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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VII

March, 1954

Number 7

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

- R Balch, Glenn. Indian Saddle-Up; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. Crowell, 1953. 210p. \$2.50.

Fictionalized account of how, through the efforts of a boy with a crippled foot and an old man who was thought to be crazy, the Comanche Indians acquired their first horses and started on the upward path toward supremacy among the Indian tribes of the West. The story moves slowly at times but will have interest for readers who want stories of Indian life just before the white men began to take over the West. (Gr. 6-8)

- NR Bate, Norman. Who Built the Highway? Scribner, 1953. 56p. \$2.50.

There is need for a highway between Big Town and Little Town so the people of the two towns call on the road-building machines to help them build it. Each machine thinks that it is the most useful in building the highway, and as each shows off its power and ability the highway is built. Although the text is written in the first person, it does not over-personify the machines, and they are not personified at all in the illustrations. Unfortunately the artist has pictured all of the machines, the gravel, the cement for

the road, the trees, the people, etc. in a dark earth-brown that obscures details of the machines and becomes quite monotonous by the end of the book. Since this is primarily a picture book with just a line or two of text to each page, the unsatisfactory illustrations spoil the entire book. (Pre-School)

- NR Bennett, Anna Elizabeth. Little Witch; illus. by Helen Stone. Lippincott, 1953. 128p. \$2.50.

Nine-year-old Miniken Snickasnee, daughter of a witch, heartily disliked her mother's black magic and longed to be like other children. During the times when Madame Snickasnee was away or asleep, Miniken would either experiment with magic potions in an attempt to conjure up a fairy, or else she would slip away and go to school. The story of how Miniken disenchanted some children her mother had turned into flower pots and was, herself, eventually restored to her real mother, a fairy who was under Madame Snickasnee's spell, has many of the elements of a modern fairy tale but never quite comes off. (Gr. 4-6)

- Ad Block, Irvin. The Real Book about Christopher Columbus; illus. by Rus Anderson. Garden City, 1953. 190p. \$1.25.

An adequate, although not outstanding, biography of Columbus with the emphasis on his early life

BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago Library, Children's Book Center. 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 \$2.50 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

and first voyage, and with the last three voyages touched on lightly. The book adds nothing by way of style, treatment, or content to other biographies that are available. It is somewhat more difficult than the Graham, Christopher Columbus, Discoverer (Abingdon, 1950) or the Sperry, Voyages of Christopher Columbus (Random House, 1950), and is not as well written as the Syme, Columbus, Finder of the New World (Morrow, 1952). (Gr. 6-8)

R Bothwell, Jean and Sowers, Phyllis Ayer. Golden Letter to Siam; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Abelard, 1953. 208p. \$2.50.

An exciting, well-told story of a mission to Siam in the days of Louis XIV. The purpose of the mission was to gain for France the major concessions to the spice trade, and to furnish an escort home for the young Siamese prince who had been sent to France to school but had refused to stay. The story is told through the experiences of young Pierre Laverne, who was sent with the mission to serve as a companion to the Siamese prince. The two boys became friends on the long sea voyage and once they reached Siam succeeded in helping to thwart a plan to overthrow the country's prime minister, and in locating the Siamese boy's father. A colorful, fast-paced adventure story. (Gr. 7-9)

R Buehr, Walter. The Story of Locks. Scribner's, 1953. 45p. \$2.

An interesting and fairly simply told history of locks and keys. Details of the workings of various kinds of locks, from the first simple latch string through modern combination and time locks, are explained both in text and in drawings. The writing is quite uneven and, because of poor sentence structure, is occasionally not clear. The section on modern locks in Schneider's Everyday Machines and How They Work (Whittlesey House, 1950) is more understandable, but the Buehr has a more detailed account of the early beginnings of locks and keys. (Gr. 6-8)

R Carr, Harriett H. Gravel Gold; illus. by C. L. Hartman. Ariel, 1953. 186p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Willard Eaton came out to Kansas Territory to live with his sister, Sarah, and her husband, Ben, with the idea of eventually starting his own carpentry shop. On the trip out he met Jay Skeeles who talked him into going on to Colorado to look for gold. In time Ben and Sarah also moved to Colorado, but they were more interested in establishing a grocery and hardware store than in hunting for gold. Will found a small amount of gold, but his biggest discovery was that real profit and greatest satisfaction come from an established trade rather than from the uncertainties of gold mining. An interesting picture of the early settlement of Colorado. (Gr. 7-9)

R Colby, Carroll B. Submarine; Men and Ships of the U. S. Submarine Fleet. Coward-McCann, 1953. 48p. \$1.

Brief text and full-page photographs are used to describe various types of modern submarines and to tell some of their uses. Also included is information on the training of submarine crews, and descriptions of life and work aboard a submarine. The material is interestingly presented and will make a useful addition to collections on war weapons and machines. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Coleman, Earl S. Winners Losers; decorations by Frank J. Murch. Longmans, 1953. 184p. \$2.50.

The story of a shy young girl living on a ranch in the Sierra Nevada country and of her conquest of a young neighbor boy. Nonie Harris was so shy she had difficulty talking even to her own family, but she had her heart set on impressing Thatch Williams, a newcomer to the ranch country. Her method was to beat Thatch at every sport he attempted, until finally he rebelled and then she turned to more feminine wiles. There is no reality to either the characters or the situations. (Gr. 7-9)

M Corbett, Mary K. Girl of Urbino. Abelard, 1953. 223p. \$2.50.

A story of Italy during the days of Caesar Borgia and of Chiara, favorite niece and ward of the Duke of Urbino, who was instrumental in saving the life of her uncle and the Montefeltre wealth. The book reads like some of the Graustark stories, but does paint a vivid picture of court life in sixteenth century Italy. (Gr. 8-10)

R Crisp, Frank. The Golden Quest; illus. by Richard Powers. Coward-McCann, 1953. 276p. \$2.75.

An exciting sea story of seventeenth century England. Told in the first person, the story takes the foundling, Jack Besom, from his childhood in a small English village through his adventures as a member of the crew of HMS Lion, to the finding of his father and the solving of the mystery of his birth. In true adventure story style, Jack turns out to be the son of a nobleman who has been wrongfully deprived of his estate by another member of the family. Justice is done and everyone lives happily ever after. Not outstanding, but adequate as an adventure story. (Gr. 7-9)

Ad Derleth, August William. Empire of Fur; Trading in the Lake Superior Region; illus. by Aldren A. Watson. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

A patterned story of the early fur trade in the Great Lakes region. The period, 1823, is one in which the rivalry between Astor's American Fur Company and the Hudson's Bay Company was at white heat. Seventeen-year-old Daniel Laurent, a clerk at the Mackinac post, started on his first trip with Astor's men in company with a voyageur,

Benoit, and a "gentleman," Lachaise. Ostensibly they were to visit Lachaise's brother, Pere Lachaise, at Rainy Lake. However, it soon became evident that there was more to the trip, its true purpose being to rescue Malhoit, a U.S. surveyor who had been captured by the Hudson's Bay men. The three were successful in their mission and eventually arrived back at Mackinac where Daniel decided that the life of a voyageur was not really what he wanted after all. The story ends with his offer of an office job in New York. Not an outstanding story but one that can be used where there is need for material on this period. (Gr. 5-7)

R Diamond, Freda. The Story of Glass. Harcourt, 1953. 246p. \$3.75.

An interesting and exceedingly readable account of the history of glass and glass making from very early to modern times, with something of the role that glass has played in making possible other phases of man's progress. Illustrated with excellent photographs of glass products of all kinds. (Gr. 8-12)

R Dickens, Charles. The Magic Fishbone; illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Vanguard, 1953. 26p. \$2.50.

Delightfully illustrated edition of a little known fairy tale. The story tells of the king's daughter who proved herself wise enough to know that magic powers are to be used only after one has done his very very best and that is not enough. Both the story and the illustrations should have appeal for youngsters who are beginning to enjoy modern fanciful tales. (Gr. 4-5)

R Douglas, John Scott. Fate of the Clipper Westwind. Dodd, 1953. 250p. \$2.50.

A story of commercial tuna fishing, with the added appeal of a mystery solving. Seventeen-year-old Randy Draper sailed on the tuna clipper, Ripple, determined to do everything in his power to find out what had happened to his best friend, Frank Castignoni, who had disappeared with the clipper, Westwind, more than a month before. Frank's father was captain of the Ripple. He had given up all hope of finding his son but was determined to make a first rate fisherman of Randy to take Frank's place. Both Randy and the captain succeeded. The story is not quite as well written as Du Soe's Sea Boots (Longmans, 1949) but it will have appeal for boys who are interested in modern deep sea fishing. (Gr. 7-9)

SpC Douglas, Marjorie Stoneman. Freedom River; Florida, 1845; illus. by Edward Shenton. Scribner's, 1953. 264p. (The Strength of the Union Series). \$3.

A story set in Florida in the days when statehood was a vital question both because of its effect on the lives of the people living in the Territory and because of its effect on the balance of power between slave and free states in Congress. The story involves young Richard Robinson and

the Negro boy, Eben, whom Richard saved from a slaver and whom he eventually helped on his way to the Bahamas and freedom. The story moves haltingly, with long, involved descriptive passages and weighty digressions on the problems of the day. It will serve as background reading for units on Florida history, but will have little appeal for general reading. (Gr. 7-9)

Ad Fisher, Aileen Lucia. Health and Safety Plays and Programs. Plays, Inc., 1953. 267p. \$3.50.

A collection of fourteen plays, nine skits, nineteen group readings, eighteen songs, and nineteen recitations designed to teach health and safety. The selections are without literary merit, but could be used where there is a dearth of original ideas for assembly programs on these subjects. (Gr. 5-8)

M Fisher, Aileen Lucia. Homestead of the Free; The Kansas Story; illus. by Peter Burchard. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

A rather average, uninspired story of Kansas Territory during the days of the struggle between the Southern slave owners and the Northerners. The Morse family moved to the Territory from Boston because of Mr. Morse's firm belief that Kansas should be admitted to the Union as a free state. Young Webb Morse failed to share his father's enthusiasm for either the cause or the country at first. Eventually he came to an agreement with his father's point of view, less because of any basic understanding of the principles involved than because of anger at the way his father had been treated by the Southerners. (Gr. 5-7)

R Freeman, Mae (Blacker) and Ira. Fun with Astronomy. Random House, 1953. 58p. \$1.50.

A simply written, easily understood introduction to astronomy. The text is brief and is accompanied by excellent drawings and photographs which add greatly to the understanding of the material. Includes material about the earth and its seasons, the moon, the solar system, the sun, and the stars. There are simple experiments, using materials that are easily obtainable around most homes, to illustrate some of the principles being discussed. (Gr. 5-8)

NR French, Paul. Lucky Starr and the Pirates of the Asteroids; illus. by Richard Powers. Doubleday, 1953. 188p. \$2.50. Sequel to David Starr: Space Ranger. This time Lucky (David) is saving the earth from a gang of pirates who operate from the asteroids. The story is melodramatic, unconvincing, and confused. (Gr. 7-9)

M Frye, Pearl. Alberta for Short; with illus. by the author. Little, Brown, 1953. 119p. \$2.50.

The Young family's pet troubles began with a chipmunk which Terry bought with a dollar her

grandmother had given her, and which she named Albert—or Alberta for short. In rapid order then came the kitten Hezekiah which a next door neighbor gave to Alec, a monkey named Jakie which was contributed by another neighbor, and a puppy which the children's grandparents gave them. The problems of keeping four animals well, happy, and safely apart make occasionally humorous reading. However, the style is labored and the attempts at humor are more often forced than funny. (Gr. 4-6)

M Gilbert, Kenneth. Triple Threat Patrol . . . illus. by Ernest Norling. Holt, 1953. 214p. \$2.50.

A run-of-the-mill adventure story in which two boys, off for a summer vacation in the San Juan Islands of Puget Sound, become involved in an attempt to bring a gang of log pirates to justice. The pirates are raiding the log rafts belonging to Tim Elliott and his invalid grandfather, when Chuck and Doc come along and offer their help. Together, the three boys manage to trap the pirates and recover enough of the stolen logs to assure Tim's future education. There are some exciting moments, but the writing is so uneven that much of the appeal is lost. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Hatch, Alden. Young Ike; illus. by Jules Gotlieb. Messner, 1953. 147p. \$2.50.

A superficial, rather sentimental biography of Eisenhower, with the emphasis on his childhood and youth. The last two chapters are devoted to his war experiences and the events leading up to his election as President. The writing is spotty and too laudatory for Eisenhower to ever emerge as a real person. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Heuman, William. Little League Champs; illus. by William Ricketts. Lippincott, 1953. 174p. \$2.50.

A story of Little League baseball, well-steeped in intergroup relations. The Beaver team represents a cross section of the town of Williston, with boys of several racial, national, religious, and economic backgrounds represented. Their manager is a poor but honest man who gives his all for the game even at the risk of losing his job. The team is torn by bickerings and misunderstandings among the members, but in spite of the manager's prophesy that no team can win games unless there is complete unity, the boys win the local, state, and regional championships and achieve their unity just before winning the national championship. The bits about baseball are good, but there is too much preaching in between games. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Hinkle, Thomas Clarke. Gray; The Story of a Brave Dog. Morrow, 1953. 189p. \$2.

A stilted, poorly written story of a large gray dog that wanders into the Kansas ranch country. He is suspicious of all people at first, but soon

makes friends with fifteen-year-old Jim Hunter, and saves the boy from a vicious longhorn bull who terrorizes that part of the country. The story elements are good but the writing is so poor that any appeal the subject might have had is lost. (Gr. 6-8)

SpC Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. The Ding Dong School Book; illus. by Katherine Evans. Rand McNally, 1953. 72p. \$2 cloth; \$1 paper.

A play book intended to show pre-school age children various things they can make and do. Projects range from water play to a paper-mache hand puppet; they vary greatly in level of difficulty and appeal for young children. Many of the projects, like imaginative play with blocks and trucks, children would do with the equipment without direction—they do not need a book to give them ideas of what to do with the equipment. Pre-schoolers will be frustrated to find that they cannot do some of the more difficult projects without a great deal of adult help. Some of the directions are expressed in language that the young child will find hard to understand—he is told to tear paper into one-inch strips, for example. The book will be useful to parents for its suggestions of rainy day activities and its many anxious cautions not to dirty the house, but children will have difficulty using it.

(Pre-school)

M Kjelgaard, James Arthur. The Coming of the Mormons; illus. by Stephen J. Voorhies. Random House, 1953. 183p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

An interesting, albeit rather superficial, account of the Mormon migration from the East to Salt Lake Valley where they established the settlement which later became Salt Lake City. The details of their long and arduous trek are all here, but the author has given virtually nothing of the religious beliefs of the people nor of the reasons why they suffered such severe persecution. The book is intended for fifth grade youngsters, and would probably be read by them as a good adventure story. Older readers will recognize its lack of depth. (Gr. 5-7)

R Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Outlaw Red; Son of Big Red. Holiday House, 1953. 230p. \$2.50.

Sean, son of Big Red, becomes wrongly classed as an outlaw after he is accidentally lost from his home farm and is forced to find food as best he can in the nearby Wintapi Range. At the same time that Sean is learning to live in the wilds, his beloved trainer, Billy Dash, is also hiding in the hills after having shot his Uncle Hat when the latter tried to steal his wages. The paths of the dog and the boy cross and in time both are cleared of the charges against them. Not a particularly new plot, but Kjelgaard's deft handling makes up for the lack of originality in some of the plot elements. (Gr. 6-8)

R Kripke, Dorothy Karp. Let's Talk about God; pictures by Bobri. Behrman House, 1953. 32p. \$1.50. (Values: Inter-religious understanding).

An introduction to religion for very young children. Although the book is written for Jewish children, there is much here that could be used by Christians also, both in developing early concepts about God and in explaining similarities in the beliefs of the two religions. The writing avoids the sugary tone that is so often used in books of this type. (K-Gr. 3)

M Lane, Frederick A. The First Admiral; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Aladdin, 1953. 177p. \$2.75.

A biography of David Glasgow Farragut covering his life from childhood to death. The book presents an excellent picture of the development of U. S. Naval power during Farragut's lifetime, but is marred by excessively careless writing. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Lineaweaver, Marion McLennan. The Wildfire; decorations by Alois Fabry. Funk and Wagnalls, 1953. 187p. \$2.75.

A mystery involving buried treasure from the days of the whalers. Sixteen-year-old Dave Jackson made a down payment on the Wildfire strictly against his father's wishes and then found himself faced with the problem of raising the balance of the money, approximately one thousand dollars. He accidentally stumbled on to a clue to some treasure that had once belonged to his grandfather and had been lost when his grandfather's ship sank on the off-shore reefs many years before. Also in search of the treasure were the relatives of the man who later proved to have been responsible for the shipwreck. After many melodramatic adventures Dave and his helpers found the treasure, but Dave gave it up because he believed it to be "tainted" money. He then tried his hand at the local fishing contest, and although a rank amateur at the sport, caught the prize fish. Once again he gave the prize money away, this time because he had met a boy whose need for the money was greater than his own. Finally Dave's father steps in and puts an end to the whole exhausting business by offering to pay the balance on the boat. The story is too melodramatic and too dependent on coincidences. (Gr. 7-9)

R MacGregor, Ellen. Miss Pickerell Goes Undersea; illus. by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey, 1953. 128p. \$2.25.

Another amusing episode in the life of Miss Pickerell. This time she is involved in a salvage scheme as she tries to recover her collection of Mars rocks that were lost when the ship on which they were being returned from Europe sank just off the East coast. Unfortunately they sank near a spot where the Navy was testing a new atomic powered submarine, and Miss Pickerell succeeds in tangling with both the Navy

and the submarine before she recovers her rocks. This story is more contrived than the earlier ones but still has a nice blend of nonsense and accurate scientific information.

(Gr. 4-6)

NR Mann, Arthur. Bob White: Spring Terror. McKay, 1953. 179p. \$2.50.

A sequel to Bob White: Bonus Player and Bob White: Farm Club Player, and another step up in the baseball career of the inimitable Bob White. This time the events revolve around spring training camp and the unethical connivings of a scout and a trainer. Bob goes his usual tight-lipped, righteous way to win honors on the ball field and to bring the crooks to justice. The reader needs to have read the first two books in order to understand some of the references to persons and events in this one. The characterizations are poorly drawn and the incidents are well-worn. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Marcin, Chester. Rooster Scratch and Spade Fox; illus. by Al Kilgore. Pageant Press, 1953. 23p. \$1.50.

A poorly written, pointless story of a fox with magical powers and a young rooster who outwits the fox. The illustrations are as poor as the text. (Gr. 3-5)

M Mariana. Hotspur. Lothrop, 1953. 40p. \$1.25.

A slight variation on an old theme. The little red horse, Hotspur, grows tired of the humdrum life of the toy shop so he runs away. After a series of adventures, most of which end unpleasantly, he decides that life outside the shop is too difficult and he returns home. The one note bordering on originality lies in Hotspur's continued restlessness and the idea that he may someday leave again. (Pre-school)

R Mason, Cora. Socrates, the Man Who Dared To Ask. Beacon, 1953, 165p. \$2.75.

An interesting biography of Socrates, much of it, of necessity, fictionalized. At first the style seems labored and forced, but once the author begins writing of Socrates' mid- and later years she creates for the reader a vivid, very real picture of the man and his times. The book does more to relate Socrates to his period and to show his effect on his times than to explain his philosophy. In spite of the weaknesses in the writing the book should serve to interest young readers in the philosopher and lead them eventually to a study of his teachings. (Gr. 9-12)

NR Massoglia, Elinor Tripato. The Story of Pickles. Comet Press, 1953. 32p. \$1.

A contrived, poorly written, pointless story of a young dog who gets his name as a result of accidentally turning over a pickle barrel. The illustrations are unattractive and do not always match the text. (Pre-school)

NR Masters, Robert V. and Reinfeld, Fred. Blazer the Bear; illus. by Howard Simon. Sterling, 1953. 60p. (The World We Live In Series). \$2.

A written-for-a-purpose story of four children and a most remarkable bear. During a dry season one of the children accidentally sets fire to a forest. Three of the children escape with the help of the bear, who stands in the trail and directs the small animals of the woods to safety. The boy who started the fire manages to escape serious injury although he is burned slightly. Again it is the bear who leads rescuers to the unconscious boy. The lesson about forest fires, their cause and prevention, is a good one, but it is presented in so obvious a manner the book will have little appeal for general reading.

(Gr. 3-5)

R Meader, Stephen Warren. Sparkplug of the Hornets; illus. by Don Sibley. Harcourt, 1953. 245p. \$2.75.

Pint-sized Gregory Carson had played basketball with a championship Midget team before coming to Hackersville. However, he realized that his size would probably keep him from making the varsity team at the new high school. Because of the small size of the school he was given more opportunities to play than might otherwise have occurred and because of his ability he made the most of each opportunity, until by the end of the season he had changed from the nickname of "Peewee" to that of "Sparky." A fine story of high school basketball that combines good game descriptions with good writing and avoids the cliches of both characterizations and incidents that weaken so many sports stories.

(Gr. 7-9)

Ad Mellin, Jeanne. Horses Across America. Dutton, 1953. 88p. \$3.

A chatty, informal discussion of the various types of horses that are to be found throughout the United States. The account begins with the Morgans of New England and includes the different types of horses to be found in each section of the country and the kinds of horse shows that are found in each section. This is a once-over-lightly treatment that assumes considerable knowledge of horsemanship and its terminology on the part of the reader. The illustrations are attractive and will give the book its greatest appeal.

(Gr. 5-8)

M Oberreich, Robert. The Magic Lake; illus. by Charles Hargens. Lippincott, 1953. 184p. \$2.75.

Mr. Oberreich has taken many incidents from his own youth in the lake country of Indiana and Southern Michigan, and has woven them into the story of deeds and misdeeds of four boys during one summer at Lake Tomahawk in Michigan. The four boys are Larry Goulding, who lives near the lake on his father's truck farm; Rob and Chet Neill, who are summer visitors; and Tom, a young Pottawatami Indian boy whose

people are at the lake during the berry season. The account of their exploits is occasionally amusing, but on the whole it reads more like an adult's wistful remembrance of the past than a piece of fiction.

(Gr. 6-8)

R Orchard, Norris Ely. Study Successfully; Eighteen Keys to Better Work; illus. by Barbara Bridgman. Whittlesey House, 1953. 80p. \$1.50.

A handbook for high school and college students, with points on how to study more successfully. The material is useful and is presented in an interesting manner. Included are suggestions for arranging study conditions and equipment, taking notes, use of the library and reference materials, taking examinations, and pursuing independent study not related to school work.

(Gr. 9-12)

M Pont, Clarice. No School on Friday; A Story of Saudi Arabia; pictures by Mary Stevens. McKay, 1953. 213p. \$2.75.

The story of an American oil company family's year in Saudi Arabia, where they lived comfortably in the American "camp" with an occasional excursion outside to see the strange ways of the people around them. As a picture of life in such camps, this is interesting and informative; as a story, it is too obviously written to inform; and as a book for international understanding it serves merely to emphasize differences without aiding in an understanding of what lies behind those differences.

(Gr. 7-9)

R Raftery, Gerald. City Dog; illus. by L. D. Cram. Morrow, 1953. 216p. \$2.50.

The ever popular theme of the great love between a boy and his dog. This time the dog is city bred collie, Ch. Roderick Dhu of Glenartney, who is sent to the country when his wealthy owner decides she is allergic to dog hair. In the country Rod has to unlearn many of the lessons he had been so carefully taught in the city, but he finds the change easy to make because of his great love for the boy, Ted, who undertakes his new education. In the end, of course, Ted, obtains permanent possession of the dog. The story is told with a warmth and reality of characters and incidents.

(Gr. 5-7)

NR Robertson, Frank C. Sagebrush Sorrel; decorations by Lee Townsend. Nelson, 1953. 186p. \$2.50.

Ollie Bentley, a county ward, received nothing but harsh treatment from Mel Tidwell, with whom he was boarded, but the situation was somewhat relieved by the love and care given him by Mel's wife, Martha. The lonely boy was attracted to a wild colt, also an orphan, and he eventually captured and tamed it. Mel mistreated the colt and was in turn killed by it, leaving Ollie free to live happily with his foster mother. A poorly written, sentimental story with implausible characters and incidents.

(Gr. 7-9)

NR Sankey, Alice. Jack of Trades; drawings by Robert Todd. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 160p. \$2.

Eleven-year-old Jack Baker was faced with a summer of nothing to do, so he set out to learn as much as he could about the different kinds of jobs that were done by the men in his neighborhood. He tried a stint at theater ushering, as a gas station attendant, in a florist shop, at the local newspaper office, at the nearby fire house, with a plumber, and as a railroad engineer. Of course, he could not hold regular jobs at these places but the men allowed him to stay around, help where he could, and learn as much as he could. A very contrived, highly improbable story. (Gr. 5-7)

R Sechrist, Elizabeth Hough and Woolsey, Janette. New Plays for Red Letter Days; illus. by Guy Fry. Macrae, 1953. 310p. \$3.50.

A collection of twenty-five royalty-free plays written specifically for holidays that occur during the school year, and for special weeks observed during the school year. Included are plays for New Year's day, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, St. Valentine's Day, George Washington's Birthday, Easter, Arbor Day, May Day, Mother's Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, Columbus Day, United Nations Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, American Education Week, Be Kind To Animals Week, Book Week, Boy Scout Week, Brotherhood Week, Fire Prevention Week, Girl Scout Week, and National Health Week. Production notes are included. The plays are very obviously written for special purposes, but as such are acceptable. (Gr. 3-8)

R Seymour, Alta Halverson. The Christmas Donkey; illus. by W. T. Mars. Wilcox & Follett, 1953. 128p. \$2.50. (Values: Sharing, International understanding).

A pleasant story of southern France and of a young boy's efforts to earn enough money to buy a donkey for his grandmother for Christmas. In spite of the title the book is more than just a Christmas story. Through young Michel's activities the reader gets a picture of post-war life in a small French village. (Gr. 4-6)

Ad Sloane, William, ed. Space Space Space; Stories about the Time When Men Will Be Adventuring to the Stars. Watts, 1953. 288p. \$2.50. (Terrific Triple Title Series).

A collection of ten stories about space and space travel, taken from various science fiction magazines. The stories vary in quality but are generally adequate. (Gr. 8-12)

R Sterne, Emma (Gelders). The Long Black Schooner; The Voyage of the Amistad; illus. by Earl H. Pringle. Aladdin, 1953. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

The story of the Amistad as seen through the experiences of Kale, a young boy of the Mandi tribe.

Although some fictional elements are introduced, the story follows rather closely the known facts about the revolt of the slaves on board the Amistad and their attempt to sail the ship back to Africa. An interesting account of an episode in American history that has seldom been treated in children's books. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Tousey, Sanford. Wild Bill Hickok; Frontier Marshall. Whitman, 1952. 48p. \$1.50.

A poorly written, superficial biography of Wild Bill Hickok. Events and time are so telescoped that the results are confusing and lead to misconceptions. For example, the author has an official of the Overland Stage Line speaking, in 1859, of the Pony Express as if it were already in operation, when the first Pony Express ride was not made until April in 1860. Quotations are used that are presumably taken from Hickok's own descriptions of some of the events in his life, but no sources of the quotations are given. (Gr. 4-6)

M Urmston, Mary. The Twenty-Five and Ann. Doubleday, 1953. 192p. \$2.50.

The story of Ann Merrill's first year of teaching—a fifth grade class in a gossip-ridden small town. Ann has difficulty keeping her personal and professional life apart, and she makes many mistakes, most of them the result of over-zealousness rather than ineptness. Ann is pictured as a real, and very likable person, but none of the other characters has depth or reality. (Gr. 8-10)

NR Waldman, Frank. Glory Boy; illus. by Harve Stein. Ariel, 1953. 155p. \$2.50.

A poorly written story of pro-football. Art Clay is all set to go to law school as soon as he finishes college. Then comes an offer to play pro-football and he has to decide between the two. At first he tries to combine the two and when that is not satisfactory, he gives up the law school in favor of football. His reasons for doing so are never quite clear. The manner in which Art is persuaded to play a rough game may be characteristic of real pro-football but is scarcely commendable or to be recommended. (Gr. 7-9)

R Wilder, Laura (Ingalls)

- By the Shores of Silver Lake. 291p. \$2.75.
- Farmer Boy. 372p. \$2.75.
- Little House in the Big Woods. 238p. \$2.75.
- Little House on the Prairie. 335p. \$2.75.
- Little Town on the Prairie. 307p. \$2.75.
- The Long Winter. 335p. \$2.75.
- On the Banks of Plum Creek. 339p. \$2.75.
- These Happy Golden Years. 289p. \$2.75.

*Special
Interest
History*

Published by Harper, 1953. Illustrated by Garth Williams. Completely new editions. The books have a smaller page and larger type than the original editions, which accounts for the greatly increased number of pages. The size may seem, at first, to be inappropriate for youngsters who usually begin reading these books in the fourth grade. However, the more open look on the pages will have appeal, and once a child has dipped into one of the stories he will not be concerned about the size of the book. Garth Williams' illustrations capture the warmth and fun of the stories perfectly. (Gr. 4-8)

Ad Zim, Herbert Spencer. What's Inside the Earth? illus. by Raymond Perlman. Morrow, 1953. 32p. \$1.75.

An introduction to geology through descriptions of the insides of a mine, a cave, a well, a volcano, mountains, and earthquakes. The material, written at an upper fourth and fifth grade reading difficulty level, is interesting, but its presentation in a page of primer size type followed by a page of double-column, small size type, may well prove more irritating than helpful for the readers who are interested enough in the subject to try to read the book in the first place and who are advanced enough to be able to handle the text. The illustrations are too confusing to be of much help. (Gr. 4-6)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Materials

Blanc, Sam S. "Instructional Materials for Conservation" School Science and Mathematics 54:49-50 Ja'54. A brief list of films and film strips.

Books As Gifts; comp. by Evelyn R. Robinson, Consultant, School Libraries and Work with Children and Young People, Division of Library Extension. Boston, Massachusetts.

"Books for the Teen Age, 1954" Branch Library Book News. New York Public Library, January 1954. 25¢.

Hobby Publications; A List of hobby publications which are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office. Washington 25, D. C.

Journal of Education (Nova Scotia). Vol. 3, No. 1. O'53. Special issue on reading.

Newman, James R. "Children's Books" Scientific American 189:100-108 D'53. A fourth annual survey of writing about science for younger readers.

Smith, Dora V. "Regions of America Come Alive" Childhood Education 30:131-138 N'53. Contains bibliography, with special emphasis on books about Minnesota.

Spieseke, Alice W. "Bibliography of Text-books in the Social Studies, 1952-1953" Social Education 17:389-391 D'53

"Using the Tape Recorder" Curriculum Bulletin, No. 6. New York City Board of Education. Series 1952-53.

Vance, Earl L. "Periodical Reading Courses: Their Place and Function in American Education" Education 74:81-87 O'53