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BULLETIN

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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

NR Beim, Jerrold. Rocky's Road; illus. by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, 1953. 150p. \$2.75.

After the machinations of the school bully had cost Rocky Walsh his chance to play on the school basketball team, he reluctantly turned to work on the school newspaper, where he served as circulation manager. Then came an opportunity to play on the team and Rocky was forced to decide between basketball and the newspaper. He finally chose the newspaper. A contrived story with such poorly drawn characters and plot that the "lesson" which it is supposed to teach is lost. (Gr.5-7)

R Best, Herbert. Ranger's Ransom; A Story of Ticonderoga; illus. by Erick Berry. Aladdin, 1953. 192p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

A story of the battle for Fort Ticonderoga in 1759. Sixteen-year-old Cass Purdie was in debt to most of the people in his home town for the money which they had paid to ransom him from the Indians several years before. He was ap-

prenticed to the local blacksmith and saw no way of ever paying off his debt, until finally he decided to run away and join the army. In the army he again worked as a blacksmith and also served as a scout for Roger's Rangers. Eventually he was able to return home, pay off his debts, and take over the blacksmith shop that had once belonged to his father. A smooth-flowing story that will serve as both historical fiction and an adventure story. (Gr.7-9)

NR Biak, Elisa. Marty. World, 1953. 221p. \$2.50.

Marty is an eighteen-year-old paragon. She tries for a golf championship—and wins it. She applies for a job on a city newspaper—and gets it. She sets out to solve a mystery—and solves it. She goes after a criminal—and helps bring him to justice. During this same time she gathers in a boy friend or two, and starts a club for underprivileged boys. Marty herself is very smug—she even interrupts a man's speech to correct his grammar—and is quite superficial. (Gr.7-9)

M Bishop, Curtis. Stout Rider; drawings by M. J. Davis. Steck, 1953. 104p. \$2.
A story, based on fact, of a boy's 350 mile ride to save his father's ranch. Colonel Slaughter

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sold his ranch to an Englishman, discovered that the man's letter of credit was no good, and sent his ten-year-old son back to the ranch to warn the foreman not to turn the place over to the Englishman. This, of course, was in the days before the telephone. All of the materials needed for an exciting story are here, but they become bogged down in the stilted writing.

(Gr.5-7)

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Star of Wild Horse Canyon; illus. by Grace Paull. Crowell, 1953. 87p. \$2.

A simply told story of a boy and his horse. Danny has outgrown his pony, Ginger, so he is promised a new horse. Then he goes with his father to a wild horse round-up, sees Star, and loses his heart to the young colt. He is given the horse, trains it, loses it, and then regains it in a completely standard but appealing story. Three songs by the author are included. They add little to the book, but are not objectionable.

(Gr.4-6)

R Burlingame, Roger. Machines That Built America. Harcourt, 1953. 214p. \$3.50.

A sociological study of the development of American industry through the invention of new machines and of new uses for machinery that already existed. The excessively nationalistic tone of the writing—as exemplified in the assertion that everyone in America can have these "shiny" gadgets and that only in American hands could machines be used to the best advantage—hampers but does not negate what is essentially an interesting treatment of an interesting subject.

(Gr.7-9)

Ad Carter, Bruce. Into a Strange Lost World. Crowell, 1953. 196p. \$2.50.

Science fiction that departs from the current pattern in that it is not space fiction. Two World War II fliers are shot down on the coast of Belgium, land on a strip of sandy beach, and keep going down through the sand until they come out in a huge cavern hundreds of miles underground. There they find a lost civilization, use their knowledge of flying to help the people end a civil war, and finally return to the outer world. Their journey to the surface is through devious passages which eventually land them in a small South American country that is in the midst of a revolution. They are promptly jailed as enemy spies and write the story of their experiences on scraps of paper as they are sitting out the revolution. The story they wrote out was presumably found by the author and retold here. An exciting, highly implausible, adventure story.

(Gr.7-9)

R Coles, Robert R. and Frost, Frances. Star of Wonder; pictures by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey, 1953. 48p. \$2.25.

David and Jean, the two children who took an imaginary trip to the moon in Rocket Away!, again visit the Hayden Planetarium for a lecture on the stars. This time their visit coincides with the Christmas season and grows out of David's desire to know what the Christmas star really was. At the Planetarium they learn that the star could have been a comet, a meteor, a new star, or Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn in conjunction, and that the important thing is not what the star actually was but its message of "Peace on Earth." An attractive and pleasing story that can be used throughout the year by young readers who are interested in astronomy.

(Gr.4-6)

M Dana, Doratheia. The Unruly Robin; illus. by the author. Abelard, 1953. 64p. \$2.50.

A pleasant, although rather slow-moving story of two children who rescue a baby robin that had fallen out of its nest shortly after it was born. They and their parents decide to feed the bird and try to keep it alive, little realizing just how many worms a baby bird eats each day. With some help from their neighbors they manage to keep the bird supplied with worms and it eventually grows into a fully matured robin. They release it near a bird shelter so it can learn to live with other birds in a normal, free existence.

(Gr.3-5)

R Darby, Ada Claire. Pull Away, Boatman; with drawing by Millard McGee. Lippincott, 1953. 247p. \$3.

A story of New Madrid, Missouri, at the time of the great earthquake and flood of 1811. Sixteen-year-old Roseanne Murrell, an orphan living with her Uncle Ot and Aunt Martha, meets and falls in love with Guyon Gibson, whose rather roistering life on the river boats is a source of worry to Roseanne and her aunt and uncle. The summer of 1811 brought disaster to the people of New Madrid in the form of drought, sickness, and finally the devastating earthquake. To Roseanne, however, these problems, plus her own personal one of worry concerning the whereabouts of her lost cousin, Randy, were offset by her love for Guyon and the final promise of a future in which he would leave the river and settle down to farm the rich land of the nearby prairie. A somewhat slow moving story but interesting as period fiction.

(Gr.8-10)

SpR DeJong, Meindert. Hurry Home, Candy; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1953. 244p. \$2.50.

A sensitively written story of the first year in the life of a stray dog. Mistreatment by its first owners, who were well-meaning but knew nothing about the care of a puppy, soon made of Candy a confused and fearful dog. While he was still quite young he became separated from his owners and

spent most of his first year skulking on the outskirts of town, afraid of the dogs in the neighborhood and equally afraid of the people. A fairly pleasant interlude in which Candy acquired a new owner helped restore some of his faith in people, but that faith was badly shattered again when his new owner unintentionally caused a rather serious injury to the dog. The story ends with forgiveness between the new owner and Candy and a promise of a happy future for both. The excellent writing makes even more vivid the stark tragedy of much of Candy's life and may be too strong fare for sensitive young readers.

(Gr.5-7)

R Dorian, Edith M. No Moon on Graveyard Head; map by Forrest Orr. Whittlesey, 1953. 190p. \$2.50.

A somewhat patterned but entertaining story of mystery solving on Jupiter Point, Maine. Steve Purchas, whose family has always been in some way connected with the sea, and Linda Cobb, a newcomer to the Point, discover each other and a mystery during their first summer together. The mystery involves some stolen European paintings that are being smuggled into this country and it is handled in a satisfactory manner. Of equal interest and importance to the story is Steve's problem in deciding whether to follow the family tradition of boat building and sailing, or to continue with his newly discovered interest in marine biology. The latter wins out. The story is well-written with realistic characters and a minimum of coincidence. (Gr.7-9)

NR Drury, John and Maxine. The Rosemont Riddle; decorations by Paul Galdone. Nelson, 1953. 191p. \$2.50.

A mediocre mystery involving an old house that is about to be destroyed to make way for a new housing project, and two young people with very opposite views of the entire idea. Don Anderson favors the housing project; his fiancée, seventeen-year-old Kathy Meadows, wants to see the old house preserved, and even has visions of living in it some day. Just as the project seems assured the nephew of the former owner appears with a will which purports to make him heir to the property. Don proves the will to be false, and Kathy changes her view toward the housing project. In addition to a poorly developed mystery, the story contains considerable doses of very obvious intercultural relations. (Gr.7-9)

NR Evers, Alf. Little Bobo and His Blue Jacket; illus. by Tony Brice. Rand McNally, 1953. 29p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25 cents.

Slight story of the fate of Bobo the elephant's blue jacket. Bobo falls in a mud puddle and has to take his jacket to the laundry where it is shrunk by mistake. Upon finding that he can no

longer wear it, Bobo offers his jacket to each of the animals of the jungle, who try it on in turn until it is finally stretched back into shape and size. Little Bobo is so happy about this he even wears the jacket to bed that night. Bobo is always ecstatically happy, weeping copiously, or being unbelievably generous. The other animals are also highly personified and look like children's stuffed toys. (Pre-school)

NR Fleming, Lisa. Up and Down the Street; pictures by Jane Miller. Oxford, 1953. 32p. \$1.75.

A story about two girls named Susan. Susan up-the-street had a baby sister that Susan down-the-street liked to play with, and Susan down-the-street had a sand box that Susan up-the-street liked. The story starts out well, with the two Susans arranging to play at each other's houses on alternate days, but ends with Susan-down-the-street becoming the proud sister of quintuplets. The ending is strained, inappropriate, and illogical storywise because it means the two Susans will not be able to play together as before. Illustrations are too sophisticated for children. (Pre-school)

NR Friendlich, Dick. Play Maker. Westminster, 1953. 188p. \$2.50.

At the end of the football season, Keith Elliott, football hero, sets himself up as an authority on what is wrong with the college basketball team. He even tries out for the team in order to prove his point. He almost ruins the team before he gets wise to the fact that the main thing wrong with the team is Keith Elliott. Of course, he reforms and wins the crucial game. Fair basketball but an incredible story. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Gardner, L. S. Sal Fisher, Brownie Scout; pictures by Mary Stevens. Watts, 1953. 192p. \$2.

Rather mild, but pleasing story of young Sal, an ardent horse fan, and of her first year in Brownie Scout work during which time she broadens her interests to things other than horses, learns to use her hands more skillfully, and becomes a better adjusted member of her family. There is enough about the activities of Brownie Scout troupes to please and interest young Brownies. (Gr.4-6)

R Gross, Edwin and Nathalie. Teen Theater; A Guide to Play Production and Six Royalty-Free Plays; foreword by Margaret C. Scoggin; with line drawings by Edwin Gross. Whittlesey, 1953. 245p. \$3.25.

A handbook of play production designed especially for teen-age students who may not have experienced adults around to lend a hand or give advice. Contents include organization, direction, acting,

scenery and furnishings, properties, costumes, make-up, lighting, special effects, publicity, and business affairs. Six one-act plays are included with full directions for their staging.

(Gr.8-12)

NR Harkins, Philip. Road Race. Crowell, 1953. 276p. \$2.50.

Sixteen-year-old Dave Neil was a misfit at school because of his ineptness at sports of all kinds. He turned to hot-rodding partly because of his natural interest and ability in things mechanical and partly because he thought it would give him a chance to belong to a group—the Milltown Hot Rod Club. The Club president, Max Werner, a blow hard who knew nothing about cars except how to show off in them, led Dave into a tangle with the law and then refused to come to his aid. Under the sponsorship of Webb Walden, a local man who built racing cars and was anxious to get the hot-rodders on the right footing with the local authorities, Dave reformed and eventually was the means of reforming Max. The book is too obviously written for a purpose, the characters are unconvincing, and the solutions are too easily achieved.

(Gr.7-9)

M Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. I Decided; illus. by Marge Opitz. Rand McNally, 1953. 28p. 25 cents.

Jean, a small girl, goes shopping with her mother and is allowed to buy one toy for herself. She has to decide on one of three toys that she would like to have—an elephant, an airplane, and a book. A very mild, uneventful story but small children who have had the experience of making a decision may find pleasure in hearing about Jean's decision, and in telling about times when they too, have had a choice to make.

(Pre-school)

Ad Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. Your Friend, the Policeman; illus. by William Neebe. Rand McNally, 1953. 28p. 25 cents.

A simple story designed to give young children the feeling that policeman are their friends and will help them. Young Peter makes friends with a traffic policeman who helps him cross the street and then helps him get back across when it begins to rain. The story ends with a question that is supposed to stimulate children to find out more about policemen. The question is: Where does a policeman keep his raincoat when it is not raining? Written for a younger age group than Barr's Policeman Paul (Whitman, 1953) this book could serve as a first introduction to policemen for two to four year olds, but older children will want more information about the police than is given here.

(Pre-school)

M Huggins, Alice Margaret. Day of the False Dragon; decorations by Jeanyee Wong. Westminster, 1953. 160p. \$2.50

The author of The Red Chair Waits has again written of life in modern China. The story concerns two young teachers in Wangshan, a girls' school in North China, and the problems that arise from their inability to fit completely and whole-heartedly into the pattern of Communistic thinking. Ling Ning grew up in a wealthy home and much of her trouble at the school arises from the jealousy of one of the leading faculty members, a woman whose mother had at one time been a servant in Ling Ning's home. Lu Min's difficulties grow out of his refusal to give up his Christian beliefs. The author taught in a girls' school in North China until March 1952, and the story is based in large part on her experiences while there. The story is slow-moving and over-burdened with Lu Min's religious expositions, but it does give a picture of present day Chinese life that should be of interest to many teen-age girls.

(Gr.8-12)

NR Hultz, Helen Lorraine. Canary Yellow; illus. by Jane Castle. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1953. 160p. \$2.

An exceedingly thin, long-drawn-out story of a small girl and her pet canary. There is too much repetition of episodes, with only slight variations. Lucinda buys Din Din, the canary, with her birthday money and he proves to be a most satisfactory pet. During the course of the story she loses him several times; both in the country and in New York City. The story is too slow-moving and too slight to have much appeal.

(Gr.4-6)

Ad Hyde, Margaret O. Flight Today and Tomorrow; foreword by Glenn O. Blough; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Whittlesey, 1953. 140p. \$2.50.

A fairly simple introduction to some of the basic principles of flight and some advances that have been made in the development of various types of planes. The author writes as if the reader were standing with her on the field of a large airport—a point of view which becomes confusing when she keeps directing the reader to "look" and there are no accompanying pictures at which to look. An excellent bibliography at the end will suggest to the reader other, more detailed, books on the same subject.

(Gr.6-8)

Ad La Farge, Oliver. Cochise of Arizona; The Pipe of Peace is Broken; illus. by L. F. Bjorklund. Aladdin, 1953. 191p. \$1.75. (American Heritage Series).

The story of Cochise, one of the greatest of the Apache chiefs, from the height of his power until his death. The account is favorable toward Cochise and places as much blame on the white

men as on the Indians for the war in which he participated. The story is slightly easier to read but lacks the depth of the Wyatt, Cochise (Whittlesey, 1953). Cochise never comes quite as vividly alive in this book as he does in the Wyatt. (Gr.5-7)

M Lansing, Elisabeth Carleton (Hubbard). A Pony Worth His Salt; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Crowell, 1953. 168p. \$2.
More doings of the three children, Ted, Sue and Robbie, of The Pony That Ran Away and The Pony That Kept a Secret. This time the children are concerned because Pete, the hired man, seemingly forgot to give them a Christmas present, and because they have arrived at the mistaken notion that Pete and their father are planning to get rid of the pony, Twinkle. Their attempts to prove that the pony is worth his salt more often backfire than succeed but are generally amusing. The book has some of the same humor of character and incident of the first two books, although Robbie's excessive baby talk becomes increasingly wearying with each book and the incidents in this story are less realistic than those of the earlier books. (Gr.4-6)

NR Leaf, Munro. Reading Can Be Fun. Lip-pincott, 1953. 46p. \$2.25.
Following the same pattern as Arithmetic Can Be Fun, History Can Be Fun, etc. the author presents in breezy, rather tongue-in-cheek text and stick-figure drawings something of the history of written language, practical uses of reading, and the pleasures that come from books of all types. The extreme superficiality of the treatment creates some misconceptions, as when the act of reading is said to depend on simply knowing the 26 letters and the 44 sounds that make up English. Most of the text is written at about a fourth grade reading level, but the book is such a conglomeration of the babyish and the adult that it will have little meaning for children of any age. (Gr.4-6)

R Liang, Yen. Tommy and Dee-Dee. Oxford, 1953. 32p. \$1.50. (Values: International understanding).
A book, for young children, which compares and contrasts the ways of an American and a Chinese boy. On facing pages there are pictures of each boy reading, eating, watching parades, etc., each in his own cultural setting. The first part of the book points out differences in the customs of the two boys; in their eating habits and the way they read, for instance. In the second part, the ways they are alike are shown; how each calls his mother "Ma-Ma", each likes to play riding a horse, and each loves candy. More similarities than differences are shown. For so brief a book, a surprising amount of detail of Chinese life and customs is included in the pictures.

A delightful introduction to international understanding. (Pre-school)

Ad Louden, Claire and George. Rain in the Winds; A Story of India. Scribner, 1953. 48p. \$2.50. (Values: International understanding).
Young Arun Krishna was the proud owner of the only elephant in his small Indian village. When drought threatened the lives of both the people and the animals of the village, Arun reluctantly agreed to rent his elephant to a group of men who were building a dam in the nearby mountains. Arun accompanied the elephant to the dam site where he learned that its purpose was to furnish a constant source of water so that the villages would never suffer from droughts again. The format is that of a picture book, but the subject interest and reading difficulty level are more suited to fourth or fifth grade. (Gr.3-5)

R McCracken, Harold. Pirate of the North; with drawings by Ernest Tonk. Lip-pincott, 1953. 213p. \$3.
Nineteen-year-old Jack Lauson decided to spend a winter in the supposedly jinxed Quehatch valley, not that he needed to earn money by fur trapping, but more to prove his independence before he settled down as a partner in his father's Alaskan trading business. Jack's struggles to overcome the forces of nature, both the weather and the wild animals, especially the wolverines that gave the valley its bad name, make a well-told, exciting adventure story. (Gr.7-9)

SpC McDonald, Christine. Young Folks Bible Quiz Book. World, 1953. 223p. \$2.
202 sets of questions about the Bible; 10 questions to each set. The groupings are somewhat arbitrary and many of the questions will be difficult for all except the most proficient of Bible students. Limited use. (Gr.7-9)

NR McSwigan, Marie. Three's a Crowd. Dutton, 1953. 192p. \$2.50
An exceedingly poorly written story of identical twins and their conflict over a man both of them want. Janet and Jody had never been separated, even on dates, until they met Zip Harmon, who promptly set out to put an end to their two-some. The twins are superficially drawn, and Zip is a thoroughly ill-mannered, unlikable character. The author makes excessive use of teen-age jargon, that will be out-dated within a short time as fashions in slang change. (Gr.7-9)

NR Montgomery, Mabel. David's Fishing Summer; illus. by Cheslie D'Andrea. Wilcox and Follett, 1953. 160p. \$2.50
Twelve-year-old David goes to spend a summer with his bachelor uncle on the coast of South

Carolina. To David and Jerry, a Negro boy whose grandmother is the uncle's cook and housekeeper, Uncle Bill gives the task of securing fish for their meals. The book is nothing more than a series of episodes, each one describing a different method of fishing and a different kind of fish or sea food. What little story there is moves slowly and without much interest. The information about fish and fishing is too dispersed throughout the story to have much value.

(Gr.6-8)

M Montgomery, Rutherford George. White Mountaineer; illus. by Gardell Dano Christensen. Little, Brown, 1953. 177p. \$2.75.

The story of Billy, a white mountain goat, from the time of his birth to his mating about two years later. The dangers that threaten a mountain goat, both from other animals and from the forces of nature, are interestingly presented.

The story is weakened by having too much space given to the affairs of Chinook Tom, a prospector who has come into the mountain country expecting to search for uranium and live off mountain goats. He clutters rather than forwards the story.

(Gr.7-9)

R Murphy, Frances (Salomon). Ready-Made Family; illus. by Mabel Jones Woodbury. Crowell, 1953. 184p. \$2.50.

After their mother died and their father deserted them, the three Kowalski children—twelve-year-old Hedwig, ten-year-old Peter, and six-year-old Mary Rose—boarded around with relatives for almost six years before the state took them in charge. They had a short stay in a state home and then were boarded with the Kennedys, a middle-aged couple who had no children of their own. There, for the first time, they found the love and security that they needed. The problems of adjustment that arise from such a situation are told with a warmth and understanding that make pleasant reading.

(Gr.5-7)

R Newberry, Clare (Turlay). Ice Cream for Two. Harper, 1953. 58p. \$2.50.

Eight-year-old Bruce longed for a cat but his mother told him that he would have to wait until they could afford a larger apartment before he could have one. Then he met Joanna Wiles, a small girl who lived in the same apartment house, and as a result of his friendship with her acquired a Siamese kitten. He almost had to give up the kitten when his mother was unsuccessful in finding work, but again his friendship with Joanna helped to solve that problem. There are adult overtones in the poignant account of the day when Bruce and his mother go celebrating on what is practically their last dollar which will be lost to most young readers. They will, how-

ever, understand and appreciate Bruce's longing for a cat and his joy when his desires are finally realized. This is more of a story book and less of a picture book than most of Newberry's earlier works and will be read by youngsters who are well above the picture book age.

(Gr.3-5)

NR Novinger, Virginia B. Tommy on Time; pictures by Katherine Evans. Whitman, 1952. 31p. \$1.50.

Slight, very stilted story about a small boy who could not learn to go straight to school and straight home until after he had missed a story hour and a chance to go to the children's park by his loitering. He then reforms and confines his explorations of the neighborhood to Saturday when it is not important that he be any place on time. Written at a second grade reading level.

(Gr.2-3)

M Olds, Helen Diehl. Peanut Butter Mascot; illus. by Ursula Koering. Messner, 1953. 61 p. (Everyday Adventure Stories). \$1.60.

Ten-year-old Dave Tuttle, on his way to the county fair with his pet pig Petunia, stops at a Peanut butter factory where his sister works. As he goes through the factory hunting for his sister, he learns how peanut butter is made. A slight plot is provided by having Petunia escape from the truck in which Dave had left her, become involved in a baseball game being played by the factory teams, and end up being elected mascot of the team. Slight and contrived.

(Gr.3-5)

R Paull, Grace A. Snowed-In Hill. Abelard, 1953. 42p. \$2.

A farm family is snowed in for a week during a blizzard. How the family adjusts to this situation—getting the milk to market, disposing of the doughnuts mother had made for the Home Bureau meeting, and rescuing Jack's baby chicks from the post office—makes a good story of farm life in winter, and a satisfying picture of family life. Children of five to eight will enjoy the book, but it will take a good third grade reader to handle the text alone.

(K-Gr.3)

R Rietveld, Jane. Wild Dog. Wilcox & Follett, 1953. 189p. \$2.50.

When young Jerry Moore persuaded his parents and Mr. Stevens, Mr. Moore's employer, to let him bring home a Canadian Husky puppy from the north woods where he had been visiting his aunt and uncle, he did not realize the difficulties that would arise from trying to keep a wild dog on a modern farm. After some difficulty he trained Husky to ignore the chickens on the Stevens farm, where the Moores lived, but he could not break the dog of the habit of killing

chickens on neighboring farms. Mr. Stevens decreed that the dog would have to be tied except when Jerry was around; a situation that brought unhappiness to both boy and dog. Finally Jerry took Husky back to his uncle's place in the north woods and left him there where he could have freedom to live the kind of life that was normal for him. In due time Jerry acquired a collie pup which gave promise of being the ideal farm dog. Realistic handling of characters and problems. (Gr.4-6)

R Rydberg, Ernie. Bright Summer; illus. by Vera Neville. Longmans, 1953. 131p. \$2.50. (Values: Handicaps, Overcoming; Family relations).

A story of eleven-year-old Teresita Madrigal, whose crippled foot kept her from enjoying the games and activities of the other children in her village but could not stop her from dreaming of some day owning a pair of beautiful high-heel shoes. The story takes Teresita through a summer of simple everyday activities, of visits to an orange and a lemon grove, and of participation in a village fiesta. When Teresita returns to school in the fall there is the promise that perhaps her foot can be corrected. Rather slight, but pleasant. (Gr.4-6)

M Sandman, Howard E. Who's Afraid of Thunder? The Story of the Weather; with drawings by Peter White. Sterling, 1953. 61p. \$2. (The World We Live In Series). Contrived story of the weather that has the dual purpose of showing what causes weather and of overcoming a child's fear of thunder. Nine-year-old Peter Shelton always crawled under the bed during a thunderstorm until one day when his father took him to the local airport and had the weatherman there explain what causes thunder. Schneider, Everyday Weather and How It Works (Whittlesey, 1951) and Zim, Lightning and Thunder (Morrow, 1952) do a much better job of the same subject. (Gr.3-5)

NR Scholz, Jackson Volney. One-Man Team. Morrow, 1953. 249p. \$2.50. Lawton College was about to lose its football team unless it could, by some miracle, win five games of the year's schedule. Since a new ruling had gone into effect eliminating football scholarships in the college, the chances of the team's winning even one game were practically non-existent. Then the team manager discovered Elmer Finch, a typical hay-seed with all the potentialities of a great player. He persuaded Elmer to enroll in Lawton by some rather questionable maneuverings and persuaded him to play on the team by employing even more questionable tactics. The whole tone of the book implies that football is of infinitely greater importance to a school than is the scholastic side of college, and

that any action, no matter how unethical otherwise, is permissible if it helps a school to win its football games. The ethics of the story are impossible, the characterizations are ridiculous, and the whole book thoroughly distasteful.

(Gr.7-9)

SpC Steiner, Charlotte, comp. Happy Birthday Book; An Anthology of Verses and Stories. Garden City, 1953. 45p. \$2.50.

A collection of nine birthday verses and six birthday stories for children from one through six. Contents include the music and words for the traditional Happy Birthday song, the flowers and birthstones for each month, an album page for the child to fill in with pertinent information about his own birthday, a special verse and picture for each year up through six, and stories and verse by well-known authors. The illustrations are cloyingly sweet and sentimental. For home use only. (Ages 1-6)

Ad Sterne, Emma (Gelders), ed. Watchtowers and Drums; illus. by Peter Burchard. Aladdin, 1953. 234p. \$2.75.

A collection of twelve short stories about forts that have played an important part in American history. The stories are very uneven in quality and do not always make clear just what was the importance of a particular fort in the country's development. The forts included are: Fort Sullivan, South Carolina; Fort McHenry, Maryland; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Fort Ticonderoga, New York; Fort Edward Augustus, Wisconsin; Camp Verde, Texas; Fort Phil Kearney, Wyoming; Fort Ridgeley, Minnesota; Fort Nisqually, Washington; Sutter's Fort, California. (Gr.6-8)

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. In a Mirror. Harper, 1953. 211p. \$2.50 (Values: Appreciation of others; Self-appraisal; Handicaps, Adjustment to—Oversize).

A sensitive, perceptive insight into the mind and emotions of a young girl in her third year of college. Far from being the typical story-book heroine, Bessie Muller is fat and inclined to be somewhat self-centered. She begins to recognize her faults, however, and by the end of the year has even instituted some minor reforms. The story, written in the form of Bessie's journal, is, on the surface, primarily about Bessie's roommate, beautiful and popular Til Carey, but actually it is a very penetrating and mature picture of Bessie herself. Teen-age girls will find here not only an understanding of some of their problems but an excellent piece of writing that will serve as a step forward toward their appreciation of good adult novels. (Gr.8-12)

Ad Verral, Charles Spain. Captain of the Ice. Crowell, 1953. 151p. \$2.50
Pierre (Frenchy) Beaumont was excited at the

thought that his family was finally settling down in Pineville after years of moving from one town to another. He was even more excited at the idea of playing ice hockey on the Pineville High School team. He was an excellent player, but making the team was not as easy as he had assumed it would be. There was Jimmy Powell, the boy next door, to be considered. Jimmy resented Frenchy both because of his foreign background and because he represented a threat to Jimmy's desire to become captain of the hockey team. After the usual ups and downs the two realize that the team comes first, and all ends well. The author unfortunately gives the impression of being in sympathy with the school's system of choosing a captain on the basis of the number of goals made—a system that invites individual starrng rather than team play. The descriptions of the game are quite good and will, to a great extent, overcome the lack of originality in the plot.

(Gr.7-9)

R White, Anne Terry. The First Men in the World; illus. by Aldren Watson. Random House, 1953. 178p. (A World Landmark Book). \$1.50.

Following a pattern similar to her Prehistoric America, the author traces the history of mankind through modern archeological and anthropological discoveries relating to pre-historic man. She succeeds in imparting to the reader much of the excitement which the scientists felt when making the discoveries, and opens many new fields of interest for further reading.

(Gr.5-12)

NR Williams, Charles. It Was All Very Strange; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Abelard, 1953. 159p. \$2.50.

A collection of tales told by Uncle Fritz to his young niece and nephew. The stories are of the exaggerated, real-fanciful type, heavily dependent on slap-stick for their humor. The pattern of the stories makes the book extremely monotonous when read from beginning to end. Occasionally the author tries harder for his effects than the results warrant.

(Gr.4-6)

NR Wood, Katherine. The Ambitious Elephant. McKay, 1953. 32p. \$1.50.

Louise, a six-year-old performing elephant, practices her tricks for the evening performance by going out into the town and causing all sorts of destruction, which delights the children no end, but angers and terrifies the adults. The town policeman and fire department, who try to stop Louise, are characterized as objects of ridicule in both text and illustrations, and the destructiveness of the elephant is seemingly condoned.

(Pre-school)

W Ad Wright, Frances Fitzpatrick. Sam Houston, Fighter and Leader; illus. by Robert Burns. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1953. 128p. (Makers of America). \$1.50.

A simply written biography of Sam Houston that takes him from his birth to the end of his public career when he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy and so was forced to give up his office as Governor of Texas. The writing is not outstanding, but the book gives a fair and unbiased picture of the man and his times.

(Gr.4-6)

NR Wyndham, Lee. Golden Slippers; illus. by Vera Bock. Longmans, 1953. 211p. \$2.75.

Maggie Jones, heroine of Slipper Under Glass, is now in New York for the filming of the movie, "Golden Slippers", in which she has an important role. She is still fighting the idea of dancing comedy roles rather than the classical ballet which is her first love. She is, also, still battling Duncan Elliott, her partner, and the man who suggested her for the comedy part in the movie. Inevitable she comes to accept both Duncan and the new style of dancing. The plot is obvious; the characters are unrealistic.

(Gr.7-9)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Materials

Burroughs, Margaret Taylor. "Uncle Remus for Today's Children" Elementary English 30:485-492 D'53.

Children and Parents Go To "School"; A Year's Program with Preschool Children and Their Parents. Public Library of Newark, New Jersey, 1953.

Dale, Edgar. "The Effects of the Mass Media" The News Letter (Ohio State University) 19:1-4 N'53.

Robinson, Helen M., ed. Corrective Reading in Classroom and Clinic. Supplementary Educational Monograph, No. 79. University of Chicago Press, 1953. 256p. \$3.50.

Contains a bibliography of noteworthy books published since the 1952 Reading Conference, graded by reading level and subject interest level.