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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VIII

September, 1954

Number 1

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 Agee, Helene Barret. Little Davie. Pageant Press, 1953. 44p. \$2.

A poorly written, excessively sentimental story of Little Davie, an orphan and a cripple, who is adopted by a wealthy couple whose only son, Randy, also a cripple, has been accidentally killed. The book is more a story to appeal to the sympathies of adults than a story for children. (Gr.5-7)

NR April, Steve. Route 13; decorations by Bob Ray. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 241p. \$2.75.

A career story for boys in which a young boy finds it necessary to start working at a job which he dislikes, only to find, in time, that this is the kind of work for which he is suited and it is one which brings him ample returns both financial and in terms of personal satisfaction. The job is that of mail carrier for the post office. Not only does the boy learn to like his work but it provides a means for him to uncover the thief who shot and killed his uncle. The description of the work of the post office is interesting, if a bit overglamorized. The whole matter of the shooting and of the boy's almost single-handed capture of the murderer is too melodramatic to be acceptable. (Gr.7-9)

M ✓ Becker, Charlotte. A Chimp in the Family. Messner, 1953. 63p. (Everyday Science Stories). \$1.60.

Mr. Davis, owner of a pet shop, bought Maggie from a sailor and decided to keep the little chimp at home until the nearby zoo could take her. His children were delighted; his wife less so, and all of the family soon learned that having a chimp around was much like having a small, but very active baby in the house. The author makes quite a point of similarities between the health and nutrition problems of people and chimps, but in spite of the rather obvious didacticism of the story there are elements of appeal in the unusual subject and situations. (Gr.3-5)

R ✓ Beim, Jerrold. Shoeshine Boy; pictures by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1954. 48p. \$2. (Values: Acquisition and Use of Money; Ingenuity)

Teddy, a small boy living in New York City, decides to earn some extra spending money by shining shoes. When he gets his outfit together, he then discovers that the other shoeshine boys are all larger than he is and they will not let him work near them. He wanders over to a supermarket and begins shining children's shoes. He has a profitable summer and the next year is large enough to hold his own with the other boys. However, he still goes each afternoon to the supermarket to shine children's shoes. A pleasant although rather slight story. (Gr.2-4)

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SpC Bierstedt, Paul E., ed. Tiny Tot Songs;
illus. by Dorothy Handsaker Scott.
Warner Press, 1954. 28p. \$1.

Sixteen religious songs, many of them suitable for use as singing prayers or graces. The illustrations are sweetly sentimental. Could be used in Sunday School or home libraries, but is too limited for use in general library collections. (4-7yrs)

R Birnbaum, A. Green Eyes. Capital Pub. Co., 1953. 40p. \$2.50.

The story of the first two years in the life of a white kitten, told in simple text and gay, colorful illustrations. The kitten tells of his impressions as he sees the world around him for the first time; his awe at the size of some plants and animals, and his delight in the comfort of a warm box by the radiator when winter storms come. Then through the next round of seasons, he expresses his continuing pleasure in these same things, but now the proportions have changed because he has grown larger. An outstanding picture book that young children will enjoy—and so will their parents. (Pre-school)

NR Blyton, Enid. The Wonderful Carpet and Other Stories; illus. by Eileen A. Soper. London, Macmillan, 1953. 192p. (My Third Nature Book) \$1.50.

NR Blyton, Enid. The Rabbit's Party and Other Stories; illus. by Eileen A. Soper. London, Macmillan, 1953. 192p. (My Fourth Nature Book) \$1.50.

Each book contains 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 information about the plants and animals is not always accurate. (Gr.3-5)

M Bobrow, Dorothy. Tell Me Why; A Primer for Judaism; illus. by Edwin Herron. Bookman Associates, 1954. 92p. \$2.75.

An introduction to the basic beliefs of Judaism for young children presented in a semi-fictionalized, question and answer form. The information itself is interesting and would be worth while for both Jewish and non-Jewish children to give them a better understanding of what Judaism is and the differences and similarities between Judaism and Christianity. The format of the book is quite confusing and unattractive. The question and answer form does not lend itself to easy reading aloud and the style is too difficult for many readers to handle alone. The illustrations look like comic book work. (Gr.4-6)

NR Bowen, Robert Sidney. Infield Spark. Lothrop, 1954. 187p. \$2.50.

Jerry Tate had grown up in an orphanage, a fact that colored his whole life and left him emotionally too unstable to face the pressures of big league baseball. After a near injury in one of his first games with the Boston Eagles he went to pieces

and made several serious fumbles during the remainder of the game. He decided that he was yellow, ran away from the team, and returned to his hometown, because some mysterious force seemed to be pulling him there. Through a series of fortuitous circumstances he discovered that he was not really a coward, returned to the Eagles, and began playing such inspired ball that the reader is left in no doubt but that the team won that year's pennant. Neither the characters nor the incidents has any reality. (Gr.7-9)

NR Bowen, Vernon. Snow for Christmas;
pictures by Kurt Wiese. McKay, 1953.
32p. \$2.50.

The children were all unhappy at the prospect of a snowless Christmas, so Horace Weatherby, a boy-wonder scientist, and his friend Professor Tweedle set out to remedy the situation. They were so successful the town was completely snowed in—and that was just as bad. Then Horace came up with the bright idea of rolling snowballs to clear the paths and streets and making snowmen of the snowballs. A very slight story, with forced humor, and none of the feeling of Christmas. (K-Gr.3)

M Brier, Howard Maxwell. Fighting Heart;
illus. by Jay Hyde Barnum. Doubleday,
1954. 96p. \$2.

Bill Rand, fire captain and ex-marine, is scornful of the Dalmation dog that serves as a mascot for his station, and is constantly comparing it with Jeff, the K-9 dog he had trained and worked with in the Solomons. The story tells of how Bill searched for and was finally re-united with Jeff, and how the two proved their courage by saving the lives of a nurse and a young boy who were trapped in a hospital fire. The plot is routine and the writing is not outstanding. Could satisfy the need for short books for reluctant readers. (Gr.6-8)

R Brown, Margaret Wise. Willie's Adventures;
illus. by Crockett Johnson. Scott, 1954.
68p. \$2.

Three short stories about the small adventures of a small boy. In the first story Willie is trying to guess what kind of a pet his grandmother will send him. (It turns out to be a kitten). In the second, he has just received a new suit with seven pockets, four in the pants and three in the coat, and his problem is what to put in each pocket. In the third story Willy goes by himself on a walk from his house to his grandmother's farm on the edge of town. Crockett Johnson's illustrations add humor to the simply told stories. (Gr.1-3)

R Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). The Man Who Changed China; The Story of Sun Yat-sen;
illus. by Fred Castellon. Random House,
1953. 185p. (A World Landmark Book)
\$1.50.

An interestingly written biography of Sun Yat-sen from his birth in 1866 to his death fifty-nine years later. The author draws a sympathetic picture of Sun without minimizing his weaknesses in leadership which made it im-

possible for him to carry through with many of his plans even when the conditions were most favorable for them. The story of Sun's life is the story of China's struggle to free herself from the foreign powers that kept her people in bondage, and to make the progress necessary for successful competition with other countries in the modern world. A less detailed account than the Baker, Sun Yat-sen (Vanguard, 1946) but useful at about the same level. (Gr.7-10)

R ✓ Ceder, Georgiana Dorcas. Joel, the Potter's Son; illus. by Helen Torrey. Abingdon, 1954. 96p. \$2.

Thirteen-year-old Joel rebelled at having to stay home all the time to help his father, when there was so much of the world he wanted to see. He was particularly unhappy at having to miss the trip to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover. When the time came, he did make the trip, alone and much against his better judgment. The story of his journey to the city and his experiences at the temple gives the reader an interesting picture of Palestine at this period in its history. Joel's trip to Jerusalem coincided with that of Jesus on his twelfth Passover, and the lives of the two boys touch briefly both on the road and at the temple. (Gr.4-6)

Ad ✓ Chapman, Jane A. Child's Book of Crochet. Greenberg, 1954. 96p. \$2.

Clear, simple directions for learning the basic crochet stitches, and for making useful articles at the same time. The text is easy to follow, but the illustrations are not at all clear, and the child using the book will need some adult help in order to get started correctly. The articles that may be made from the directions include: a covered coat hanger, a pot holder, a hat pincushion or sachet, a belt, a necktie, and a beanie hat. The statement on the book jacket that the hat pincushion is made with a slip stitch is not correct. (Gr.3-5)

Ad ✓ Colby, Carroll Burleigh. First Rifle; How To Shoot It Straight and Use It Safely. Coward-McCann, 1954. 48p. \$2.

A manual for the young boy who has received, or is about to receive, his first rifle. The author briefly discusses what a rifle is and how it works, the proper handling and care of a rifle, target shooting, hunting (with an emphasis on the shooting of pests), and ends with the rifleman's code of safety. The drawings are excellent to supplement and clarify the text. The same material is more fully developed in the Chapel The Boy's Book of Rifles (Coward, 1948). (Gr.5-)

R ✓ Coolidge, Olivia E. Egyptian Adventures; illus. by Joseph Low. Houghton Mifflin, 1954. 209p. \$3.

Twelve short stories about life in Egypt. Although the events in the stories have no basis in actual fact, the background material is based on information that has been gleaned from a study of the paintings, writings, and monuments that have come down to us from the days of early Egypt. The stories are well told, with actions and suspense to hold the reader's interest, and with well developed characters and situations. (Gr.8-12)

R ✓ Dalglish, Alice. The Courage of Sarah Nobel; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Scribner, 1954. 55p. \$2.

In 1707 the country around what is now New Milford, Connecticut, was nothing but forest. Some land had been cleared for farms but no one had moved there until eight-year-old Sarah Noble and her father came from their home in Westfield, Massachusetts. While Mr. Noble built a cabin, Sarah cooked for him and made friends with the Indian children who lived nearby. When the time came for Mr. Noble to return to Massachusetts for the rest of the family, he left Sarah with Tall John, a friendly Indian who "loved her as he did his own children." The story of Sarah and her courage in facing the wilderness in order to help her family to build a new home makes a well-told, inspiring piece of Americana. (Gr.3-5)

R ✓ Dillon, Eilis. The Lost Island. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 249p. \$2.75.

Two young Irish boys set forth in a small boat to find the "lost island" somewhere off the coast of Western Ireland where the father of one of the boys is supposed to have disappeared two years before. In the process they become involved with a gang of illegal boat wreckers but in the end they find the boy's father and put a stop to the activities of the gang. A well-written adventure story, told with plenty of action and suspense, and with credible characters and actions. (Gr.5-7)

M ✓ Ecuyer, Lee. Zippy the Chimp; photographs by Benn Mitchell. Rand McNally, 1953. 29p. (A Book-Elf Book) 25¢.

A picture-story book based on a day in the life of Zippy, a real chimpanzee who is owned by Lee Ecuyer and who has appeared on TV many times. The illustrations are good examples of color photography; the story is too obviously written to order to have much to recommend it. (K-Gr.2)

NR ✓ Faralla, Dana. Black Renegade. Lippincott, 1954. 224p. \$3.

Another story of Kevin Fitzgerald, the young boy-hero of The Magnificent Barb. Once again Kevin is defending a horse which most of his elders claim is not worth saving. This time the horse, Black Lightning, has won the reputation of being a vicious killer. Kevin tames the horse and trains it for the steeplechase. However, before he can enter the horse in a race it breaks its leg and is shot. Again, as in the earlier book, the boy's one consolation is that the horse has left a foal that gives promise of being as great, or greater than its sire. The language of the Irish Fitzgeralds and their Romany horse trader friends seems more picturesque than real at times and the reader never gets the feeling that this is actually happening in Georgia. The plot is too reminiscent of the earlier book to have much originality. (Gr.7-9)

NR ✓ Farley, Walter. Big Black Horse; adapted from The Black Stallion by Walter Farley; illus. by James Schucker. Random House, 1953. 64p. \$1.

A cut, re-written version of Black Stallion. The book has gained nothing from the editing and has

lost even the forceful writing which has helped to make the original story so popular. The cover indicates that the book is designed for use with ages 4-8. The text is not suited to reading aloud to pre-school and kindergarten children, and it is too difficult for beginning readers to handle alone. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Foster, Genevieve. Theodore Roosevelt. Scribner, 1954. 106p. (An Initial Biography). \$2.25.

A brief, simply written biography of Theodore Roosevelt from his seventh birthday to the end of his life. The author covers all of the major events in Roosevelt's life but she does not quite succeed in conveying to the reader much of the personality of the man. The reading level is as high as that of the Judson, Theodore Roosevelt (Wilcox & Follett, 1953) and the Judson gives a much more complete picture of Roosevelt. (Gr.5-7)

NR Gottlieb, William P. Laddie the Superdog. Simon and Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book) 25¢. (also available in Goldencraft Cloth Binding, 85¢)

Laddie was a lazy dog who dreamed one day that a magician came and changed him into a super-dog. In his new role he could walk up walls, sail through the air, and make himself vanish from sight. Then he woke up and was just Laddie again. The story is very slight and obviously written to accompany the author's trick photography pictures. (Gr.1-3)

R Havighurst, Walter. George Rogers Clark, Soldier in the West; illus. by Jack Mornment. McGraw-Hill, 1952. 216p. (They Made America Series) \$3.

A biography of George Rogers Clark that will have special appeal for boys of high school age who are interested in outdoor life. The book is filled with excitement as well as with the techniques of outdoor living developed by those frontiersmen who explored and settled the Kentucky country in the late eighteenth-early nineteenth centuries. All American history students of high school age will find the book valuable for the picture it gives of life during the period of the expansion of the new United States of America, and many readers will enjoy it as an adventure story. (Gr.9-12)

NR Hoffman, Elaine and Hefflefinger, Jane. Our Friendly Helpers; photography by Peggy Irwin. Belmont Pub., Inc., 1954. 32p. \$1.35 pre-bound.

Community and health helpers are described in photographs and simply written text. The writing is in the style of primers, with simple vocabulary and much repetition. Not only does the writing employ many of the more objectionable elements of the primer style, but it does not actually tell the child anything about the work of the persons involved. The photographs are much more informative than is the text. Contents include: the fireman, the policeman, the mailman, the doctor, the nurse, the dentist, and the druggist. (Gr.1-2)

M Horwich, Frances R., and Werrenrath, Reinald. The Baby Chipmunk; illus. by William Neebe. Rand McNally, 1953. 28p. 25¢.

A slight story of a family of chipmunks living in a woods near a house. The baby chipmunk discovers some peanuts on the steps of the house one day and keeps coming back until finally he, and his family, have gained enough courage to climb up to the porch and get the pile of peanuts that have been put out for them there. Uninspired, but it could be used with young children to develop beginning nature study concepts. (K-Gr.2)

R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. Driving Today & Tomorrow; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Whittlesey House, 1954. 144p. \$2.50.

A guide book for the beginning driver, with the emphasis on safety measures in driving. The first few chapters explain the basic principles on which cars operate and point out some of the places where dangerous wear may occur. The following chapters discuss safety measures, how to qualify as an expert driver, and some of the most common accidents and how to avoid them. The text is interesting; the illustrations are not always clear and do not always match the text. (Gr.5-)

NR King, Ruth. Nana, the Parlor Boarder. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 50p. \$2.

Pointless story about a poodle who is staying in an American boarding house for dogs while her theatrical family tours England. The animals are all personified but have little individuality. (K-Gr.1)

NR Krauss, Ruth. How To Make an Earthquake; drawings by Crockett Johnson. Harper, 1954. 28p. \$1.75.

Thirty-three suggested activities for young children, many of them the nonsense kinds of activities that children find so excruciatingly funny. The activities, in themselves, are well chosen and have an originality not often found in books of this type. Unfortunately their manner of presentation is wholly adult rather than child-like. The book is written in the tone of an adult laughing at children and lacks entirely the child-like qualities of language and humor that have made Miss Krauss' earlier books so popular with children and adults alike. The directions for most of the activities are so wordy and so supercilious in tone that the child will fail to get the point of what he is supposed to do. Crockett Johnson's illustrations are much more successful than is the text in both their humor and in their ability to convey the ideas which the author is wishing to put across. (Pre-school)

M Lago, Mary M. They Live in the City; photographs by Edward C. Meyer. Friendship Press, 1954. 118p. \$2.

A series of episodes, based on real events, showing how the lives of young people living in different sections of a large city can become interwoven through a mutual interest in church

work. The city is St. Louis and the areas represented include a new housing development, a slum section, and an old established residential section that is beginning to deteriorate. The book could be used by sociology classes but is too contrived to have much appeal otherwise.

(Gr.7-9)

Ad ✓ Leeming, Joseph. The Real Book of Science Experiments; illus. by Bette J. Davis. Garden City Books, 1954. 222p. \$1.50.

Simple experiments having to do with air, water, heat, cold, light, sound, gravity, electricity, optical illusions, weather, homemade gases, seeds and plants, and ending with a section of science magic (tricks to perform that are based on scientific principles). A few of the explanations seem over-simplified and there are few safety cautions although some of the experiments could result in cut hands. Many of the experiments are available in other books of a similar nature.

(Gr.6-8)

NR ✓ Macnaughton, Donald. The Moon Children. Vantage Press, 1954. 83p. \$2.50.

A fantasy concerning two earth children who befriend a frog and as a reward are taken on a trip to the moon. Once there they become involved in a war between the moon children and some horrible little creatures unimaginatively named Go-Furs who live in caves beneath the moon's surface. Needless to say the Go-Furs are defeated and the children return safely to their earth home. The fantasy is forced and lacking in originality. The text is too difficult for independent reading below the sixth grade and is not suited to reading aloud.

(Gr.4-6)

R ✓ McNeer, May Yonge, and Ward Lynd. Martin Luther. Abingdon, 1953. 96p. \$2.50.

A biography of Martin Luther told with dignity and simplicity, and illustrated with striking, full-page pictures by Lynd Ward. The account covers Luther's school days, his struggles with his father over his choice of a career, his work as a monk, and his final rebellion against some of the more unjust practices of the church of his day. Luther emerges as a fully-developed, well-rounded character and the times in which he lived are presented with equal clarity and vividness.

(Gr.6-8)

R ✓ Moore, Mary Furlong. The Baby Sitter's Guide; illus. by Phyllis Rowand. Crowell, 1953. 120p. \$2.

On the basis of her own experience, Miss Moore gives advice and suggestions for would-be baby sitters. Contents include: Making arrangements; Staying awake; Safety first; Inspiring confidence; Minding infant babies; Why behavior differs; You and the child; Playtime; Mealtime; Making bedtime easy; Illness and accidents; Tips for teen-agers (what the sitters should expect from parents and what parents have a right to ask of sitters). The material is much the same as that given in the Lowndes, A Manual for Baby Sitters (Little, 1949) but, because it is taken from Miss Moore's own experience, is written in a more personal tone.

(Gr.8-)

SpR ✓ NanKivell, Joice Mary. Tales of Christophilos; illus. by Panos Ghikas. Houghton Mifflin, 1954. 119p. \$2.50.

Fourteen tales of Christophilos, a young boy living in the Greek district of Athos, an isolated region where the dominant religion is Greek Orthodox and where the people still cling to many of the beliefs and customs of past ages. Although the appeal of the stories is more adult than childlike, they are beautifully told and will be enjoyed by the exceptional and more perceptive reader.

(Gr.4-6)

Ad ✓ Neurath, Marie. Around the World in a Flash; How Messages Are Sent Via Telephone, Telegraph, Radio and Television. Lothrop, 1954. 36p. \$1.75.

A brief introduction to some of the basic principles behind the operation of the telephone, the telegraph, the radio, and television. The information is presented through fairly simple text and isotype drawings.

(Gr.6-9)

R ✓ O'Donnell, Mabel and Townes, Willmina. Words I Like To Read and Write; illus. by Florence and Margaret Hoopes. Row, Peterson, 1954. 160p. \$1.32 paper.

A picture dictionary for children who are reading at a first grade level. The colorful illustrations and simple sentences will give the book appeal as reading readiness material for kindergarten children as well as value in beginning reading.

(K-Gr.1)

Ad ✓ Parker, Elinor. Most Gracious Majesty; The Story of Queen Elizabeth II; illus. with photographs. Crowell, 1953. 181p. \$2.75.

A pleasant, not outstanding, account of Queen Elizabeth's life from her birth to the time of her coronation. Well-written but adds nothing to the innumerable books on the same subject which have appeared within the past few years.

(Gr.7-9)

R ✓ Peterson, Isabel J., comp. The First Book of Poetry; pictures by Kathleen Elgin. Watts, 1954. 114p. \$1.75.

An excellent anthology of poems for youngsters in the middle elementary grades. The eighty-four poems are divided according to: A variety of animals; Interesting people; Journeying far and wide; The land of make-believe; The world around us; From season to season; and Just for fun. The selections are well chosen for young people at this level. The book is quite attractive with black and white line drawings that capture the spirit of each poem, and with an open look to each page that invites the reader to dip into the book and then keep on reading. A nice gift book as well as a useful addition to the poetry collections of school and public libraries.

(Gr.4-)

M ✓ Phelps, Margaret. Jaro and the Golden Colt; illus. by Evelyn Copelman. Macrae Smith, 1954. 168p. \$2.75.

A very run-of-the-mill story about a young Hopi Indian boy living in what is now Arizona at the

time when Coronado's army marched through that section of the country. Jaro was captured by one of the Coronado's men, but managed to escape in time to warn his people of the invaders and to help them protect themselves against the Spaniards. While the Spanish army was near Jaro's home he found the colt of a mare that had run away from the army's herd of horses and he was allowed by his tribe to keep it for his own. The setting is interesting but is weakened by the poor writing and especially by the author's incessant use of the "little did he dream that" type of forecasting. (Gr.4-6)

R Pondendorf, Ila. The True Book of Pets; illus. by Bill Armstrong. Childrens Press, 1954. 47p. \$2.

Nine fairly common pets—goldfish, toads, turtles, parakeets, hamsters, rabbits, raccoons, cats, and dogs, are introduced, with simple directions for their care and feeding. Nine other animals are suggested as pets and are pictured, but no other information about them is included. Easy enough for second grade readers to handle with little or no difficulty. (Gr.2-4)

NR Posy, Arnold. Holiday Night Dreams; drawings by Hella Arensen. Bloch, 1953. 263p. \$3.

Re-tellings of stories from Jewish history and folklore. The author uses a framework of a Seder eve celebration at which the father begins to tell the three children, Shlomo, Youdl, and Faygl stories from the Haggadah. Later in the evening the children fall asleep and dream that the characters from some of these stories come to visit them and take them adventuring through this and other worlds. Few of the characters or references to incidents are well enough identified to have meaning for non-Jewish children. For Jewish children the stories will have some meaning and interest, although the enjoyment of the book is hampered by the uneven inking of the type and the innumerable typographical errors. (Gr.6-8)

NR Rains, Marie Curtis. Lazy Liza Lizard's Tricks; pictures by Vera Neville. Winston, 1953. 119p. \$2.

Another series of episodes about the lazy, maliciously mischievous Liza Lizard, who steals food from Mr. Frog and Mr. Snake and succeeds in making their life miserable with her practical jokes. Many of the episodes are pointless, the humor is forced and the situations contrived. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Riedman, Sarah Regal. Food for People; illus. by Helen Ludwig. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 192p. \$2.50.

A detailed, interesting account of the history of foods, the chemistry of plants, the kinds of food mankind eats, the various elements that make up foods and the value of each element to man's growth and well-being, and planning a balanced diet. Some sociology is introduced at the end in the discussion of some of the problems of providing enough food to feed the peoples of the world. The illustrations are not always clear enough to be understandable. (Gr.7-9)

SpC Rinden, Gertrude Jenness. Sidewalk Kids; illus. by Fritz Kredel. Friendship Press, 1954. 127p. \$2, cloth; \$1.25, paper.

Ten stories about children living in cities or in new housing developments in city suburbs in various parts of the United States. The stories are obviously contrived to show the part which the church, and especially the mission church plays in the lives of such children, many of whom are living in slum areas. The purpose of the stories is too obvious for them to have much appeal for general reading although they could be used for missionary units in church schools. (Gr.5-7)

R Russell, Mary. Skeet; with pictures by Jeanne C. Manget. Little, Brown, 1954. 56p. \$2.

Skeet is a small California burro who has spent most of his life as the leader of a pack train that carries supplies to a resort camp in the mountains. When a new highway eliminates the necessity for a pack train, Skeet is sold to a ranch in the valley. He is never quite happy there and, the first opportunity that comes his way, starts back to his mountain home, unmindful of the fact that he has a small boy on his back. In the end the small boy is returned to his parents and Skeet is allowed to remain at the camp. The book jacket indicates that the book is intended for use at ages 6-8. The text is written at a fourth grade reading level and is too long for most readers below third grade. (Gr.3-5)

R Sawyer, Ruth. Journey Cake, Ho!; illus. by Robert McCloskey. Viking, 1953. 45p. \$2.50.

When hard times hit the farm on Tip Top Mountain, the bound boy, Johnny, set out to seek a new master. His journey cake fell from his pack just as he was starting down the mountain and it ran along the road daring anyone to try to catch it. As it ran a cow, a pig, a duck, a sheep, a donkey, and some red hens followed until they all found themselves back at the Tip Top Mountain farm. There the animals and Johnny settled down happily. A rollicking re-telling of a favorite folk tale with illustrations that are perfect for the spirit of the story and of the mountains. (K-Gr.3)

R Schachner, Nathan. Alexander Hamilton, Nation Builder; drawings by Gillett Griffin. McGraw-Hill, 1952. 222p. (They Made America Series). \$3.50.

The mature high school reader will appreciate this frank, well-written biography of Alexander Hamilton. The author does not attempt to picture Hamilton as the perfect hero, but shows his faults and his strengths in relation to the life of the period and in relation to the other great men of the time. The beginnings of the two major political parties in the United States are shown clearly, with their differences in opinions and the reasons for their development. The book will be useful for supplementary reading in American history as well as interesting as a biography. (Gr.10-12)

R ✓ Schwartz, Julius. Through the Magnifying Glass; Little Things That Make a Big Difference; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1954. 142p. \$2.50.

An introduction to the absorbing world that is to be found on the other side of a magnifying glass. The author begins with a discussion of lenses, where to find them and how to use and care for them. He then considers the things that are to be seen through magnifying glasses—things around the house such as crystals from the kitchen and the medicine cabinet, skin, hair, radium from a clock dial; plants; animals; and things designed by man such as coins, bills, light bulbs, phonograph records, etc. An excellent addition to science and nature study collections or to a child's home library.

(Gr.5-)

Ad ✓ Sellev, Catharine F. Adventures with the Heroes; with illus. by Steele Savage. Little, 1954. 145p. \$2.75.

A simplified re-telling of the legends of Sigurd and the Ring of the Nibelungs. The style is rather straight-forward and matter-of-fact but is satisfactory as an introduction to the stories and could lead readers on to an interest in the more literary versions later.

(Gr.5-7)

NR ✓ Smith, Eunice Young. Sam's Big Worry. Whitman, 1953. 32p. \$1.75.

A fairly routine story of the trials of animal life. Sam Squirrel collects acorns and nuts for his winter larder but each time he has enough to last him through the winter, Lumpity Bumpity Bear comes along and eats them all. Just as Sam is about to move away in desperation he discovers that the bear has grown too large to get into his nest and all is well after that. Written at an upper third grade reading level. Uninspired.

(K-Gr.3)

R ✓ Sterling, Dorothy. United Nations, N.Y.; photographs by Myron Ehrenberg. Doubleday, 1953. 80p. \$2.50.

An account of what goes on behind the scenes at United Nations, New York. This is not a political discussion of the U.N. or its organizations, but is a description of the work that goes into planning meetings, supplying equipment, keeping records, and doing the many other jobs that are a necessary part of the running of an organization of such a size and complexity. The material is interesting but the presentation is weakened by the author's constant reference to the delegates as "stars" and to the meetings as "shows".

(Gr.7-)

M ✓ Strong, Charles S. Snow King, Herd Dog of Lapland. Dodd, Mead, 1954. 249p. \$2.50.

Snow King is a pedigreed Norwegian Elkhound that has been given to a young Lapp boy to replace the dog he lost during the Second World War. The account of how he was trained to herd reindeer, and of the simultaneous maturing of his owner, Magne, has an interesting background but is told in a routine manner that gives it little appeal as a story.

(Gr.7-9)

R ✓ Sutcliff, Rosemary. Simon; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Oxford, 1953. 257p. \$2.75.

An absorbing story of the English Civil War and of two boys who had been life-long friends but whose political differences forced them to choose for a time between friendship and political beliefs. Simon, a farmer's son, chose the side of the Roundheads, and Amias, a doctor's son, chose the side of the Cavaliers. Both boys remained loyal to their beliefs but they also learned that such differences did not necessarily mean an end to their friendship. Good historical fiction as well as a fairly mature study in personal relationships and character development.

(Gr.8-10)

R ✓ Tor, Regina. Getting To Know Germany. Coward-McCann, 1954. 64p. \$2.50.
(Values: International understanding)

Following much the same pattern as that of her Getting To Know Korea, the author introduces Germany to young readers. The emphasis is on present day social and economic life, with the history of Germany and her present political situation touched on only briefly. The book will serve to give children of this country a fair and objective picture of the way in which modern Germans live and work. Unfortunately the illustrations tend to emphasize the old and picturesque rather than the modern.

(Gr.5-7)

R ✓ Tunis, Edwin. Weapons; A Pictorial History. World, 1954. 152p. \$4.95.

A detailed, interesting account of the development of weapons from the time primitive man first tied a thong to a rock to give more force and speed to his throw to the work of present day man on the atom bomb. The author has not attempted to describe every variation of every weapon ever devised by man, but he has covered the more important ones of the western world. The illustrations are exceptionally good and will make the book invaluable as a reference tool to give young readers a clear picture of weapons and armor, how they were made and how they operated. The table of contents is quite detailed but the book would have been more useful had it also contained an index.

(Gr.5-)

NR ✓ West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters at Sea Gull Beach; illus. by Helen S. Hamilton. Garden City, 1953. 184p. 95¢.

Another in the series of stories about the Hollister family. This time they are visiting the children's uncle at Sea Gull Beach, where they go hunting for—and find—a lost treasure ship. They have left the psychopathic Joey in Shoreham, their home town, but his counterpart appears at the beach in time to uphold Joey's record for attempted homicide.

(Gr.4-6)

NR ✓ Wheeler, Opal. The Story of Peter Tschaikovsky; illus. by Christine Price. Part One. Dutton, 1953. 120p. \$3.

A brief, not especially inspired, account of the life of Tschaikovsky from his birth to the time he was fourteen. The book ends on an unhappy note with Tschaikovsky returning sadly to the school where he has been so miserable that he has suffered a physical breakdown.

(Gr.3-5)

✓ Ad Zarchy, Jeanette. Sewing; illus. by Harry Zarchy. Knopf, 1952. 45p. \$1.50.

A fairly simple introduction to some of the fundamentals of beginning sewing. Contents include: Materials and Equipment; Work Stitches; Decorative and Embroidery Stitches; Seams; Binding; Buttons and Fasteners; and What To Make; The drawings are clear and aid in the understanding of the text. Although the book is designed for the child to use alone, some adult help and guidance will be necessary. (Gr.3-5)

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

✓ Adventure and Mystery for Boys and Girls.
Oregon State Library, Salem, Oregon. (An annotated, graded bibliography)

✓ Deutschman, Ben. "Cumulative Bibliography of Recommended Educational Recordings."
Audio-Visual Guide 20:32-25 Je'54.

✓ Erbes, Raymond G. "Housing the School Library"
Nation's Schools 53:63-76 Ap'54.

✓ Frontier and Pioneer Life in the United States.
Oregon State Library, Salem, Oregon. (A list of books for children and young people, Grades 3-9. Rev. July, 1954)

✓ "Outstanding Educational Books of 1953"; comp. by the Education Department of Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore. NEA Journal 43:299-300 My'54.

✓ Panush, Louis. "New Books for the High School Science Shelf" School Science and Mathematics 54:371-376 My'54.

✓ Story Hour for the Three to Five Year Old.
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland. Includes how and why to conduct a story hour, books suitable to use with three to five year old story hours, finger plays and action rhymes, etc.

✓ White, Dorothy Neal. Books Before Five; illus. by Joan Smith. Oxford University Press, 1954. 196p. \$3. (An account, in diary form, of Mrs. White's experiences in using books with her daughter from the child's second birthday until she was five. The book is written with the same warmth and understanding of both children and books that has made the author's About Books and Children such a valuable contribution. Parents and librarians will find this book equally useful and entertaining.)

✓ White, Evelyn C. "Supplementary Reading on South America for Elementary Grades"
Illinois Libraries 36:145-154 Ap'54. (An annotated, classified bibliography)