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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VII

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Number 10

### 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 Beattie, Janet. In Came Horace; pictures and calligraphy by Anne Marie Jauss. Lippincott, 1954. 32p. \$2.

Horace is a remarkable cat who lives with an old man and an old woman on their farm. The three are happy together until the neighbors begin to insist that they should have a dog to frighten away any possible burglars. The couple try dog after dog, from a very small dog with a loud bark to an enormous dog who hates cats, but Horace frightens them all away. In the end everyone agrees that Horace is all the protection the old man and old woman need. The writing has much of the quality of a folk tale and is fun to read aloud—up to the last page which unfortunately falls quite flat. (K-Gr. 2)

- R Beatty, Hetty Burlingame. Droopy. Houghton, 1954. 28p. \$2.50.

Droopy was a mule whose ears usually hung down, except when he was especially interested in something, which was not often. One day Joe, his young master, invited him to go swimming but Droopy was feeling stubborn and refused. Joe almost drowned when he tried to swim clear across the pond and Droopy was filled with re-

morse that he had not been on hand to go to the rescue sooner. Then when he was praised for saving Joe's life instead of being blamed for not having reached the boy faster, he decided that life was pretty nice after all, and for the rest of his life his ears stood straight up. The illustrations, with their heavy lines and solid colors have more humor and appeal than does the story. (K-Gr. 2)

- R Bell, Thelma Harrington. Take It Easy; illus. by Corydon Bell. Viking, 1953. 172p. \$2.50.

Twelve-year-old Marjorie Benton dreamed of a life of ease with servants to obey her every wish. One spring day, while cleaning an antique brass elephant which a great aunt had brought back from India, Margie made a wish to that effect as she rubbed the elephant's side. In response to her wish, the elephant's genie, Mr. Askew, came on the scene and announced himself at Margie's service. She was delighted and set him to work at once. However, she soon discovered that help such as Mr. Askew could give had its problems, for he could not work when anyone except Margie was around nor could he talk to anyone except Margie, and she had difficulty in explaining some of his actions without having people think she had lost her mind. By the end of the summer, Margie had grown up enough so that she could dismiss Mr. Askew and feel confident of her own ability

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to cope with most of the problems that were likely to arise in her world. In addition to being a pleasant piece of fantasy, the story is a delightful account of family life in a small town.

(Gr. 5-7)

Ad Belting, Natalia Maree. Three Apples Fell From Heaven; Unfamiliar Legends of the Trees; drawings by Anne Marie Jauss. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 158p. \$2.50.

A collection of eighteen legends and folk tales in which trees play a major part. The stories are interesting for their parallels in other folk tales, but their retellings here are in no way distinguished.

(Gr. 4-6)

R Benary-Isbert, Margot. The Shooting Star; tr. from the German by Richard and Clara Winston; illus. by Oscar Liebman. Harcourt, 1954. 118p. \$2.25.

Nine-year-old Annegret Benninger and her mother were making such slow progress in their recovery from bouts of pneumonia that their doctor suggested they take a three month vacation in Switzerland. They both objected to leaving Germany and Mr. Benninger for that long, but he paid no attention to their protests and went ahead with his plans for them to stay with an astronomer and his wife near the village of Arosa. At first the two were content to lie out in the sun or take short walks in the nearby forest. Then Annegret made friends with a young boy who lived nearby and she joined him in his daily chores and in trips around the countryside. By the time the three months were over Annegret and her mother had regained their health and Annegret had become a proficient skier. The story is rather static, but it does give the reader a feeling for the beauty of the Swiss mountains and the pleasures of mountain living.

(Gr. 4-6)

R Binns, Archie. Sea Pup; illus. by Robert Candy. Little, 1954. 215p. \$2.50.

In a complete departure from his previous use of real-fanciful situations, Mr. Binns' new book is a realistic story of the Pacific Coast and of a young boy's love for a sea lion pet. Clint Barlow lived with his parents in a fairly isolated spot on Puget Sound. One day Clint found a baby seal whose mother had been killed and he persuaded his parents to let him keep it. The seal became his close companion, but as it grew older it began to present serious problems, both because of its behavior and because the fishermen in the area were in the habit of shooting seals. In time Clint was faced with the prospect of either disposing of his pet or keeping it penned up all day. He chose to send it to a zoo where its love for showing off before people could be satisfied. The theme is that of The Yearling and is quite well handled. Much interesting information about marine life off the coast of Washington is woven into the story in a way that is natural and adds to the appeal of the book.

(Gr. 7-9)

R Bleeker, Sonia. The Seminole Indians; illus. by Althea Karr. Morrow, 1954. 156p. \$2. (Values: Intercultural understanding)

The seventh title in the author's series on the Indian tribes of America. The material in this volume is necessarily more modern than that in the earlier titles since the Seminole Indian tribe did not come into existence until after the advent of the white men. The first part of the book is a semi-fictionalized account of the life of Osceola, one of the foremost Seminole Indian leaders, from the time when he, as a small boy moved with the other members of his Creek Indian tribe to the Florida Everglades, to the time of his death at the hands of the white soldiers during the Second Seminole War. The remainder of the book traces the history of the tribe both in Oklahoma, where many of the members were re-located, and in Florida where three major reservations are located today. The easy style and interesting subject will give the book a wide range of appeal.

(Gr. 4-8)

NR Blizard, Marie. Daughter of a Star. Westminster, 1954. 174p. \$2.50.

Sixteen-year-old Francie Fenwick is the adopted daughter of Diana Fenwick, famous movie actress. Francie is fond of her foster mother, but she dislikes Hollywood and dreads the thought of the movie career for which she is being groomed. Her greatest happiness comes in the summers which she spends at Bellbrook, Connecticut, with Sally Corbet, a life-long friend of Diana Fenwick. It is at Bellbrook that Francie meets Keith Deming and with his help works up an idea for exhibiting the fabulous doll house which she has owned since childhood. While doing an exhibition in Boston, she meets a Dr. Roger Clemenshaw, and learns that he is her real father. Much is made in the story of the secrecy of Francie's parentage, but the reasons for the secrecy are confused and illogical. The characters are quite superficially drawn.

(Gr. 8-10)

NR Bothwell, Jean. The Hidden Treasure; illus. by Margaret Newton Van Arnam. Friendship Press, 1954. 137p. \$2.

A story of India in 1947 at the time of the partition, and of fifteen-year-old Gopal Atri, a Hindu Brahman boy living in Lahore with his father, a retired judge of the Punjab High Court. Gopal's best friend, Habib Ullah, a Muslim, and his father try to persuade the Atri's to join them in their move to America just before the partition takes place, but because of the judge's health, Gopal and his father decide to remain in Lahore. On the night when the fighting between Muslims and Hindus reaches its peak, the judge dies, and Gopal is faced with the task of getting himself and Ganeshi, the housekeeper, to Delhi where a family friend is holding a sum of money which will enable Gopal to join his friends in America. On the way Gopal and Ganeshi rescue a Muslim baby whose parents have been killed, and are later joined by a Hindu woman and her small daughter who are fleeing from their home

in a predominately Muslim town. By the time the group has reached Delhi, Gopal has decided to remain in India and help bring peace. The story might have been an interesting picture of India had not the author set out to discredit Gopal's religion and have him turn Christian just on the strength of two phrases from the Bible which he accidentally came on. Such disparagement of a religion that is an important part of the lives of large numbers of people today will do nothing to help foster better world understanding. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Cansdale, George. Zoo Book; with 72 photographs. British Book Centre, 1954. 64p. \$2.

An account, by the Superintendent of the London Zoo, of some of his experiences in collecting animals, very brief notes on some of the kinds of animals that are to be found in the London Zoo, and rather detailed descriptions of some of the TV programs in which the Zoo has participated. Some of the material is interesting, but the organization and coverage are poor. There is not enough about any one animal for the book to be used as nature study material; the material is so disorganized that the reader gets no conception of the size or organization of the London Zoo; and constant references to present day conditions, such as the high cost of fish, will limit the book's usefulness in the future. The format is poor; excessively long lines of print and very small type with narrow leading. (Gr. 7-9)

R Caudill, Rebecca. The House of the Fifers; decorations by Genia. Longmans, 1954. 184p. \$2.75 (Values: Growing up; Family relations; Value building; Self-appraisal)

Fifteen-year-old Monica Fifer was having the usual adolescent difficulty in understanding herself and the people around her and, in addition, had started running with a gang of older boys and girls who lacked the stability and sense of values that her father wanted her to have. As a solution to the problem, he sent Monica to her aunt and uncle in Kentucky, to the ancestral home of the Fifers. Monica was rebellious at first and was determined not to become involved with her relatives or any of their problems. However, before the summer was out she had re-discovered her own roots, had gained a new appreciation and friendship for her relatives, and had acquired enough maturity to accept with a certain amount of graciousness, although not with any great pleasure, the idea of her father's re-marriage. There is a depth and warmth to the characterizations and a vividness to the picture of what happens to land and to people during a serious drought that gives the book a sense of reality. Adolescent girls will find many of their own problems treated here with sympathetic understanding. (Gr. 7-10)

NR Clapp, Estelle Barnes. Laurie; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Doubleday, 1953. 255p. \$2.50. Ten-year-old Laurie, who with her family, has

recently moved from the city to a Connecticut farm, falls desperately in love with a horse, but unfortunately with one that has a reputation for meanness. In spite of the opposition of her parents, who think she is too young to take on the responsibility of caring for a horse, she manages, with the assistance of a nearby neighbor, to help gentle the horse and is eventually given permission to learn to ride him. Laurie's explosive temper is a problem to her family, her friends, and herself, and it is very much in evidence throughout the book. There are some good points in the relationship between Laurie and her parents and her older brother, and some very realistic situations as Laurie learns the need for controlling her impatience and bad temper. However, the book is marred by careless writing and by an excess of swearing, both by the characters and the author, which does nothing to further the character delineation or heighten the suspense in the plot. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Coombs, Charles I. Young Infield Rookie; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1954. 188p. \$2.50. (Young Heroes Library)

A Little League baseball story, with three problems to solve. Eleven-year-old Ken Douglas has recently recovered from a broken jaw suffered in a sand lot game, and he has the problem of recovering his nerve enough to become a good batter. Amos Jackson, eleven-year-old Negro boy, has the problem of overcoming the racial prejudice shown by some of the other players. The coach, Lefty Gregory, has run away from major league ball after having accidentally hit a fellow player with a bean ball. As the three work together on the Red Sox team, they help each other with their problems and finally solve them in a manner that is satisfactory to them, although not entirely convincing to the reader. The author does much preaching about the errors of prejudice and then puts into practice all of the typical Negro stereotypes in describing Amos and his family. The writing is careless to the point where it occasionally becomes confusing. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Cross, John Keir. The Stolen Sphere; An Adventure and a Mystery. Dutton, 1953. 220p. \$2.75.

A poorly written, melodramatic story of an event which is supposed to have happened in 1950, to have been first recorded at some time in the distant future, and to have been transferred by a time machine back to the present day. The author uses the device of having "someone" who is always on hand but never identified tell the story in the first person. Involved are the Flying Fortunes—a family of vaudeville trapeze performers; Rubberface—a vaudeville magician and leader of a gang of international criminals; and "Little Moonshine"—a model of a space satellite which Rubberface steals and the Fortunes try to recover. Although Rubberface commits a kidnapping, robbery, and murder during the course of

the book, he is allowed to go free in the end—presumably to leave the way open for a sequel which is hinted at in the final section. The writing is confused and the whole plot is of comic book caliber. (Gr. 7-9)

R Darling, Louis. Greenhead. Morrow, 1954. 95p. \$3.

Through the story of Greenhead, a mallard duck, the author presents information about the physiology of wild-fowl in general, and the nesting, feeding, and migratory habits of mallards in particular. He closes the book with some effective comments on the need for better conservation practices. The book is interestingly written and contains excellent drawings to clarify and enhance the text. (Gr. 5-9)

NR Eager, Edward McMaken. Half Magic; drawings by N. M. Bodecker. Harcourt, 1954. 217p. \$2.75.

A modern fanciful tale set in the 1920's. The four children, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha, are faced with a dull summer. Their father is dead, their mother has to work every day, and their housekeeper, Miss Bick, is not in sympathy with any of their ideas of what is fun to do. Then Jane, the oldest, finds a coin that looks like a nickel, and it starts them off on their summer's adventures. The magic in the coin can grant only half of each wish, hence the title of the book, but they eventually learn to overcome this weakness by wishing for twice as much of everything. Their adventures take them to other countries, other times, and into some harrowing experiences in their own time and town. There is little that is very original about the episodes; the author having drawn freely from Nesbit and from the Half-Pint Jinni (Dolbier. Random House, 1948). The episodes are not always logical fantasy. For example, Merlin, whom the children meet during their venture backward in time, says that theirs is the most powerful magic in the world, and yet he has the power to counteract it and to limit it. To further confuse matters, the author never explains why the coin can only carry out half of each wish. The illustrations make the children look much younger than they could actually have been. Katharine, for instance, looks like a five-year-old, is described as being a nine-year-old, and is an avid reader of Shakespeare and of Evangeline. (Gr. 4-6)

R Emery, Anne. High Note, Low Note. Westminster, 1954. 214p. \$2.50. (Values: Family relations; Consideration of others)

Another story about the Burnaby family, and a sequel to Sorority Girl. Jean Burnaby is again the main character, and the story is primarily concerned with the events of her senior year in high school. It is a year of fun and problems; some of the fun and most of the problems arising from Jean's friendship with Kim Ballard, a new girl at Sherwood High. Kim is adventure prone, but many of her adventures result from her lack of foresight and of consideration of other people.

Before Jean becomes fully aware of this weakness of Kim's she causes herself and her parents some anxious moments. In addition to Kim, Jean is having her troubles with Jeff Sutton, her best boy-friend, who threatens to spoil their pleasant friendship by becoming serious and wanting to go steady. Added to Jean's personal ups-and-downs, the Burnaby family is having its share of financial problems, brought on by the fact that Betsy, the nine-year-old, has suddenly displayed unusual musical ability and needs lessons and an instrument, and Jean's piano playing has developed to a point where her teacher feels that she needs a better instrument on which to practice. As in the earlier books about the Burnaby family, the story blends realistic treatment of teen-age problems with unusually warm and perceptive family relations. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Garst, Doris Shannon. Ten Gallon Hat; illus. by William Moyers. Ariel, 1953. 215p. \$2.75.

A typical tenderfoot-turned-cowboy story of young Terry Foote, a Chicago boy who goes to spend a summer with his uncle, aunt, and cousins on their Wyoming cattle ranch. Terry arrives dressed like a Marshall Field cowboy but is soon set to rights by his cousins. At first he has difficulty adjusting to the idea that on the ranch everyone shares in the work, but eventually he learns to do his part. By the end of the summer he has tamed and trained a horse that was supposed to be locoed, has been the means of bringing about the downfall of a dishonest bronco buster, and has won a race and a cattle cutting contest in the local rodeo. The characters are of widely varying degrees of reality, but the situations are mostly implausible. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Greene, Graham. The Little Horse Bus; illus. by Dorothy Craigie. Lothrop, 1954. 35p. \$2.

Mr. Greene again treats of the conflict between the status quo and progress with, again, all of his sympathies on the part of the status quo. This time the struggle is between Mr. Potter, the owner of an old-fashioned store, and Sir William Popkins, owner of the new Hygienic Emporium Company Limited. The Emporium delivers parcels in a hansom cab drawn by a young mare named Beauty. All that Mr. Potter can afford is a very old, very thin horse named Brandy and an old abandoned horse bus. The customers are scornful of Brandy and the horse bus until one day when Beauty and her hansom cab are kidnapped by a gang of thieves who have just robbed the Emporium. Brandy and the horse bus become the heroes of the day by trailing the thieves and presumably capturing them, although just how this is accomplished is never made clear in either the text or illustrations. The illustrations are quite confused and will do nothing to aid the child's understanding of the story, which is equally unclear. (Pre-school)

NR Hall, Marjory. Orchids for Anita; decorations by Evelyn Urbanowich. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 250p. \$2.75.

An exceedingly superficial story of a young girl, just out of high school, who tries a few months of drama school in New York, decides that the stage is not for her, and returns home to the small New England town where her father owns a large department store. Bored by the uneventful round of social activities which the town offers, she makes a trip to Mexico with her parents and there meets a former boy friend whom she has not seen for some time. When he fails to fall for her charms she sets about winning him again. This she does by getting a job with the same concern for which he works, and which has its main office near her home town. In due time she masters both the job and the boy friend. The characters are not realistically or consistently portrayed; there is no value to the manner in which Anita solves her problems since they are all resolved for her by her father's assistant who is also a close friend of the family. (Gr. 8-10)

R Harnett, Cynthia. The Drawbridge Gate. Putnam, 1954. 250p. \$3.

Colorful period fiction of England in the days of Henry V and Dick Whittington. Nan, Dickon, and Adam Sherwood live with their grandfather, an important member of the grocers guild in London. At the beginning of the story Dickon has just been made a mercers' apprentice and Adam is in his second year as a grocers' apprentice. Neither boy is especially happy about his lot, Dickon because he has grown up on the grocers' side of the traditional fight between the victualers and the clothers, and Adam because he wants to become an apothecary or a doctor. Because of the importance of their grandfather's position and his friendship with Dick Whittington, all three of the children are fairly well versed in the political doings of the day, and they inadvertently become involved in one of Oldcastle's plots against the King. The story of that plot and of their part in it, moves smoothly, with plenty of action and suspense to hold the reader's interest, and under the author's skillful handling London comes as much alive as the vividly drawn characters in the story. (Gr. 7-9)

M Hills, Verna. All Aboard for the Beach; illus. by Joshua Tolford. Ariel, 1954. 143p. \$2.50.

Episodic account of the doings of two eight-year-old boys who spend two weeks visiting the grandmother of one of the boys at her beach cottage. The boys have some good times, although many of their plans for interesting things to do never materialize and they spend considerable time quarreling with each other and with other children on the beach. At the end, however, they decide it has been a right good vacation. The total effect is realistic, but rather depressing. Written at an easy third grade reading level. (Gr. 2-4)

R Hurd, Edith (Thacher) and Clement. Nino and His Fish. Lothrop, 1954. 33p. \$2. Nino knew that there could be no birthday party for him this year because his father had been having such poor luck with his fishing. Then Nino had the idea of trying to catch a fish himself and serving it instead of cake at his party. The small boy was unhappy when Angelo, owner of one of the largest restaurants on Fisherman's Wharf, laughed at his idea of having a fish for a birthday party, but he stuck to his plan and succeeded in bringing in the largest fish of the day. On the way home that night Angelo offered to buy Nino's fish and give him and all of his friends a party in return. A satisfactory handling of a familiar theme, illustrated with gay, colorful pictures that capture the spirit of the fishermen. (Gr. 1-3)

R Hussey, Lois J. and Pessino, Catherine. Collecting Cocoons; illus. by Isabel Sherwin Harris. Crowell, 1953. 73p. \$2.

An introductory book for the young nature enthusiast who is interested in cocoons and moths. The book begins with a description of the life cycle of the moth, then tells in detail how and where to collect cocoons, how to care for caterpillars, and how to mount specimens. Finally comes a section containing detailed descriptions of the various kinds of moths and their cocoons that are to be found in the United States. The illustrations are all in black and white and the text does not indicate the colors of the moths, caterpillars, or cocoons. Contains an index and a brief bibliography. (Gr. 5-7)

R Kohler, Julilly H. "Crazy As You Look!" illus. by Lee Ames. Knopf, 1954. 120p. \$2.50.

Life in a small Kentucky town in 1915 as seen through the activities of ten-year-old Mary Lizbeth Morgan and her grandmother's Negro hired man, Ulysses Noe. Lysus is the most important person in Mary Lizbeth's life, being the one who takes her to tent shows, finds excuses to drive her out to her uncle's farm to see her cousin's pet lamb, makes her act like a lady in church and in town, sympathizes with her when she has the mumps, and he even took time to rescue her favorite doll when her grandmother's house caught fire. The story of their friendship is told with warmth, affection, and humor. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Latham, Frank B. The Fighting Quaker; The Southern Campaigns of General Nathanael Greene; illus. by L. Vosburg. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series.) \$1.75.

A story of the American Revolution with the emphasis on the work of the Army of the South. Except for the first part of the book dealing with Greene's break with the Quakers and his early training in the army, this is more an account of the southern campaigns than a biography of Greene, and is by no means a complete account of his total war activities. In fact, Ned Jenkins,

who is supposedly an associate of Greene's, becomes a much more realistic character than Greene himself. Too superficial to be useful as American history material, and the constantly shifting focus from Jenkins to Greene results in an erratic pace that lessens the book's appeal as fiction. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Lee, Roy. Cyrus Hunts the Cougar; illus. by Phyllis Rowand. Little, 1954. 115p. \$2.50.

Another story of Cyrus, the small boy of Indians, Fire Engines and Rabbit. In this second story of Cyrus, his parents, and the animals around his wilderness home, the author has kept the action all in the past, without the constantly shifting focus from past to present that made the first book so confusing. The style is quite precious, and the tone is more than slightly reminiscent of Winnie the Pooh, but this is not as good fantasy as Milne's classic. The story is about evenly divided between Cyrus's efforts to learn to make fire with a flint, and the troubles which the animals of the vicinity have with a cougar named Tawny. The style is too difficult for independent reading below the fifth grade and is not entirely satisfactory for reading aloud. (Gr. 2-4)

NR Moore, Vardine and Conkling, Fleur. House Next Door; illus. by Janet Smalley. Westminster, 1954. 220p. \$2.50.

Twelve-year-old Julie Lawrence loved to listen to her talented mother play the piano, but hated to have to practice on it herself. She wanted to learn to sew, but her mother did not even know how to sew on a button and had no sympathy for nor understanding of her daughter's desires. Then the Scotts moved in next door. At first Julie was disappointed because there were four boys and no girls in the new family, but her disappointment did not last long. Mrs. Scott was an excellent seamstress and welcomed Julie as the daughter she had always wanted with whom to share her sewing ability. Ted Scott proved to have outstanding ability as a pianist and so Mrs. Lawrence began giving him piano lessons in exchange for Julie's sewing lessons, and everyone was happy. How the two families worked together and shared their talents makes a nice neighborhood story, although the author never quite gets below the surface of her characters. Julie is not quite twelve when the story begins but the author has her in her last year of junior high school (a real child prodigy) and thoroughly absorbed in the boys. Mrs. Lawrence is completely selfish in her lack of understanding of Julie and in her jealousy of Mrs. Scott when the latter first undertakes to teach Julie to sew. (Gr. 6-8)

NR Mygatt, Emmie D. Stand by for Danger. Longmans, 1954. 186p. \$2.50.

Dave and Stuart Hamilton, Ned Osgood, and Pelican (Everett) Cavanaugh of Rim-rocked are back, this time in a story of their experiences at Abbott School, where Pelican has enrolled as a senior in order to get the courses needed be-

fore going on to medical school. Pelican and Ned, roommates, set up a ham radio outfit, even though they know it is strictly against the regulations of the school. Before they are discovered, they become involved with a young Czechoslovakian D. P., a student at the school, who is being chased by some Russian agents because of a secret weapon which his father has invented. The boys use their radio to help rescue the boy and his father from the Russians and to aid the F.B.I. in capturing the men. The book is in part a melodramatic spy story, and in part a treatise on ham radio and its future in welding together the young people of the world. The treatise is better handled than the story, but it seems rather out of place in what purports to be a book of fiction. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Norton, Sybil and Cournos, John. Candidate for Truth; The Story of Daniel Webster; illus. by Rus Anderson. Holt, 1953. 176p. \$2.50.

A biography of Daniel Webster from his early teens to the end of his life. In spite of the semi-fictionalized style, the writing is dull and slow-moving and Webster never quite emerges as a very realistic person. Webster's political ideas are expressed through excerpts from his speeches and letters, but the excerpts are not complete enough to give either an accurate idea of the man's beliefs or of the power of his prose. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Orton, Helen (Fuller). Mystery of the Hidden Book; illus. by Robert Doremus. Lippincott, 1953. 119p. \$2.

A very mediocre mystery involving a secret room, a rare edition of Robinson Crusoe, and a strange young man who hid in secret rooms and lived on liverwurst sandwiches. When Professor Barton found it necessary to go to London on short notice, he left his valuable possessions in the care of his elderly gardener and the eleven-year-old boy next door. The gardener managed to lose the Professor's letter telling how to find the secret room and the cabinet with the first edition copy of Robinson Crusoe, and just by chance the man who found the letter was the one man in all the city who would want to steal the book. He got into the house—by what means the author never gets around to making clear—but his nefarious designs were thwarted by young Stanley plus assorted relatives of the Professor's who just happened to be passing through town at this time and just happened to decide to stay a while with the Professor. The book is saved and young Stanley is rewarded with a vacation at the Professor's summer cottage. Poorly written and confused. (Gr. 4-6)

R Pace, Mildred Mastin. Home Is Where the Heart Is. Whittlesey House, 1954. 191p. \$2.50. (Values: Loyalty; Family relations)

Thirteen-year-old Brady Allen tried to keep

house for her father and brother after her mother's death, although she knew it would be just a matter of time before her father's "itchy foot" would take him and her brother on their way again. When that time came, Mr. Allen made arrangements for Brady to live with the Marstons, one of the most prominent families in that part of the Kentucky mountains. Brady was shy at first and unsure of her welcome, but the Marstons soon made her feel at home, and with them she found the love and warmth of family living that she had missed for so long. The story is partly concerned with Brady's adjustment to her new way of living, and partly with the love affair between Sally Marston and Jim Forbes, an outlander whom Sally's father, Judge Marston, hates because he represents the railroad which the judge is bitterly fighting. This is a heart-warming story, with good characterizations, and a sympathetic understanding of the mountain people. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Parks, Edd Winfield. Teddy Roosevelt, All-Round Boy; illus. by Sandra James. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans.) \$1.75.

A poorly written, caricaturish account of the early boyhood of Theodore Roosevelt. The emphasis on his big teeth is objectionable; the account of the manner in which it was discovered that he was near-sighted is not in accordance with the version to be found in most reputable biographies; and the indication that his family called him "Teddy" is not in keeping with the known facts. The last chapter brings the reader abruptly into the present with a group of boys acting out the major episodes in Roosevelt's later life. The results are confusing and fail to give the young reader any idea of the events in Roosevelt's life that are of real importance to the history of this country. (Gr. 3-5)

NR Peck, Leigh. They Were Made of Rawhide; illus. by Aldren Watson. Houghton, 1954. 181p. \$2.50.

A story, based on fact, of a 2100 mile horse race from Galveston, Texas to Rutland, Vermont, in the late nineteenth century, and of fourteen-year-old Jed McBride who won the race on his mustang pony, Poco Bueno. Jed needed to go to Boston where his father was in the hospital suffering from amnesia, and the race seemed a good way to make the trip with a minimum of expense, and with a chance for a sizable award at the end. His mother and sister remained at home, where Tibby had her share of adventures, saving a Negro friend from the Ku Klux Klan, and helping out when her mother gave birth to twins during a hurricane. The author has tried to do too much in one book, with the result that some aspects of the story are over-done, i.e., the long and involved digressions about the history of the places through which Jed passes; and some parts are given too scanty treatment to have much point, i.e., the mystery of what happened to the money Mr. McBride was carrying when he was ship-

wrecked is never cleared up although it is mentioned constantly throughout the book. The episode of the Negro who is almost lynched has no real purpose at all in forwarding the plot. In spite of the title and the subject, this is more a book for girls than for boys. (Gr. 7-9)

M Power, Rhoda. Redcap Runs Away; illus. from drawings by C. Walter Hodges. Houghton, 1954. 303p. \$3.

Redcap is the nickname given to John Smith, a ten-year-old, red-haired boy living in 14th century England. The boy's father wanted him to become a blacksmith, but Redcap longed to be a minstrel like his great-uncle, Red Eric. One Christmas time he ran away from home and joined a group of strolling minstrels. In their company he learned to juggle, to sing, to tell stories, and to tumble, and he also learned that for him the best life would be that of a singing blacksmith. The story of Redcap's adventures is interwoven with tales told by the minstrels and by others whom the boy meets in the course of his wanderings. Because of the many stories which have been included (one to each chapter) the plot moves slowly, and reading is further hampered by the extremely poor format with its small type, crowded lines, and poor paper. For those readers who will attempt to read the book in spite of the format and the slowness of the plot, the book will have much the same appeal as Gray's Adam of the Road (Viking, 1942). The illustrations seldom match the text. (Gr. 7-9)

NR Proctor, George L. The Young Traveler in Sweden; illus. with photographs and map sketches by Henry C. Pitz. Dutton, 1953. 224 p. \$3.

The story of two American children who arrive in Sweden to spend a year with their aunt and uncle in Gothenburg. During the course of the year they manage to travel over most of the country and visit the major industries and spots of interest. As a story the book has too much travelogue-type information constantly interrupting the action; as a travel or informational book, the scattered bits of useful information are so mixed up with the story that ferreting them out is not really worth the bother. Throughout the book there are vestigial remains of the English children who underwent the same adventures in the original edition, and their very British comments and knowledge sound strange indeed coming from American children, and Texans at that! (Gr. 6-8)

M Ratzesberger, Anna. Ponies; illus. by Elizabeth Webbe. Rand McNally, 1953. 29p. 15¢. (A Book-Elf Junior)

Simple verses describing the various kinds of ponies that are to be found at a pony ride. The writing is uneven; the illustrations, although quite sentimental, will have appeal for young children, who will also like the small size of the book (6½ x 4½). (Pre-School)

- R Shippen, Katherine Binney. The Pool of Knowledge; How the United Nations Share Their Skills; illus. with photographs. Harper, 1954. 148p. \$2.50. (Values: World concepts)

An exceptionally well-written, interesting account of the work that U.N. organizations are doing in sixteen places in the world to help the people of those areas to better their ways of living and to combat the poverty, hunger, and disease that have been their lot for many generations. The book makes a valuable contribution to the young reader's knowledge of what the U.N. is and how it works, and also will give young people a happier understanding of many of the peoples of the world. (Gr. 6- )

- R Smith, Nancy Woolcott. A Den for Tony; illus. by Jessie Robinson. Coward-McCann, 1953. 87p. \$2.25.

Tony was not happy about his family's move, even though it meant changing their crowded slum apartment for a house of their own in a small town. He missed the boys in his Cub Scout Den and was sure no one in a small town could ever have heard of Cub Scouting. Hardly had he settled in the new neighborhood when he was invited to join a local Den. But with the invitation came the problem that the boys in this Den owned uniforms and charged dues. Through a series of fortunate circumstances, Tony got a job that furnished him with enough money for dues and, in a round-about-way, furnished his uniform. The story is less about Scouting than about Tony's efforts to earn money and to adjust to a new way of living. Although the way in which Tony found his new job is rather too dependent on coincidence, the job itself and his method of getting a uniform are well within the realm of probability. (Gr. 4-6)

- R Steele, William O. Winter Danger; illus. by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, 1954. 183p. \$2.25. (Values: Father-son relations; Sharing; Neighborliness)

All his life eleven-year-old Cajé Amis had lived in the frontier forest with his father, seldom having a roof over his head, never staying in one place long enough to feel at home. His mother had died as a result of the hard life, and Cajé bitterly resented his father for assuming that the kind of life he liked would also be the kind his family would like. When winter caught up with Cajé and his father in the forests of Kentucky before they had had a chance to prepare for it adequately, Jared took his son back to the Holston settlement and left him there with an aunt and uncle. At first Cajé was unhappy because he did not know how to do farm work and he thought that he was a burden to his relatives. Then he learned the principle of sharing that had made frontier life possible and he realized that he did have talents that could contribute to the family welfare. An interesting story of pioneer life, of a father-son conflict, and of a young boy's adjustment to a totally new way of life. (Gr. 4-6)

- NR Wells, Helen Frances (Weinstock). The Girl in the White Coat. Messner, 1953. 184p. \$2.50.

A patterned career story of a medical technologist in which the author has unsuccessfully attempted to combine career information, a love story, and a mystery story. Eve Miller's interest in chemistry in high school leads her to decide to enter training as a medical technologist. While in training she captures the affection of a young medical student, the respect of a well-known scientist, and the dislike of one of the less progressive doctors on the staff of the hospital where she trains. After graduation she solves a mystery involving the formula on which the scientist is working, and which she, for no real reason, has been told even though it is a secret to most of the doctors on the staff. Illogically enough it is the non-progressive doctor who is trying to steal the formula. Once the formula is safe Eve can then turn her attention to the more important part of her career—or at least the part on which she has worked hardest during her training—marriage to the young medical student. All fluff and no substance. (Gr. 8-10)

### *Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Materials*

- Brandes, Louis Grant. "Selected Bibliography of Recreational Mathematics Publications" School Science and Mathematics 54:292-293 Ap'54.
- Kambly, Paul E. "The Elementary School Science Library for 1952-1953" School Science and Mathematics 54:303-309 Ap'54.
- The Mathematics Student Journal. A new mathematics publication for students published quarterly by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Contents include "the history of the development of mathematics, challenging problems, discussions and explanations of special topics, information on research in mathematics, and reports on employment needs and opportunities in mathematics. For subscription information write: M. H. Ahrendt, Bus. Mgr., National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
- Urbancek, Joseph J., comp. "Mathematical Teaching Aids" November 1953-February 1954 Supplement, Chicago Schools Journal. Free.
- Weingarten, Samuel. "Developmental Values in Voluntary Reading" The School Review 62:222-230 Ap'54.
- Wolfson, Bernice J. "Reading About Emotions in the Primary Classroom" Elementary English 31:146-149 Mr'54.