secretary, National Council for the Social Studies, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Stough, Morrow F.