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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

Ad Aesop. *Aesop's Fables*; sel. and ed. by Laura Harris; illus. by Tony Palazzo. Garden City Books, 1954. 93 p. \$2.50

A re-telling of forty-four fables of Aesop in exceedingly simplified form and with the "morals" re-stated. The versions lack the beauty of language of the Jacobs or the James and Townsend editions. The full-page, full-color illustrations by Palazzo give the book its chief value. (Gr. 4-6)

NR Adrian, Mary. *The Hidden Spring Mystery*; illus. by Harve Stein. Ariel, 1954. 122 p. \$2.50.

A mediocre, contrived mystery story involving an old farm house in Connecticut, an antique desk with a secret drawer, and a lost inheritance. The mystery began when Paul and Sue Gray, who had just moved into the house with their mother and grandmother, discovered two scraps of paper on each of which were the words "This House Is Haunted." When they set out to unravel the mystery they discovered a young Indian boy whose grandfather had left him \$3,000 but had hidden it somewhere in the house and no one had been able to find it. There was also the boy's

uncle who was after the money for his own use. In the end the money was found and the uncle brought to justice. Interwoven into the story is much unnecessary information about the insect life around the farm. This information is not pertinent to the unfolding of the plot and serves merely to interrupt the story. (Gr. 4-6)

R Ahnstrom, D. N. *The Complete Book of Helicopters*. World, 1954. 160 p. \$4.95.

A detailed account, in text, photographs, and diagrammatic drawings, of the history and development of the helicopter, from the very first models—Chinese flying toys—to the present day machines. The various uses, military and civilian, of helicopters and some of the basic principles of their operation are discussed. The material is clearly written and informative. The book has no index and the chapter headings are not always a help in determining their content. (Gr. 7-12)

R Andrews, Roy Chapman. *All About Whales*; illus. by Thomas W. Voter. Random House, 1954. 148 p. \$1.95.

Drawing partly on his own experiences during eight years of studying whales for the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and partly on historical accounts of the experiences of whalers from earliest to more recent times, the author describes the major types of whales, gives as much as is known of their habits, and

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tells how and for what purposes they are hunted by man. The writing is uneven and there are occasionally awkward constructions that do not say what the author evidently meant to say, but the material is interesting and should have wide appeal. A more detailed text than that of the Zim, The Great Whales (Morrow, 1951) but the illustrations are less informative than those of the Zim book. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Aymé, Marcel. The Magic Pictures; trans. from the French by Norman Denny; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1954. 117 p. \$2.50.

More stories about the two little girls, Delphine and Marinette, and their animal friends on the farm. The children get into trouble, defy their parents (and two more unsympathetic parents have never graced a children's book), and enjoy many magical adventures. A few of the episodes have a spark of humor, but others are quite labored. One or two of the episodes are so thoroughly anti-children they could well prove seriously disturbing to the more sensitive readers. (Gr. 4-6)

Ad Boesch, Mark J. Fire Fighter. Morrow, 1954. 187p. \$2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Steve Dalton set out from his Ohio home with fifty dollars and a determination to prove that he was capable of taking care of himself without parental help for one summer at least. Arriving in Valletown, Montana, he found the Forest Service calling for men to help fight a nearby forest fire and applied for the job. By the time the fire was out he had impressed the rangers with his willingness to work hard and his ability to learn, and had been offered an opportunity to stay on for the summer, working in one of the look-out towers. During the following winter he decided to stay in Montana, living with a friend who owned a cabin and ran a trap line each winter. When spring came Steve had enough pelts to pay his first year's tuition in the nearby rangers school. The subject is interesting and to some extent overcomes the extremely pedestrian writing. (Gr. 7-9)

M Bolton, Sarah K. Famous American Authors; rev. by William A. Fahey. Crowell, 1954. 248 p. \$3.

Eight authors who are no longer prominent have been omitted from this new edition, and five new sketches (Cather, Sandburg, Lewis, O'Neill, and Stephen Benét) have been added. Each sketch gives chronological events of the author's life and some evaluation of his works and status. These short sketches are scarcely adequate as biographies, though some of them may serve to whet the reader's appetite for wider reading of the works of a particular author. No sources

are given for the information contained in the sketches. In comparing the 1940 and the 1954 editions, it is found that the selections which have been retained have been changed very little except for an occasional deletion or change of phrase. The chapter on Poe has been redone to little advantage, and the style of writing in the new chapters is sufficiently different from the original chapters to add unevenness to the whole book. Reading difficulty levels vary widely throughout the book. (Gr. 7-10)

R Budney, Blossom. A Kiss Is Round; pictures by Vladimir Bobri. Lothrop, 1954. 33 p. \$2.50. (Values: Everyday life concepts).

Simple rhymes and gaily colorful illustrations that could help the young child to gain a concept of roundness. Everything in the text and illustrations is round except for the city block, which is square, but can be walked a-round. In only one instance do the author and illustrator fail to achieve a unity of text and pictures. In all, this is a pleasing picture book and one that will be fun to read aloud. Somewhat similar to Schlein's Shapes (W.R. Scott, 1952) except that hers deals with a variety of shapes and this book concentrates on one form. (K-Gr. 1)

R Bullough, William and Helena. Introducing Animals. Crowell, 1954. 56 p. \$2.50. A brief, interestingly written introduction to some of the lower forms of animal life—animals without backbones. The simply written text is illustrated with black-and-white drawings that will aid in the understanding of the text. A useful book for classes studying animal life or for home libraries where children are interested in this aspect of nature. The contents range from the protozoa to starfish, with a chapter at the beginning on the differences between animals, vegetables, and minerals, and one at the end on animals of the past. (Gr. 5-7)

M Cavanna, Betty. 6 on Easy Street. Westminster, 1954. 192 p. \$2.50. (Values: Family relations; Consideration of others).

To sixteen-year-old Deborah Sanford, the family's decision to spend the summer on Nantucket, running an inn which Mrs. Sanford had recently inherited from an aunt, came as a hard blow. Deborah was in the throes of a first love affair and the thought of leaving Craig for a summer was almost more than she could bear. Her attitude during the summer ranged from sullen resentment to a studied indifference, and she made life difficult for her family before she finally gained a clear perspective of herself and her situation. Coming to terms with herself brought relief, and her summer was further brightened when Craig appeared unexpectedly at the island to see her. There are some quite

perceptive characterizations in the story, but the writing is exceedingly uneven. At times there are abrupt transitions in the text that leave the reader with the feeling that whole paragraphs or even pages must have been omitted. (Gr. 7-9)

SpC Chanover, Hyman and Alice. Happy Hanukah Everybody; with illus. by Maurice Sendak. United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education, 1954. 26 p. \$1.25.

A rather slight, but pleasant story of how three small children, their parents, and grandparents celebrate the first night of Hanukah. The story is comparable to many of the Christmas stories written for Christian children in that it emphasizes the outward forms of celebration—such as the giving of gifts—rather than the deeper meanings of the festival. For this reason the book will be of value for Jewish children only, since it does not give non-Jewish children any understanding of what Hanukah is and why it is celebrated.

(K-Gr. 1)

NR Chapin, Earl V. Heavy Water; illus. by Nils Hogner. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 192 p. \$2.50.

Three teen-age boys start out on a two-week vacation through the border lake country of northern Minnesota. They had become interested in historical accounts of a place in one of the lakes where there was "heavy water" and they hoped this might be an indication of the presence of uranium. They did not find uranium, but they did have an exciting two-weeks trip and they found the site of a lost fort for which historians had been searching for years. The writing is very uneven, leaning heavily on coincidence and occasionally bordering on the sensational. The author slows the story quite frequently while he preaches a lesson.

(Gr. 7-9)

M de Golish, Vitold. Mamba-Kan; The Story of a Baby Elephant; text and photographs by Vitold de Golish. John Day, 1954. 31 p. \$2.25.

Slight story obviously contrived to fit a series of photographs of a baby elephant and a young boy of India. What little story there is has no originality—a boy makes friends with an elephant and then gives the animal its freedom when it seems to want to return to the wild life of the jungle—and the only appeal of the book will be in the photographs. Written at an upper third grade reading level. (K-Gr. 3)

M Downey, Fairfax Davis. Mascots; illus by Augusto Marin. Coward-McCann, 1954. 150 p. \$2.75.

A collection of thirty sketches about animals

that have served as mascots for various military and naval groups the world over, and from the days of Ramses II to modern times. The writing is uneven and generally pedestrian. (Gr.6-8)

SpC Duryea, Elizabeth. The Long Christmas Eve; with pictures by Lisl Weil. Houghton, 1954. 44 p. \$2.

One year as the twins, Karl and Maria Bayer, were doing their annual Christmas Eve window shopping with their father, they spied a small wooden angel in a gift shop window that reminded Mr. Bayer of his childhood Christmases in Oberammergau. The twins secretly decided to buy the angel for their father and he secretly decided to get out his wood carving tools and make the twins a similar figure for Christmas. With the help of Mrs. Bayer both the twins and their father were pleasantly surprised on Christmas morning when the two new angels appeared in the creche. A friendly, warm Christmas story that will make pleasant reading aloud in family groups. (Gr. 4-6)

R Gendron, Val. Powder and Hides; decorations by Rus Anderson. Longmans, 1954. 230 p. \$3. (Values: Intercultural understanding).

Fifteen-year-old Johnny Doane, living on a Kansas army post with his family, had no liking for Indians and he was often puzzled to hear his friend, Jed Hardy, an old buffalo hunter, speak of them with warmth and respect. In the summer of 1873 Johnny was allowed to go with Jed on the last big buffalo hunt, and during that summer the boy made rapid strides toward maturity, with a man's understanding of the Indians and their problems. When Johnny returned to the fort it was with the determination to devote his life to Indian work. This story of the last days of the Western frontier is told with suspense and occasional flashes of humor. With one minor exception the characters are well-drawn and realistic. (Gr. 7-9)

R Gould, Jack. All About Radio and Television; illus. by Bette J. Davis. Random House, 1953. 143 p. \$1.95.

A clearly presented explanation of the basic principles on which radio and television operate. There are easy experiments that the reader can perform to help him understand some of the principles, and directions are included for the construction of two simple sets—a fox-hole radio and a crystal set. The writing is somewhat uneven, but the extent of the coverage and the simplicity of the presentation will give the book value for library and home collections. (Gr. 5-8)

R Growden, Gordon A. Freighters and Tankers of the U. S. Merchant Marine; drawings by Lemuel B. Linc. Putnam, 1954. 32 p. \$2.

Twenty-four ships of the Merchant Marine are presented in full-color, scale drawings and brief, informative text. Information includes the type or classification of each ship, its tonnage, its speed, its ports of call, its cargo, and its passenger capacity, if any. Many of the drawings also include a tug or buoy, and these are also described and their use explained. There is a glossary of terms at the beginning.

(Gr. 5-9)

NR Herring, Maisie. The Young Traveler in Ireland; illus. with photographs and map; sketches by Henry C. Pitz. Dutton, 1954. 224 p. \$3.

Following the usual pattern for the books in this series, the author discusses the history, geography, and the present industrial situation of Ireland, both north and south. Three children are involved, two from America and one from England. They are traveling through Ireland with the Headmaster of an English school who is spending the holidays in some archaeological excavations and in learning to speak Irish. During part of the time the two American children are visiting an aunt and uncle who live on a farm in Eire. The author employs the flash-back method for a part of the account, and this plus the fact that the party keeps dividing up and going off on tangents results in a rather confused picture of just what is where. More emphasis is given to the history of Ireland than to present day social and economic conditions. There is just enough story to make the informational material difficult to get to and not enough to give the book real interest.

(Gr. 5-7)

Ad Hoke, John. The First Book of Photography; with photographs from many sources and drawings by Russel Hamilton. Watts, 1954. 69 p. \$1.75.

An introduction to picture taking for amateurs. Beginning with the steps in loading a simple box camera, the author goes on to discuss composition of pictures, planning picture sequences, various kinds of light and how each can be used in taking pictures, how a camera operates, the place of photography in various kinds of work, how photography started, some famous photographers and their pictures, and various picture projects. The material is interesting and the book will be useful in spite of the very cluttered pages.

(Gr. 6-8)

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. In My House; illus. by Esther Friend. Rand McNally, 1954. 28 p. 25¢.

Herbie describes what for him is a typical, but for most very young children would be a very atypical day, in which he goes brightly through eating, dressing, and play activities with a serenity that will make most mothers sigh with

envy. The use of the first person singular pronoun throughout will prove confusing for many pre-school youngsters who will not understand that it is the child in the picture who is supposed to be talking. (Pre-school)

NR Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Cracker Barrel Trouble Shooter. Dodd, Mead, 1954. 213 p. \$2.50.

After the sudden death of his uncle, nineteen-year-old Bill Rawls found himself with very little money and with only one piece of property—a small country store in the mountains. His lawyers advised selling the store, which had been losing money steadily through the years, but Bill decided to go to the town and see what could be done to reclaim the property. In a wholly standardized manner he manages to thwart the efforts of the village bully who tries to run him out of town; he puts the store on a paying basis by developing the hunting and fishing resort possibilities of the surrounding country; and he falls in love with the beautiful young girl who has been struggling valiantly but unsuccessfully to keep the store going for the sake of her grandfather, the equally unsuccessful and definitely senile manager of the store. There is a dog involved, and he is the only realistic character in the book. (Gr. 7-9)

SpR Krauss, Ruth. I'll Be You and You Be Me; pictures by Maruice Sendak. Harper, 1954. 44 p. \$1.75.

A miscellany of verses, brief stories, plays and sayings which the author has rather too obviously gathered from children. Some of the selections are whimsical, many are for adult rather than child appreciations, and a few are child-like. All are the kinds of remarks that children often make, that have sense for the child who makes them and sometimes have meaning for adults, but that are not necessarily meaningful for other young children. This is not a book to be read to a child from beginning to end—it is too long and too confusing. Parents could use it to dip into here and there for brief excerpts, and children would enjoy making up their own stories for Sendak's lively and amusing illustrations.

(Pre-school)

NR Lambert, Janet. Cinda. Dutton, 1954. 190 p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Paula Marsh was so unhappy at her mother's second marriage that she made everyone around her equally miserable. Her problem was that she had always been the center of attention and now she could not face the idea that her mother might like someone else as well or better. Then Paula met her cousin Cinda and her family, and through their perfect relationship she learned the lesson about family living and sharing that she so badly needed. Cinda's

family is, in fact, so perfect that it is thoroughly unrealistic, and Cinda herself is a dangerous type to cast in the role of heroine, since she is incessantly sticking her nose into other people's business, and getting by with it. The problems involved are real enough but their treatment is too superficial to have any value. (Gr. 7-9)

R Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. Witch Doctor's Son; illus. by Richard Bennett. Doubleday, 1954. 251 p. \$2.75.

Tom's mother, Mal-tee-ny, was the chief medicine woman of the Rogue River tribe and although Tom was more interested in becoming a warrior than in following in her steps, she insisted that he learn something of the lore that had been handed down to her by other witch doctors of the tribe. One day when Tom was with his mother helping to prepare snake poison for arrow tips, he was captured by a group of neighboring Indians and sold as a slave to the Yamhill tribe. While with this tribe, Tom made friends with a young white boy who lived with his father on a nearby farm, and through his contacts with the white men was later able to serve his own Rogue River tribe when they were moved to a reservation in that area. A well-told story of the period, with a sympathetic understanding of the Indian customs and beliefs. (Gr. 7-9)

M Lane, Frederick A. A Flag for Lafitte; Story of the Battle of New Orleans; illus. by Leonard Vosburgh. Aladdin, 1954. 191 p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

A fictionalized account of the Battle of New Orleans as seen through the experiences of young Philip Duval who, because of his position as a clerk in the office of Edward Livingston, was in on the attempts to persuade Governor Claiborne and Andrew Jackson to allow Jean Lafitte and his men to fight on the side of the Americans. The author uses Longfellow's romantic, but not very realistic, version of how the Acadians happened to come to Louisiana, and his characterizations of Lafitte's men are not always compatible with other accounts of the same men. The writing lacks distinction. Tallant's The Pirate Lafitte and the Battle of New Orleans (Random House, 1951) is a better written account of the same man and the same episode. (Gr. 5-7)

NR Lane, Frederick A. The Greatest Adventure; A Story of Jack London; illus. by Sidney Quinn. Aladdin, 1954. 192 p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

A fictionalized biography of Jack London that takes him from the age of fifteen until he was about twenty-one. The story is fast-paced and makes interesting reading, but the Jack London of this book bears little resemblance to the Jack London of other biographies. In so far as

the author uses specific facts about London's life, they are correct, but the selection of those facts and the telescoping of time have resulted in a picture that, in its total effect, is not accurate, with the result that the reader is left with a glowing picture of London, but not a realistic one. Since the book will be read by teen-age youngsters, it seems unnecessary to give them such a soft-soaping of facts. (Gr. 6-8)

R Lauritzen, Jonreed. The Ordeal of the Young Hunter; with illus. by Hoke Denetsosie. Little, Brown, 1954. 246 p. \$2.75. (Values: Intercultural understanding; Courage)

A penetrating story of a young Indian boy's maturing and of his growing understanding of the values of his own culture and of that of the white man. Twelve-year-old Jadh lives with his family on a sheep farm near Flagstaff, Arizona, where his world is bounded by the sheep-grazing lands on one side and the Trading Post (representing the white man's world) on the other. How he proves his courage, both by killing a cougar and by participating in the annual Powwow at Flagstaff, is told with discernment and a real understanding of twelve-year-old boys as well as of Indians. Not as introspective as And Now Miguel (Krumgold. Crowell, 1953) but with many of the same elements of appeal. (Gr. 6-8)

NR McClintock, Theodore. Tank Menagerie; Adventures of the Little-Game Hunters of the Fenway. Abelard-Schuman. 1954. 180 p. \$2.50.

An attempt to teach nature study through an account of the activities of two young high school students living near the Fenway in Boston. Margaret Ballantine and John Sanborn become interested in the small animals that are to be found in the waters of the Fenway. They start a tank menagerie which John keeps in his room because Margaret's mother is afraid of anything that moves—unless it is a goldfish. The descriptions of the animals which Margaret and John find, and of the habits of those animals make interesting reading, but they are too cluttered with the author's attempt to tell a story at the same time. Any reader who is interested enough in nature study of this kind to want a book on the subject will find Margaret's hysterics over the actions of some of the animals to be anything but funny; nor is there any humor in the arguments which John and Margaret have concerning the merits of the two nature study books which they consult frequently, although the author obviously finds their arguments hilarious. Mr. McClintock's journal, from which he took much of the material which he uses here, would be much more in-

teresting and less insulting to the mental abilities of young readers. (Gr. 5-7)

NR McGuire, Frances. Red Fury, Son of Champions; illus. by J. G. Woods. Dutton, 1954. 126 p. \$2.50.

Jimmy Randolph, a young boy living with his parents in Falls Church, Virginia, is given a setter puppy for his twelfth birthday. Through the kindness of a neighbor, Senator McCabe, who breeds lhasa apsos dogs, and of the Senator's handy man, Pat Murphy, Jimmy trains Red and even enters him in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in Madison Square Garden. The night after the show Red proves himself a real hero by capturing a foreign spy who is trying to steal some top-secret papers from the Senator. The story is melodramatic, the characters are typed and unrealistic, and the writing is very poor.

(Gr. 5-7)

Ad Miner, Irene. The True Book of Policemen and Firemen; pictures by Irene Miner and Mary Salem. Childrens Press, 1954. 47 p. \$2.

Brief explanations of the training and work of policemen and firemen. Very slight and marred by awkward writing, but could be used with units on community helpers; some of the illustrations of tools and equipment used by policemen and firemen would be especially helpful. Written at a second grade reading level. (Gr. 1-2)

SpC Moore, Clement Clarke. The Night Before Christmas; illus. by Roger Antoine Duvoisin. Garden City Books, 1954. 32 p. \$1.50.

A tall, thin book (6 1/2 x 13 1/2), with illustrations as gay and colorful as Moore's poem. The book cannot be pre-bound without losing a major part of the illustrations. (Pre-school)

NR Morton, Alice D. Teach Me ToCook; illus. by Doris Stolberg. Hart, 1954. 128 p. \$2.

Although the author of the book is listed on both the title page and jacket as Alice Morton, actually she has contributed only six recipes and the paragraph or two that introduces each section. The body of the book is a page-for-page reproduction of Alma Lach's Child's First Cook Book, but no credit is given to either Mrs. Lach or her book. The same plates that were used to print Mrs. Lach's book have been used for this one although sections of the Child's First Cook Book have been rearranged and the colors reversed—where orange was used in Mrs. Lach's book, green has been used here, and where green was used in the original book, orange has been used in this one. It is difficult to see how the author or the publisher can be in any way justified in thus using another person's work without giving any credit to the other author or the other book. (Gr. 2-4)

R Mulcahy, Lucille. Pita. Coward-McCann, 1954. 218 p. \$2.75 (Values: Family relations; Intercultural understanding).

Fifteen-year-old Pita was excited as she hurried home from school the day she received Carlos' invitation to attend a ball in the nearby village of Three Coyotes. Her only concern was over her father's intense dislike for anyone or anything connected with the rival village, but Pita was sure her mother could handle that problem. Then she reached home to discover that her mother had fallen and broken her leg and would be in the hospital for a month. During that time Pita assumed the responsibilities of the household and learned to care for her family almost as well as her mother had done. Through it all she dreamed of the ball, and in the end won her father's permission to attend. There is no great depth to the plot or characterizations but the story is pleasantly told with good family relations and with a sympathetic understanding of the ways of the Spanish-American people of Pita's village. The review copy has extremely weak stitching, and this point should be checked in copies purchased for library use.

(Gr. 7-10)

NR Nevins, Albert J. The Adventures of Ramon of Bolivia; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, 1954. 272 p. \$2.75.

Ramon is a teen-age boy, of Spanish descent, living in the jungle of Bolivia near the headwaters of the Amazon River. He is hired as a guide by an American who is exploring some of the little known tributaries of the Amazon, and during the course of the expedition has many adventures, some of them almost fatal. The story could have been an exciting one, but it is almost lost throughout most of the book in the welter of information about the geography, the history, the commercial possibilities, and the social, economic, and religious state of the country and its people. The result is a dull, plodding, poorly written narrative that will have little or no appeal for young readers.

(Gr. 7-9)

NR Olgin, Joseph. Little League Champions; illus. by David Stone. Dutton, 1954. 189 p. \$2.50.

A poorly written story of Little League baseball, with the conflict provided by the quarrels between the boys from two contrasting sections of town. PeeWee Roberts represents the wealthier Westbank side, and Rocky Dudeck represents the poorer Eastbank side, and the dislike between the two boys almost disrupts their team. The fathers of the two boys are also at outs—PeeWee's father being the stereotype of "benevolent" management, and Rocky's father being the equally stereotyped "hot-headed, unreasoning" labor. The parents come

to terms sooner than do the boys, but by the end of the book everyone loves everyone else.
(Gr. 6-8)

NR Potter, Miriam (Clark). The Animals' Train Ride; illus. by Eleanor Corwin. Rand McNally, 1953. 30 p. 15¢ (A Book-Elf Junior).

A very slight story of two young squirrels who take a train ride from their home on Animal Hill to their Aunt Tippytoes home at Hazelnut Hilltop. Each time the train stops the two try to get off thinking it is their stop, and each time the conductor puts them back on again. Then by the time the train reaches Hazelnut Hilltop the conductor has trouble getting them off because they have gone to sleep. A coy tone.
(Pre-school)

NR Price, Willard DeMille. Underwater Adventure. Day, 1954. 192 p. \$2.75. Hal and Roger Hunt, of Amazon Adventure and South Sea Adventure fame, are off again in a flurry of ships, deep sea diving, lost treasure, shifty-eyed villains, and murder. As usual the forces of nature—a typhoon this time—bring retribution to the villains so that the boys get their revenge without actually having to become violent. The two boys have joined an expedition that is supposed to be primarily concerned with collecting specimens of sea life, and is secondarily concerned with seeking lost Spanish treasure ships. All of the paraphernalia of deep sea diving are introduced, from the mask and snorkel to the Iron Man. The style is melodramatic and both the characterizations and the situations are unrealistic.
(Gr. 7-9)

NR Reichert, E. C. Happy Holidays; and Other Fun Days Around the Year; illus. by Suzanne Bruce. Rand McNally, 1953. 30 p. 25¢ (A Book-Elf Book).

Contrived, sentimental stories about twelve of the major holidays of this country. There is little real information about the holidays and the stories are too poorly written to have appeal simply as stories.
(Pre-school).

NR Reiner, William. The Flying Rangers; illus. by Ralph Ramstad. Messner, 1954. 62 p. (Everyday Science Stories) \$1.60.

A written-to-order, purposive story about two young boys who want a ride in the piper cub plane that is owned by the local airport manager. After much contriving, they win the ride by spotting and helping to put out a fire in the woods near their home. The author has tried, not too successfully, to combine the information about fire fighting and flying, with a story.
(Gr. 4-6)

NR Reynolds, Quentin James. The Battle of Britain; illus. by Clayton Knight. Random House, 1953. 182 p. (A world Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A series of episodes from the author's own experiences in Britain during the months of August-October, 1940. The information contained in the book is not new, and the author's tone is so condescending, pompous, and chauvinistic (toward the U. S.) that the book loses any value which it might otherwise have had. Readers who might not recognize the disagreeable aspects of Mr. Reynolds' excessive nationalism will at least object to his assumption that this age reader needs to have spelled out for him such elementary bits of information as that the House of Commons is comparable to the Congress of the United States.
(Gr. 5-7)

NR Robinson, Mabel Louise. King Arthur and His Knights; illus. by Douglas Gorsline. Random House, 1953. 174 p. (A World Landmark Book). \$1.50.

It is difficult to decide just exactly what the author is trying to do in this book. At the beginning it seems that she is going to give the historical background of the King Arthur legends and show just what is authentic and subject to proof in the legends and what is strictly legendary. This approach is quickly abandoned, however, and the major portion of the book is a rehashing and summarizing of some of the legends, with a glorification of the Age of Chivalry that the facts of history will not support. Since the book does not give a valid picture of the period as it actually existed, it would seem better to give young readers some of the standard versions of the legends, such as the Pyle version, which at least have the virtue of being well written.
(Gr. 5-7)

R Scott, Sally. Chica; illus. by Joe Krush. Harcourt, 1954. 114 p. \$2.25.

A pleasant, not outstanding, boy-and-horse story. Nine-year-old Billy had difficulty showing proper enthusiasm when his father bought Chica for him to have as his own horse. To be sure, she was just the right size for comfortable riding and she was a well-trained, competent cow-pony. She was also unattractive, head-shy, and almost maliciously mischievous. Winning her affection took long hours and infinite patience, but Billy persevered and by the end of the summer had gentled Chica into the kind of horse he had long dreamed of owning.
(Gr. 4-6)

M Smith, Dorothy Hall, comp. The Tall Book of Christmas; pictures by Gertrude Elliott Espenscheid. Harper, 1954. 92 p. \$1.

Another tall, thin book—5 1/4 x 12 1/4 this time—about Christmas. This one is a collection of stories, poems, and Christmas carols (without music). The stories are uneven in quality and several of them seem quite pointless.

(K-Gr. 2)

R Steiner, Charlotte. Kiki Loves Music
Doubleday, 1954. 32 p. \$1.50.

To Kiki almost any sound she made was an expression of music, but to her father it was usually just noise. In an effort to teach her the difference between noise and music, he bought her a piano. At first she had trouble making her ten fingers work together, but in due time she learned to play well enough to surprise her father by playing "Happy Birthday To You" for his birthday. Similar to the other Kiki books in style of writing and illustrations.

(K-Gr. 2)

R Streatfeild, Noel. Family Shoes; illus by Richard Floethe. Random House, 1954.
247 p. \$2.75. (Values: Family relations).

The "shoes" this time belong to the family of the vicar of one of the poorer parishes in southeast London—and they are well-worn shoes. The four children in the family (14-year-old Paul, 12-year-old Jane, 10-year-old Ginnie, and 8-year-old Angus) share in all the family problems, the major one of which is money. Jane and Angus dream of studying ballet at the Sadlers Wells ballet school. Paul wants to be a doctor, and Ginnie is undecided what she wants to be except that she wants it to be something spectacular. Of the four, Paul, who has won a scholarship, seems to be the only one with a chance of following his ambition, and he is being pressured by his grandfather to become a member of the family wool business instead. He almost succumbs when the family are faced with the prospect of no summer holidays, but some straight talking on Jane's part convinces him that he should not sacrifice his career just for a summer's holiday. The facing of problems by all of the family and the solutions to those problems are handled with a reality and perception. There is, in addition, a warmth of family solidarity to give the story added appeal. (Gr. 5-7)

R Street, James. Good-bye, My Lady. Lippincott, 1954. 222p. \$3.

An expansion into book length of a short story originally published under the title "Weep No More, My Lady." This is more than just a boy and a dog story, as it pictures with penetrating clarity the life of Uncle Jesse, lazy, illiterate, and very wise old man of the Mississippi swamp, and Skeeter, the young boy Uncle Jesse has reared since Skeeter's mother died and his father disappeared. Skeeter finds a strange dog in the swamp, a dog that laughs and cries instead

of barking and that licks itself like a cat. The dog, a Basenji, gives the boy her loyalty, and the boy gives the dog his heart. Skeeter's decision to return the dog to its rightful owner is not easily made, but the boy faces the decision with maturity and dignity. There is a beauty to the writing and a depth to the characterizations that make this a noteworthy book for readers, young and old. (Gr. 6-12)

R Ware, Leon. The Phantom of the Bridge.
Westminster, 1954. 206 p. \$2.50.

With his mother dead and his father in hiding from the police, fourteen-year-old Tommy Murname faced a bleak future. He knew that it would not be long before the people from the Welfare Agency found out about him and took a hand in his affairs. However, he wanted to postpone that time as long as possible for he had grown up in a neighborhood where everyone had a strong distrust for the Welfare people. Tommy had watched the erection of the bridge near his home from its very beginning and through the years had felt a closeness to the bridge as if it were a real person. When chance showed him a way to get into one of the piers of the bridge undetected, he decided to move there where he could live his life as he pleased. His occupancy of the bridge did not last long, but during the time he made two friends, one a business man who offered him a part time job that would insure his continued schooling, and the other a newspaper reporter who offered to sponsor him and provide him with a place to live. In spite of the fact that some of the elements of the story are improbable, the author has told them in a way that makes them seem acceptable, and all of the characterizations, including the bridge, are drawn with a sure, deft touch that gives them reality.

(Gr. 7-9)

M Wellman, Manly Wade. Rebel Mail Runner; illus. by Stuyvesant Van Veen.
Holiday House, 1954. 221 p. \$2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Barry Mills wanted to join the Confederate Army and preferably the group with whom his father was fighting, but instead he became involved with Absolom Grimes, who ran mail between the Confederate soldiers and their families in Union held territory. An exciting story of a little known phase of the Civil War, but one that is unfortunately marred by the excessively melodramatic ending. The issues involved in the Civil War are not introduced. (Gr. 6-8)

CORRECTION: The two lists, Adventure and Mystery for Boys and Girls and Frontier and Pioneer Life in the United States, compiled by the Oregon State Library and listed in the September, 1954 issue of the Bulletin of the Children's Book Center are not available outside the State of Oregon.