



I L L I N O I S

---

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign Library  
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.



# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VIII

November, 1954

Number 3

### 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 ✓ Agle, Nan Hayden and Wilson, Ellen. Three Boys and a Mine; illus. by Marian Honigman. Scribner's, 1954. 122p. \$2.  
More adventures of the triplets, Abercrombie, Benjamin and Christopher. This time they are off, with their dog John Paul Jones, to visit their grandmother's cousin, Pop Robbi, who works in a coal mine. In the mining town of Bonyville they make friends with a small girl whom they later help rescue when she is caught in an old mine shaft that has caved in; they take part in the contest between the new fire engine of Bonyville and that of the nearby town of Green Mountain; and, as a result of their rescue work, they are taken for a trip down into the mine itself. Except for the names of the characters, many of which will prove real obstacles to beginning readers, the story is simply written and will have appeal because of the subject. Could also be used as supplementary material for a unit on mining. (Gr.2-4)
- R ✓ Anderson, Neil. Meet Sandy Smith; illus. by Mary Stevens. Messner, 1954. 160p.

\$2.50. (Values: Age-Mate Relations; Adaptability)

When seven-year-old Sandy Smith and his family move from their ranch home in New Mexico to a new housing development just outside of New York City, he finds that he has many adjustments to make to the new way of life. For the first time in his life he has an opportunity to play with other children, and it takes a while before he knows how to make friends with the boys his own age. Then there is the problem of apartment living—and especially the self-service elevator of which Sandy is so frightened that for weeks he walks up and down the seventeen flights of stairs to his apartment rather than try to run the elevator alone. The story has some good points in its picture of the difficulties of adjustment to a new way of life, although the elevator episode seems rather far-fetched. Sandy's father is a painter and through Sandy's reactions to his father's work the author presents some interesting and very fair arguments on both sides of the "modern" vs "traditional" schools of art appreciation. (Gr.3-5)

- R ✓ Averill, Esther. Jenny's Birthday Book. Harper, 1954. 30p. \$2.  
Jenny, the small black cat with the bright red scarf, celebrates her birthday with a picnic in

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.

the park. All of her friends are invited and after the picnic supper they dance the sailor's hornpipe until time to return home. Children who have enjoyed the earlier stories about Jenny and her friends will find this one quite different in that there is very little story element, but it is equally appealing. The format is also different, being of picture book size (7 1/2 x 10) whereas the earlier books were 5 x 7 1/2. The illustrations have the same gaiety and charm that have appealed to so many young children in the past.

(Pre-school-Gr.1)

- ✓ R Bailey, Jean. Rod's Dog; illus. by Sidney Quinn. Abingdon, 1954. 192p. \$ 2.50.  
(Values: Group Acceptance; Self-Appraisal; Family Relations)

Twelve-year-old Rodney Colwill was an unhappy and resentful boy when he first went to spend a summer with his Uncle Glenn and Aunt Suse on the farm near Hessdon, Kansas. Rod's father was a construction engineer and he and Rod's mother spent considerable time on jobs in other countries. Rod had always been left behind so that his schooling would not be affected, and by the time he went to visit his aunt and uncle had become convinced that his parents cared nothing for him. As a result he was determined to make himself so disagreeable that his aunt and uncle would send him back to Chicago where he at least had the "gang" to make him feel welcome. The sympathetic understanding of his aunt and uncle, the hard-won but sincere friendship of some of the neighborhood boys, and above all, the love of Maggie Muffin, a small dog that Rod rescued when it was injured and half-starved, all combined to convince the boy that he had at last found a place of love and security. The writing becomes somewhat sentimental at times, but is generally true to twelve-year-old boy psychology. (Gr.7-9)

- ↓ Ad Barr, Jene. Mike, the Milkman; illus. by Chauncey Maltman. Whitman, 1953. 32p. \$ 1.25.

Young Peter wants to know where milk comes from so the obliging milkman, Mike, gives him a step-by-step account of the whole process from cow to breakfast table. The story is very contrived and is not as well handled as the same material in the Schloat, Milk for You (Scribner, 1951), but it could be used with primary units on the subject. Written at an upper second grade reading level. (Gr.2-4)

- ↓ R Beim, Jerrold. Who's Who in Your Family; pictures by Mary Stevens. Watts, 1954. 59p. \$ 2.50. (Values: Family Relations)

An attempt to straighten out for the young reader the whole confusing problem of relatives. The author has used the device of a family photograph album with pictures of an average boy, Chris Green, and all of his relatives. Includes the prob-

lems of divorce and second marriages, adoption, step-parents, and half-brothers and sisters. A chart shows quite clearly first, second, and third cousin relationships as well as the "removes"; that is, first cousin once removed, etc. The results are reasonably successful and could be interesting for the youngster who is wondering about such relationships. (Gr.3-5)

- ✓ R Bell, Margaret Elizabeth. Love Is Forever. Morrow, 1954. 218p. \$ 2.75. (Values: Courtship and Marriage, Preparation for)

In this third story of the Monroe family (Watch for a Tall White Sail and Totem Casts a Shadow) the author takes Florence Monroe from the time of her marriage to Beldon Craig through most of the first year of their life together at Beldon's saltery in the backwoods of Alaska. Florence has been so thoroughly indoctrinated by both her mother and her father as to what is proper behavior for a lady that she almost lets it spoil her life with Beldon by being too prudish to wear the right kind of clothes for going with him on his hunting and fishing expeditions. Then after a frightening experience when she is lost in the woods for two days and nights, she realizes her foolishness and also for the first time, makes a complete break away from her domineering father. The book has the same warmth of characterization and feeling for life in the wilderness of Alaska that were to be found in the earlier titles. (Gr.8-12)

- ✓ R Benary-Isbert, Margot. Rowan Farm; trans. from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. Harcourt, 1954. 277p. \$ 2.50.  
(Values: International understanding; Family Relations; Devotion to a Cause).

Although written as a sequel to The Ark, this can be treated as an independent story, and is, in some ways even better than the first book. The Lechow family are all together at Rowan Farm, with Dr. Lechow, home from prison camp, beginning to make a new life for himself as he slowly regains his health. The story centers primarily around sixteen-year-old Margret, her budding romance and her decision to stay on the farm rather than accept an offer to go to America to live. There is warmth and humor in the telling of the ups and downs of the various members of the family, and a depth of characterization and a maturity that will give the book appeal for teenage readers. (Gr.8-12)

- ↓ NR Berman, Rhoda A. When You Were a Little Baby; pictures by Mariana. Lothrop, 1954. 25p. \$ 2.

An attempt to show to the very young child what he was like as a baby, as an aid to his understanding his own baby brothers or sisters. The book is obviously intended for the very young child but neither the text nor the illustrations

is suited to the pre-school age. The illustrations will appeal to adults but will be more confusing than intelligible for young children.  
(Pre-school)

R Bishop, Claire Huchet. Martin de Porres, Hero; illus. by Jean Charlot. Houghton, 1954. 120p. \$ 2.50 (Values: Service to others).

The third title in Mrs. Bishop's series on the lives of the saints. Martin de Porres was a Spanish-Negro living in Peru in the seventeenth century. His early life of extremes of poverty and wealth, and his deep concern for the fate of all poor people living in Lima, a concern which led to his study of medicine and his joining the Dominican convent as a lay brother, are told in a clear, precise manner that makes both the people and the background stand out starkly real. The religious aspect of Martin's life is in no way minimized, but it is handled in such a way that that the book will also have value and appeal for social studies classes as one of the early examples of a social conscience in the New World.

(Gr.7-9)

NR Bishop, Curtis, Larry Leads Off. Steck, 1954. 149p. \$ 2.

In this sequel to Larry of Little League, Larry Scott is again playing Little League baseball, but this time the problems presented are not his. The story revolves around the difficulties of one Tommy Millican, a new boy whose seemingly irresponsible ways almost cost him a place on the team. Then the players discover that Tommy's troubles stem from the fact that his father has been lost over Korea and Tommy has refused to face the fact that his father is missing and may even be dead. In the end, of course, Mr. Millican returns in a tear jerking, flag waving scene. The psychology of the story is decidedly unsound in that Tommy should have been helped to overcome his attitude rather than being pampered in it. The writing is very poor and the characterizations are sentimental and unrealistic.

(Gr.5-7)

NR Blyton, Enid. Susan and the Birds and Other Stories; illus. by Eileen A. Soper. London, Macmillan, 1953. 192p. (My Fifth Nature Book). \$ 1.50.

Twelve nature stories involving personified plants and animals, plus a generous sprinkling of gnomes, fairies, and elves. The coyly condescending tone and excessive personification keep the stories from having any value as nature study material or any appeal simply as stories. The introduction of elements of fantasy occasionally results in misconceptions about the real facts. The paper is quite poor and ink shows through in many spots, making the text difficult to read.

(Gr.3-5)

R Brock, Emma Lillian. Ballet for Mary. Knopf, 1954. 81p. \$ 2.50.

Amusing story of "Sudden" Mary, an eight-year-old who is all angles and awkwardness, and who decides that she would like to join her best friend in taking ballet lessons. Her family fear that this will simply mean more upset and broken furniture, but they agree to let her try. Although she does not become exactly graceful, she does, as her mother says, learn to "bump into things more skillfully," and when the class gives its first recital, Mary inadvertently becomes the star performer. As in her Kristie books, Miss Brock has written with warmth and humor of real and exceedingly likable people.

(Gr.3-5)

NR Bromhall, Winifred. Circus Surprise. Knopf, 1954. 28p. \$ 2.

Sue and Sandy, seven-year-old twins, thought there was surely no possibility that they could go to the circus. Their allowance was spent and there was no way that they could see of getting additional money. To console themselves, they packed a lunch and went to the woods for a picnic. There they found a baby bear that had wandered away from the circus and by restoring it to its owner they gained admittance to the show. An excessively sweet story, with little substance in either the text or illustrations.

(Gr.2-3)

R Brown, Margaret Wise and Gergely, Tibor. Wheel on the Chimney. Lippincott, 1954. 31p. \$ 3.

Brief, rhythmical text describing the life of a stork from the time of the nesting season in Hungary through the migration to South Africa for the winter, and back the next summer to Hungary. The illustrations are the most important part of the book and they vary widely from some pleasingly colorful scenes to sheer calendar art. The text is best suited to reading aloud to young children.

(K.-Gr.3)

M Brown, Slater. Gray Bonnets; In the Days of Roger Williams; illus. by Fritz Kredel. Aladdin, 1954. 192p. (American Heritage Series). \$ 1.75.

In 1656, young Dan Wilkins was living in Boston with his sister and the uncle who had cared for the two children since the death of their parents some years before. Although Dan had been reared a strict Puritan, he became interested in the first Quakers who came to Boston and who were immediately imprisoned. In trying to help them he brought the wrath of Governor Endicott down on his own head and was forced to flee to Roger Williams' town of Providence in what is now Rhode Island. From there he went, with a sailor friend, to London and was instrumental in getting from Charles II a letter ordering Endicott to

allow the Quakers their freedom in Boston. The writing is not outstanding and the book will be primarily useful as supplementary reading material for American History classes.

(Gr.6-8)

NR Burgess, Thornton Waldo. A Thornton Burgess Story Book; illus. by Nino Carbe. Garden City Books, 1954. 40p. \$ 1.50.

Four stories taken from Thornton Burgess' Old Mother West Wind. The sentimental style and excessive personification of both the text and illustrations keep the stories from being acceptable as nature study material and they have only slight appeal simply as stories. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Cameron, Eleanor. The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet; with illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, Brown, 1954. 214p. \$ 2.75.

Space fantasy for young readers. Two young boys, David Topman, and his friend Chuck Masterson, build a space ship in response to a strange request which David reads in the evening paper. The advertisement comes from Mr. Tyco Bass, a grower of mushrooms and inventor of strange machines, who wants the boys to go on a space trip to a mysterious and unknown planet, a satellite of the earth, to help the people there who are in some kind of trouble. Both Mr. Bass and the people of Basidium, the planet, are called mushroom people because, like mushrooms, they develop from spores. The boys take off, using a new fuel that Mr. Bass has discovered, and they manage to solve the crisis that is facing the Basidium-ites. Because their trip is made at night and takes only six hours from beginning to end, the families of both boys are quite sure this was only a dream, although a letter from Mr. Bass, written to the boys just before he took off on another transmigration, makes them wonder if perhaps they might not be the ones who are wrong. The book depends too much on mysterious fuels and mystic forces to qualify as science fiction. (Gr.4-6)

R Carden, Priscilla. Aldo's Tower; illus. by Kurt Werth. Ariel, 1954. 64p. \$ 2.75.

Aldo is a small boy living with his family in a post-war Italian town. The only place that the family can find to live in is a dark, damp, and cold cellar near the waterfront. Then one day Aldo goes on an expedition to find the sunshine and discovers an old abandoned tower on the top of a hill. Several families are already living in it but Aldo's family decides to move to the very top and camp out there. To make the new home perfect, Aldo's father finds some old-fashioned, but usable stone ovens nearby and can once more start his work as a baker. Some children may be perturbed by the sequence in which Aldo is alone at night on the top of the

tower and thinks that his family is not going to join him there, but the scene is not too drawn out and the ending is a happy one. (Gr.4-6)

M Cheney, Cora. Skeleton Cave; illus. by Paul Galdone. Holt, 1954. 108p. \$ 2.

An exceedingly slight story of a young boy living on a farm near Birmingham, Alabama, who finds an Indian skeleton in a cave near his home. His superstitious mother forbids him to go into the cave, but his understanding grandfather helps him to find a way to overcome his mother's fears. The boy also manages to bring his find to the attention of some anthropologists in Birmingham and is amply rewarded by them. (Gr.4-6)

R Clark, Ann (Nolan). Blue Canyon Horse; illus. by Allan Houser. Viking, 1954. 55p. \$ 2.75.

In the same rhythmic, free verse style of In My Mother's House and Looking for Something, the author tells of a young mare belonging to a small Indian boy who lives near the river in the blue canyon. One spring night the mare feels a longing for freedom and runs away to join a herd of wild horses that range on the rim of the canyon. Throughout the summer, fall, and winter seasons she remains with the herd. But then the following spring, after her colt has been born, she returns to the canyon and the safety of the boy's friendship and protection. A quiet-moving story, simply told, that will appeal to the more sensitive readers. Houser's illustrations, in soft muted colors are well suited to the mood of the text. (Gr.5-7)

NR Coe, Lloyd. Boku and the Sound. Crowell, 1954. 30p. \$ 2.

Boku is a chimpanzee living in Africa who becomes intrigued by the sound of the drums which the natives beat at night and goes off to hunt for the sound. When he finally finds the drum he cannot resist beating on it, and is delighted when the friendly native who owns the drum gives it to him. The writing lacks literary merit and there is not enough humor to the story or the illustrations to make up for the fact that the story is rather pointless. (K.-Gr.1)

R Colonius, Lillian and Schroeder, Glenn W. At the Airport. Melmont Pub., 1954. 24p. \$ 1.35 pre-bound.

While Jack and Carl are waiting at the airport for their Uncle Jim, their father arranges to have a guide show them around and explain the work that goes on in various parts of the building. The simple text and clear, informative photographs will give the book value and appeal for young readers. The text could be handled with ease by most third grade readers, and with some vocabulary work in advance could be

handled by second grade readers. (Gr.2-4)

NR Colonius, Lillian and Schroeder, Glenn W.  
At the Zoo. Melmont Pub., 1954. 23p.  
\$1.35 pre-bound.

Two small children visit the zoo and see the various animals that are housed there. The information about the animals is not always correct; the photographs are rather mediocre and do not always give clear pictures of the animals being described. At one place the children are pictured holding out their hands, to try to feed one of the animals, a practice that is not only dangerous but is also strictly forbidden in most zoos. In spite of its simple text the book has too many weaknesses to give it any value.  
(Gr.2-4)

NR Coombs, Charles I. Celestial Space, Inc.  
Westminster, 1954. 190p. \$2.75.

A far-fetched, long-drawn-out story of a young boy who sets about trying to bring new life to his home town of Riverdale by devising a scheme whereby he and two friends become the sole owners of space—for a distance of 100 light years from the Riverdale court house steps. When they begin trying to charge people for the use of space, the newspapers take up the story and give it big headlines. Newspaper and TV men, as well as curiosity seekers, pour into the small town until it has regained the prosperity that the townspeople had thought was lost forever. As a climax, a large aircraft plant decides to locate there and Riverdale is thereby assured a prosperous future. A labored, forced plot with little humor.  
(Gr.7-9)

NR Cox, Elinor D. Fairy Snow; illus. by Dave Lyons. Pageant Press, 1953. 37p. \$2.  
A collection of very mediocre verse for children. There are a few liltts to a few lines, but for the most part it plods.  
(Gr.1-3)

R Du Soe, Robert C. Detached Command;  
decorations by Arthur Harper. Longmans,  
1954. 206p. \$2.75.

Another story about Midshipman Jonithan Amory, his friend Boatswain Adam, and the red-headed, erstwhile pirate Killigrew. The time is 1815, and Jonithan is stationed aboard the Navy vessel Petrel which has orders to clean out some of the pirates who are operating in the Caribbean and along the coast of Venezuela in the Pacific. As in the earlier stories about the young Midshipman, this one has a full quota of fights between men and ships, and of storms at sea. Jonithan seems well on his way to becoming a junior Hornblower.  
(Gr. 6-8)

NR Earle, Vana. Wish Around the World.  
McKay, 1954. 32p. \$2.50.  
Young Danny started out early one morning to go

around the world, but he knew he must be back in time for supper. When he became discouraged with boats, trains, and even airplanes because they could not make the trip fast enough, he then discovered that he could learn much about the world by visting people of different nationalities in his own town. Unfortunately what he learns from the people are all of the old stereotypes about the various countries.

(K-Gr.3)

SpC Eberling, Georgia Moore. When Jesus Was a Little Boy; illus. by Katherine Evans.  
Childrens Press, 1954. 27p. \$1.50.

Rhymed text that gives an impressionistic picture of what life might have been like when Jesus was a very small boy. The illustrations are exceedingly sentimental and give a glamorized picture of the village of Nazareth. A very specialized item that will be primarily useful for Sunday School and home use.  
(K-Gr.1)

R Fatio, Louise. The Happy Lion; pictures by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House,  
1954. 28p. \$1.95.

Amusing picture-story book about a lion living in a zoo in Paris. The lion was happy because everyone who went by his cage always wished him a "Bonjour". Then one day his keeper left the door open by mistake and the lion decided to go visit his friends. As might be expected, the sight of a lion loose on the streets of Paris caused pandemonium, and the poor lion could not understand why all of the people ran away instead of stopping to say "Bonjour" as they had always done before. Then the keeper's little boy came along, greeted the lion as usual, and led him back to the zoo. After that the lion was content to stay in his cage and let the people come to visit him. Duvoisin's pictures of the lion will bring many a delighted chuckle from young and old alike.  
(K-Gr.3)

R Faulkner, Harold Underwood. A Visual History of the United States; illus. by Graphics Institute. Schuman, 1953.  
199p. \$5.

A history of the United States largely presented through graphic material—pictographs, charts, symbols, etc. The idea is an interesting one and is, in the main, successfully carried out. As might be expected some phases of history lend themselves more readily to this type of presentation than do others. The book will make useful supplementary reading material for American History classes and is interesting just for browsing.  
(Gr.7- )

Ad Fisher, James. The Wonderful World; The Adventure of the Earth We Live On; Art editor: F. H. K. Henrion. Hanover House,  
1954. 67p. \$2.50.

A history of the development of the world from very earliest to modern times told through brief text and numerous maps, charts, diagrams, and pictures. The material is divided into three parts: (1) How the World Began, which includes the world in the making, the four ages of life, and man's age of life; (2) The Face of the World, which includes the earth and the sun, the winds, and nature's work; and (3) Man's World, including how man lives, where man lives, man and his faiths, man and the unknown, and the last secrets. So much has been compressed into so small a space that much of the material is given very superficial treatment, but the book could be used as an introductory book for these subjects or for browsing at the upper elementary and junior high school levels. Size: 9 3/4 x 12 3/4.

(Gr.6-9)

M ✓ Goldberg, Martha. The Twirly Skirt; pictures by Helen Stone. Holiday House, 1954. 47p. \$ 1.75. (Values: Sharing; Friendship values; Age-Mate relations)

Very slight story of two little girls, best friends, who decide to celebrate their birthdays together because the mother of one of the girls has to work and does not have time to plan a birthday party. Terry, who is sharing her birthday, is the proud owner of a new party dress with a "twirly" skirt, and Jean's mother has promised her one just like it. The dress almost does not arrive in time for the party, but it finally comes and the party ends happily for everyone. There is a nice feeling of friendship and sharing, although Terry does seem almost too good to be real.

(Gr.3-4)

NR ✓ Harper, Irene Mason. Chand of India; illus. by Jeanyee Wong. Friendship Press, 1954. 120p. \$ 2 cloth; \$ 1.25 paper.

A very contrived story of a young Christian boy living in modern Pakistan. Chand's father is the teacher in the village Christian school, but Chand's own ambition is to become a champion at sports. Then Chand meets a young American boy and through his friendship learns the meaning of his father's statement that "winning contests of strength is not the most important thing in the world." The story is poorly written and does not have much to offer young readers either as a piece of fiction or as an informational book about Pakistan.

(Gr.5-7)

M ✓ Johnson, Grace Tracy and Harold N. Courage Wins; illus. by Peter Burchard. Dutton, 1954. 222p. \$ 2.75.

A run-of-the-mill pioneer story with little to distinguish it in either plot or characterizations from many other similar stories. The story tells of Uriah Cobb, his wife and four children, who travel from their home in Connecticut to the Ohio Western Reserve country just before the

War of 1812. Their problems in building up their farm and in defending it against the Indians who were turned against the settlers by the English makes a fairly readable, but in no way outstanding story.

(Gr.6-8)

M ✓ Jones, Mary Alice. My First Book about Jesus; illus. by Robert Hatch. Rand McNally, 1953. 26p. (A Book-Elf Giant) \$ 1.

Very brief, simplified re-tellings of some of the events in the life of Jesus, including some of the miracles and parables. The text avoids any of the events or teachings that might not be understood by very young children. The simply written text is more useful than the illustrations, which are mediocre and characterless. Written at a second grade reading level.

(5-7 yrs.)

M ✓ Kessler, Ethel and Leonard. Plink Plink! Doubleday, 1954. 30p. \$ 1.50.

The many uses of water—for goldfish, whales, ducks, and children to swim in; for tugboats, big ships, rowboats, and toy sail boats to float on; to wash elephants, streets, dogs, and children's feet; and to keep alive plants, trees, flowers, cows, cats, birds, mice, and children—all presented in simple text and illustrations. The text is adequate, but the illustrations are an adult's attempts to imitate a child's drawings.

(Pre-School)

M ✓ Lawrence, Mildred. Dreamboats for Trudy; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. Harcourt, 1954. 183p. \$ 2.75.

Adolescent growing pains and international espionage are combined, not too successfully, in this story of fifteen-year-old Trudy Freeman's first trip to Europe. The trip was supposed to have been a honeymoon trip for Trudy's mother and stepfather, Mark Benson. However, when it turned out that there was no one to stay with Trudy and the two Benson children, fifteen-year-old Brooke and eight-year-old Keith, they were all taken along. Trudy's adjustment to her new family (especially her glamorous stepsister), her increasing self-confidence as she learns to be neater in her dress and personal habits, and her intense interest in people and places all combine to make a good picture of a typical fifteen-year-old. The espionage in which Mark Benson is involved as a government agent investigating the possibility that the Russians are releasing harmful insects to destroy European crops, is much less successfully handled. The cloaks and daggers are too obvious, and the results of the investigation too vague to do more than clutter the story.

(Gr. 7-9)

R ✓ Lewellen, John Bryan. The Atomic Submarine; illus. by Paul Valentino. Crowell, 1954. 134p. \$ 2.50.

An interestingly written account of the development

of the submarine from the time of Bushnell's Turtle to modern days. Although the major emphasis is on the description of the new atomic submarine, Nautilus, there is much information about other types of submarines as they are contrasted with the Nautilus, and there is a very clear discussion of how atomic power is produced. The material is well organized and quite readable even for persons not versed in the lore of submarines or atomic energy. (Gr.7-12)

R Liu, Beatrice. Little Wu and the Watermelons; illus. by Graham Peck. Follett, 1954. 96p. \$2.50. (Values: Family relations; International understanding).

A delightful tale of a small boy of the Hua Miao tribe of Southwest China and his efforts to earn enough money to buy a present for his mother. Little Wu wanted to show his mother that he thought her the most beautiful mother in the world and he decided that the way to do so would be to buy her a piece of jewelry. When he finally had enough money, most of it gained from the sale of some watermelons he had painstakingly raised, he realized that jewelry was not what she wanted most, but for the family to be able to buy a small field of their own. In the end he helped to buy the field and even had enough money for a very small pin for his mother. This variation on a well-loved theme is told with a warmth of family relations and a sympathetic understanding of the people of the Hua Miao tribe. (Gr.4-6)

NR McDowell, David. Robert E. Lee; illus. by William Hutchinson. Random House, 1953. 62p. \$1.

A brief, extremely stilted biography of Lee. The facts of his life are all here but there is no vitality in the recounting of them. The calendar type illustrations do nothing to aid the text. The style is much more difficult than the format of the book would suggest. (Gr.5-7)

NR Martin, Nancy. Call the Vet; illus. by Douglas Relf. St. Martin's Press, 1953. 146p. \$1.50.

An English career story about a young boy who is having difficulty deciding what he wants to do when he has finished school, and whose father sends him to a farm for a holiday to see if he thinks he would like farming. On the farm he discovers a great interest in veterinary medicine and decides to make that his life work. The very British vocabulary and information about the way to enter such a profession will limit the book's usefulness in this country, and there is not enough story to give the book interest for general reading. (Gr.6-8)

R Miers, Earl Schenck. The Kid Who Beat the Dodgers and Other Sports Stories; illus. by Paul Galdone. World, 1954. 190p. \$2.50.

Twelve short stories about various kinds of sports. The stories follow rather familiar patterns but are generally well-told, with a spark that is unusual for collections of this kind. The sports involved are: major league baseball, tennis, rodeo (bronc busting), track, golf, sailing, cross-country running, football, polo, basketball, diving, and skiing. (Gr.6-8)

M Monsell, Helen Albee. Susan Anthony, Girl Who Dared; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans). \$175.

Fictionalized biography of Susan Anthony, beginning when she was five years old. The book has more story appeal than is found in many of the titles in this series, and is less stilted writing. Susan emerges as a real and likable girl, and although the book never quite makes clear just what was her contribution to history—or wherein she dared—it does give a rather interesting picture of life during this period. Susan's work in behalf of the temperance movement is glossed over and her own temperment as a stern and militant worker is never revealed. (Gr.3-5)

NR Munari, Bruno. Georgie Has Lost His Cap; Where Can He Have Left It? British Book Centre, 1954. 12p. \$1.25.

NR Munari, Bruno. The Lorry Driver. British Book Centre, 1954. 22p. \$1.25.

NR Munari, Bruno. What I'd Like To Be. British Book Centre, 1954. 12p. \$1.25.

Three picture books, originally published in Italy, and translated into English for the Harvill Press of London. Each book contains full-page, colored illustrations. Two of the books have a question on each page that is answered by lifting a section of the illustration to see what is underneath. The third book, The Lorry Driver, tells of Mark, the lorry driver, who starts out in a large truck to deliver a birthday package to his young son. Each mile that he travels something happens to his vehicle and he keeps transferring to a new mode of transportation, each one smaller than the one preceeding, until he is finally on foot. As the vehicles become smaller so do the pages of the book up to the point where Mark starts walking, and then the pages become increasingly larger until he finally reaches the house. The final page shows the birthday box, which can be lifted up and the contents exposed. The books have paper backs and are much too insubstantial for library use. Some of the illustrations are quite sophisticated for young children. (K-Gr. 1)

M Nourse, Alan E. Trouble on Titan; jacket and endpaper designs by Alex Schomburg. Winston, 1954. 208p. (Winston Science Fiction Series). \$2.

Titan is one of the satellites of Saturn which,

in the year 2180, was an important source of a rare metal which made possible much of the technological progress on Earth. When trouble started in the mines on Titan, Colonel Benedict was sent out to find its cause and correct it. He took with him his son, Tuck, who had just finished high school and was planning to enter the Polytechnic Institute to study rocketry. On Titan the Benedicts found a serious situation that almost caused their deaths and the ruin of the mines. It was only through the intervention of Tuck and David Torm, young son of the Titans' leader, that real trouble was prevented. The science part of the story is acceptable, but the book does not hold up well as fiction. The characterizations are poorly drawn with the people more like types than individuals.

(Gr.7-9)

M Peterson, Phyllis Lee. The Log Cabin in the Forest; illus. by Ati Forberg. Houghton, 1954. 26p. \$2.

The story of a log cabin built during colonial days. It was a happy cabin as long as there were people living in it, but the children who had grown up in it went to the city to live and eventually their parents also left. For a long time the cabin was lonely except for the small animals that made their homes in it. Then a city began to grow nearby, the cabin was discovered by some children, and was taken to the city and set up there as a museum. It was never lonely again. The jacket indicates that the book is intended for ages 5-9. The text is written at a sixth grade reading level, so the book would need to be read aloud if used with younger children. The illustrations are attractive but are more suited to older children and adults than to the very young. Could be used as supplementary material for American History classes. (Gr.5-7)

NR Potter, Miriam (Clark). The Golden Book of Little Verses; pictures by Mary Blair. Simon and Schuster, 1954. 30p. (A Big Golden Book). \$3 Golden Craft Cloth Binding.

Thirty-two very average verses about everyday things in a child's experiences. The full-page, colored illustrations which accompany each poem have more appeal than do the poems themselves, and they are quite uneven in quality. (K-Gr.1)

R Purcell, John Wallace. The True Book of African Animals; pictures by Katherine Evans. Childrens Press, 1954. 47p. \$2.

Using a large river in Africa as a focal point the author describes some of the different kinds of animals that come to its banks to drink during a prolonged dry spell. Included are elephants, baboons, a leopard, buffaloes, a hippopotamus,

crocodiles, a rhinoceros, an ostrich, zebras, antelopes, lions, and giraffes. The writing is interesting. The somewhat stylized drawings manage to give a feeling for the various kinds of animals and are especially good for showing the protective coloring of some of the animals. Written at a beginning third grade reading level.

(Gr.2-4)

R Ross, Frank Xavier. Young People's Book of Jet Propulsion. New rev. and enl. ed., containing foreign jets. Lothrop, 1954. 192p. \$2.75.

A new edition bringing up to date some of the information in the earlier edition, and including a completely new section on foreign jets. Most of the illustrations are new. Because of the rather extensive coverage in the section on foreign jets, some libraries may find this edition useful to have even though they already have the earlier (1950) edition. (Gr.8-12)

NR Rydberg, Ernie, Sixteen Is Special; decorations by Millard McGee. Longmans, 1954. 151p. \$2.50.

Jacqueline McGuire Jackson, known to her friends as McGuire, had never had a birthday party or a birthday present in all of her sixteen years. The aunt with whom she had lived since she was four made a meager living by operating a boarding house, and there never seemed to be enough extra cash for birthday presents. On her sixteenth birthday, McGuire took her savings and went to an express company auction of unclaimed packages to buy herself a surprise birthday present. She could not bring herself to open the present, but used it for inspiration and encouragement whenever she faced a new problem—personal or related to the teen-age club to which she belonged. Some of the teen-age problems that are dealt with are very real ones and are well handled. However, the basis of the story is scarcely credible and the characterizations are unrealistic. (Gr.7-9)

NR Sanford, Agnes. Let's Believe; illus by Ted Sanford. Harper Religious Education Department, 1954. 121p. \$2.

An attempt to teach young children some of the basic principles of religious faith. Some of the ideas are good, but the presentation is hopelessly written-down and condescending. A few of the concepts, such as calling the subconscious "Junior" are repelling. Some of the author's statements are not wholly correct—as for instance, that you can jump off a cliff with a parachute and not risk being killed; or that water cannot flow uphill. Many of the illustrations are grotesquely ugly. (Gr.2-4)