



I L L I N O I S

---

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

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



# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

October, 1955

Number 2

### 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 Anderson, Bertha C. Eric Duffy, American; illus. by Lloyd Coe. Little, 1955. 177p. \$2.75.

Eric Duffy, a young Irish orphan, came to New York as an indentured servant, partly to escape from his scolding aunt and partly because there were no apprenticeships to his liking in the small English town in which he lived. In America he began working on the Van Kloof farm where he was well treated by everyone except Cornelius Van Kloof, and even Cornelius was won over when Eric saved his life. The story does not have much information about the period; the ending, in which Eric is freed from his indenture after little more than a year's service, seems rather contrived; and the book is further weakened by an excessive and unnatural use of Southern Negro dialect.

R Andrews, Mary Evans. Lanterns Aloft; decorations by Arthur Harper. Longmans, 1955. 212p. \$2.75.

A story based on a little known episode of the War of 1812 when the people of Saint Michaels,

Maryland, were living in constant fear of an attack from the British who were in control of Chesapeake Bay. Bob Pennington and his friend, Jeremy Caulk, were anxious to have a part in the war even though their families considered them too young to enlist, even as drummer boys. Their chance came the night when the British did attack and the boys were able to fool the enemy into firing into the tree-tops, thus saving most of the houses in the town. An exciting bit of historical fiction.

M Balch, Glenn. Wild Horse Tamer; illus. 5-7 by E. B. Quigley. Crowell, 1955. 179p. \$2.50.

Another story of Tack Ranch and of Ben and Dixie Darby and their wild stallion, King. The title is misleading since the story is really about King's disappearance and the children's efforts to find him. The "wild horse tamer" part comes in at the very end when King is traced to a nearby rodeo where Gaucho rides him to a stand-still, thus spoiling him as a rodeo horse. King is then returned to the children, and by them to the wild horse herd. A patterned story, with an obvious plot and solution.

NR Bauer, Helen. Good Times at Home;

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.

1-2 Hubert A. Lowman, photographer, Melmont, 1954. 23p. \$1.35.

Family activities of various kinds, from household chores to picnics and vacations, are described in brief text and photographs. The photographs are quite obviously posed; the text is stilted and dull. Such a contrived presentation will do little to give children a real feeling for family fun and sharing. Although the text is written at a second grade reading level, there is so much text to each page that most beginning readers will be discouraged before they even attempt it.

R Benary-Isbert, Margot. The Wicked Enchantment; trans. from the German by Richard and Clara Winston; illus. by Enrico Arno. Harcourt, 1955. 181p. \$2.50.

Strange things began to happen in the peaceful cathedral town of Vogelsang when the new mayor took over the town hall. A statue and a gargoyle disappeared from the cathedral, and owls began creating panic among the small birds each night. Matters came to a climax for young Anemone when the new housekeeper and her strange son forced Anemone and her dog, Winnie, to run away from home and seek refuge with Aunt Gundula, a remarkable woman living on Cathedral Hill. For the villagers the climax came when the new mayor forbade anyone to have colored eggs for Easter, and demanded that all small birds and chickens be brought to the town hall. Fortunately Aunt Gundula was able to see through the strange pattern of events and to break the evil spell that hung over the town. Excellent, well-sustained fantasy, told with a light, sure touch that makes it fun to read aloud and will delight old and young alike.

R Bendick, Jeanne. Electronics for Young People. New, rev. ed. Whittlesey House, 1955. 189p. \$2.75.

A new edition of a title last revised in 1947. Slight changes have been made throughout to bring the various sections up to date, but the major change has been made at the end in the section on "Atomic Energy," which has been completely re-written and expanded. The glossary of electronic terms has been expanded to include many new terms relating to atomic energy. The bibliography from the 1947 edition has been omitted entirely. The material is presented in an interesting style and is easy enough for young readers to handle without much difficulty.

NR Berrisford, Judith M. The Ponies Next Door; illus. by Geoffrey Whittam. Dodd, 1955. 175p. \$2.75.

Sally, Martin, and David Grey were excited when the long abandoned house next door was finally rented, and even more so when they learned that it was to serve as headquarters for a new riding school. They offered enthusiastic, not always skillful, help to the new owners, twenty-one-year old Diane Carfax and her young brother, Bill, and were soon spending most of their time at the school. The point of view in the story shifts rapidly and confusingly from Diane to the Grey children, and is not helped any by the excessive use of English riding jargon that is not always made clear from the context. What little plot there is follows a typical pattern for such stories, with the climax coming at a local fair when the students of the school, who have shown small promise as riders up to this point, suddenly burst forth as experts and capture the blue ribbons for the major events.

Ad Bianco, Pamela. The Valentine Party. 4-6 Lippincott, 1954. 28p. \$2. yrs.

Five-year-old Cathy was unhappy to think that all the other children had been invited to a Valentine's Day party and she was not included. When she was supposed to be taking a nap, she slipped out of the house with the idea of crashing the party. However, she could not find out where it was being held and so returned home, only to discover that it was in her own house and was a surprise party for herself. A pleasant story, illustrated with Bianco's usual stiff, wooden-doll type children. For read-aloud only.

M Blackburn, Edith H. The Bells of Carmel; 4-6 Mission Days in California; illus. by Frank Nicholas. Aladdin, 1954. 191p. (American Heritage Series). \$1.75.

Father Junipero Serra and his young Indian companion are the principal characters in this story of the early California missions. The characters and period are never fully realized, and the book will have more value as a story of action than as a piece of period or historical fiction. The illustrations are of poor quality. Despite its picture book format, Politi's The Mission Bell (Scribner, 1953) is a more attractive and more effective introduction to the subject.

NR Blake, Vivienne. Mrs. Duck's Lovely Day. 3-5 Rand McNally, 1955. 30p. (A Junior yrs. Elf Book). 15¢.

Mrs. Duck disliked the hot dry summer because her pond dried up. She went to the ocean, but the waves were too strong. She then returned home just as the rains began and then she was happy. A lot of effort just so the author can

paraphrase the cliché "A good day for ducks." Poorly handled, inconsistent personification, and little or no story.

R ✓ Bonner, Mary Graham. How To Play Baseball; illus. by Bernard Krigstein. Knopf, 1955. 111p. \$2.

Simplified baseball instruction for young players. Instructions are geared to the elementary and junior high school player, and safety measures are stressed to prevent a young player's straining muscles by attempting plays or exercises that are too difficult for him in this stage of his development. Each position is discussed separately, and at the end of each section exercises are suggested that will help the youngster become more proficient in playing his chosen position. A glossary of baseball terms is given. There is also a section of official baseball rules, simplified to include only those applicable to young players.

SpC ✓ Booth, Esma (Rideout). Bright Pathways; 4-6 illus. by Kurt Wiese. Friendship Press, 1955. 127p. \$2.

Ten stories about children in other countries, with the emphasis on the work that Christian missionaries have done for them. The stories have little literary merit, and read more like tracts than stories. Could be used with Sunday School units on missionary work, but not otherwise of value.

R ✓ Booz, Elizabeth Benson (McKittrick). A Treat in a Trout. Houghton, 1955. 61p. \$3.

Eight-year-old Marc was excited about the special surprise he had for his grandfather's birthday. Grandfather was a fisherman and Marc had bought for him a beautiful lure—a Spin-o-Lure, guaranteed to catch any kind of fish. Complications began the day before the birthday when the Baron from the nearby castle came to Grandfather and asked him to catch a trout for the dinner which the Baron was giving for his daughter's fiancé. It was not trout season, and although he tried hard Grandfather could not catch a trout. Then Marc and Ninette, the Baron's younger daughter, slipped out early on the morning of Grandfather's birthday, borrowed a pole from the Baron and Grandfather's boat (without permission from either) and set forth to catch a trout with the new lure. They succeeded, but only after a series of adventures that almost proved disastrous. The story is told with a light-hearted gaiety that is not always reflected in the illustrations.

Ad ✓ Bragdon, Elspeth. Fairing Weather; 3-5 illus. by Marjorie Torrey. Viking, 1955. 107p. \$2.

A slight, somewhat sentimental story of a young girl living with her parents on Bleak Island, Maine, where her father is a lighthouse keeper. Ann Marsh distrusted "summer" people and she was perturbed when her beloved island was invaded by young Betsy Gates who came from her home in Ohio to stay with her grandmother, the only other resident of the island. In time Betsy taught Ann something of the world beyond the island and herself learned to be more self-reliant and courageous. Pleasant reading but without much substance.

R ✓ Brown, Bill. Uncharted Voyage. Coward-8-10 McCann, 1955. 248p. \$2.75.

Seth Cabbit had lived all his life with his Uncle Jeb in San Francisco, and he knew little about his own parents except that they had both died some place in the South Seas. After his uncle's death, a mysterious letter drew Seth to Tahiti, partly in search of the treasure that was hinted at in the letter and partly to find out more about his parents. The boy made the trip in a small sailing vessel with Timi, a Polynesian boy, and Derek Finn, an older boy who claimed to be able to navigate but who proved not only incompetent, but also a menace to the safety of the other two boys. After an exciting and hazardous voyage to Tahiti, Seth was able to trace the letter to its source, where he discovered his inheritance—the leadership of a small, weak tribe on an island near Tahiti. An unusual, and fairly mature adventure story, that should have as much appeal for boys as the author's Roaring River.

M ✓ Brown, Bill and Rosalie. The Forest Firemen; illus. by Richard Powers. Coward-McCann, 1954. 32p. \$2.

According to the dust jacket this book was written to supply beginning readers with a story that would combine accurate information, an exciting plot, and an easy style. The style is easy enough for beginning readers, and the story has good pace and suspense. It can scarcely be described as accurate, however, since it pictures the forest firemen as incompetent and so poorly prepared that they allow the fire to get out of control and destroy property that could have been saved with a little fore-thought on the part of the men. The book might be used as a fanciful tale, but should not be given to young children as a picture of what actually happens in the case of forest fire.

R ✓ Brown, Margaret Wise. The Little Fir Tree; pictures by Barbara Cooney. Crowell, 1954. 34p. \$2.

A somewhat different Christmas story in which a young fir tree is dug up each year and taken to the room of a crippled boy, there to remain

and cheer him through the long winter days. Each spring it is replanted in the field where it had first lived. One Christmas the tree is not transplanted and it thinks it has been forgotten, until the boy, now recovered, comes with his friends to decorate the tree in its field. Three Christmas songs and their music are interwoven into the text.

Ad Brown, Margaret Wise. *Little Indian*; 3-5 pictures by Richard Scarry. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Little Indian spends a day in the woods with his father. They go fishing, and their two raccoon companions help them to eat their catch. The day's adventures reach a climax as they chase away a woodcutter and his little boy, who have been chopping down the trees in the forest. Amusing, somewhat cartoonish, illustrations with good background detail and a simple rhythmic text will appeal to very young children.

Ad Burt, Olive (Woolley). *John Charles Fremont, Trail Marker of the Old West*; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Messner, 1955. 192p. \$2.75.

An interesting, somewhat glorified biography of Fremont, that emphasizes the events of his many trail-blazing expeditions and minimizes the actions which raised controversies that have not yet been settled. The style of writing is just average, with good descriptions of the country and of the hardships that Fremont and his men faced, but with unrealistic dialogue. The result makes a readable adventure story and an acceptable introduction to Fremont, although it will not suffice for a well-rounded picture of the man.

M Call, Hughie. *The Rising Arrow*; illus. 6-8 by Jacob Landau. Viking, 1955. 156p. \$2.50.

Shortly after word came that their father was missing in Korea, the two Graham boys, Jack and Don, and their mother were invited to spend the summer on their Uncle Emmett's sheep ranch in Montana. During the summer the boys learned a great deal about sheep raising, and when Mr. Graham finally returned the family decided to make Montana their home. The story, told in the first person by Jack, is not especially outstanding and is too slow-paced and too laden with details of sheep ranching to have much interest for general reading.

NR Campbell, Samuel Arthur. *Loony Coon*; 6-8 *Antics of a Rollicking Raccoon*; illus. by Alexander Key. Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 236p. \$2.50.

Another sentimental excursion into the wild life of Wisconsin. This time the antics of the animals are used as the backdrop for an account of how a woman tries to overcome her dislike of animals for the sake of her adopted daughter who loves them all. As is usual in these books, the writing is heavily laden with Sam Campbell's own version of a "homely" philosophy on a variety of subjects. His many accounts of his teasing of the animals, told with an obvious relish of his own roguishness, makes the reader wonder just how deep is Mr. Campbell's own liking and respect for wild life. The slight value of these books as nature study is more than offset by the excessively sentimental tone of the writing.

Ad Cavanna, Betty. *Passport to Romance*. 7-9 *Morrow*, 1955. 249p. \$2.75.

Fifteen-year-old Jody Scott, having grown close to her father during the eight years since her mother died, felt quite forlorn at his decision that she should spend a year at a girl's school in Switzerland in order to become more independent of him. At first she was homesick and unhappy over her inability to converse freely with the other girls, most of whom spoke fluent French. In time, however, her natural interest in people drew her out of herself and into the pattern of school life. The process of adjustment was helped immeasurably by her friendship with Timothy Lyle, a boy she met on the boat, and by his parents, well-known commercial artists, who were living near the school. There is freshness and sincerity to the writing that somewhat offsets the pat plot and the surface characterizations.

NR Cecil, Patricia. *Kata: Son of Red Fang*; 6-8 *Wolf Dog of the North*; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Winston, 1954. 181p. \$2.50.

Kata is a wolf-dog, born in the Canadian North woods and rescued from a trap by young Jack Miller. Jack trains Kata and finds that the dog is struggling between a natural drive to join the wild wolf pack and the love of his master. The story of Kata's training is interesting. However, the tale becomes contrived and unbelievable when Kata is taken by the family to the city to compete in a cattle dog contest. Everyone feels that Kata is a disgrace because he is afraid of the city noises and the small quarters in which he is thoughtlessly confined. Kata redeems his reputation by a series of heroic acts after he returns to the Miller farm. The incidents are melodramatic, and there is an exaggeration of the dog's reasoning powers.

R Chalmers, Mary. *Come for a Walk with Me*. K-2 *Harper*, 1955. 32p. \$1.75.  
Pleasant little story of a small girl whose mother sends her to borrow a cup of molasses

from a neighbor. The little girl takes her friend, Will Rabbit, along and they wander happily through meadow and woods, gathering wild flowers as they go. Young children will be surprised and amused to find that after all the long ramblings, the neighbor lives next door to the little girl. There may be some confusion from the fact that the text says "up" the road and the picture shows the houses side by side. The book is best suited to reading aloud, preferably to one or two children at a time so that they will have an opportunity to thoroughly savor the delight and humor of the illustrations.

R The Citizenship Education Project. When Men Are Free; Premises of American Liberty. Houghton, 1955. 167p. \$3.75. (Values: Democratic understanding; Civic responsibility).

Four basic freedoms—the Free Individual, the Free Government, the Free Economy, and the Free World, are discussed as they apply to people living in the United States. The material is drawn from the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, legislation, and court decisions. Each section ends with a group of suggestions for projects relating to the freedoms discussed in the section. An interesting and useful book for classroom use or for discussion groups.

R Clarke, Arthur C. Going into Space; illus. with photographs and diagrams. Harper, 1954. 117p. \$2.50.

A well-written explanation of the progress being made toward interplanetary travel. Excellent descriptions of the operation of rockets and the functions of artificial satellites are particularly timely. The photographs and diagrams add to the clarity of the text. This is a good brief introduction to the subject for adults as well as for junior and senior high school students. The last chapter suggests further reading and gives career advice for young people who are interested in astronautics. The lack of an index does not detract from the usefulness of the well-organized material.

R Cleary, Beverly. Beezus and Ramona; 4-6 illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1955. 159p. \$2.50.

More adventures of Henry Huggins' friend, Beatrice (Beezus) and her four-year-old sister Ramona. Ramona's misdemeanors added spice to the earlier books, but when taken in a large dose such as this one they almost cease to be funny, and many readers will find themselves sympathizing with Beezus in her moments of acute dislike of Ramona rather than being amused by Ramona's antics. For

girls with younger sisters, the book has value showing that disagreements and even times of dislike among brothers and sisters are not unusual and are not necessarily bad. The book has its humorous spots and will undoubtedly appeal to Cleary fans.

M Coffee, Jessie McGuire. Rabbit Foot for Luck; illus. by Mary Stevens. Abingdon, 1955. 191p. \$2.50.

Andy and Randy Payne, twins, were not certain that they entirely approved of the idea of their father's giving up his profession as a construction engineer and becoming a minister. Nor were they especially happy about their new home in Skunk Springs, Colorado. Andy, in particular, was more willing to put his faith in his newly acquired rabbit's foot than in his father's religion. However, by the time the boys had had an opportunity to become acquainted with their neighbors, and had lived through a crisis when the nearby dam burst and flooded the town, Andy had acquired a solid faith and a design for his future. Stolid, occasionally confused writing and an obvious plot.

R Cole, William, ed. Humorous Poetry for Children; illus. by Ervine Metzl. World, 1955. 124p. \$3.50.

A collection of humorous poems, some by well-known and other by obscure poets. Some of the well-known poets have a reputation for light verse; others are better known for their serious verse. The quality varies from slightly better than doggerel to quite good poetry, and there is something here for every taste in humor, from the most obvious to quite subtle. The title is unfortunate since much of the collection would have appeal for high school students who will not take very readily to a collection labeled for "Children".

NR De Leeuw, Adele Louise. Everygirl's Adventure Stories; by Adele De Leeuw, et al.; illus. by Richard W. Burhans. Lantern, 1955. 222p. \$2.50.

An uneven collection of short stories, several of which were originally published in Seventeen. The adventures vary from real danger to the hazards of snaring a boy friend or of learning to be popular at college. The writing is seldom above average.

M de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. A Little House of Your Own; drawings by Irene Haas. Harcourt, 1955. 38p. \$1.75.

A beginning concept of privacy, one's own need for privacy, how privacy may be obtained, and the respect that is due the privacy of others, presented through brief text and small, some-

times amusing drawings. The author's abrupt transitions from her own reminiscences to directions to the reader become occasionally confusing. The text is strongly reminiscent of the work of Ruth Krauss and the drawings are imitations of Sendak's work, although neither quite comes up to the quality of the originals.

M Derleth, August William. Land of Sky-6-8 Blue Waters; illus. by Frank Hubbard. Aladdin, 1955. 214p. \$2.75.

A rather pedestrian account of Henry Schoolcraft's first attempt to find the source of the Mississippi River and of the beginnings of his interest in Indians and Indian culture. In spite of an interesting setting, the book suffers from uneven writing and a dull style that will lessen its appeal for general reading.

Ad Disney Walt. Vanishing Prairie; by Jane 5- Werner and the staff of the Walt Disney Studio; based on the film narration by James Algar, Winston Hibler, Ted Sears. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 124p. (A True-Life Adventure). \$2.95.

Following the same pattern as Living Desert, this is a series of excellent color photographs and not very informative text. The prairie is shown through the four seasons and in the grip of such disasters as drought, fire and flood. Although a variety of animals and plants are introduced, the emphasis is on the buffalo and prairie dog. The book will be useful for browsing, but does not have enough actual information to serve as a reference book.

M Duvoisin, Roger Antoine. Two Lonely 3-5 Ducks. Knopf, 1955. 34p. \$2. yrs.

A duck and a drake, deciding that two ducks make a lonesome pair, proceed to raise a family of ten ducklings. A picture of the nest as each egg is added is described by spelling out the number of eggs and using the corresponding figure in large type. However, the use of the book as a counting book is limited by the introduction of the concept of time span as the duck sits on the eggs: seven days or one whole week; four weeks or one whole month. This introduction of a new concept before the first one has been fully developed will prove confusing for many children. The pictures are not of a size to make counting easy for many pre-school children, and there is a monotony to the text and the illustrations that will lessen the appeal of the book simply as a picture book.

R Earle, Olive Lydia. Paws, Hoofs, and Flip-5-9 pers. Morrow, 1954. 188p. \$3.50.

An interesting introduction to the study of mam-

mals, based on the various types of feet: claws, hoofs, flippers, and nails. Brief information is given about the habits of every type of mammal from duck-billed platypus to man. The text can be handled by fifth grade readers, and the straightforward style of writing will appeal to older readers as well. Attractive black and white illustrations accompany each chapter.

Ad Eberle, Irmengarde. Lone Star Fight; 6-8 illus. by Lee Townsend. Dodd, 1954. 293p. \$2.75.

A story of San Antonio at the time of the fall of the Alamo. Twelve-year-old Alton Jameson, whose father was trying to establish a store in San Antonio in defiance of the Mexicans' law that no American should enter into such an enterprise, was whole-heartedly on the side of the Texans, but his concern in the struggle was less for the safety of his family than for his beloved mare, Asa. Current interest in this period of U.S. history will give the book appeal in spite of the lack of verve in the writing and the characterizations.

R Edel, May. The Story of Our Ancestors; 7- illus. by Herbert Danska. Little, 1955. 199p. \$3.

An informative, interestingly presented discussion of man's attempts to trace his descent back to earliest times. Told through the accounts of fossil finds and what they have contributed to man's knowledge of the past. The book is especially interesting for its description of the way in which much knowledge of the past may be gained from relatively small pieces of evidence. The illustrations are both attractive and useful.

Ad Epstein, Samuel and Beryl (Williams). 4-6 The First Book of Hawaii; pictures by Paul Lantz. Watts, 1954. 65p. \$1.75.

An introduction to the Hawaiian Islands and the people who live there today, with some information about the history and economic development of the islands. The straightforward information is broken up by the thread of a slight story about a family who live in Hawaii and entertain some mainland guests for a vacation. Despite the often confusing organization, the book will serve as a general picture of the Islands. Families about to make a trip to the Islands will be interested in the suggestions of things to see on each island.

NR Fine, Aaron. Peter Plants a Pocketful. 1-3 Oxford, 1955. 32p. \$2.50.

Peter planted a pocketful of seed in the fall. Then he moved away and his house was torn down. During the winter the birds ate all but one of the seeds, although neither the text nor

the illustrations makes clear just how they managed to reach the seed through a layer of snow and dirt. The lot was made into a playground, with a covering of cement, but the sun cracked the cement just above the place where the one remaining seed was buried. It sprouted and in due time a sunflower bloomed forth with enough seed for Peter to plant another pocketful. An illogical story that is neither good fantasy nor realism.

M Flora, James. The Fabulous Firework  
K-3 Family. Harcourt, 1955. 41p. \$2.75.  
Pepito's father was famous in the Mexican village of Santiago for the marvelous firework displays which he designed, and which the entire family helped to build. One year Pepito's father created a masterpiece that was so wonderful it was even responsible for the capture of two pick-pockets in the crowd. Splashy, colorful, but rather static illustrations, with a story that is about as insubstantial as the firework displays it tells about. For read-aloud only.

SpC Gaer, Joseph. The Fables of India;  
5- illus. by Randy Monk. Little, 1955.  
176p. \$3.

A collection of fables retold from the stories in three great collections of India's folklore—The Panchatantra, The Hitopadesa, and The Jatakas. In re-telling the stories, the author has retained the flavor of the originals, but has removed the story-within-a-story framework that characterizes the larger works and frequently makes them difficult to read. The result here is a readable and entertaining collection of fables, that will probably, because of the extensive notes included for each section, be more suitable for the storyteller's library than for use as individual reading matter for youngsters. The illustrations have vigor and humor well in keeping with the content of the fables.

R Gipson, Fred. The Trail-Driving Rooster.  
4-8 Harper, 1955. 84p. \$2.25.

A roisterous tale of the old West and of Dick, a scrawny rooster whose plucky, fighting spirit keeps him from being eaten and wins him a place of respect and affection among the trail driving brushpoppers. Dick proves useful when the men are going through Indian Territory by so exciting the curiosity of the Indians that they forget to extract their usual toll of beeves for safe passage, and at Dodge City he teaches a lesson in human relations to the unpleasant cafe owner who is not willing to let Sam, the Negro cook, eat with the rest of the men. By the time the crew return to Texas, Dick's exploits have taken on the

proportions of a tall tale. The author has borrowed from the many versions of Dick's story for this account which has all the flavor of authentic folk lore. Illustrated by Marc Simont.

R Godden, Rumer. Impunity Jane; The Story  
3-5 of a Pocket Doll; illus. by Adrienne  
Adams. Viking, 1954. 48p. \$2.50.

Sensitive, beautifully written story about a pocket doll who was not satisfied to stay idle in the doll's house. She proved to be a perfect companion for a young boy who convinced his playmates that she could be a model fireman, sailor, pilot, or any other person of adventure the boys needed in their play. A shorter story than The Doll's House, but with the author's characteristic poetic style, this will appeal to the younger imaginative reader. Adrienne Adams has contributed expressive, soft illustrations which are just right for the story. The book will make an appealing addition to the family's read-aloud collection.

R Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Deer!  
1-3 illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Scribner,  
1955. 94p. \$2.25.

Following the same pattern as her Here Come the Bears!, the author tells briefly about the whitetail deer, the elk, and the caribou—all from the point of view of the baby animals. There is a minimum of personification and the stories give interesting details about the habitats and ways of living of the animals. The text is written at an average second grade reading level, and is also suitable for reading aloud to younger children.

NR Greene, Carla. Holiday in a Trailer;  
2-4 photographer: Harold L. Van Pelt.  
Melmont, 1955. 31p. \$1.50.

Simple story of how the Wilson family spend their summer vacation in a trailer. The interior of the trailer is clearly shown in a full-page photograph, and other pictures show the family enjoying the advantages of a trailer park. There is nothing to show why the family chose this particular trailer park—it gives no evidence of being near a lake, sea shore, mountains, or even a large city, and the children apparently spend all their time at the trailer park playground—a rather dull kind of a vacation. The text is written at an easy second grade reading level, but there is too much text to a page for most youngsters reading at this level.

NR Greene, Graham. The Little Steamroller;  
1-3 A Story of Adventure, Mystery and  
Detection; illus. by Dorothy Craigie.  
Lothrop, 1955. 36p. \$2.

Another of Graham Green's mystery stories for the picture book age. The Little Steamroller

at the London airport helps to capture one of the most wicked smugglers of the Black Hand gang. The story is confusing and the illustrations unattractive. The references to Daimlers, the August Bank Holiday, and a complicated secret code add to the confusion.

R Gringhuis, Dirk. The Young Voyageur. 6-8 Whittlesey House, 1955. 202p. \$2.75. Danny O'Hara, living with his parents on a small farm near Fort Detroit, longed to be allowed to become a fur trader like his friend, Jacques Le Blanc. At last Danny ran away from home and went with the voyageurs to Fort Michilimackinac where he worked as the chief clerk in Jacques' trading post. His experiences at Mackinac during the Pontiac uprising in which Jacques was killed, as a captive of the Chippewa Indians, and finally with Sir William Johnson's troops in the battle for Detroit make a stirring, colorful adventure story.

NR Harmer, Mabel. The True Book of the Circus; illus. by Loran Wilford. 1-3 Childrens Press, 1955. 46p. \$2. Information about the circus intended for the beginning reader. Much of the text can be read at the second grade level although the type used is more appropriate for the primer level. The illustrations are vague and often confusing. In some instances the text describes the illustration on the opposite page, but often the text has little or no relationship to the accompanying picture.

R Hawkes, Hester. Tami's New House; 4-5 illus. by Betty Matsumoto. Coward-McCann, 1955. 32p. \$2. Tami is a small Japanese boy in a family that traces its ancestry back through generations of famous artists. Tami likes to draw, but not the kinds of pictures that his father and grandfather drew. He likes houses and buildings; they took their subjects from nature. How Tami's ability is finally recognized and he is given an opportunity to learn architectural drawing is a story with a universal meaning and appeal, and is also a good picture of life in modern Japan. The story is written at about a fourth grade reading level, but is made more difficult on several pages by the overlapping of text and pictures.

Ad Haynes, Olive V. The True Book of Health; pictures by Mary Gehr. 1-2 Childrens Press, 1954. 46p. \$2.

A simple introduction to some of the basic principles of good health—adequate and well-balanced meals, plenty of sleep, exercise, cleanliness, and safety. The book will be more useful as a book to be used with children than

one for them to use alone since the oversimplifications occasionally need clarifying, and the first fourteen pages, in which the body is likened to various kinds of houses, are confusing.

NR Helfman, Elizabeth S. Trudy the Motherly Hen; illus. by Grace Paull. Messner, 1954. 63p. (Everyday Adventure Stories). \$1.60.

A slight story designed to teach young readers something about a modern poultry farm. An attempt has been made to create story appeal by having young Liza, who is visiting her uncle's chicken farm for the first time, persuade her uncle to let Trudy, a broody hen, set on a batch of eggs, and later to take Trudy and the chickens to the local fair. Needless to say, the hen wins a blue ribbon. Schloat's The Wonderful Egg (Scribner's, 1952) gives the same information in a straightforward style that is more readable and more informative.

Ad Helmericks, Harmon. Arctic Hunter; 6-8 with illus. by Henry Bugbee Kane. Little, 1955. 142p. \$3.

Another story of sixteen-year-old Bob Hamilton and his Eskimo friend, Oolak. This time Bob is staying with Oolak while his parents and sister are in the States. The two boys hunt seals for Oolak's family, and Bob realizes a life-long ambition when he shoots a polar bear. The story has more about outdoor life, especially the methods of finding and shooting seals, and less about the indoor life of the Eskimos than the earlier book, but it suffers from the same pedestrian style of the first book. The season this time is the end of winter, and at the close of the story the way is paved for another story of Eskimo life during the summer.

NR Hogg, Beth and Garry. The Young Traveler in Norway; illus. with photographs and map; sketches by David Stone. Dutton, 1955. 224p. \$3.

Two American children and their parents spend a year in Norway where their father is teaching as an exchange professor in one of the universities. Because of the housing shortage, the children live with a Norwegian family, and their parents live in a small apartment in the same city. In the usual pattern of these books, the children travel, with and without accompaniment throughout Norway, absorbing prodigious amounts of information about the history, government, economics, and sociology of the country en route. This book has the added disadvantage of being told in the first person, by first one and then the other of the two children, and their literary style is wondrously amazing.

SpC Holland, Janice. Pirates, Planters, and Patriots; The Story of Charleston, South Carolina. Scribner, 1955. 48p. \$2.50.

A brief history of the development of Charleston, South Carolina. There is little about the beginnings of the settlement, and much of the information given is too superficial to be of real value as reference material. The emphasis is on the historical events of the past and the reader gets only a slight hint as to the kinds of people who have made Charleston what it is today or their ways of living in the past or present. The book could have some interest in collections of materials about South Carolina but will have little value outside that state. The illustrations are colorful, making this a picturesque if not very informative book.

NR Holt, Stephen. Stormy; illus. by Pers Crowell. Longmans, 1955. 150p. \$2.50. A story laid in the same section of Canada as that of The Whistling Stallion, and with some of the same characters from the earlier book. The Stars were forced out of their ranch, the Shooting Star, by a series of deals that are never made quite clear, and Mr. Star ends up in a grocery store in Kansas City, where he is rapidly losing his spirit and his wife. Seventeen-year-old Hugh Star returns to the nearby ranch of his aunt and uncle for a visit, and is inspired to take over his father's lease and reclaim the Shooting Star. This he manages to do through a series of neatly arranged coincidences, and the book ends with the family reunited at the ranch. A trite plot, poorly developed.

SpC Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, 3-5 Reinald. Grandmother Is Coming; yrs. illus. by Ruth van Tellingem. Rand McNally, 1954. 28p. 25¢.

Two children help their parents prepare for a visit from the children's grandmother. The ideas presented are suggestions for parents to work out with their children, and the book's only value would be for homes where such a visit is being planned. The pictures are of very poor quality.

R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. Atoms Today & Tomorrow; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Whittlesey House, 1955. 143p. \$2.50.

Following a brief, fairly simplified discussion of what atomic energy is and how it works, the reader is given a more detailed account of how atomic energy is being used today in peacetime pursuits, its potentialities for future use, and some of the measures that are being taken to safeguard persons working with atomic energy or living near the areas where such work is being done. An interesting and informative addition to collections on the subject.

NR John, Betty. Seloe, the Story of a Fur Seal; 5-7 illus. by Marie K. Nonnast. World, 1955. 185p. \$2.50.

The life story of a fur seal from birth to adulthood. Some of the information about the habits of fur seals, and some of the descriptions of the Pribilof Islands make interesting reading, but the excessive personification of Seloe is unrealistic and his romance with Selene borders on the ludicrous. The writing is uneven and the forced attempts at vivid descriptions occasionally become nonsensical.

R Judson, Clara (Ingram). The Mighty Soo; Five Hundred Years at Sault Ste. Marie; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. Follett, 1955. 192p. \$3.50.

A history of Sault Ste. Marie from the time of the first Indian tribes to the present day. In the first part, the author describes, in semi-fictionalized style, the life of the Ojibway Indians who lived at the falls long before the advent of the white men. There follows a brief over-view of the history of the region during the time of the early settlement by the French and of the struggles between French, British, and Americans for control of the region. The last part of the book deals with the building of the first canal, the development of the region into one of the major sources of raw materials for American industry. In many ways this is the most interesting part of the book and in it the Soo comes alive for the reader. The book would have been helped greatly by the addition of small maps throughout.

Ad Jupo, Frank. The Wishing Shoe. Abelard-4-6 Schuman, 1955. 95p. \$2.50.

Mr. Pim loved peace and quiet, but he could seldom find it at home because of his two children and the nearby railroad. One day, while on a fishing expedition with his children, he found an old shoe, put it on and discovered it to be a wishing shoe. His wishes, all aimed at finding a peaceful place to live, took him and the children back to the "good old days" of the Middle Ages, to a South Sea Island, to a rich man's estate, and finally home, where Mr. Pim decided life was not so bad after all. Not a very original story in concept or execution, but some of the situations have the type of obvious humor that young children enjoy.

Ad Kelly, Regina Z. Beaver Trail; with illus. 6-8 by Carl Junge. Lothrop, 1955. 237p. \$2.50.

Mackinac Island and Fort Dearborn provide the background for this story of 1811 and of young Jimmy Russell and his uncle who came from the East to take up a homestead near Fort Dearborn. While at Mackinac, Jimmy learns to clerk in a fur trading post and he decides that

he likes that work better than farming. Later, after having survived the massacre at Fort Dearborn and having spent a short time as a captive of the Indians, he comes to a sympathetic understanding of the Indians and their problems and is strengthened in his resolve to spend his life working with them. Not outstanding writing, and occasionally the author's desire to impart information gets in the way of the plot and leads to unnatural dialogue.

Ad Kelly, Regina Z. Lincoln and Douglas; 7-9 The Years of Decision; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Random House, 1954. 184p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

The years immediately preceding the Civil War as seen through the careers of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas during those same years. The author has presented her material interestingly and clearly, showing the type of thinking that characterized both men and how their attitudes on the subject of slavery affected their chances for the Presidency. The famous Lincoln-Douglas debates are treated briefly, with just the high points of the arguments indicated. The book will be especially useful as supplementary reading for classes studying the Civil War.

R Kelsey, Alice (Geer), ed. Once the Mullah; 3-5 Persian Folk Tales; illus. by Kurt Werth. Longmans, 1954. 136p. \$2.50.

A collection of twenty-six tales about the Mullah, the Persian teacher-judge-priest counterpart of the Turkish Hodja. The stories have humor in the action and in the telling, and also give a colorful picture of Persian village life and customs. There is a universal element to many of the situations that will give them added appeal. Fine for storytelling collections and fun to read aloud.

NR Kraus, Robert. Junior the Spoiled Cat. K-1 Oxford, 1955. 34p. \$2.

Slight story of a small boy and his pet cat. Every one thinks that the boy spoils the cat too much. Then one day the boy becomes ill and keeps getting worse until the cat is allowed into his room, whereupon he immediately begins to improve. After that no one says the cat is spoiled. The cartoon illustrations are too sophisticated to have child-appeal and are not especially humorous even for adults.

Ad Kravetz, Nathan. Two for a Walk; pictures 3-5 by Garry MacKenzie. Oxford, 1954. yrs. 48p. \$2.50.

Tony and Little John are neighbors. While their mothers are busy with housecleaning, the boys, both of pre-school age, decide to take a walk around the block. They visit the grocery store,

the barber shop, the pet store, a construction site, and the fire department before Mr. Brown, the postman, discovers that they are out by themselves, and brings their mothers to take them home. After that the boys play together in their backyards until the mothers finish their work and can go out with them. A read-aloud story that would have been more effective had the text or illustrations made clear that the boys' actions did not meet with their mothers' approval.

M Lawrence, Mildred. Island Secret; illus. 5-7 by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, 1955. 175p. \$2.75.

When the news came that Pop, a sailor, had disappeared in Hong Kong, twelve-year-old Bonnie Bishop took charge of the family and moved them all—her mother, seven-year-old Cora Jane, and nine-year-old Tommy from Boston to an island in Lake Erie where they owned an old house that had been in the Bishop family for generations. Here Bonnie settled the family, planted a garden and sold vegetables to the summer people, started her mother in the bakery and dress-making business, and kept at bay a mean-tempered neighbor who tried to get rid of the family in sundry unpleasant ways. In a melodramatic climax the neighbor is exposed as a counterfeiter, and Pop returns from China to settle permanently on the island. Far below Miss Lawrence's usual quality in both plot and characterization.

R Leavitt, Jerome. The True Book of Tools 4-6 for Building; pictures by Bill Armstrong. Childrens Press, 1955. 46p. \$2.

An introduction to some of the basic tools used in woodwork. Each tool is pictured by itself and is also shown being used. At the bottom of the pages a picture sequence shows two boys building a club house, and the final picture shows the finished structure. There is no text explaining these pictures but they are clear enough that most users of the book will understand them with no further explanation. The text and illustrations describing the tools and their use are simple, clear, and accurate enough for use by youngsters in the middle elementary grades. Although the jacket indicates that the book is intended for primary grade children, its greatest use will be grades 4-6. The text is written at a second grade reading level, but the tone of the writing and the illustrations lend themselves equally well to use at upper levels.

Ad Leighton, Margaret (Carver). Who Rides 7-9 By?; decorations by Joshua Tolford. Ariel, 1955. 218p. \$2.75.

Leslie Ross' favorite pastime was sitting in

the big willow tree, overlooking the road, where she could see everyone who came by without herself being seen. It was a good spot in which to keep up with the world that year of 1780, when the Revolution was in full swing and the road became a passage-way for couriers, soldiers, both French and American, and even spies. The story of Leslie's part in the Revolution, her encounter with Benedict Arnold, and her romance with Jason Reade, makes an adequate, in no way outstanding, addition to historical fiction.

NR <sup>✓</sup>Levick, W. M. Dry River Farm; illus. by 5-7 Michael Ross. Roy, 1955. 191p. \$3.

A story of life on a South African orange farm. The account takes eight-year-old Robin, an only child, through a year in which there is the end of a long drought, a severe flood, the arrival of a governess to start a school for Robin and the neighboring farm children, a trip to the sea shore, and all the other activities that make up life on this type of a farm. The interesting picture of farm life is marred by the author's constant expressions of white superiority, and the excessively British expressions, such as "our little chap" give the writing a tone of immaturity that will lessen its appeal for American children. The text is too difficult for eight-year-olds to read independently, and is too condescending to have appeal for older readers.

R <sup>✓</sup>McConnell, Jane (Tompkins). Famous 6-10 Ballet Dancers; illus. with photographs. Crowell, 1955. 176p. \$2.75.

Brief biographies of fifteen famous ballet dancers: Taglioni, Karsavina, Nijinsky, Pavlova, Dolin, Markova, Moira Shearer, Fonteyn, Caron, Balanchine, de Mille, Dunham (not strictly speaking ballet but included because of the importance of her contribution to modern dance), Eglevsky, Jeanmarie, and Tallchief. The material is interestingly, if occasionally sentimentally, presented and succeeds in creating the personalities of the dancers as well as giving a history of the development of ballet.

NR <sup>✓</sup>MGM Cartoons. Tom and Jerry's Party; 3-5 told by Steffi Fletcher; pictures by yrs. M-G-M Cartoons, adapted by Harvey Eisenberg and Samuel Armstrong. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Slight, rather pointless story about the party that Tom, the cat, and his favorite rival, the mouse Jerry, have one night when the cook goes away and leaves some cup cakes on the table. Of comic book character and caliber.

Ad <sup>✓</sup>Molloy, Anne Stearns (Baker). The Secret

6-8 of the Old Salem Desk; illus. by Arline K. Thomson. Ariel, 1955. 243p. \$2.75.

A combination family story and mystery story set on a small island off the coast of Maine. Eleven-year-old Stephen Allen longed to become an artist, but his fisherman father would not hear of such nonsense. Then Stephen's painting of the family's one heirloom—an old Chinese lacquer desk—helped to bring about the capture of a gang of antiques thieves, who had stolen the desk, and the boy's father relented and agreed to let him attend art school. A fairly obvious plot, but the book could be used as a transition from mysteries to stories of family life.

SpC <sup>✓</sup>Moncure, Jane Belk. Pinny's Day at 3-5 Play School; photographs by Morris yrs. H. Jaffe. Lothrop, 1955. 40p. \$1.50. Brief text and excellent, unposed photographs take a child through a typical day at nursery school. She uses finger paints, plays house, listens to and acts out a story, plays out of doors, and has a birthday party for her teddy bear. The book will have its greatest value for parents who are preparing a young child for the first day at nursery school.

M <sup>✓</sup>Neff, Priscilla (Holton). Little Miss Callie; 4-6 illus. by Charles H. Geer. Longmans, 1955. 116p. \$2.50.

Annot Sanders was nicknamed "Little Miss Callie" (short for California) before she ever arrived in the West, because she asked so many questions about the state, and especially about Clearview, where her father had lived as a boy. During her visit with her aunt, uncle and cousin in Clearview, she took part in a project to provide a playground and Community House for the rapidly expanding town, helped to expose an arsonist, and forwarded the love affair between her widowed father and his childhood friend, Miss Wade. A mildly pleasing story, with a fairy tale ending. Young baseball fans will question the description of the baseball game in which a double play is made with no one on base.

NR <sup>✓</sup>Neurath, Marie. Speeding into Space. Loth- 6-8 rop, 1954. 36p. \$1.75.

A quick look at space travel, its possibilities and probabilities. The book does not contain anything new and what is here is given such slight treatment that the book will not have much real informational value. For readers who understand some of the principles and problems involved, the treatment is too superficial and elementary; for those without such knowledge the treatment is inadequate for full understanding.

R Norton, Andre. Yankee Privateer; illus. 7-10 by Leonard Vosburgh. World, 1955. 300p. \$2.75.

While on his way to join the American army, Fitzhugh Lyon was shanghaied aboard the privateer Retaliation, but as soon as the ship's captain learned of the affair he offered Lyon a berth as a junior marine officer. At first Lyon was determined to remain on board only until the ship reached a civilized port, but by the time he had been imprisoned and escaped from Mill Prison, and had rejoined his shipmates at Saint Malo, he was a confirmed sailor and ready to sign with Captain Crofts again. A vigorous, swashbuckling tale of the American Revolution.

Ad Oakes, Vanya. Roy Sato, New Neighbor: 4-6 illus. by Isami Kashiwagi. Messner, 1955. 157p. \$2.75.

Ten-year-old Roy Sato is annoyed when his family and friends refer to his Japanese background. He wants to be just a "real American." Through his companionship with a white boy and a Negro classmate, he learns that his background and the contribution of his grandparents to the development of California are an essential and worthy part of his being an American. This is a fairly well-written story, without great literary merit. However, the sympathetic picture of a boy's adjustment to his family and friends and his growing understanding of the differences and similarities between races is worthy of note.

NR Otto, Margaret Glover. Roly-Poly Snowman; illus. by Susanne Suba. Holt, 1954. 83p. \$2.

The snowman asks his animal friends to guess where he will go when the snow is gone. When the first signs of Spring appear, and all the animals are occupied with the tasks of the season, the snowman disappears, leaving his pipe, buttons, scarf, etc. for his friends to use. They want to keep the snowman's belongings together, and the next morning they are overjoyed to find that a scarecrow stands in the snowman's place, using the snowman's things. The story is too long and repetitious for the simple plot. The fantasy seems particularly forced when the snowman presumably leaves a written will for his friends.

R Perry, John. Our Wonderful Eyes; 5- pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whittlesey House, 1955. 159p. \$2.75.

A well-organized, interestingly presented discussion of the physical make-up of the eye, how we see and what we see, and the proper care of the eyes. Principles of physics (bending of light), of art (perspective), of

psychology (memory and interpretation as aids to seeing), and of physiology are all combined to help explain and interpret the act of seeing and the use of vision. Comparisons are made to machines, such as cameras, and to the eye structures of other animals, especially birds, to show how they resemble and differ from the human eye. The book ends with a helpful chapter on blindness. Simple experiments are used throughout to help explain the principles involved, and Jeanne Bendick's drawings are an additional aid in understanding the text.

NR Pike, Robert E. Fighting Yankee; illus. 7-9 by Manning de V. Lee. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 231p. (Story Biography Series)

A fictionalized biography of John Stark from his early childhood through the years of his service with Rogers' Rangers in the French and Indian wars. The writing is quite mediocre and the book is burdened with an abundance of the "if he had but known" type of forecasting. The author gives one version of the origin of the song "Yankee Doodle," but he does not indicate that it is only one version, and by no means the most prevalent or best documented version. He also credits Stark with having made the famous "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes" statement at Bunker Hill, although this order is almost always attributed to Israel Putnam, and again there is no supporting evidence given for crediting it to Stark. Throughout the book there is a glorification of war, and Stark emerges as an essentially blood-thirsty individual who was primarily interested in a fight and did not much care what the reasons were for fighting, or even if there were reasons. The author's strongly anti-Catholic attitude and his obsession with Stark's state of semi-nakedness during his Indian captivity become exceedingly distasteful and add nothing by way of realism to the story. The book is neither good fiction nor acceptable biography.

NR Pont, Clarice. Sally on the Fence: decorations by Genia. Nelson, 1955. 192p. \$2.50.

Sally Barnes had never known her father. Her parents had been divorced while she was still a baby and she and her mother had gone to New York City to live while her father remained in the small Iowa town where he practiced medicine. After her mother's death, fifteen-year-old Sally went, reluctantly, to live with her father, his second wife and their three children. She was miserable at first, and made life unhappy for her new family until she gradually came to realize that she could accept the love which they had so freely offered without being in any way disloyal to her mother's memory. A rather contrived story, and few of the

characters achieve reality. The over-simplification of the problem and the lack of depth to the characterizations weakens the effectiveness of the book as guidance material.

R ✓ Poole, Lynn. Science the Super Sleuth;  
7- illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Whittlesey  
House, 1954. 192p. \$2.75.

An absorbing account of the part that science plays in the work of solving crimes, capturing criminals, and protecting innocent people from false arrest. The material is taken from records of actual cases and is presented in an objective style that makes interesting reading without resorting to sensationalism. A useful book for vocational guidance as well as one with wide appeal for general reading.

R ✓ Pyle, Howard. Some Merry Adventures of  
5-7 Robin Hood; of Great Renown in Not-  
tinghamshire. Scribner, 1954. 212p.  
\$2.50.

Trade edition of a book originally available in a school edition only. The book has been entirely re-designed, with plates made from the original drawings. The result is an attractive piece of book-making, with a type size and page lay-out that will be inviting to young readers. The stories for this collection were selected by Pyle himself, and the book will make an excellent introduction to his works.

NR ✓ Pyne, Mable (Mandeville). The Story of  
7-9 Religion. Houghton, 1954. 54p. \$3.

An attempt to present comparative religion for young readers. Although there is some attempt at an over-all chronological arrangement, within individual sections the material is not well organized and as a result is often confusing. Comparisons between religious beliefs and customs are not always complete or clear, and it is not always possible to determine whether the author is referring to past or modern beliefs and practices. There are some oversimplifications that could lead to serious misinterpretations of events and their causes. Much of the material is suited only to students at the high school level, but the tone is too condescending for that age.

Ad ✓ Riedman, Sarah Regal. The World Through  
6- Your Senses; preface by John F. Fulton;  
illus. by Ruth Levin. Abelard-Schuman,  
1954. 208p. \$3.

An informal and detailed introduction to the physiology of the sense organs. Simple experiments are included to help the reader understand how some of the organs function. A tendency toward over-personalization in the writing and a lack of clarity in several of the illustrations detract from the usefulness of the book.

M ✓ Rieseberg, Harry E. My Compass Points  
7-9 to Treasure; illus. by Bernard Safran.  
Holt, 1955. 148p. \$2.50.

The author, a deep-sea salvor, tells of some of his adventures in search of treasure at the bottom of the sea. The style is episodic, with inadequate transitional passages from episode to episode. There are overtones of melodrama to the accounts that are never realized in the actual happenings, and the reader gets very little information about how salvage work is carried out.

R ✓ Rydberg, Ernie. The Silver Fleet; decora-  
6-8 tions by Allan Thomas. Longmans, 1955.  
150p. \$2.50.

Eleven-year-old Sebastian Maritimo dreamed of the day when he could make his first trip on his father's tuna fishing boat. Most of the boys in his community were allowed to go out the summer following their eleventh birthdays, but Sebastian had been able to win from his father no more than a statement that it would all depend on how responsible Sebastian had shown himself to be by the time his eleventh summer arrived. In spite of several lapses from grace, Sebastian was finally allowed to make the trip, but only because his older brother promised to keep an eye on him. The trip had all of the excitement and adventure that the boy could want, including a record catch of fish, and by its end Sebastian had earned the privilege of going again each summer. An absorbing story of deep sea fishing, with good family relations, especially between Sebastian and his older brother.

R ✓ Samachson, Dorothy. The Dramatic Story  
8-12 of the Theatre; by Dorothy and Joseph  
Samachson. Abelard-Schuman, 1955.  
168p. \$4.

An interesting and well-documented history of the theatre, from ancient Greece and Rome to the present day. The authors describe the theater of Shakespeare and the major developments of dramatic production in Norway, Moscow, Dublin, Germany and the United States. There is a brief discussion of the drama of the Far East, particularly China. The book closes with strong plea for the re-vitalization of the theater in America as somewhat evidenced by the growth of the non-Broadway theater and its closeness to the audience. The authors have gone more fully into this aspect of the subject in their book, Let's Meet the Theatre. The excellent black and white photographs add interest and appeal to the book.

R ✓ Silverberg, Robert. Revolt on Alpha C.  
7-9 Crowell, 1955. 148p. \$2.50.

Larry Stark came from a long line of Space

Patrol Commanders, and he had grown up in the firm tradition that anything Earth did was right. Then on his first Space Patrol tour of duty, he became involved in a revolt on Alpha C, a planet much like earth during the dinosaur period. Torn between divided loyalties—to his friends who had joined the colonists in their fight for freedom on the one side, and blind loyalty to Earth on the other—Larry eventually chose the path of freedom. Good fare for science fiction fans.

R Slaughter, Jean. Horses Round the World.  
3- Lippincott, 1955. 88p. \$3.

A photographic picture book of horses. There are brief captions for the pictures, but the primary value and appeal of the book will be its excellent photographs of horses of all kinds. The book is divided into sections: Foals, Horses at work, Lipizzans, Horses in sports, Circus horses, Wild horses, Stable-mates (some unusual pets of horses), and Early morning.

R Sprague, Rosemary. Heroes of the White  
7-10 Shield; illus. by Eleanor Curtis. Oxford,  
1955. 192p. \$3.

In this sequel to A Kingdom To Win, the author takes the tale of Olav Trygvison from the year 995 AD when he returned to claim the throne of Norway to 1029 when he was overthrown. The story is told through the adventures of young Einar Tambarskalvar, who is on Olav's side, and the beautiful Bergliot, whom Einar loves. Bergliot is, unfortunately, the sister of Jarl Eric, the opponent of Olav and the man Einar has sworn to kill in revenge for his father's death at the hands of one of Eric's thralls. Although Eric succeeds in overthrowing Olav, he comes to recognize the good of much that Olav tried to do for his country and he makes peace with Einar whose growing understanding of the teachings of Christianity have led him to forswear his oath of revenge. With her usual skill the author has woven a story of history, adventure, and romance that has much to offer young readers.

M Sutton, Lee. Venus Boy; illus. by Richard  
5-7 Floethe. Lothrop, 1955. 182p. \$2.50.  
Johnny Watson, the first pioneer child born in New Plymouth colony on the planet Venus, tries to protect his pet bear Baba. Since Baba is native to Venus and has matured with the usual growth of jeweled claws and teeth, he is in much demand by the colonials as well as outlaws of the colony. After mastering the click-like language of the animals and learning about their civilization, Johnny is able to discover a hidden treasure and to bring the men and animals together into a peaceful living arrange-

ment on the planet. The author admits in an epilogue that he has departed from the current theories about climate and the possibilities of human life on Venus. The story moves at a good pace until the end of the book when all of the animals are gathered in a meeting with the men. The idea of cooperative living seems to be obviously forced into the climax rather than being a natural development of the story. The companionship between Johnny and Baba is interesting and the illustrations provide an appropriate atmosphere for the imaginative setting.

Ad Todd, Mary Fidelis. A B C and 1 2 3.  
K-1 Whittlesey House, 1955. 32p. \$2.

A combination alphabet-counting-career book. Each letter of the alphabet is used to illustrate some job or profession—artist, baker, clown, doctor, etc.. In addition to a letter of the alphabet and a picture of a person performing a job, each page has a number to be read (as a figure) and items to be counted, from 1-26. The ABC-job aspect of the book is more successful than the counting part, since many of the items are quite small and too difficult to be distinguished with any ease.

R Trease, Geoffrey. Seven Kings of England.  
7-9 Vanguard, 1955. 249p. \$3.

As a companion volume to his Seven Queens of England, Mr. Trease has selected seven of England's kings whose reigns were of special interest in the history of the country. Included are Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Richard the Lionhearted, Charles I, Charles II, William of Orange, and George VI. Brief connecting sections give a continuity to the book, so that the reader gets a feeling of the total history of the country and not just isolated episodes or periods. The sketches are well-written, bringing the men and their times vividly to life.

R Wall, Gertrude Wallace. Gifts from the  
4-6 Grove; photographs by John Calvin  
Towsley and others. Scribner, 1955.  
96p. \$2.50.

Beginning with a brief history of citrus fruits, the author tells of their introduction and development in the United States, and then gives details of how they are grown, harvested, packaged, and used today. The text is accompanied by excellent, full-page photographs and a map showing the centers of citrus fruit production in this country. An interesting and useful book.

R Wellerstein, Sadie Rose. Dick, the Horse  
3-5 That Kept the Sabbath; pictures by  
Jessie B. Robinson. Bloch, 1955. 48p.  
\$1.50.

Dick is a wagon horse in western New York

State in the early 1900's. He belongs to a Jewish family who are very fond of him and are sure to give him a special treat when he rests on the Sabbath. He often takes the family visiting on Sunday to a nearby farm couple, who are not Jewish. Everyone is upset when Dick injures his leg and is unable to pull the wagon loads. The story turns out happily when Dick is given to the farm couple and every Sunday the Jewish family visit him there in Papa's new horseless carriage. Dick's new family sees to it that he still keeps his Saturday Sabbath. This is an easy to read story with warm family relationships and good background touches for the period. The pictures are adequate, although not outstanding.

R White, Ann (Hitchcock). Junket; The Dog  
4-6 Who Liked Everything "Just So"; illus.  
by Robert McCloskey. Viking, 1955.  
184p. \$2.75.

Junket is an independent airedale, with a strong will of his own and a determination to have everything "just so". Thus when his owners sell the farm and disperse all its animals, Junket immediately sets about teaching the new owners (a city family with no knowledge or appreciation of farm life) how a farm should be run. How he succeeds in getting the other animals back and in refuting Mr. McDonegal's "Positively no animals" verdict makes a very funny story, true to both human and dog nature. McCloskey's illustrations are a perfect complement to the text.

Ad Wibberley, Leonard. The Wound of Peter  
7-9 Wayne. Ariel, 1955. 220p. \$2.75.

Peter Wayne returned from service with the Confederate army, outwardly sound, but with a hatred for the Northerners that rankled worse than a wound. His friend and adviser, Mr. Meadowbrook, suggested that he go west to earn enough money to pay the taxes and rebuild his home, and also to get away from the scenes that would add fuel to his anger. Accepting this

advice. Peter started for the gold fields of Colorado where he finally learned to consider himself as first an American and secondly a Southerner. Returning home with enough money to see him through the first year, and enough wisdom to keep him from joining the trouble-makers in his area, Peter settled down to rebuild his home and the South. The story, told in the first person, is less effective than some of Wibberley's earlier adventure books but is adequate as a picture of the period.

Ad Widney, Stanley A. Elevator to the Moon;  
4-6 illus. by Earle Goodenow. Follett,  
1955. 128p. \$2.50.

Willie Ploop, an elevator operator, his employer, Mr. Winninger, and Clarence, a guide who lectures on astronomy at the top of the Winninger Towers, become the unwitting passengers in a flying saucer that they mistake for the new space-ship styled elevator that Mr. Winninger had ordered for his grandson's pleasure. The story of their trip to the moon and back is more space fantasy than science fiction, but it is told with humor and with a degree of plausibility that should give it appeal.

M Youngberg, Norma R. Miracle of the Song;  
6-8 illus. by Harold Munson. Morrow, 1955.  
188p. \$2.50

A story set in Borneo and showing the struggle between modern and ancient beliefs as exemplified by the work of Christian missionaries and tribal witch doctors. When the two boys, Damin and Pala, became ill the witch doctor was first called in and after his efforts had proved futile, the mission doctors took over and saved the boys. The story is very slight although it does give some interesting views of village life in Borneo. Its interpretation of prayer as asking for, and receiving, divine intercession in the physical and material affairs of men is one that may well be questioned by many readers.

**This page is intentionally blank.**