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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume VIII

February, 1955

Number 6

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

New Titles

for Children and Young People

- R Agnew, Edith J. Nezbah's Lamb; drawings by Jean Martinez. Friendship Press, 1954. 32p. 75¢ paper; \$1.25 boards.

A simply told episode in the life of a young Navajo Indian girl. As Nezbah is playing with her pet lamb one day she falls and cuts her finger. The cut becomes infected so her mother takes her to the clinic that a mission doctor and nurse are conducting in the nearby school house. The lamb goes along and the nurse fixes a scratch on its ear in addition to treating Nezbah's finger. Not much story but the colorful pictures will give the young child some idea of the way in which the Navajos live. Written at a third reader level. (Gr. 2-3)

- SpC Allen, Arthur A. and Kellogg, Peter P. Songbirds of America; in color, sound and story; foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. Book-Records, Inc., 1954. 28p. (Soundbook) \$4.95.

Twenty-four familiar songbirds of America are presented in brief text, full-color illustrations, and with their songs reproduced on a 10-inch LP record that is included with the book. In spite of a tendency toward a rather heavy-handed humor in the picture captions, and a straining for effect in the human interpretations of the

sounds which the birds make, the book and record will be useful for beginning bird identification. Information about each bird includes: summer and winter range, size, habits, song, and a memory phrase that is supposed to help identify the song. There are also sections on recording bird songs, photographing birds, attracting birds, and a list of books and records for further study. The recording that accompanies the book is made from the Cornell University collection of bird songs. Bound in paper with a plastic spiral back. (Gr. 4-)

- NR Anton, Benjamin D. We Live in a Great Big City; Poems for Children. Exposition Press, 1954. 64p. \$2.50.

A collection of exceedingly poor verse about various aspects of life in the city, characterized by awkward rhymes, uneven metre, and a lack of originality in the subject matter. (Gr. 6-)

- NR Beecher, Elizabeth. Roy Rogers and Cowboy Toby; pictures by Mel Crawford. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Dull story of a small boy living on Roy Rogers' ranch who tries his hand at archery, trick riding, and roping in preparation for the coming rodeo. He finally settles on a trick rope act that Roy Rogers teaches him. The story might possibly appeal to TV fans but is too thin otherwise. (K-Gr. 1)

BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago Library, Children's Book Center. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this BULLETIN are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

Published monthly except August. Subscription price is \$2.50 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

- R Bothwell, Jean. The Red Barn Club; illus. by Margaret Ayer. Harcourt, 1954. 245p. \$3. (Values: Accepting Responsibility; Age-Mate Relations)

A sequel to Peter Holt, P.K. The pony Calico, who was tentatively given to the children in the earlier book, is again involved. This time his ownership is finally disclosed, much to Molly Holt's distress. Even though she is unhappy over having to give up the pony, she is eventually consoled by the gift of a boxer puppy. Along with the theme of the mystery of Calico's ownership runs the story of Peter's struggles to recognize and accept his responsibilities as a minister's son. Like the earlier book this one has some clear insights into the ways of a young boy and the workings of a small town. (Gr.5-7)

- M Buckley, Peter. Cesare of Italy; written and photographed by Peter Buckley. Watts, 1954. 88p. (Around the World Today). \$2.75.

A written-to-order story designed to fit a series of photographs, some of them obviously posed, showing the life of a small boy in the hill town of Castello, Italy. As a picture of everyday life in this particular town the book has some interest. The photographs are especially useful in so far as they show the people of the village in modern dress. The book is, however, an episodic narrative instead of a story and its interest for general library use will be limited for that reason. The information contained in the text is fragmentary, and Castello is not typical enough for the reader to use this information to form generalizations about other Italian villages. (Gr.4-6)

- R Burns, William Aloysius. Horses and Their Ancestors; pictures by Paula Hutchison. Whittlesey House, 1954. 64p. \$2.75.

A survey of the development of the horse from the days of the prehistoric eohippus to modern times. Also included are a few brief sidelights on related animals such as the tapir and the rhinoceros, and a section on the use of the horse as a theme in the arts: in music, paintings, sculpture, writing, etc. Illustrated with excellent marginal drawings, although in the instance of the tapir and rhinoceros the text and illustrations have been transposed. A useful introduction to the subject. Written at an upper third grade reading level. (Gr.3-5)

- Ad Carpenter, Shirley, Neurath, Marie and Irwin, Stewart. Mountains and Valleys. Hanover House, 1954. 31p. \$1.

A trip around the globe showing the location of mountains, mountain ranges, and valleys of all types. Brief explanations are given for the causes of these geographical phenomena and something of their effects on the social and economic lives of people living on or near them. The material is too sketchy to give a wholly satisfactory answer to children's questions on these subjects, although the book might be used as a browsing book for geography classes. In a few instances

the poor typography leads to confusion. (Gr.5-7)

- NR Coleman, Earl S. Rockets at Dawn; decorations by L. D. Cram. Longmans, 1954. 193p. \$2.75.

A second story about Mace Donnegan and Winton Phillips, heroes of Sierra Quest. This time the two boys have started their pack train service, but are handicapped by a lack of money and equipment. On learning of a \$5,000 reward that is being offered by a mining company for the recovery of some lost gold ore, they set forth to make the find. This they accomplish after a series of melodramatic adventures ranging from a narrow escape from a flash flood to a narrow escape from bombs after they have located the gold ore on a nearby army bombing range (which is about all that the title has to do with the story). Poorly written and unrealistic. (Gr.6-8)

- M Cooper, Page. Thunder; illus. by Edward Shenton. World Pub. Co., 1954. 218p. \$2.50.

A story of two boys and their horse. The horse, Thunder, belonged to thirteen-year-old Peter Carver but much of its training was done by Peter's best friend, Spud, a young Negro boy whose sure way with horses was surpassed only by his exceptional musical ability. In fact, Peter often was perplexed that Spud could sometimes prefer to spend time at school practicing on his flute instead of being out with Thunder. The story covers a two year period during which time the boys train the horse for his first appearance at the race track, and Spud undergoes his first unhappy experience with racial prejudice. The human relations in the story are handled much more realistically than is the part about the horse, who in his first and only race breaks the record set by Man-o'-War and at the same time injures his leg to such an extent that he can no longer race. Uneven writing and a slow pace. (Gr.7-9)

- Ad Downey, Fairfax Davis. The Shining Filly. Scribner's, 1954. 167p. \$2.50.

A story of rancho days in California when that section of the country was still under Mexican rule. Two girls, the daughter and the ward of Don Jose Aguila, are rivals in an attempt to capture a wild palomino filly. Neither girl succeeds, for the horse is captured by young Robert Winfield, second mate on an American ship that has anchored in the Santa Barbara harbor to take on a load of hides. Winfield becomes enamored of both girls but finally decides he is really in love with Isabel, the ward of Don Jose, marries her and settles down as a ranchero. A good picture of the period, but rather stolid writing. (Gr. 8-10)

- R Epstein, Samuel and Williams, Beryl. The Real Book About the Sea; illus. by Si Frankel. Garden City, 1954. 223p. \$1.50.

An interestingly written account of the oceans,

how they were formed, what is known about the life to be found in various parts of the ocean, and how the ocean affects our everyday life. Some of the potential future uses of the ocean and its products are also discussed. In one or two instances a tendency toward over-simplification could lead to misunderstandings, but on the whole the material is well-handled and should have wide appeal. (Gr.6-8)

NR Evatt, Harriet. The Papoose Who Wouldn't Keep Her Stockings On; illus. by the author. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 31p. \$1.75.

Picture-story book about an Ojibway Indian papoose who would not wear her stockings. As a result, winter could not begin, the family could not move to the hunting grounds, and the squirrel could not move into the Indians' summer cabin where he usually spent the winter. Finally the chief solved the problem by giving the papoose a pair of puckered moccasins and these helped to keep her stockings on. A rather pointless story with stilted, kewpie doll illustrations. The text is too difficult for young children to read alone, and is not suited to reading aloud.

(Pre-school)

SpR Fanchiotti, Margherita. A Bow in the Cloud; illus. by Moyra Leatham. Oxford, 1954. 227p. \$2.75.

An unusual story of the ark, told from the point of view of four young children who join Noah and his family and live with them, on the ark, during the time of the flood. This is in no way a Bible story; the religious elements are played down, except for Noah's faith that the flood will come and that he, his family, and the animals will escape. The story is told with depth and perception; the characters all emerge as individuals and as very likable, understandable people with all of the vitality, the strengths and the weaknesses of real people. The setting is Asia, but there are decidedly British tones to the conversations that, far from distracting the reader, give an added fillip to the writing. (Gr.6-8)

M Fenner, Phyllis Reid, ed. Circus Parade; Stories of the Big Top; illus. by Lee Ames. Knopf, 1954. 174p. \$3.

Twelve stories of the circus, four of them originally published in children's magazines and the other eight excerpts from longer books. The writing is uneven in quality and in level of reading difficulty. Most readers will find the full length books from which these selections are taken to be more interesting reading. (Gr.4-6)

Ad Fenton, Carroll Lane and Pallas, Dorothy Constance. Birds and Their World; illus. by Carroll Lane Fenton. Day, 1954. 96p. \$2.75.

An overview of the bird world that will serve as an introduction to the subject. This is not a guide to bird identification; the illustrations are all in black-and-white and specific species of birds are described only as they reflect characteristics of a larger group. Nesting, mating,

feeding, and migration habits; how birds fly; where various types of birds live; protective devices of birds, are some of the aspects of birds and their world that are dealt with. The text is unfortunately weakened by the author's habit of giving personal names to the birds he is describing. (Gr.5-7)

M Fisher, Aileen Lucia and Rabe, Olive. United Nations Plays and Programs. Plays, Inc., 1954. 285p. \$3.50.

A collection of plays, playlets, group readings, recitations, and songs designed to express the purposes and ideals of the various U.N. organizations. The material is wholly without literary quality or inspiration and its only purpose will be to supply program materials for the celebration of U.N. Day. (Gr.6-8)

SpC Goddard, Carrie Lou. Jesus Goes to School; pictures by Doris Stolberg. Abingdon, 1954. 22p. \$1.

A single, fictionalized episode in the life of Jesus, showing him as a small boy in school one day. The entire story centers around the fact that Jesus knew his lesson for that day and recited it for the other boys. Very slight.

(K-Gr.2)

M Graham, Eleanor. The Story of Charles Dickens; illus. with plates from the original editions of his works and with additional drawings by Norman Meredith. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 219p. \$2.50.

Charles Dickens lived a life that often paralleled and sometimes even surpassed that of the characters who have come to life through his many books. Unfortunately his biographer has not possessed an equal gift for giving reality to her characters, and as a result Dickens never emerges from the book as a person of substance and vitality. The author has achieved a measure of success in pointing up some parallels between Dickens' life and some of the episodes and characters from his books. His marital difficulties are glossed over, with all the burden of wrong placed on his wife. The book is further weakened by poor quality of paper and uneven inking of type. (Gr.8-12)

R Hackett, Walter Anthony. The Swans of Ballycastle; illus. by Bettina Ariel, 1954. 64p. \$2.75.

Re-telling of an Irish legend about three young children who are turned into swans to escape the wrath of their stepmother, return to Ballycastle two hundred years later, but are still not happy there and eventually return to the isle of swans. The soft, misty tones of Bettina's illustrations capture the feeling of the story, which is told with a quiet understatement that makes pleasant reading aloud. (Gr.2-6)

NR Heiderstadt, Dorothy. A Book of Heroes; Great Europeans Who Live in the Hearts of Their People; drawings by Harry

Lees. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 179p. \$2.50.
A collection of brief episodes from the lives of nineteen famous Europeans, each one representing a different country. The people range from Pericles of ancient Greece to Nansen of modern Norway, and represent great men of social and religious movements as well as great military figures. There is little spark to the writing of the sketches and the book would be of use for assigned reading rather than for general library. The paper is of poor quality and the type is often blurred. (Gr.5-7)

M Hendrickson, Dorris Walsh. Breakneck Hill; with pictures by Lisl Weil. Follett, 1954. 32p. \$2.

A slightly amusing story of the attempts of the people living on Breakneck Hill to find some adequate means of transportation up the hill and back down again. They solve the problem with a streetcar that is drawn up the hill by a horse, who then rides back down the hill on a platform attached to the rear of the car. The story is based on a similar situation that actually existed in Denver, Colorado. Cartoonish illustrations. (Gr.1-3)

R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Andrew Jackson, Frontier Statesman; illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Follett, 1954. 224p. \$3.50.

A very readable biography of Andrew Jackson in which he emerges as a likable character although perhaps not quite as controversial a figure as is generally pictured. His fiery temper is not ignored, but it is played down until the reader comes to feel that in every instance where his temper caused trouble, he was more sinned against than sinning. As is usual in these biographies, the author has drawn a vivid picture of the times in which her subject lived. (Gr.5-7)

R Jupo, Frank. Nothing To Eat — But Food. Aladdin, 1954. 48p. \$2.

In somewhat the same pattern as Nothing To Wear — But Clothes, the author traces the history of food from earliest to modern times through brief text and amusing, graphic illustrations. The emphasis is on the production and preservation of food rather than on various kinds of food. Written at a third grade reading level. (Gr.2-4)

M Kohler, Julilly H. Friend to All; illus. by Lee Ames. Aladdin, 1954. 214p. \$2.75.

A story of the Girl Scouts that will have interest for Scouts but has little to offer for general reading. Sixth grader Camilla James moves to a new town just before the end of her fifth year in school. At first she is unhappy over the move, but as soon as her membership has been transferred to the new troop she begins to make new friends and to find new interests. Cam's problems are chosen as much to demonstrate the Girl Scout principles as to tell of a young girl's growing pains. A purposive story. (Gr.5-7)

NR Koral, Bella. George Washington; The Father of Our Country; illus. by William Hutchinson. Random House, 1954. 62p. \$1.

A brief, mundane account of Washington's life that touches on the main events without ever giving reality to the man as a personality. Within such a short text the author has chosen to devote several pages to legends, such as the one about the cherry tree, without clearly identifying them as legends and with the rather weak excuse that is through such stories that we see the real character of Washington. The account is not much longer or more interestingly written than that to be found in any good encyclopedia and the illustrations are wholly without artistic worth. (Gr.6-8)

Ad Kramer, Bettina Leonard. Book of Big Beasts; illus. by Harold V. Kramer. Melmont, 1954. 21p. \$1.35.

Ten dinosaurs are described in very brief, simple text and full-page black-and-white drawings. The drawings are, in many ways, the most important part of the book. The text is written at a third grade reading level. (Gr.2-4)

NR Lambert, Janet. A Dream for Susan. Dutton, 1954. 189p. \$2.75.

Fifteen-year-old Susan finding life in a boarding school unpleasant looks forward to going with her army general father to his new assignment in Turkey. When this plan does not go through, Susan leaves school anyway under false pretenses and finds refuge first with relatives and then with friends. Her unhappiness is alleviated by her entering a day school and by her planning to reassemble some of her large family in a house of their own. Poor values are found in the snobbery as evidenced in the characterizations and the incredible roster of characters, which includes British noblemen and Hollywood stars; the overindulgent centering of attention on an adolescent and her problems, with blame being laid on the "defection" of the parent; and the offering of flight from a situation as the best solution to a problem. In addition the literary style is weak. (Gr.7-9)

R Lenski, Lois. Corn-Farm Boy. Lippincott, 1954. 180p. \$3. (Values: Adjustment to Handicaps)

Young Dick Hoffman loved the farm on which he lived and he enjoyed all aspects of farm work, but he suffered from rheumatic fever and so could not share in the work as much as he would have liked. The story of one spring and summer in Dick's life is told in an episodic style, with virtually no plot, and with Dick's adjustment to the idea that he would never be strong enough for farm work as the single thread that holds the story together. The book gives an interesting picture of life on an Iowa corn farm and as such will have value, especially for collections of regional materials. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Leslie, Marguerite. The Family Book of Dogs; with 120 drawings by Lumen Martin Winter. Coward-McCann, 1954. 62p. \$3.50.

Fifty-eight distinct breeds of dogs, plus one page devoted to mongrels and one to toy breeds, are described in brief text and black-and-white drawings. The emphasis in the text is on the possibilities offered by each breed as pets, both for city apartment life and in the country. Something of the history of each breed is included as well as some of the changes that have occurred between the earlier and modern forms of each breed. The coat, color, average height, and average weight for each dog are given. (Gr.5-)

NR Lewellen, John Bryan. The True Book of Moon, Sun and Stars; pictures by Lois Fisher, Childrens Press, 1954. 46p. \$2. An introduction to astronomy for young children. The brevity of the text makes it occasionally difficult to understand and the illustrations have sacrificed clarity for attempted humor. The book is written at an upper first grade reading level, but is likely to prove confusing for the child of that age who tries to use it alone. (Gr.1-3)

M Meyers, Barlow. Struggle at Saddle Bow. Westminster, 1954. 236p. \$2.75. Young Johnny Riley finished his high school career by spending a night in the local jail for breaking two windows in the school building. As payment for his misdeeds he was paroled to his older brother and required to report to the nearby sheriff once a month. Johnny's brother, Harve, had just taken on the job of operating his uncle's sheep ranch, and the double prospect of working for Harve and working with sheep was almost more than Johnny could face. The two boys did not work easily together but by the end of the first year they had come to terms of mutual liking and respect, and Johnny had decided to stay on as his brother's partner. The story is weakened by a tendency toward the sensational in the handling of the problem of a neighbor who is determined to run the two boys out of the county, but the account of the conflict between the two brothers is well enough handled to somewhat offset the other weaknesses of the story. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Otto, Margaret Glover and Stuart. The Horse and Pony Book. Morrow, 1954. 64p. \$2.50.

Twenty-four kinds of horses, differentiated by breed and by use, are described in brief text and illustrations. There is no organization to the book and some of the uses that are described are uses of the past rather than of the present day. The material is interesting in spite of occasional awkward phrasings. In one instance the picture to which the text refers is on the wrong page and the results are rather confusing. (Gr.4-8)

R Parsons, Arthur H. The Horn That Stopped

the Band; pictures by Lynd Ward. Watts, 1954. 48p. \$2.50.

In the middle of band practice, Terry's French horn brought everything to a stop when it began going "phloo, phloo, phloof." Terry went to the school principal for help and was sent in turn to the leader of the All City Brass Band and the director of the Symphony Orchestra. There the janitor solved the problem by dislodging a pea that was the cause of all the trouble, and Terry ended up by playing a piece with the orchestra. The story is told with a lightly humorous touch that is further enhanced by Lynd Ward's amusing illustrations. (Gr.3-5)

R Pinkerton, Kathrene Sutherland (Gedney). Peddler's Crew. Harcourt, 1954. 243p. \$3.

An unusual setting for a warm and friendly family story. Danforth Browne, an ex-actor, his seventeen-year-old daughter Royal and fourteen-year-old son Wally, operate a store boat along the Canadian coast north of Vancouver. The story of their life during the summer of 1925 makes entertaining reading, spiced with a slight romance. The writing is somewhat uneven in spots but the setting will have interest and the characterizations are, for the most part, well handled. (Gr.7-9)

M Plenn, Doris Troutman. The Green Song; illus. by Paul Galdone. McKay, 1954. 128p. \$2.50.

The Green Song is the song that all coquis, a species of tree frog, in Puerto Rico sing every evening to make certain that the stars get in their right places, the moon comes up, and all is in order to welcome the sun the next morning. Pepe, an inquisitive young coquis, learned one day that green is not the only color in the world and that his cane field is not the extent of the world. He thereupon embarked on a world tour that took him by air to New York City where he met, and lost, a poet; was given the key to the city, and ended up in a zoo, where he was finally rescued by the poet and returned to Puerto Rico. Through Pepe's adventures the author is poking fun at officials and red tape, both in government and in the business world. There is some humor to the story although much of it is too subtle for the age reader who usually enjoys this type of fantasy. (Gr.4-6)

NR Reynolds, Dickson. Fortune Trail; decorations by Edmond J. Fitzgerald. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 213p. \$2.75.

Young Mark starts out for the booming Pacific Northwest in search of his brother, Orville. He manages his transportation there by acting as a personal secretary for Sleeth, who dupes him and leaves him penniless at the end of the trip. Mark finds odd jobs as he searches for Orville. In forcing Sleeth later to pay him, Mark accepts what seems to be some worthless mine stock. Then a pack train job leads him to his brother, the mine stock suddenly turns out to

be valuable, and Mark's success is complete. The whole story is poorly constructed, the plot depending on coincidences and ready made situations, and on incidents that supposedly add interest but do not further the plot, e.g., the contrived rescues of two young women who have nothing to do with the main plot line. (Gr.7-9)

NR Rothe, Fenella. Mr. Bear's House; illus. by Clare McKinley. Rand McNally, 1953. 29p. 25¢. (A Book-Elf Book)

Mr. Bear builds himself a human-type house in the woods, with the help of the beavers, the birds, and a carpenter. An unsuccessful attempt to combine fantasy and realism. (Pre-school)

R Sears, Paul McCutcheon. Tree Frog; illus. by Barbara Latham. Holiday House, 1954. 46p. \$2.

An attractive, interestingly written addition to animal study material for elementary grade use. The story of the tree frog is told from the mating of a male and female frog, through the hatching of the eggs, and to the maturing of the female frog that hatched from one of the eggs. The illustrations add beauty to the book and are accurate in their coloring and lines. The book is written at a fourth grade reading level, but it lends itself easily to reading aloud to younger children. (Gr.2-4)

NR Shannon, Terry and Payzant, Charles. Today Is Story Day; A Tale for Every Day in the Week; illus. by Charles Payzant. Aladdin, 1954. 28p. \$2.

Seven highly contrived stories—one for each day in the week. The stories are very slight, often pointless, and there is little originality to either the ideas expressed in them or the treatment. Mediocre illustrations. The stories are too difficult for young children to handle alone and are not especially suited to reading aloud.

(Pre-school)

M Shannon, Terry. Wheels Across America; illus. by Charles Payzant. Aladdin, 1954. 28p. \$2.

Brief over-view of the history of transportation in America, with an emphasis on transportation that requires wheels. The text ends with trains and there is no indication of the importance of wheels in air transportation. A double-page map in the center of the book shows some of the more important trails across the continent—The Oregon Trail, the Sante Fe Trail, etc. The illustrations of the various vehicles that have been used for transportation are in many ways the most important part of the book. The text is too superficial to serve as more than an introduction to the subject and its arrangement on the pages is annoyingly confusing. Written at an upper third grade reading level. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Sheean, Vincent. Thomas Jefferson, Father of Democracy; illus. by Warren Chappel. Random House, 1953. 184p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

An attempt to give in brief form the biography of Thomas Jefferson, with the emphasis on his ideas and theories of government, their effects on American history, plus the counter ideas and theories which other great Americans of the time had and their reasons for believing as they did. The author's extensive digressions are distracting without adding greatly to the reader's understanding of Jefferson or his times. The Lisitzky, Thomas Jefferson (Viking, 1933) and the Judson, Thomas Jefferson, Champion of the People (Wilcox and Follett, 1952) give a more complete picture of the man without minimizing the times in which he lived. (Gr.7-9)

R Sherlock, Philip Manderson. Anansi, the Spider Man; Jamaican Folk Tales; illus. by Marcia Brown. Crowell, 1954. 112p. \$2.50.

An excellent collection of folk tales from Jamaica, retold in a form that will be useful for the storyteller and fun for independent reading. Anansi is the sly, crafty type of folk hero—somewhat like Reynard the Fox in this respect—whose ways of outwitting his friends and enemies, and his reasons for doing so are not always above reproach. Although he occasionally is bested, more often than not he is triumphant. Both the text and the illustrations capture the spirit of the stories to make an attractive book and an important addition to folklore collections. (Gr.4-6)

R Smiley, Virginia Kester. Little Boy Navajo; pictures by Tom Two Arrows. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 58p. \$2.50.

Somewhat patterned story of a young Navajo boy who saves a baby lamb and thus proves himself man enough to care for the family's flocks when his sister goes away to school. The stylized drawings by Tom Two Arrows are pleasing and appropriate for the text. The story is written at an upper fourth grade reading level and will be most useful for reading aloud to younger children. (K-Gr.3)

NR Smith, Theresa (Kalab). Wiki or Walpi. Steck, 1954. 44p. \$1.50.

Wiki, a Pueblo Indian boy, is an albino and as a result of his strange coloring is a target of ridicule for the other boys and many of the adults in his village. While on a trip with his father, hunting pasture for the family's sheep, Wiki meets a medicine man who gives him some strange leaves that will make it possible for him to stay out in the sun without harm. The boy finds more of the leaves and takes them home with him where he uses them to cure a mysterious illness that is sweeping his village. The story would have been more successful had the author given some explanation of what the leaves are and how they could cure both Wiki's sensitiveness to sunlight and the disease from which the people were suffering. Calendar art illustrations. (Gr.2-4)

Ad Stanford, Don. The Red Car; decorations by George Tricoglou and Alan Hicks. Funk

& Wagnalls, 1954. 250p. \$2.75.

In spite of his father's prohibition, sixteen-year-old Hap Adams bought a wrecked M.G. and set about putting it into shape, with the skillful help of Frenchy Lascelle, garage owner and Hap's employer. Eventually the boy won his father over to his side by persuading him that although sport cars are somewhat in the class of luxuries, there is a need for a few luxuries in each person's life. The town fathers were also persuaded, somewhat less easily, that for the town to sponsor a sport car race would be a solution to the problem of city income between the skiing season and the dude ranch season. The story is obviously geared to the promotion of sport cars, but it does less preaching than many teen-age "problem" novels. The author's interest in his subject is greater than his skill in handling either plot or characters. (Gr.8-10)

R Strain, Frances (Bruce). Being Born. Rev. and enl. Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1954. 134p. \$2.75.

A new edition of a book first published in 1936. Much of the text has been re-written, and the result is a frank, straightforward discussion of sex admirably suited for use with early adolescent boys and girls. Some new illustrations have been added or substituted for the outdated ones of the earlier edition. This is a more inviting book both in tone of writing and in physical format than was the first edition. An excellent introduction to sex education for young people. (Gr.6-8)

SpC Thomas, Joan Gale. If I'd Been Born in Bethlehem. Protestant ed. Lothrop, 1954. 23p. \$1.

A small child imagines the kinds of things she might have done had she been born in Bethlehem and lived there at the time of Jesus's birth. She imagines going with Mary and Joseph and Jesus into Egypt, and later living with them in Nazareth. The account is told in rather uneven verse and sentimental illustrations. Too slight to have much value for general library use, but might be used as religious education material for homes or Sunday Schools. (Pre-school)

NR Tracy, Edward B. Great Horse of the Plains. Dodd, 1954. 215p. \$2.50.

A repetitious, drawn-out story of a wild horse, Gray Chief, and of a young Indian boy who tries repeatedly to capture him. The story is episodic and many of the episodes are so much alike that the reader has the confused feeling of having read the same story several times before. Characterizations are not consistent and the combination of poor writing and poor proofreading add to the difficulty of following the story. (Gr.5-7)

R Trease, Geoffrey. The Silken Secret. Vanguard, 1954. 189p. \$2.75.

An absorbing, fast-paced story of England during the reign of Queen Anne, and of the establishment of the first successful silk throwing machine in England. The story is told from the

point of view of young Dick Arlington, an orphan whose fortunes take him first into the services of an itinerant doctor (soon exposed as a quack), then into the services of a London newspaper man, and finally to Derbyshire where he helps the silk merchant, Charles Mount, thwart the efforts of a group of Italians who are trying to prevent the building of the silk throwing machine. An exciting adventure story and a good picture of this aspect of the English Industrial Revolution. (Gr.7-9)

NR Walpole, Ellen (Wales) and Elsbree, Elizabeth. Getting Along; illus. by Richard Horwitz. World Pub. Co., 1952. 219p. \$2.50.

A teen-age personality book thinly disguised as a story. The reader gets the impression that the authors drew up a list of teen-age problems and then set about writing a story around them. The two main characters are fourteen-year-old Carol and fifteen-year-old Bill, who between them face in one school year a major portion of the problems that most young people face during the entire course of their teens. The book is episodic, with a chapter devoted to each problem, interspersed with sections from Carol's diary. There is no reality to the characterizations and the book is too obviously written for a purpose to have any appeal. (Gr.7-9)

R Watts, Mabel. The Patchwork Kilt; illus. by Winifred Bromhall. Aladdin, 1954. 42p. \$2.25.

Amusing story of young Biddie Biddlewee, a small Scots girl whose plans to dance the Highland Fling at the Fair are temporarily thwarted by the loss of her kilt. Her relatives come to the rescue with various articles of plaid from which a new kilt is made. Biddie dances at the Fair and wins the silver cup. A slight but gay story. The text is written at a fourth grade reading level, but is more suited to reading aloud to first-third grade children than for fourth grade youngsters to read independently. (Gr.1-3)

NR Webb, Clifford. A Jungle Picnic. Warne, 1953. 53p. \$2.

Re-issue of a book first published in 1934. Two English children who are visiting their uncle at his work on a road building project in Africa, go on a picnic in the jungle with a small African boy. The combination of realism and personification of the animals is not handled with any great skill, and the very superior attitude of the English boy who tells the story is objectionable. The text is written at an upper fifth grade reading level, so the book would need to be read aloud to young children. (Gr.2-4)

M Widdemer, Margaret. The Great Pine's Son; A Story of the Pontiac War; illus. by Steele Savage. Winston, 1954. 182p. (Winston Adventure Books). \$1.50.

A story of the Pontiac War and of the part

played in that war by Will Johnson, young son of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Will, half Mohawk and half English, ran away from school in a fit of anger and became involved with the Indians who were trying to stir up war against the English before he quite realized what he was doing. Having discovered the kind of company he was in, he decided to play the role of spy and as such succeeded in helping save Detroit from Pontiac's warriors. Some liberties have been taken with historical facts in the interest of the story, but the account is basically true to the period and the main events of Pontiac's War. The writing is uneven. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Wilde, Oscar. The Selfish Giant; illus. by Mary Fidelis Todd. Kenedy, 1954. 32p. \$2.

New edition of a story that usually is found only in collections. The story of how the Christ Child helped the Selfish Giant lose his selfishness and open his heart and his garden to the children is well suited to telling at Easter time. The illustrations are in a drab shade of gray and a dull yellow that fail to capture the color and gaiety of the spring time, although they are well suited to the winter scenes. (Gr.4-6)

M Williams, Ann West. Narcissa & Marcus Whitman; Martyrs on the Oregon Trail. Association Press, 1954. 151p. (Heroes of God). \$2.

A very pedestrian account of the work of Narcissa and Marcus Whitman in establishing a mission among the Cayuse Indians in Oregon Territory. The emphasis is on the religious side of the work which the Whitmans did, and neither of them ever emerges as a real person. Daugherty's Marcus and Narcissa Whitman (Viking, 1953) is no more difficult reading and is in every way a better book. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Withers, Carl and Benet, Sula. The American Riddle Book; illus. by Marc Simont. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 157p. \$2.75.

A collection of riddles and conundrums of all kinds. In spite of the title these are not "American" riddles, but are simply riddles which the compilers think that American boys and girls will enjoy. They are drawn from all parts of the world and from many different cultures. There is considerable repetition in the collection (the same riddle used with only a slight variation in the method of asking or answering it), and there are numerous typographical errors. Both the Morrison Black Within and Red Without (Crowell, 1953) and the Leeming Riddles Riddles Riddles (Watts, 1953) are better collections. (Gr.4-)

SpC Wood, Charles. Drawing at the Circus. Studio, 1954. 64p. (The How To Draw Series). \$1.50.

In text, excellent sketches, and completed drawings the author points up some of the problems which he encountered in drawing scenes from the Bertram Mills' Circus. As an art book, this is

more suited to the professional or semi-trained artist than to the beginner. It will also have appeal for anyone who is interested in the circus. (Gr.7-)

R Yates, Raymond Francis and Brock W. Sport and Racing Cars; intro. by Wilbur Shaw; illus. with drawings by the authors and photographs. Harper, 1954. 116p. \$2.50.

An interesting and informative introduction to sport and racing cars. Safety measures are stressed and the author gives considerable attention to correcting some misconceptions about hot rods—making clear the distinction between real Hot Rodders (members of the National Hot Rod Association) and the drivers of souped-up cars known as "shot rods." This is not a how-to book in that it does not give specific information on how to build a racing car. For sport and racing car fans the book will have much interesting information, and it can be used in driver education classes for its emphasis on safe and sane driving both in regular traffic and on the race course. (Gr.8-)

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Materials

Bechtel, Louise S. Nature Books for Families and Children. 4p. (mimeographed). A graded list arranged by subject. Free on request from: Louise S. Bechtel, Editor: Books for Boys and Girls, New York Herald Tribune.

A Bibliography of Books for Children. 1954 ed. 109p. Association for Childhood Education International, 1200 Fifteenth Street, Northwest, Washington 5, D.C. \$1.25. (An annotated, graded list arranged by type and subject.)

Books and Audio Visual Materials for Elementary Social Studies; compiled by a Committee of the Minnesota Association of School Librarians. 163p. \$1.25. Available from: Miss Ruth Ersted, State Supervisor of School Libraries, Department of Education, State Office Bldg., St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Spieseke, Alice W. "Bibliography of Textbooks in the Social Studies 1953-1954." Social Education 18:365-367 D'54.