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BULLETIN

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Archibald, Joseph. Aviation Cadet.
7-10 Longmans, 1955. 167p. \$2.50.

Using a slight story thread involving three cadets of different backgrounds, temperaments, and problems, the author gives a detailed account of the training of Air Force officers from beginning flight training at Hondo Air Force Base to graduation—as jet pilots for two of the boys and as a bomber pilot for the third. There is not much to the plot, although what there is is adequately handled. The subject appeal will give the book value for use as vocational guidance material.

NR Austin, Margot. William's Shadow.
3-5 Dutton, 1954. 44p. \$1.75.
yrs.

William Woodchuck's friends try to keep him in bed one day, under the mistaken impression that it is Groundhog Day. After he has enjoyed all the food they can find to bring him, William goes outdoors and tells them that they are one day late. Forced humor in a slight, rather pointless story.

SpC Banigan, Sharon, ed. Hear Our Grace;
K-2 selected and illus. by Sharon Banigan.
Garden City Books, 1955. 60p. \$1.00.

A collection of about 50 short prayers and graces for all occasions. Of uneven quality, the book will have its greatest value for home or church school collections. Available in both a Catholic and a Protestant edition.

Ad Beatty, Hetty Burlingame. Thumps.
K-2 Houghton, 1955. 29p. \$2.75.

Thumps is a small spotted pig who sets out to see the world and ends up as part of a clown-elephant act in the circus. The story of how he joins the circus and helps save the day when the elephant loses its temper makes a mildly amusing story that could have done with less personification of the animals. Beatty's colorful illustrations of the circus are the best part of the book. For read-aloud.

SpR Boston, Lucy Maria. The Children of Green
4-6 Knowe; with illus. by Peter Boston.
Harcourt, 1955. 157p. \$2.75.

From the moment young Toseland, Tolly for short, came to live with his great-grandmother at the ancestral castle of Green Noah, he knew there was something delightfully different about

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this place. Although it took time, patience, and a bit of courage, he eventually won the confidence of the "children of Green Knowe", all of them children from past eras, and helped to break the spell of the Green Noah (a curse that had been put on the castle by a gypsy). A delightful bit of fantasy for reading aloud or for the more perceptive reader to handle alone.

SpC Broadbent, Adah. Teen-Age Glamor; 7-12 illus. by Anna Marie Magagna. Doubleday, 1955. 128p. \$2.00.

An attempt to translate the color and line harmony of great art into terms of dress color and lines for teen-age girls. The relationship between art and personal glamor is never made very clear and is quite obscure at times. Girls who already know enough about art to understand the author's terminology might benefit from the book, but its chief value is for used by guidance and home arts teachers.

M Carlson, Esther Elisabeth. The Long Way 7-9 Around. Rinehart, 1955. 244p. \$2.75. Enid Emery, just out of high school, did not look forward to entering college in the fall for she felt that it would be just a repetition of her high schools days, with her brains providing good grades and her excessive shyness keeping her from making friends. At the beginning of the summer she persuaded her parents to let her take a temporary job in the office of the Superintendent of Schools. She liked the work so well that when she was offered a permanent job, she accepted, with the promise to her parents that she would re-consider college the next year. One year of work convinced her that she wanted business school instead of college; gave her greater confidence in herself, especially in her relationships with others; and brought the inevitable infatuation with the wrong man and love for the right one. There are some fairly good insights into Enid's problems, but the characters and plot are too typed to give the book much value.

R Caudill, Rebecca. Susan Cornish; drawings by E. Harper Johnson. Viking, 1955. 286p. \$2.75. (Values: Understanding economic differences; Social responsibility). The first year of college to which Susan Cornish had looked forward so eagerly proved disappointing when she met with the dogmatic unimaginative teaching of the small school to which her father insisted she should go. At the end of her freshman year she quit and took a job teaching in the country school at Pickwick Mills. Only after she began teaching did she wonder how she had got the job with no training and no background of experience, and she

was dismayed to learn that the man who had been responsible for hiring her had done so because he did not want the children of the community to have too good an education. As Susan tried to help the children in this small, run-down Southern community to better themselves, she learned of the evils of tenant farming and of poor farming practices that had brought their families to such a low level, spiritually and economically. The story is excellent in some of its portrayals of the community and of what can be done to remedy such a situation. Susan's almost phenomenal success during her first year does not seem wholly realistic, and her sudden romance at the end of the book makes a weak ending.

SpR Clark, Ann (Nolan). Santiago; illus. by 7-9 Lynd Ward. Viking, 1955. 189p. \$2.75. A sensitively written tale of a Guatemalan Indian boy and of his search for his place in the world. Santiago had been reared in the home of Spanish aristocrat, Tia Alicia, who pampered him and taught him to think and act like an old-fashioned Spanish gentleman. The boy loved Tia Alicia, but his strongest bonds of affection were for Jim, son of a North American banana grower, with whom he had grown up. In his twelfth year, Santiago was abruptly claimed by his Indian relatives and returned to the village of his father. For several long, hard years thereafter he lived the impoverished life of an Indian before he was found by Jim's father and taken to the banana plantation. The North American wanted to make a banana grower of the boy and someday give him part interest in the plantation, but Santiago decided instead to become a teacher and to return to his father's village to teach the children there to become "good Indians in today's world." Like the author's Secret of the Andes, this is a beautifully written, although slow-paced, introspective story whose appeal will be primarily for the mature reader.

R Clark, Denis. Boomer; The Life of a Kangaroo; illus. by C. Gifford Ambler. Viking, 1955. 144p. \$2.50.

A vivid and exciting story of the life of a kangaroo. An orphaned kangaroo baby (a joey) is cared for at a cattle station in the Australian bush country. When he is a full grown boomer, he escapes to fulfill his natural role as leader of a kangaroo mob. The back country of Australia is richly described. As Boomer learns how to protect his doe and the mob from human hunters and from the wild dogs (dingoes), the reader's sympathy for the hounded kangaroo changes to respect for his courage. Soft black and white illustrations help to bring alive an animal and a country strange to most Americans.

Ad Cluff, Tom. Minutemen of the Sea;
6-8 illus. by Tom O'Sullivan. Follett,
1955. 223p. \$2.95.

A story based on a little known episode that occurred at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War. The O'Brien family were leaders in the small, isolated community of Machias Township on the coast of Maine, and their reaction against the King's men, who not only marked all the best trees for use by the King's navy but also tried to force the men to cut lumber for British barracks in Boston, fanned the village to a fervor that was climaxed in the successful capture of His Majesty's cutter Margaretta. The story, told principally through the adventures of sixteen-year-old Joe O'Brien, has moments of suspense, although the characters are not well enough defined to have much individuality and there are so many of them, especially in the O'Brien family, that it is occasionally difficult to know just who is doing what.

Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Smoke Eaters;
6-8 Trucks, Training and Tools of the
Nation's Firemen. Coward-McCann,
1954. 48p. \$1.

The main portion of the book is devoted to pictures and descriptions of pieces of fire fighting equipment. The last thirteen pages tell of the training of firemen. As in Colby's other book in this series, each page is composed of about two-thirds photographs and one-third text. The text is too difficult for independent reading below the sixth grade, but the illustrations could be used wherever there is need for pictures on this subject.

NR Cooke, Donald E. Johnny On-the-Spot.
7-9 Nelson, 1955. 188p. \$2.50.

Melodramatic story of young Johnny Garrett who runs away from an orphanage and is taken in tow by swashbuckling, wealthy young yachtsman, Stormy Brenner, who becomes his hero until Johnny learns that the man is running dope just for the thrill of it. Johnny helps the police at the Virgin Island port of Charlotte Amalie capture Stormy and his gang, and is himself adopted by the chief of police. Unrealistic and overly-sentimental.

R de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. What Can
K-1 You Do with a Shoe?; pictures by
Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1955. 32p.
\$2.25.

Nonsense pictures and text involving a series of objects that are commonplace in a child's experience—a shoe, a chair, a hat, a cup, a broom, and a bed. Each section begins with several suggestions of things that could be done with the objects—all of the suggestions

ridiculous ones—and ends with pictures and text showing how the objects are normally used. The text bears a strong resemblance to Ruth Krauss' work. Both the text and the illustrations employ the kind of exaggeration that so often appeals to young children.

NR Evatt, Harriet. Big Indian and Little Bear.
K-1 Bobbs-Merrill, 1954. 32p. \$1.75.

A comic book Indian and his pet, Little Bear, go through a series of mis-adventures during which Big Indian chases Little Bear away, becomes lonesome, and goes after him again. A pointless story that exemplifies many of the most objectionable elements of stereotyping both in the language used and in the illustrations.

M Folsom, Franklin. Search in the Desert;
7-9 decorations by Mary and Stanley High-
smith. Funk & Wagnalls, 1955. 200p.
\$2.75.

A patterned story of uranium hunting in the Four Corners region of Colorado. Joe Fraser, a helicopter pilot, was offered a job prospecting with his boyhood friend Perry Burns, whose father owned a large mining company. Joe had not seen much of Perry for several years and was dismayed to find that he had changed considerably during that time. Under his father's influence, Perry had become interested only in increasing the family's wealth, without regard to the consequences for others, and he was especially resentful when Joe set about trying to prevent the company from cheating the Indians of the reservation out of their mining rights. The story has some good points, but it becomes melodramatic at times and the characters are too typed to be realistic.

R Friedman, Rose. A Whistle for Tootles;
K-2 pictures by Margaret Bradfield.
Abingdon, 1955. 32p. \$1.50.

Tootles O'Toole wanted to learn to whistle so he could whistle for his dog—if he ever got a dog! One day while he was at a seaside resort with his father, an orchestra player, he found both the dog and the ability to whistle. An amusing story that will be especially appreciated by youngsters who, like Tootles, have not learned the hows of whistling.

Ad Garst, Doris Shannon. James Bowie and
7-9 His Famous Knife. Messner, 1955.
192p. \$2.75.

Biography of the frontiersman, defender of the Alamo, and reputed inventor of the Bowie knife. Well documented and interesting to read. Despite the occasional lapses into trite, B—Western type dialogue, this will be an acceptable addition to libraries wanting more material about Bowie and his exploits.

R Gendron, Val. Outlaw Voyage; illus. 8-10 by Leonard Vosburgh. World, 1955. 223p. \$2.75.

Eighteen-year-old Joshua Small chafed at the lack of work to be found during the depression days of the mid-1800's, and especially so after his foster father failed to return from a voyage and Joshua became the sole support of Mrs. Small. When a chance came to join the slaver, Caliban, Joshua accepted even though he knew that slave-running was against the law and that he might be forfeiting his right to ever serve on legitimate ships. The voyage was a difficult one, made the more so by the erratic behavior of the captain, Balthasar Baptist, but before it ended Joshua had partially rectified the wrong that he did in joining the slaver, had regained the respect of the other Cape Cod captians, and had discovered the secret of his own background. A fairly mature, well-paced adventure story, told with action and suspense.

Ad Goodwin, Harold Leland. The Science Book of Space Travel; illus. by Jack Coggins. Watts, 1954. 213p. \$2.95.

A clearly presented discussion of the nature of outer space, the possibilities of space travel, and various theories about flying saucers. Although the style of writing is informal, much of the information will require a previous familiarity with the subject for complete understanding. The occasionally flippant tone will probably not disturb the science-fiction enthusiast who will find in the book factual support for some of the fictional approaches to the subject. A selected and annotated list of readings is included. An easier introduction to the subject is Clarke's Going into Space (Harper, 1954).

M Gottlieb, William P. Tiger's Adventure. K-1 Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Slight story of the first few weeks in the life of three kittens. One kitten, Tiger, is more venturesome than the others and almost gets into trouble when he climbs out of his box one day, becomes tangled in a ball of yarn, and cannot get away when Laddie, the dog, comes over to investigate the tangle. Fortunately the mother cat is near at hand, although there is no indication in the pictures that Laddie's intentions are anything other than the satisfying of his curiosity. Very little story, and the chief value of the book lies in its excellent color photographs.

R Grant, Madeleine Parker. Biology and World Health; drawings by Bunji

Tagawa. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 202p. \$3.50.

An introduction to biology, linking it to the health of each individual, showing how it affects the general health of national and cultural groups throughout the world, and telling of the work of the U.N. sponsored World Health Organization (WHO) in using present day knowledge of biology to improve world health. The dual purpose of the book—to teach the facts of biology and to show the social and economic effects of poor health practices on world peace and economy—will give it potential usefulness as supplementary reading for biology and social studies classes.

M Grimm, Jakob Ludwig and Wilhelm. The Musicians of Bremen; pictures by J. P. Miller. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A re-telling of one of the well-known "Household Stories". The version has little to offer as story-telling material although it does retain enough of the original story to have some humor for young readers. The illustrations are somewhat sophisticated. The text is too difficult for the primary grades to handle alone but could be read by upper third and fourth grade readers.

Ad Haines, Madge and Morrill, Leslie. The Wright Brothers, First to Fly; illus. by Lee J. Ames. Abingdon, 1955. 128p. (Makers of America). \$1.50.

An interesting introduction to the work of the Wright Brothers. The erroneous sub-title is corrected in the text, which makes clear that they were the first to fly a powered machine. The emphasis is on their early years and the book stops with the experiments at Kitty Hawk. Reynolds', The Wright Brothers (Random House, 1950) is a more complete biography and equally easy reading.

R Haywood, Carolyn. Eddie and His Big Deals. Morrow, 1955. 190p. \$2.95. Little Eddie felt that he had been personally insulted when the new "boy" next door, whom he had welcomed so warmly, turned out to be a girl, wearing jeans and with close-cropped hair as a result of a head injury. Not only did her sex fool Eddie, but she also turned out to be a rival collector of valuable property. How Eddie starts a long and involved process of swapping in which Sidney, the new girl; Anna Patricia, a friend from earlier books; and an old printing press are involved makes the kind of hilarious reading that Haywood fans have come to expect from the Eddie stories.

NR Hill, Margaret. Hostess in the Sky; frontis- 8-10 piece by Manning de V. Lee. Little,

1955. 241p. \$2.75.

A career story continuing the adventures of Beth Dean, heroine of Goal in the Sky. Beth is now doing her three months probationary work before becoming a fully accredited air-lines hostess. The incidents are typical of this type of story, although the heroine does not achieve quite such phenomenal success as do most main characters in career stories. Most of the characters are stereotyped, some objectionably so—as in the chapter in which a teacher and children from a progressive school are introduced. The story is not handled adequately to be ranked as good fiction, but there is too much of it for the book to be classed as informational.

M Hoffmann, Eleanor. Trouble at Sweet Springs Ranch; illus. by Algot Stenbery. Dodd, 1954. 239p. \$2.75.

Contrived story of how three children are able to prevent the ranch on which they live just outside Santa Barbara from being leased to an oil company. They manage this by arousing the neighbors to sign a petition to have the section zoned against any such activity. The account of how community action can operate could be useful for classes studying such problems, although the relatively easy way in which the oil company is thwarted seems scarcely realistic. There is little individuality to the characterizations.

NR Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). The Dog Family; 4-6 pictures by Nils Hogner. Oxford, 1954. 80p. \$2.50.

An attempt to describe more than 120 different dogs in a little over half as many pages. The text is written at about a fourth grade reading level, but the very brief descriptions and the paucity of illustrations result in a confusing and somewhat vague presentation of the subject. The material is poorly organized, and frequently statements are made in one section and not explained until several sections later. The attractive format will probably deceive the reader into expecting more content than is included.

R Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). Spiders; illus. 3-5 by Nils Hogner. Crowell, 1955. 56p. \$2.00.

A brief, fairly simple introduction to spiders, describing their physical anatomy; the various ways they have of spinning webs, of obtaining food, and of reproducing their young. The organization is in terms of general characteristics rather than of individual species of spiders, and the book will be used more for its general information than as a reference book for identifying specific spiders.

Ad Howard, Vernon. Short Plays for All-Boy Casts; Thirty Royalty-Free Comedies and Skits. Plays, Inc., 1954. 186p. \$3.

Thirty short, generally pointless plays and skits for all-boy casts. The humor is of the obvious, slap-stick variety and there is no literary quality to the writing.

NR Hunt, Marigold. Hester and the Gnomes; 4-6 pictures by Jean Charlot. Whittlesey House, 1955. 124p. \$2.50.

An attempt at fantasy that does not quite succeed. When a new well was drilled on the Tann farm, the drillers unwittingly broke through to the Great River Torg right at the spot where the gnomes lived. The little men set out to discover what was happening to the roof of their cave, climbed up the water pipe, and found themselves above ground for the first time in their lives. Their first encounter was with a kitten who led them to her mistress, Hester Tann, and Hester set about making them comfortable on the farm. The story has many of the elements of a fantasy but the characters never achieve individuality and the whole effect is quite forced. Charlot's illustrations do not help to create the spirit of fantasy.

Ad Ives, Burl. Sailing on a Very Fine Day; 3-5 illus. by Bernice and Lou Myers. yrs. Rand McNally, 1954. 28p. (A Book-Elf Book). 25¢.

An amusing singing game in which each verse adds a character to go "sailing on a very fine day." The illustrations are colorful and carry out the spirit of nonsense in the verses.

M Janes, Edward C. Wilderness Warden; 7-9 decorations by Raymond Abel. Longmans, 1955. 214p. \$2.75.

Routine story of a young game warden in northern Maine. Dan Hubbard's probationary assignment as a game warden was to one of the toughest sections in the state. Even before he arrived in his district an attempt was made on his life, and he thereafter ran a gamut of dangers ranging from a blizzard to other attempts to murder him. In the end, of course, he almost single-handedly captured a gang of poachers and made the district safe for deer and wardens. Dan is too much the super-man to be wholly realistic and his adventures frequently verge on the melodramatic.

NR Jones, Juanita Nuttall. David, Warrior of God; A Novel-Biography of King David. Association Press, 1954. 155p. (Heroes of God). \$2.

Fictionalized story of David, beginning when he slew Goliath and taking him to the end of his life. The writing is not outstanding, and some

of the ideas, such as that God condones evil when it can be put to his own use, are questionable.

M Jones, Mary Alice. Friends of Jesus; K-2 illus. by Janet Robson Kennedy. Rand McNally, 1954. 30p. (A Book-Elf Junior). 15¢.

A simplified retelling of three stories of Jesus. The text, which could be handled by second grade readers, might be used as supplementary reading in some church schools, although there is very little meaning left to the stories. The illustrations are quite poor.

NR Jorgensen, Nels. Smoke Jumpers; illus. 5-7 by Carl Kidwell. Bouregy & Curl, 1954. 190p. \$2.50.

When nineteen-year-old Rick Harding finished his training as a "smoke jumper" in the Forestry Service, he was sent to a base near his home town in the Pacific Northwest. There he put his training to good use in fighting fires and in tracking down the two men who had robbed and killed his father some years earlier. An unrealistic, melodramatic story, too poorly written to have any value either as an adventure story or as a picture of the work of the Forestry Air Patrol.

R Ketchum, Philip. The Great Axe Bret- 7-9 walda. Little, 1955. 220p. \$2.75.
A stirring, fictionalized account of an exciting period in British history—the time of Alfred the Great and the struggle against the Danes. Action centers around Wilton, a Briton who had been captured by the Danes as a child and reared with the sons of one of the great Danish warriors. When he became old enough to serve as a warrior, Wilton returned to England where he escaped from the Danes and joined the forces serving under Alfred. The scene shifts from England to Denmark, where Wilton is once more taken as a captive, and back to England for the final major defeat of the Danes. An action-packed, exciting piece of historical fiction.

M King, Kenneth M. The Book of Flight; 6-9 illus. by King-Ganteaume. Warne, 1954. 64p. \$1.25.

A brief history of flying—from the British point of view. Mention is made of French and American contributions but the major emphasis is on British planes and flying. The material is interesting because of the point of view, but the paper used in the book and the illustrations are so poor the book will have little value for general library use.

NR Kroll, Harry Harrison. Summer Gold. 7-9 Westminster, 1955. 176p. \$2.75.

The first that Barbara Estwicke knew of the Carolina mountain farm she had inherited from her father, came when a law firm offered to take it off her hands for little more than the back-taxes. Instead of selling, Barbara set about turning the farm into a girl's camp, which she managed to do by sponging off everyone who came near her. The discovery of an ancient gold mine on the farm insured the continuing popularity of the camp, and a wedding ring settled Barbara's future. A poorly-written, cliché-ridden story, with negative values expressed throughout and based on implausible situations.

Ad Ladd, Elizabeth Crosgrove. Janie; illus. 3-5 by Mary Stevens. Morrow, 1955. 189p. \$2.50.

Janie, her parents, and her cousin Rick come to their Maine cottage for the Thanksgiving week-end. It is Rick's first visit to the cottage and the first time Janie has been there at this time of the year. She enjoys showing Rick around the place and comparing the November scene to that of the summer months. A slight mystery in which a gang of poachers are apprehended lends some interest to an otherwise slight but pleasant story.

Ad Lewis, Oscar. Hawaii, Gem of the Pacific; 5-7 illus. by Stephen Medvey. Random House, 1954. 183p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A brief history of the Hawaiian Islands, from the time of the first Polynesian settlers to the present day. The book will provide background information to supplement a study of the Islands as they are today. The rather colorless writing does not always do justice to the subject. The book is indexed and contains a glossary of Hawaiian words and phrases.

M Lindgren, Astrid. Bill Bergson Lives 5-7 Dangerously; tr. from the Swedish by Herbert Antoine; illus. by Don Freeman. Viking, 1954. 214p. \$2.50.

Another story of Bill Bergson, the young Swedish boy who fancies himself a master detective. This time Bill and his friends are involved with a murderer and are, naturally, able to help the police capture the man. There are elements of appeal in the sometimes breath-taking activities of the children, but the effect is often spoiled by the author's excessively condescending tone.

M Lindman, Maj Jan. Snipp, Snapp, Snurr 1-2 Learn To Swim. Whitman, 1954. 27p. \$1.50.

Another simple, rather pointless story of the three young boys, Snipp, Snapp and Snurr. This time they are vacationing at the seashore with Nanny, and after nearly drowning several times are taken in hand by a neighbor and taught to swim. The style and format are like that of the earlier stories about these same three boys. Written at a second grade reading level.

NR Loomis, J. Paul. Horse of the Deep Snows; 7-9 A Story of Salto, Horse of the Canadian Mounties. Dodd, 1954. 245p. \$2.50.

A second story about the horse, Salto, and his owner, Constable Park Langdon of the Canadian Mounties. The plot is quite involved, with an escaped convict who has shot a Mountie, a half-breed poacher, a cattle man who is trying to ruin one of his competitors, and the competitor who is trying to save his cattle during a prolonged drought and cold spell. The Mountie spends more time helping with the cattle than hunting the poacher or the convict, and this is probably just as well since every time he comes in contact with either of them he is bested. In the end, of course, he gets his man (both of them). The style is mediocre and the plot confused.

M Lyons, Dorothy. Java Jive; frontispiece 7-9 by Wesley Dennis. Harcourt, 1955. 214p. \$2.75.

When the Atkins family moved to a new home that included a stable and corral, Ginny began dreaming of a horse, even though she knew her father could not afford to buy one for her. With typical thirteen-year-old impracticality, she set about trying to trap a "wild" horse, but got instead the pony, Sugarfoot, who was an inveterate run-away. When Sugarfoot showed evidence of liking Ginny's corral better than her own, the pony's owner, who no longer rode, gave Ginny permission to care for and ride the horse. Later when Sugarfoot's colt was born, it was given to Ginny for her very own. An entertaining horse story, marred by a highly contrived mystery that detracts from the story rather than adding to its interest.

R McClung, Robert M. Vulcan: the Story of 3-5 a Bald Eagle; illus. by Lloyd Sandford. Morrow, 1955. 64p. \$2.00.

The life story of a bald eagle from the time it hatches until it reaches maturity. The simply written text is augmented by excellent drawings that convey the power of the eagles and the ruggedness of the country in which they live.

Ad McCullough, John G. and Kessler, Leonard 2-4 P. Farther and Faster; illus. by Leo-

nard P. Kessler. Crowell, 1954. 63p. \$2.50.

A brief, informal story of transportation. The easy text and humorous illustrations are for the young reader. The material is adequate for browsing rather than reference.

M McIlvaine, Jane S. Cintra's Challenge. 7-9 Macrae, 1955. 219p. \$2.50.

A patterned story of horses, fox hunting, and boy-girl relations in present day Virginia. Cintra Shelbourne is determined to keep her family from selling their ancestral home even though it means taking in paying guests to meet the expenses of the house and stables. Through a season of crises, ranging from a broken hip for her father to a broken romance for Cintra, she manages to keep the place together and to discover her real love—a neighbor boy who shares her attachment for the land and horses. Pleasant, rather superficial.

R MacKaye, David Loring. The Silver Disk; 7-9 illus. by Avery Johnson. Longmans, 1955. 195p. \$2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Ottavio Bucolini came to Palermo in 1200 to establish a branch of his family's mercantile business. Almost at once he found himself involved in the intrigues centering around the boy king of Sicily who was later to become Frederick II. Ottavio arrived in Palermo suffering from an exalted sense of his own importance, but as he worked to forward the affairs of the king, he came to see himself and the people around him in a different light, and he even became willing to face poverty in order to help the king. The plot revolves around the search for a lost silver disk, carved with a map of the then known world, that represented to Frederick the forces of knowledge that could bring peace and prosperity to his country. Told in the first person by Ottavio, the story moves swiftly and smoothly to a well-planned climax with action and suspense to hold the reader's interest to the end.

M Norman, Florence S. The Long Journey; 6-8 illus. by Paul Galdone. Lippincott, 1955. 186p. \$2.75.

Toko is a young Australian aboriginal, on the verge of manhood, who proves his right to a place among the tribe's leaders by making a long journey alone to the sacred mountains to pray for the ending of a severe drought. The story has a ring of authenticity in its descriptions of the countryside, but little reality in the characterizations.

Ad Oliver, Jane. Young Man with a Sword; 6-8 A Novel for Boys and Girls; illus.

by William McLaren. St. Martin's, 1955. 278p. \$2.50.

Scotland from 1307, at the time of Robert the Bruce's successful uprising against the English, to the battle of Bannockburn on Midsummer Day, 1314, furnishes the setting for this story of young Gavin Maitland who serves under Bruce in the absence of his father, a prisoner of the English. The writing is rather average but the setting is interesting and the story is acceptable as additional material on this period of English and Scottish history.

R Petry, Ann (Lane). Harriet Tubman: 7-12 Conductor on the Underground Railroad. Crowell, 1955. 247p. \$2.75.

The biography of Harriet Tubman, told with restraint and dignity. The book is more a character study than an adventure story, although the events of Harriet Tubman's early life and of her exploits in leading her people to freedom are not minimized. There is a perceptive insight into her reactions to the events of her childhood; to the unhappy ending of her marriage; and to the effort of settling down to a peaceful, uneventful life after the Civil War that brings her vividly to life as a real person. In quality of writing the book compares favorably with good adult biographies and its emphasis on the character and personality of Harriet Tubman is not duplicated in any other juvenile biography of her.

NR Ratzesberger, Anna. Puppy and Me; 3-5 photographs by Constance Bannister. yrs. Rand McNally, 1955. 28p. (An Elf Book). 25¢.

Color photographs of a variety of dogs and children make up a book that has no unity and little point. The slight text, written in the first person and employing awkward rhymes, adds nothing by way of interest or appeal.

M Robinson, Mabel Louise. Skipper Riley; 3-5 The Terrier Sea Dog; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Random House, 1955. 91p. \$2.50.

Another story of Riley, the wire-haired terrier hero of Back Seat Driver. This time Riley and the Doctor are vacationing in Maine. There Riley not only continues his job of telling the Doctor how to drive, but even reaches the point where he learns to sail the Doctor's boat by himself. Like the earlier book, this one

is characterized by adult, tongue-in-cheek humor and just misses being good fantasy.

SpR Ross, Sandy Thomas. Bairnsangs; 3- Nursery Rhymes in Scots; illus. by Charles Summers. St. Martin's, 1955. 45p. \$2.00.

A collection of 30 nursery rhymes written in Scots. There is a lilting rhythm to many of the verses, and some can be enjoyed for the sounds of the words even though the meanings may not be immediately clear. Because of the difficulty of the language, the book will be limited to use by adults who will read the verses to children, but there is much in it to please both children and adults.

R Sorensen, Virginia (Eggersten). Plain Girl; 4-6 illus. by Charles Geer. Harcourt, 1955. 151p. \$2.50.

A sensitive, sympathetically told story of a young Amish girl's growing understanding of her people and their religion. Esther faced her first days at school with mingled curiosity and dread. She knew that her clothing would cause some comment, and possibly even ridicule, but the thing she dreaded most was the thought that she might, unwittingly, take "The First Step Away" from her religion. Vividly in her mind was the memory of her older brother, Dan, who had gone away the year before and whose name was never again spoken in her home. How Dan returned to the plain way and helped Esther to an appreciation of the basic principles of her belief and, at the same time, to an acceptance of the idea that some changes are necessary to conform to modern times, makes an appealing story. Esther is a very real little girl, one to take her place beside Hannah and Elin in young readers' affections.

NR Stack, Nicolette Meredith. Pierre of the Island; illus. by Gertrude M. Williamson. Bruce, 1955. 96p. \$2.00.

Dull, uninspired story of a young boy who moves, with his family, from their farm home on the Isle d'Orleans to Quebec. Pierre is unhappy over the move until he has gathered about him an assortment of animals—the horse that his father uses each day in his job of driving tourists around the city, the flock of chickens belonging to his grandmother, a black cat and her kittens, and a yellow dog. After several months Pierre returns to the farm and discovers that it is not as fine as he remembered it. An obvious plot and wooden characters.