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BULLETIN

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

NR Aulaire, Ingri (Mortenson) d' and Edgar
3-5 Parin d'. The Two Cars. Doubleday,
yrs. 1955. 29p. \$1.50.

Two cars, one very old and the other quite new, begin arguing as to which is the faster. They decide to stage a race to settle the argument and set forth one moonlight night. The new car drives fast and with little regard for speed or safety laws. The old car plods along, and even though it loses the race it has the smug pleasure of having been complimented by a traffic policeman on its safe driving. The illustrations are colorful, but they do not make up for the dull, moralistic story.

SpR Bédollière, Emile Gigault de la. The
4-6 History of Mère Michel and Her Cat;
retold from the French by Margaret
Cardew; with the original illus. Day,
1955. 84p. \$2.25.

A humorous, full-flavored re-telling of the story of Mère Michel, the cat Moumouth, and the wicked butler Lustucru. Moumouth was rescued from a gang of guttersnipes by the Old Countess and turned over to Mère Michel, who

gave him the full measure of devotion and service that a cat of his distinction deserved. Only Lustucru failed to be impressed by Moumouth, and his efforts to dispose of the cat eventually brought about his own downfall. The tale is best suited to reading aloud, although it can be enjoyed by fairly mature readers.

NR Browin, Frances Williams. The Whozits;
7-9 illus. by Genia. Abelard-Schuman,
1955. 181p. \$2.50.

Thirteen-year-old Doris Hill lived with her mother, a magazine editor, in a large house in a once fashionable section of Philadelphia. There were no other children on their street and Doris was often lonely in the hours between her return from school and her mother's return from work. Rather than give up the house and move to a suburb, they decided to sponsor a D.P. family, preferably one with children, who could live with them in return for doing the cooking and housekeeping. Doris looked forward to having another girl her own age around, but Krysia Widlaski, the new girl proved to be anything but friendly. She even tried for a while to keep her younger brother from having anything to do with Doris, but she was not wholly successful there. In a rather

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excessively sentimental fashion the girls finally come to an understanding of each other and gain the friendship for which Doris had been hoping. A very purposive story, with characters and situations contrived to fit the purpose.

R Brown, Margaret Wise. Seven Stories
K-3 About a Cat Named Sneakers; illus. by
Jean Charlot. Scott, 1955. 144p. \$2.50.
Sneakers (so-called because of his four white paws) is a country cat, born in a barn, but adopted by a small boy who is spending the summer on the farm. With the boy, Sneakers visits the seashore, and at the end of the summer is taken to the city. Each story is a simply told episode in the first year of Sneakers' life and gives his impressions of the world around him, in city and country. The text is best suited to reading aloud to young children, although advanced second grade and most third grade readers could handle it with ease. Six of the stories originally appeared in Brown's The Fish With the Deep Sea Smile (Dutton, 1938).

NR Burgess, Thornton Waldo. Aunt Sally's
8-12 Friends in Fur; or, The Woodhouse
Night Club; with 34 photographs by the
author. Little, 1955. 146p. \$2.75.

Factual account of the experiences of Alice Cooke (Aunt Sally) with the small animals around her New England home. Aunt Sally converted a back room of her house into a kind of night club where she fed the raccoons and skunks of the neighborhood. The accounts of her various animals lose interest through the excessively sentimental tone in which they are presented, and both the style of writing and the format of the book are adult rather than childlike.

R Burnett, Constance Buel. The Silver
8-10 Answer; A Romantic Biography of
Elizabeth Barrett Browning; drawings
by Susan Foster. Knopf, 1955. 216p. \$3.

A well-written, fictionalized biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning that makes quite pleasant reading, although it adds little that is new either in content or treatment. The account in some ways parallels that of Waite's How Do I Love Thee? (Macrae Smith, 1953), however Miss Burnett gives a more grimly realistic picture of Edward Barrett than does Waite, and she also shows more of the eccentricities of Elizabeth Barrett. The book makes interesting and entertaining reading both as biography and as a love story. A bibliography at the end will lead interested readers on to more mature treatments of the same characters.

M Butters, Dorothy Gilman. Four-Party Line.
7-10 Macrae Smith, 1954. 198p. \$2.50.

A better than average junior-novel-career-story. Four girls, heretofore unknown to each other, are brought together through their jobs at the telephone company. Francine comes from an upper-middle class background and has taken the job as a summer fill-in before entering Wellesley. Turned down by the college because of a slight irregularity in her high school record, she re-examines her own interests and decides to enter nurses training, a career she had always wanted to follow but had hesitated to enter because of family opposition. Tippy is a hail-fellow-well-met type who gives too freely of her time and energy to help others, but who finds that romance is not necessarily reserved for the more glamorous girls. Peggy, married at seventeen and a mother at eighteen, finds herself in a desperate situation when Andy, her husband, becomes seriously ill and she can get no one to stay with the baby while she works. Tippy comes to the rescue by taking Peggy and the baby into her apartment until Andy recovers enough for him and Peggy to return to their home town in Utah. Mary, the last of the quartet, lives with her mother, brother, and sister-in-law in a slum section of town. She dreams of the day when she can get away from Railroad Avenue, and the telephone job is her avenue of escape. Her dream comes true when Tippy marries and lets Mary take over her apartment. Although the characters and situations are unevenly developed and the writing is by no means distinguished, the story moves well, there are some perceptive insights into human nature, and the solutions to the girls' problems are reasonable and logical ones.

M Cooper, Page. Amigo: Circus Horse; illus.
7-9 by Henry Pitz. World, 1955. 238p. \$2.50.
Amigo is a young, high-strung palomino horse owned by a circus juggler. He is too unreliable to be wholly satisfactory for his owner's act, and is eventually turned over to Fritz, a young boy who believes in the horse and plans to train it in the art of "haute école". The story gives an interesting picture of circus life, although Amigo is difficult to accept as a very realistic horse—he has more "vapors" than the heroine of an 18th century French novel.

R Davis, Norman. Picken's Treasure Hunt.
3-5 Oxford, 1955. 64p. \$2.50.

Another adventure of Picken, favorite son of an African chief. This time the ten-year-old boy has been sent to a neighboring tribe to find the gold throne that a former chief of the tribe had willed to Picken's father. In spite of the difficulties and dangers of travel during the rainy season, Picken accomplishes his mission and is hailed as a hero. As in the earlier books the plot seems rather improbable, but the author's

skill gives it plausibility, and Picken himself is a hero to please any young reader.

R Diska, Pat. Andy Says Bonjour! drawings K-2 by Chris Jenkyns. Vanguard, 1954. 47p. \$2.50.

Andy is a young American boy just arrived in Paris. He knows no French and the children who live near him know no English. However, a very knowledgeable cat, who speaks both French and English, undertakes to show Andy around the city, and before long the boy has picked up a store of French phrases. The children of the neighborhood in turn, learn enough English so that they can all play happily together. Quite sophisticated text and illustrations, but fun for reading and looking.

NR Donaldson, Lois and Bilder, Arthur K. 2-4 Skyjets; for Fliers of Tomorrow; pictures by A. K. Bilder. Whitman, 1954. 32p. \$1.75.

A dull attempt at science fantasy for modern children. Peter and Ann dream they are given jet-propelled flying suits for their birthday, and they don them immediately and fly to their grandmother's and back. Children interested in science fiction will scoff at such a crude attempt at the subject, nor is the fantasy satisfactory for youngsters wanting the more traditional type of fairy story. Poster type illustrations.

R Doorly, Eleanor. The Radium Woman; A Life of Marie Curie; woodcuts by Robert Gibbings. Roy, 1955. 181p. \$2.75. (Values: Courage; Loyalty; Devotion to a Cause)

In spite of an occasional bit of awkward writing and an archness of tone, the author has created a vivid, glowing picture of Marie Curie. Attention is given to her childhood in Poland and to the events that helped shape her passionate love for her country as well as her interest in science. Full treatment is given to the work of both the Curies, but through all the details of their discoveries shines the personality of Madame Curie, warm, vital, loving and brilliant.

R Earle, Olive Lydia. The Swans of Willow Pond. Morrow, 1955. 64p. \$2.

The story of a swan from cygnet to full-grown cob, told in easy text and clear, detailed drawings. The lively style and excellent pictures add to the interest of the subject matter for general reading, and give the book value for use in classes studying animal life. The text is written at about a third grade reading level and the book could be used with slow readers at grades much beyond that.

Ad Foster, Pauline E. and Larry. Your Kitten; illus. by Mary Latham. Melmont 1-2 1955. 31p. (A Pet Care Book). \$1.50.

A simply written book on the care of a pet kitten. The directions for making a bed for the kitten, for feeding it, for house-breaking it, for making it a scratch tree, and for playing with it are simple and easy enough for most beginning readers to handle alone. A glossary at the first of the book lists the unfamiliar words, and shows a picture of each. The illustrations are very much on the "cute" side and in at least one instance do not match the text.

NR Furman, Abraham Louis, ed. Everygirls Romance Stories. Lantern, 1955. 223p. \$2.50.

A collection of twelve short stories, all centered around themes of love and romance. The quality of the writing varies from mediocre to poor, and the book has no more to offer than would be found in an issue of one of the "romance" magazines.

NR Hall, Marjory. A Picnic for Judy; decorations by Mary Stevens. Funk & Wagnalls, 1955. 274p. \$2.75.

Both Judy Wilson and her mother were dismayed at Mr. Wilson's sudden decision to give up his job in Springvale and move them all to Pine Bay, Maine, where his aunt owned a large summer hotel. Judy had had few friends in Springvale and now that she had finished high school, had no particular plans for her future, but she nevertheless did not want to leave the city and face the prospect of spending the rest of her life in Pine Bay. During the course of the summer she comes to a closer relationship with her parents and to a better understanding of their problems. She also realizes that the summer resort business has much to offer, and she falls in love with a wealthy young man. There is an occasional penetrating insight into Judy's relations with her parents, but for the most part the characterizations and situations are stock, with no depth or reality.

M Hambleton, Jack. Temagami Guide. 7-9 Longmans, 1955. 168p. \$3.

In order to earn the money he needs to buy a Siberian husky pup, young Roy Humphrey applies for a license as a guide, and is hired by Tom Milliken, a wealthy mining man who owns a summer camp on Lake Temagami. When Mr. Milliken has to go to Europe on business, he brings his fifteen-year-old son, Jimmie, a potential juvenile delinquent, to the lake and leaves him in Roy's care, to the mutual unhappiness of both boys. During the course of the summer the two have a number of exciting adventures, including a shipwreck and a forest

fire, and by the time Mr. Milliken returns. Jimmie has given up smoking cigarettes and has become a man. Uneven writing and stock characters and situations.

R Hughes, Langston. The First Book of Jazz;
6- pictures by Cliff Roberts; music sel. by
David Martin. Watts, 1955. 65p. \$1.95.

An absorbing history of jazz beginning with some of the early music that later contributed to jazz, such as African drums, work songs, jubilees, the blues, etc., and coming up to modern swing and bebop. Much of the story is told through the life of Louis Armstrong, since his life is in itself a kind of history of jazz. Mr. Hughes' ability as a poet comes through in a prose style that is pleasing to read, and his obvious enjoyment of his subject heightens its interest and appeal for the reader. Roberts' illustrations capture the spirit of the text. The book contains an excellent record listing at the end that will be useful for building library or home collections.

Ad Jackson, Caary Paul. Spice's Football;
3-5 illus. by Leonard Shortall. Crowell,
1955. 90p. \$2.50.

Bucky Bunnel receives a football and a puppy for his eleventh birthday. The touch football team is making out well with Bucky as a star passer until Spice, the puppy, fractures a leg while running after the football. Bucky feels so badly about this that he cannot play his best game. Even after Spice's leg mends, boy and dog shy away when the ball is passed. When Spice overcomes his fear of the ball during a crucial point in a tied game, Bucky recovers his own skill with the ball. The style is easy to read, and there is enough information about touch football to interest the fifth grade sports fan who wants an easy book on the subject. The friendship between the teams, especially when Spice interferes with the games, seems too smooth to be realistic. The young veterinarian who coaches the team is a kind of substitute for Bucky's father, who is always too busy at his office to pay much attention to Bucky. The concern which Bucky feels for his dog is the most important element in the story.

R Kahl, Virginia. The Duchess Bakes a Cake.
K-3 Scribner, 1955. 32p. \$2.

Another rollicking tale in rhyme by the author of Away Went Wolfgang. The Duchess lived happily with her Duke and thirteen daughters until one day she became bored and decided to bake a "lovely light luscious delectable cake." It was light, all right—so light that it rose almost to the sky and took the Duchess up with it. After vainly trying to bring her down with cannon shot and arrows, the people gave up

and decided she would simply have to remain on top of the cake. Then the baby Gunhilde began crying for her supper—and there was the solution. Everyone began to eat cake until finally the Duchess was down again. Her husband and the King saw to it that cooking was thereafter left to the cooks. The red and green, rather stylized illustrations, add humor and appeal to the story. Excellent for reading aloud.

R Lawrence, Isabelle. A Spy in Williamsburg;
6-9 illus. by Manning de V. Lee. Rand
McNally, 1955. 224p. \$2.75.

Twelve-year-old Ben Budge is aware that his father's blacksmith shop is not very prosperous. He also senses that there is some kind of trouble in the air. His troublesome thoughts increase when Colonel George Washington and Patrick Henry stop in the shop and talk of spies and revolutionary "tea parties." How Ben unwittingly befriends a young British spy and then takes part in the saving of Williamsburg from the British make an absorbing adventure tale. The author has succeeded in combining a colorful historical background and pleasant family relations with an exciting story.

Ad Lide, Alice Alison and Johansen, Margaret
4-6 Alison. Lapland Drum; illus. by Ursula
Koering. Abingdon, 1955. 128p. \$1.50.
(Values: International understanding).

A mild, unexciting story of two young Lapp children, Brenda and Vik. Brenda is dissatisfied because her country is not larger nor its people more important in world affairs. Then, with the help of an understanding teacher, she comes to learn something of the long history of the Lapp people and their contribution to the world's knowledge of ancient times. Not as well written or as vigorous a story as Knoop's Lars and the Luck Stone (Harcourt, 1950), but it does give an interesting picture of the people and their way of life.

R Lipkind, William. Boy of the Islands;
3-5 illus. by Nicolas Mordvinoff. Harcourt,
1955. 55p. \$2.50.

Well-written, lively story of a young boy's life in the Hawaiian Islands before the coming of the white man. Lua wishes most of all to become a runner like his father. He successfully overcomes an injury from a fight with a shark, and he excels in sports among the boys of the village. He knows that his mother is the daughter of a great chief of another village; but he does not realize how this will affect his ambitions to be a runner. When the men of the village prepare to go on a long voyage to the island of his mother's people, Lua learns that he is to accompany them. The priest tells him that he must study hard and learn many things so

that he may someday take his place of leadership. Lua finds out that growing up is more than realizing his ambition to be a runner. He learns that there are responsibilities and satisfaction in fulfilling the role of leader as he is destined to do. The author writes in an easy natural style, using the necessary Hawaiian words as an integral part of the narrative, clearly understood. The carefully detailed sepia line drawings are closely united with the text, making this an attractive book.

NR McCready, Thomas L. Pekin White; illus. K-2 by Tasha Tudor. Ariel, 1955. 49p. \$ 2.50. Mildly amusing story of Pekin White, a handsome white drake, and his mate, Matilda Paddleford. The setting is the same as that of Biggity Bantam, and the story has many of the characteristics of that book—an episodic style, a lack of vigor to the writing, and a matter-of-fact tone that relieves the story of any elements of lightness and humor that it might otherwise have had. The writing is too difficult for young children to handle alone and is not suitable for reading aloud. Tasha Tudor's illustrations have a kind of old-fashioned charm, but no life.

Ad Myers, Grayce Silverton. The Mystery of the Missing Goat; illus. by Jack Weaver. Coward-McCann, 1955. 187p. \$ 2.50.

Puddin and Sandy decided one afternoon to christen Puddin's new pet goat, but they reckoned without the goat, who ran away and disappeared in a nearby abandoned house. As the boys continued to hunt for her during the next few days, they succeeded in locating a hidden cave and in helping the police discover the hide-out of a criminal—and incidentally found the goat. The mystery is plausible enough; the writing is just average.

Ad Niles, Katherine. The Angel in the Hayloft; 3-5 with a foreword by Robert Littell; illus. by Decie Merwin. Dutton, 1954. 60p. \$ 1.50.

An angel, playing hide-and-seek with other angels one night, hides in a farmer's hayloft and fails to notice when morning comes. The farmer finds her there and takes her to the house, where his wife calmly covers her wings with a pillowcase and sends her to school with the other children. Because she is different, the angel has trouble making friends, but she remains happy even so. The story ends at Christmas time when the angel is found by the other angels and returns home—but not before she has inspired the children around her. Something of a piece with the "Littlest Angel," but not quite so sentimental.

Ad Nolan, Jeannette (Covert). George Rogers Clark, Soldier and Hero; illus. by Lee

Ames. Messner, 1954. 190p. \$ 3.

A somewhat uneven account of the exploits of George Rogers Clark from the time he was nineteen to within a few years of his death, with the emphasis on his efforts to thwart the British in and around Kaskaskia and Vincennes. Action takes precedence over depth of characterization, and the author dismisses all criticism of Clark as unjustified in the light of his patriotic endeavors. Sentman's Drummer of Vincennes (Winston, 1952) gives a more fictionalized, but also a more readable, account of Clark's military expeditions. N.B.

R Perry, L. Day and Slepicka, Frank. Bird Houses. Bennett, 1955. 96p. \$ 1.75.

In addition to detailed instructions on how to build bird houses for many different kinds of birds, the authors give much interesting and informative material on bird habits and reasons for building houses in certain ways. Also includes instructions for building winter shelters for birds. A useful book for school shop collections, for home and general library use.

Ad Pistorius, Anna. What Tree Is It? 4- Follett, 1955. 29p. \$ 1.50.

Following the same pattern as her other books in the "What___ Is It?" series, the author presents 34 trees that are to be found in this country, with brief descriptions and a picture of each. Each section starts with a question about the tree, and the reader must turn to the back of the book to find the name of the trees. In addition to these 34 trees, seven additional trees are pictured and described, but their names are given with the pictures. The pages are somewhat too cluttered for the book to be wholly satisfactory for identification purposes. It will be adequate as an introductory book, but cannot compare with the Zim Trees (Simon & Schuster, 1952) as a handbook on tree identification.

NR Podendorf, Illa. The True Book of Animal Babies; illus. by Pauline Adams. Childrens Press, 1955. 47p. \$ 2.

A brief discussion of animal babies, that more or less groups them by the amount of care each must have from its parents, and by the kinds of changes each goes through from inception to maturity. The text is almost over-simplified at times, comparisons are not always made clear, and there are awkward sentence constructions. The illustrations seldom help to clarify the text; they, in fact, incline toward the cute rather than the factual. The text is too difficult for beginning readers to handle alone and would need to be read aloud below the third grade. The two Selsam books, All About Eggs

(Scott, 1952) and All Kinds of Babies (Scott, 1953) are no more difficult and give more detailed coverage.

M Price, Olive M. The Glass Mountain.

7-9 Washburn, 1954. 178p. \$2.75.

In this sequel to Three Golden Rivers (Bobbs-Merrill, 1948), the author takes the Bayard children, orphans, through another year of their life in Pittsburg. This time Stephen is well on his way to fame through his ability to design glassware, and seventeen-year-old Jenny is in the throes of a love affair. A false pride, which is never fully discredited, causes her to break with Christopher because of his wealth. However, in the end she realizes that he is her true love, and the book ends with their marriage. The writing is somewhat more adept than that of the earlier book, being less ridden with cliches, but Jenny seems even less of a real character and her fluctuations between the two young men in her life are not very realistically handled. The story is too dependent on the reader's knowledge of the first book to be wholly satisfactory.

Ad Reid, Meta Mayne. All Because of Dawks;
4-6 illus. by Geoffrey Whittam. St. Martin's,
1955. 238p. \$2.50.

After a slow beginning, this story of an Irish family's adventures during their summer holidays is fun to read. The characters are not as fully developed as in the Streatfeild "Shoe" books. However, the three Peyton children, with their pet jackdaw and their new neighbors, go camping, find an old smuggler's cave, and help an American visitor find his ancestors. All of this is not outstanding in plot or writing. Yet there are some bits of humor and fine adult-child relationships which will recommend the book for those children who want another English-type family story.

Ad Reynolds, Elizabeth Rogers. A Fire Mist
7-9 —A Planet; illus. by Rus Anderson.
Nelson, 1954. 128p. \$2.50.

Theories of the development of our solar system, and as much as is known of the nature of other planets, lead up to a fairly simple, not very profound discussion of the earth's history from pre-historic to modern times. The author tends to use generalizations that may be misleading, and the whole is a competent but not very exciting piece of work. Contains a glossary but no index.

NR Roberts, Catherine. The Real Book About
6-8 Real Crafts. Garden City Books, 1954.
223p. \$1.50.

Crafts of many kinds—Indian moccasins and beadwork, things to make with wire and metal,

paper sculpture, wood, dioramas and model theaters, model railroad accessories and scenery, and relief maps—are discussed and directions given for making a variety of objects. The illustrations for each section are given in a group at the end of the section, but the references to the illustrations are by plate number rather than by page, making it necessary for the reader to stop and leaf through the book in order to find the picture to which the text refers. In one instance the reference is given as "page oo", although there is no such page number in the book. The illustrations are so far from the text that much time is consumed simply in turning back and forth from directions to illustrations. The directions are sometimes confusing and difficult to follow. For the most part the tools used are not illustrated or described (only a few wood-working tools are described, and these are poorly done). Information about these same crafts is available in other, better organized books on the individual crafts.

M Rooke, Daphne. Twins in South Africa;
6-8 illus. by W. Lorraine. Houghton, 1955.
171p. \$2.

The author rather obviously knows her veldt country, and manages to convey to the reader something of the immensity of the country, the intense heat, and the starkness of life there. She is less successful in her characterizations of the people, who never completely come alive. The twins, who live on a veldt farm with their Afrikaner father and English mother, are home for the Christmas holidays. In addition to the excitement that is a normal part of the season, their holiday is spiced with an encounter with a lion and the finding of a diamond that had once belonged to their father but had been lost for many years. The setting is seemingly the early part of this century, although no actual dates are given. The story seems manufactured and lacks the warmth of characterization to give it interest and reality.

M Tompkins, Jane. The Porcupine Twins;
3-5 illus. by Kurt Wiese. Lippincott,
1954. 121p. \$2.50.

Following the pattern of her other "twin" stories, the author describes the first few months in the lives of Porky and Pudgy, a pair of porcupine twins. The information about porcupine habits is interesting, but the style is too coyly condescending to have much general appeal.

Ad Vaygouny, Margarite. Greenland Waters;
4-6 illus. by Raymond Creekmore. Mac-
millan, 1954. 148p. \$2.

A story of modern Greenland and of two children,

Jako and Pipaluk, who live with their mother in a small village there. Jako is expected to become a hunter as his father had been before him, but he dreams instead of going to school in the city and eventually of going to Denmark to study art. With the help and encouragement of his mother and his teacher, his dreams finally come true. The story is episodic and gives some interesting pictures of life among the people of Greenland, but it does not have much vigor in the telling.

NR Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. Daystar. 7-9 Westminster, 1955. 187p. \$2.75.

A social problem provides the theme for Miss Walden's most recent book. Gail Bennett, only child in one of the wealthier families of the small town of Northport, is hampered in her friendship with Concetta Ciminelli, an Italian girl from the wrong side of the river, by the disapproval of Mr. Bennett. To solve the problem of prejudices on both sides of the river, Gail starts a youth center to which all high school students in town are invited. Her father closes the center, but he is finally convinced by the other young people and by Gail's arguments, that such a center is needed and will be beneficial. There are a few good points to the presentation of the problem, but the solutions are too easily and too completely achieved, the characters are all one-dimensional and the ending is a tear-jerker.

R Watson, Sally. Highland Rebel; illus. by 6-8 Scott MacLain. Holt, 1954. 212p. \$2.75. In much the same vein as Dix's Merrylips, the story tells of a valliant young girl who takes part in a losing war. This time the setting is Scotland and the girl, eleven-year-old Lauren Keith Cameron is a staunch supporter of Bonnie Prince Charlie. In spite of her family's attempts to keep her sequestered, Lauren manages to aid the Scots in their first skirmish with the English and, later, disguised as a boy, suffers imprisonment rather than betray her Prince. High hearted romancing.

NR Weiss, Evelyn. Mixups and Fixups; New-3-5 Fangled Animal Stories; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. McKay, 1954. 116p. \$2.50.

Twelve stories using animal characters to point out human weaknesses and morals. The author endows her characters with an awkward combination of animal and human traits: the horned owl uses fireflies as tail, ear, and wing lights to guide his swift landings; mother Dinosaur corrects her son's use of English after the author has carefully explained that the dinosaurs were stupid not only because they had small brains but "there were no schools,

either." The author steps out of the story to make such homilies as "if at first you don't succeed, try, try, again." The stories are neither good fantasy nor accurate nature lore.

M Wellman, Manly Wade. Gray Riders; Jeb 5-7 Stuart and His Men; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Aladdin, 1954. 192p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

A fictionalized account of the Civil War career of Jeb Stuart as seen through the experiences of Jesse Holt, a fourteen-year-old boy who attached himself to Stuart's cavalry unit as a courier. There are a few moments of suspense to the story, and some interesting views of several of the Southern leaders, but the generally inept writing lacks force or conviction.

R Whiteley, Mary. Wait Till September; 6-8 illus. by Sylvia Saks. Lothrop, 1954. 185p. \$2.50. (Values: Self-confidence).

Shy, twelve-year-old Brenda Jeremy, an only child, was sent to spend a summer with her aunt and uncle at their Canadian lake resort, the Merry Weller. At first she was miserable because of her shyness and her inability to do well any of the activities around the camp. Then she discovered Shelly, also twelve, an orphan who was spending the summer with Mrs. Wentworth, a nearby neighbor. Brenda's friendship with Shelly and her interest in boats drew her out of herself, until by the end of the summer she was a totally different person. The summer had an especially happy ending for her when her parents decided to adopt Shelly. A pleasant story, although the style is more episodic than is generally used for this age reader. The illustrations are crude and inaccurate.

NR Winders, Gertrude Hecker. Ethan Allen, 4-6 Green Mountain Boy; illus. by Sandra James. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 192p. \$1.75.

Fictionalized biography of Ethan Allen that gives a moderately interesting picture of life in the Pre-Revolutionary days of Connecticut but that does nothing to give a child a clear idea of what the Green Mountain state is, or what Allen's part in the development of the country was. Although the struggle between the New York men and the Connecticut men is introduced, it is abruptly dropped in favor of the battle for Ticonderoga, and that won, the book ends.

M Winwar, Frances. Queen Elizabeth and the Spanish Armada; illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Random House, 1954. 184p. (A World Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A complete, albeit superficial, account of the life of Elizabeth I, from the time of her birth to her death. The book could serve as an introductory work on this period of English history, although there is no depth to the characterization of Elizabeth and the important facets of her reign are presented with little attempt at interpretation. There is nothing here to challenge the thinking of the able, or even the average, student.

R Wyndham, Lee. Susie and the Dancing Cat;
4-6 pictures by Jane Miller. Dodd, 1954.
80p. \$2.75.

Nine-year-old Susie has been a ballet enthusiast for three years. Her love of dancing is equalled only by her love for animals—a love that causes trouble when she rescues a stray kitten from the cold and takes it to dancing class. The kitten is adopted by the class and christened "Giselle." How it becomes a dancing cat and almost disrupts the annual recital makes an entertaining story. If the cat and its friendly rival, the poodle Coco, seem rather unconvincing in their antics, the actions of the small girls in the ballet class are quite believable and true to life. A "Note to Parents" at the end warns against allowing girls to begin wearing toe shoes too early.

R Yashima, Mitsu and Taro. Plenty to Watch
3-5 Viking, 1954. 39p. \$2.50.

In a style similar to that of The Village Tree, the authors recreate in brief text and beautiful pictures the activities of childhood in a village in Japan. This time the pictures show the things that a child might see on the way home from school each day. Both the text and the illustrations are too sophisticated for the picture book age. However, the illustrations would be excellent for art classes and the text and pictures could be used with middle and upper elementary grades that are studying Japan.

M Ylla. Two Little Bears. Harper, 1954.
1-2 30p. \$2.50.

Photographs and very brief text tell the adventures of two bear cubs who wander away from home one day and have many exciting things happen before their mother finally finds them. The photographs are excellent, although obviously posed. There is little to the story, which has been written specifically for the pictures.

NR Young, Miriam. Georgie Finds a Grandpa;
K-1 picture by Eloise Wilkin. Simon &
Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden
Book). 25¢.

Six-year-old Georgie felt underprivileged because he was the only child in his class who did not have a grandpa. One day he wandered into an antique shop, met the elderly father of the shop owner, and tried to buy the man to be his own grandpa. The shop owner objected but did offer to give her father to Georgie on Saturdays and after school. A fairly typical situation with children, but one that is more appreciated by adults than by other children. Sweetly sentimental illustrations.

Heaton, Margaret M. and Lewis, Helen B.
Reading Ladders for Human Relations. Rev.
& enl. ed. American Council on Education,
1955. 215p. \$1.75.

657 titles and 504 authors are represented in this new edition. The books have been carefully selected for their value in reading guidance in human relations. Broad grade levels are indicated for the titles in each "ladder" and the books are annotated to show their relationship to the heading under which each is listed. The ladders include: Patterns of Family Life; Community Contrasts; Economic Differences; Differences Between Generations; Adjustment to New Places and Situations; How It Feels To Grow Up; Belonging to Groups; Experiences of Acceptance and Rejection. A useful list for school and public libraries.