



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

December, 1955

Number 4

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 Allen, Merritt Parmelee. The Mudhen Acts
6-8 Naturally; decorations by Stephen J.
Voorhies. Longmans, 1955. 185p. \$2.75.

Exploits of two rival fraternities at a "prep" school. John Crane, better known as the Mudhen, is the sleepy-eyed, ingenious prankster who keeps his own fraternity, the Eagles, one step ahead of the rival Bears. There are vague references to classes and studies. The excessive use of slang makes the style difficult to read and, at the same time, the exploits themselves are too juvenile to be appreciated by many boys above the seventh grade. The story seems more like an English boys' school movie comedy than a true part of the American private school scene, which is its setting. Many of the episodes are in poor taste.

- Ad Baker, Nina (Brown). Texas Yankee;
7-9 The Story of Gail Borden; illus. by
Alan Moyler. Harcourt, 1955. 129p.
\$2.50.

A fictionalized biography of Gail Borden, the originator of Borden's Condensed Milk. The

Borden family played an important part in the Texas struggle for independence and this part of the book will give it its greatest appeal for general reading. It will also be useful where there is need for additional biographies of American industrialists in units on the rise of American industries.

- SpR Behn, Harry. The House Beyond the
1-5 Meadow. Pantheon, 1955. 47p. illus.
\$2.50.

Fanciful tale, in verse, of a young boy's excursion into fairyland. The boy wanders across the meadow into fairyland, where he meets the queen and king of fairies and is granted nine wishes, with the understanding that he will save the last one to wish himself back home in time for lunch. The beautifully written verse will need to be read aloud to children and will appeal only where the listener has a well-developed imagination that will help in understanding what is meant.

- R Brock, Emma Lillian. Plug-Horse Derby.
3-5 Knopf, 1955. 121p. illus. \$2.50.
Nancy sighed and longed for something unexpected to happen to enliven the summer, and, surprisingly enough, something did. It was no

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.

more than an announcement in the local paper of a plow horse derby to be held at the State Fair, but it gave Nancy the inspiration to train and enter her own horse, Plow Boy. The story of the training and of the race is told with Miss Brock's own inimitable humor that brings Nancy, her family, the hired man, and Plow Boy gaily to life.

NR Brown, Pamela Beatrice. The Windmill
5-7 Family; illus. by Lisl Weil. Crowell,
1955. 263p. \$2.75.

The Channings are an English family, living in a remodeled windmill, who are on the verge of having to sell the windmill and move to a more conventional house in the nearby village. The solution to their financial problem arrives in the form of Puffin, a school friend of Colin Channing, and the heir to a throne in India. Puffin agrees to arrange for the Channing children to receive the reward that has been offered for information about his whereabouts, if they will, in turn, hide him in the windmill for the duration of the school vacation so that he can do some fishing in the nearby river. The story begins well but quickly deteriorates into an implausible, poorly-written story closely resembling the radio serials on which it is based.

NR Browning, James. Sparky the Fire Dog;
K-1 illus. by Mary Jane Chase. Rand
McNally, 1954. 28p. (A Book-Elf
Book). 25¢.

A slight story quite obviously written to teach children some of the basic principles of fire prevention. Sparky, the fire dog enlists Bill and Betty in his volunteer fire department. They prove their right to membership by discovering a fire started by Chumpy, who is playing with matches in his parents' cluttered garage, and calling the real fire department. Chumpy learns his lesson and also joins Sparky's Fire Department. An obvious story, with unattractive illustrations. Forms for joining Sparky's Fire Department are included.

NR Budden, John. Jungle John; A Book of the
6-8 Big-Game Jungles; illus. by H. J. P.
Browne. Longmans, 1955. 304p. \$2.50.

A re-issue of a book first published in 1927. John is a young boy spending his vacation with his father who is a Forest Officer in India. In spite of a few exciting episodes, the story is slow-moving, and the style will be too old-fashioned to appeal to many modern readers. The plates for the type and illustrations are badly worn, and the inking is uneven throughout.

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. The Poppy Seeds;
K-2 illus. by Jean Charlot. Crowell, 1955.
37p. \$2.75.

Pablo wished to beautify the arid Mexican valley where he lived. Despite his mother's warning that no flowers would grow in the hot, dry climate, Pablo planted some poppy seeds by each house in the valley. When the poppies did bloom in old Antonio's yard, the old man decided to share his spring water with all the people in the village. The story will be useful for reading aloud to children in kindergarten through the second grade. Jean Charlot's drawings are not consistently effective; the pictures in color seeming more convincing and in better harmony with the text than are those in black and white.

Ad Child Study Association of America, comp.
3-5 Read to Yourself Storybook; illus. by
Leonard Shortall. Crowell, 1954. 256p.
\$2.50.

Twenty stories for children to read independently. Some of the stories have appeared as separate volumes, some are excerpts from longer books, and two appeared originally in Story Parade magazine. The quality of the stories is generally good; it is questionable whether they are more enjoyable in this kind of an anthology than in their original forms. Although the "Acknowledgements" gives the original sources, there is nothing in the text itself to lead readers from the excerpts to the longer books, or even to indicate that these are merely sections from longer works. The illustrations have humor, but are seldom as well suited to the individual stories as are the illustrations from the original editions.

NR Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane and Barnes,
3-4 Kate. Horse Stories; with pictures by
Feodor Rojankovsky. Simon & Schuster,
1954. 30p. (A Big Golden Book) \$1.

Eight stories and six poems about horses. The writing is uneven and there is little point or substance to most of the stories. The text is written at an upper third and fourth grade reading level, but the format of the book is suitable for younger children. Rojankovsky's illustrations are often grotesque.

Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. F.B.I.; The
6-8 "G-Men's" Weapons and Tactics for
Combatting Crime. Coward-McCann,
1954. 48p. \$1.

Another in the author's series of picture-information books. Here again the book is primarily a series of photographs with a minimum of text explaining each. The various departments of the F.B.I. are pictured, followed by photographs showing some of the basic training that F.B.I. agents undergo. The material is interesting and informative, although not so detailed as the Floherty, Our F.B.I. (Lippincott, 1951).

Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Police; The Work, Equipment and Training of Our Finest. 6-9 Coward-McCann, 1954. 48p. \$1.

Brief text and large, clear photographs present the work, training and equipment of a typical city police force. A useful book for vocational guidance classes. The text is too difficult for individual reading at the elementary level, but the illustrations could be useful for third and fourth grade units studying the community. Floherly's Behind the Silver Shield (Lippincott, 1948) is a more detailed account of the same subject.

Ad Costain, Thomas Bertram. The Mississippi Bubble; illus. by Warren Chappell. 8-12 Random House, 1955. 185p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

An interesting account of the great French financial boom inspired by John Law and his Mississippi Company, that began with the establishment of New Orleans and ended in a crash that almost wrecked France. The events are seen both from the point of view of John Law, who regarded Louisiana as a useful pawn in his financial schemes, and Bienville, who dreamed of building New Orleans into a beautiful and powerful city. Most students who are interested enough in the kind of financial and political maneuverings represented here to want to read an entire book on the subject will want a more mature presentation than this one.

Ad Darling, Louis. Chickens and How To Raise Them. 4-6 Morrow, 1955. 63p. \$2.

Beginning with a brief history of the domesticity of fowls and the use of selective breeding to improve egg-laying and meat producing chickens, the author then gives detailed information on the selection and care of a small flock of chickens (six are recommended as a starter). In this section he discusses breeds of chickens, the feeding of chickens at various stages of their growth, and the handling of broody hens, as well as showing through detailed drawings how to build the houses, runs, and equipment needed for handling chickens, from chicks to full-grown hens. In the last section of the book, the author describes the development of a chicken from fertilized egg to baby chick, and relates the process to other animals and human beings. Much of the information on the development of chickens from egg to hen is available in Schloat's The Wonderful Egg (Scribner, 1952).

Ad Defoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe; with eight 5-9 colour plates and drawings in the text by J. Ayton Symington. Dutton, 1954. 245p. (Children's Illustrated Classics). \$1.95.

A somewhat abridged version of the original book.

The small print is generally readable, although the type is slightly worn and poorly inked in spots. The illustrations are sufficiently dramatic and interpretive to make this a good additional purchase for libraries where more than one edition of the title is desired.

Ad Dietz, Lew. Pines for the King's Navy; 7-9 illus. by Edward Chavez. Little, 1955. 212p. \$2.75.

A story of Maine in the early eighteenth century at the time of the Indian wars. Thadd Dunnican, living with his family in a clearing that encroached on Indian land, longed to be allowed to become a hunter and fur trapper, but his mother was firm in her determination to send him to school in Boston. Before either event could take place the family became involved in the Indian troubles; troubles that began with the cutting of royal pines on land claimed by the Indians and ended with the Indian uprisings that threatened the lives of all the settlers in the area. The story begins slowly but eventually gains enough momentum to hold reader interest. An acceptable addition to collections of historical fiction.

NR Disney, Walt. Donald Duck's Christmas Tree; told by Annie North Bedford; K-1 pictures by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Bob Moore. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Donald Duck and Pluto Pup go out to find a Christmas tree. The one they select is the home of two chipmunks but they don't know that. When they get the tree home and the decorations on it, the chipmunks begin teasing Pluto every time Donald goes out of the room, and they almost make him ruin the tree. However, everything is settled in a sentimental ending that is supposed to express the Christmas spirit. Comic book caliber.

NR Disney, Walt. Donald Duck's Toy Sailboat; 3-5 told by Annie North Bedford; pictures yrs. by the Walt Disney Studio, adapted by Samuel Armstrong from the motion picture "Chips Ahoy". Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Donald Duck works all summer to make a toy sailboat for his mantel. While he is resting before trying out the boat, two chipmunks borrow it to take them to a nearby island where they have spied a tree full of acorns. After they load the boat with acorns, they sail back to the mainland, unload their loot, and return the boat to Donald. Very slight story.

NR Disney, Walt. Dumbo; told by Annie North K-1 Bedford; pictures by the Walt Disney

Studio; adapted by Dick Kelsey. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 25p. \$1.00.

Although the basic elements of the story are the same, this version is not the same as the one used in the "Little Golden Book" edition of Dumbo. It has been expanded somewhat to fit the increased page size, and the humor seems much more forced than in the earlier edition. The illustrations have likewise been changed, and again, not for the better.

NR Disney, Walt. Pinocchio; pictures by the K-2 Walt Disney Studio, adapted by Al Dempster; story adapted by Steffi Fletcher from the motion picture "Pinocchio", based on the story by Collodi. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.50.

An adaptation of the motion picture, a version of the story which has very little of the flavor or character of the original book. The music and animation which might have lent some appeal to the movie are necessarily absent here, and all that remains is a cartoon skeleton of the original story. There seems to be no reason for introducing the story to children until they are old enough to appreciate the original version in its entirety.

R Du Soe, Robert C. Only the Strong; illus. 6-8 by William D. Hayes. Longmans, 1955. 133p. \$2.75.

Tadeo Webb was fiercely proud of his ancestral home, even though it was no longer the flourishing ranch of earlier days before an earthquake cut off the main water supply. Now the land yielded only a precarious living from a small vein of gold that Tadeo and his father laboriously worked. Disaster threatened the ranch when Tadeo's father broke his leg, and for a while it seemed that the family would be forced to sell at least a part of the land. However, Tadeo saved the ranch by blasting out a section of the mine and opening the springs that had once made the ranch a fertile valley. The story is told with the strength and stark vividness of the author's first book, Three Without Fear.

NR Edwards, C. A. M. Son of the Mohawks; 7-9 illus. by Mario Cooper. Bouregy & Curl, 1955. 188p. \$2.50.

A fictionalized account of the two years in the life of Pierre Radisson, during which time he lived as a captive of the Iroquois Indians. The author dwells on each little detail of the torture that Pierre underwent when he was first captured and after his first attempt to escape. There is nothing about the later years of his life which are equally exciting although less harrowing. The Syme, Bay of the North (Morrow, 1950) is

a better written and better balanced account of Radisson's life. The poor quality of the print and paper further detract from the usefulness of the book.

NR Elgin, Kathleen. The First Book of 4-6 Mythology; Greek - Roman. Watts, 1955. 60p. \$1.95.

Fourteen legends from Greek and Roman mythology, retold in brief form. The legends range from the story of the creation of man by Prometheus to the tale of Cupid and Psyche. There is little beauty or inspiration to these versions and they will not replace some of the longer, better written accounts.

M Estes, Eleanor. A Little Oven. Harcourt, 3-4 1955. 30p. \$2.25.

Helena is a small girl who comes to Connecticut from California. Genevieve is a small girl who comes to Connecticut from France. The two become friends. Helena's mother has a habit of picking her up for a "little loving and a little hugging". When Genevieve asks her mother for a little "'oving", her mother misunderstands and thinks she wants a toy stove. In time she discovers what it is that Genevieve is asking for and gives her some "loving". Adults and more perceptive children may wonder why Genevieve's mother never gives her any loving until the little girl begs for it. The rather crude illustrations are done in the manner of Slobodkin.

Ad Ewing, Juliana Horatia (Gatty). The Brown- 4-6 ies and Other Stories; illus. with 8 colour plates, and line drawings in the text by E. H. Shepard. Dutton, 1954. 239p. (Children's Illustrated Classics). \$1.95.

The title story is perhaps the most successful and the best known of the seven stories included in the volume. Although Mrs. Ewing's writing seems excessively sentimental for modern readers, Jackanapes is the only story in the collection which is completely unsuitable for children's reading. The other tales of Yorkshire village life and the "little people" will have some appeal even for modern children. However, the book will be most useful for those libraries which maintain a special historical collection of children's literature. The attractive format and delightful illustrations make this a worthy addition to such collections. A children's edition of The Brownies, as a separate volume, has been adapted and illustrated by Katherine Milhous (Scribner, 1946).

R Fatio, Louise. The Happy Lion in Africa;

K-2 pictures by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House, 1955. 32p. \$2.

The Happy Lion is stolen from his home in the Paris zoo. He escapes from his new owner; hides in a ship, and ends up in the African jungle. Having known nothing but friendliness all his life, the Happy Lion is amazed to find that many of the jungle animals are afraid of him, and he soon discovers that he would do well to stay away from some of them. Hungry and unhappy, he wanders into the camp of a wild-animal photographer, is recognized, and returns to the Paris zoo. Like the first book this is a happy blend of text and illustrations. Fun for story hours and for reading aloud to young children.

NR Felsen, Henry Gregor. The Boy Who Discovered the Earth; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Scribner, 1955. 140p. \$2.25.

When the flying saucer from Feor is temporarily grounded on Earth, TexSon is left to himself while TexarDad and TexarMom repair the ship. When the young Feorian meets an Earth boy, he learns the amazing fact that Earth boys are noisy, ill-mannered and always active. Tommy the Earthling offers to teach TexSon how to behave this way if his new friend will teach him how to sit quietly and think as the Feorians do. Tommy comes to realize that life on Earth is not as dull as he thought it was, especially after his Dad gets him the dog he has been begging for. Although the dog is brought after Tommy learns to sit quietly thinking, Tommy tells TexSon that he should return to Feor and teach the other boys there to play games and act like Earth boys. He recommends that TexSon "nag" his parents into making future visits to Earth. The exaggeration of the Earth and Feorian ways of living plus the casual treatment of science facts results in a story that is more fantasy than science fiction. TexSon and Tommy learn each other's way of living in a few hours, too short a time to be convincing.

NR Finlay, Ian. The Young Traveler in Scotland; illus. with photographs and map; sketches by Kathleen Voute. Dutton, 1954. 224p. \$3.

Two American children travel with their Scottish aunt, uncle and cousin around Scotland—visiting the major cities and points of interest, and learning reams about Scotland's history, and a small smattering of her present social and economic conditions. The story elements are contrived and unrealistic: there is no explanation of where the American children live, how they happen to be traveling alone to Scotland, or where they go when they leave their Scottish relatives in Glasgow. The attempts to

make conversation of informational material result in characters who talk like encyclopedias. The information itself is so jumbled and so tangled with the slight story elements that the book is neither a good travelogue nor a piece of fiction.

NR Forsee, Aylesa. The Whirly Bird; illus. 5-7 by Tom Two Arrows. Lippincott, 1955. 224p. \$2.75.

A dull narrative of a modern Navajo Indian boy who longs to get away from his reservation and see what the rest of the world is like. Chaki had attended an Indian school and as a result was torn between the things he had learned there and his family's tribal beliefs. He was sure of one thing, however, that he wanted to fly, and he worked toward this goal by trying to earn enough money to take himself and his grandfather to the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial in Gallup. Although that plan did not succeed, he did get his chance to fly by rescuing two white boys who had wandered away from their father's prospecting camp. As a reward, Chaki was invited to fly with the boys in a helicopter for a visit in their home in Phoenix. An uneven, occasionally disjointed style and slight characterizations.

R Frank, Janet. Daddies; pictures by Tibor 4-7 Gergely. Simon & Schuster, 1954. yrs. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢. A simple text and colorful action-filled pictures answer the question, "What do Daddies do all day?" This is a good introduction to many jobs and occupations. The information is more clearly presented through the pictures than in Puner's Daddies; What They Do All Day (Lothrop, 1946). The book could be used in units on family and community life.

NR Fulton, Reed. Rookie Coach. Doubleday, 7-9 1955. 222p. \$2.75.

Bill Taylor, ex-marine and the new coach at Barkland High School, was informed at the very start of the season that his teams must win games—by any means—if he expected to keep his job. The teams were controlled by a group of young hoodlums who were encouraged in their delinquency by the local newspaper sports editor. Even the faculty members of the school were so cowed by the force of public opinion in the town that they would refuse to fail a member of the football team. Almost single-handedly Bill reforms the faculty and student body, and develops a baseball team that wins the local championship. There is an excess of emotional flag-waving in the story that weakens the strong points of good sportsmanship which are also present. The character-

izations are typed and have little originality.

Ad Gallant, Roy A. Exploring the Moon; illus. 5-9 by Lowell Hess. Garden City Books, 1955. 63p. \$2.00.

Theories relating to the origin of the moon, to its present composition, and to the causes of some of its formations, such as craters, "seas", domes, rays, clefts, etc. are presented, with some of the arguments supporting and opposing each theory. The material is interestingly presented through rather brief text and full-page illustrations. Because of the brevity of the text and the picture-book format (12 1/2 x 9) the book will have its primary value as a supplementary introduction to the subject.

R Galt, Thomas Franklin. The Rise of the Thunderer; illus. by John Mackey. 5-7 Crowell, 1954. 196p. \$3.

Straightforward retelling of the very earliest of the Greek myths. The major part of the book is devoted to the story of creation, the Titans, Cronus, and other pre-Zeus gods. The relationship between the Olympian gods and mankind is emphasized. Prometheus, as a symbol of "fore-thinking intelligence", and Zeus, as a ruler of justice, are discussed by the author in a lengthy note. Detailed references for each chapter are given in the notes at the end of the book. These and the notes on Zeus and Prometheus are more suited to use by an adult than by the age youngster who will enjoy the stories themselves. This is an easier to read introduction to the subject than either the Coolidge Greek Myths (Houghton, 1949) or the Lowrey In the Morning of the World (Harper, 1944).

NR Garelick, May. What's Inside?; photo- 1-3 graphs by Rena Jakobsen. Scott, 1955. 64p. \$2.00.

Photographs and fairly simple text are used to tell of the hatching of a goose egg. The account begins as a gosling is emerging from an egg, then reverts to the laying of the egg, the brooding of the eggs by the goose, and finally a repetition of the hatching process. Much of the text is in the form of questions and answers. The beginning pages have only a few lines of simple text to a page; then follows a section with full pages of rather difficult text, and the ending uses short sentences and not much text to a page. The result is a wide range in the reading difficulty level—from a middle first grade level at the beginning to an upper third grade level for the middle section, and the second grade level for the final section. The primerish tone of the first section is too young for the readers who would be able to handle the entire text, and the difficult middle section

will discourage many beginning readers who could handle the first and last sections. The photographs give the book some value, although this same kind of information is available in other books.

M Gerson, Corinne. Like a Sister; decora- 8-10 tions by Mimi Korach. Funk & Wagnalls, 1954. 250p. \$2.75.

For six years Beth Peterson had corresponded with Greta, a German girl of her own age, and after the war which had, directly and indirectly, caused the death of most of Greta's family, the Petersons invited her to come to the United States to live with them. Beth, as an only child, welcomed the thought of having a sister her own age and looked forward eagerly to Greta's arrival. Neither Beth nor her parents were quite prepared for all of the adjustments that had to be made on both sides before Greta could fit happily into their family life, but in due time most of the problems were resolved. The adjustment was not made any easier by the narrow, isolationist attitude of the townspeople who resented all foreigners, nor by the fact that the only other Germans in town were a rather unpleasant family whom no one liked. The story poses some very real problems, but its treatment of them is seldom profound and is occasionally questionable.

M Gilligan, Edmund. Sea Dog; illus. by 7-9 Clifford Schule. Knopf, 1954. 177p. \$2.50.

Although ostensibly a dog story, the book is primarily concerned with the love affair between the captain of a nineteenth century Gloucester schooner and Mollie, the widow of the captain's best friend and former dorymate. "The Philadelphia", as he is called by the cod fishermen of Gloucester, finds himself adopted by a stray collie pup, and entrusted with the safety of the young son of Mollie—both of whom prove themselves to be true dorymen. The story is powerfully written, but is an adult story of a boy and a dog rather than a dog story for boys. There is too much love story for the age reader who wants stories of dogs or the sea, and the title and jacket of the book would discourage girls who might otherwise enjoy the love story.

M Girvan, Helen (Masterman). Down Bay- 7-9 berry Lane. Westminster, 1955. 204p. \$2.75.

Fay Cromwell had lived most of her seventeen years with her mother, and knew little about her father except that he was an engineer and that he had retained custody of her brother when her parents were divorced many years earlier. When Fay and her brother did meet, at their

grandparents' Cape Cod home, she was shocked to find that he was as prejudiced against their mother as she was against their father. During the summer the two came to a better understanding of each other and of their parents; they brought about a reconciliation between their parents; and they solved a mystery involving an antiques thief. Pleasant, but rather shallow characterizations and a predictable mystery.

NR Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl and Wilhelm.
K-2 The Golden Goose; pictures by Gustaf Tenggren. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A shortened version of the traditional folk tale. The picture-book format is best suited to pre-school children but the text and stylized pictures are more for older children and adults.

NR Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl and Wilhelm.
3-5 Hansel and Gretel; pictures by Eloise yrs. Wilkin. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A shortened and simplified version of the folk tale. The doll-like illustrations of the children seem too sweet for the story.

Ad Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl and Wilhelm.
4-6 The Twelve Dancing Princesses; re-told by Jane Werner; pictures by Sheila Beckett. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

One of Grimm's tales, told with traditional details. The illustrations are sophisticated pictures in dramatic colors and with stage-set backgrounds. They are particularly suitable for the romantic and somewhat theatrical nature of the story. Although the size and type of the book will appeal to younger children, the story and illustrations are more attractive for older readers and adults.

NR Hall, Marjory. Paper Moon; decorations 7-9 by Mary Stevens. Funk and Wagnalls, 1954. 282p. \$2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Candy Chase, product of a broken home and of an excessively flighty mother, found herself suddenly stranded when her mother married for the fourth time, and this time to a man who was not financially able to help Candy. Her father's second wife had twins about the same time and he could no longer send Candy an allowance. Thrown on her own, with no training or experience to fall back on, she is fortunately aided by a friend of her mother's—a successful career woman, Priscilla Anthony. Priscilla gets Candy a job with the Crystal Paper Company and helps her find an apartment. In true career story fashion, Candy takes less than a year to re-model her apartment into a

place that brings praise from a noted interior decorator (this on a salary of \$35 a week and virtually no expenditure of effort), and to perform her job so well that she is promoted to a position of great responsibility. She also wins the love of a wealthy young man whom she had met during her school days. The few good points in Candy's growing up are far outweighed by the unrealistic treatment of many of her problems, and by her own abrupt change and growth.

NR Hirshberg, Al. The Battery for Madison 7-9 High; A Barry Drake Baseball Story; illus. by Paul Galdone. Little, 1955. 245p. \$2.75.

The Drake twins of Madison High School find that their best sport is baseball, especially with Phil pitching and Barry catching. Phil lets his hot temper get the best of him when he is forced to pitch to another, and less cooperative, catcher. However, the members of the team work out their differences, and Madison High is victorious in the local competition. The game action is good. The writing is confused and there is little individuality to the characters.

M Hoke, Helen. The First Book of Dolls; 3-6 pictures by Jean Michener. Watts, 1954. 45p. \$1.75.

A history of dolls with many colorful and informative illustrations. The organization of the text is so confusing, jumping from chronological arrangement to type of doll and back, and some the picture captions are so awkwardly placed, that the value of the material is greatly decreased. The pages are not always numbered. In fact, the index refers to at least two pages which have no numbers and are not followed by a numbered page. The illustrations are quite interesting and will give the book its chief value. The end papers have pictures of character dolls with a note about the book from which each one comes. Much of the same background material on dolls is included in Roberts, Real Book About Making Dolls and Doll Clothes (Garden City Books, 1951).

M Hoke, Helen, ed. Jokes, Jokes, Jokes; 5- illus. by Richard Erdoes. Watts, 1954. 242p. (Terrific Triple Title Series). \$3.

A collection of mildly funny jokes, many of them depending on sarcasm and adult experiences to put across their humor. A number of jokes are quite old and well-worn, and in some the humor is forced. The funniest sections include fifty or more riddles, almost all of which are also to be found in Leeming's Riddles, Riddles, Riddles (Watts, 1953).

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath,
3-5 Reinald. Looking out the Window; illus.
yrs. by Leonard Shortall. Rand McNally,
1954. 28p. 25¢.

Young Eddie does not know what to do on a rainy day. His father suggests a game of looking out of the window and watching all of the moving things which pass by in the rain. The book might be useful for parents who are in search of an idea for a rainy day activity, but it is pointless as a read-aloud story.

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath,
2-4 Reinald. Miss Frances' All Day-Long
yrs. Book; illus. by Katherine Evans.
Rand McNally, 1954. 72p. \$2.50.

A book of play activities for pre-school children. Suggestions such as making a picture, looking at books, playing with dolls, and listening to records (each to be done at a specified period in the day) do not need to be described in such repetitious detail, since these are familiar activities to children even without adult suggestions. Although the book is written to be read aloud by parents, the careful instructions about tidying up and the excessively condescending tone of presentation will repel most adults and children. Some of the activities require equipment such as a hand-crank ice cream freezer, a wind-up music box, paint sticks, and a child's record player. Parents who need ideas for helping their pre-school children to play will find more satisfaction from consulting books designed for their use, and then making the suggestions directly to the child.

NR Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath,
3-5 Reinald. The Robin Family; illus.
yrs. by Lucy Ozone. Rand McNally, 1954.
28p. 25¢.

Inconsequential story of a small girl who goes to the park with her mother where she sits quietly on a park bench and watches a pair of robins build a nest and train the young birds. Later she puts bread crumbs out at her own house and entices some of the robins to come there. Not many young children would understand the little girl's willingness to spend her time at the park sitting quietly on a park bench.

NR Jackson, Kathryn. The Golden Picture
K-1 Book of School Days; Easy-to-Read
Stories and Things to Do; pictures by
Violet LaMont. Simon & Schuster, 1954.
64p. (A Fun-to-Learn Golden Book). \$1.

A collection of short stories, poems and activities relating to school, and obviously contrived to fit the subject of school days and school activities. Some of the suggested activities are interesting, although the directions

are seldom clear enough for the young child to handle alone. The pages are cluttered and many of the pictures are too small and too crowded to be seen clearly. The book is aimed at the kindergarten or primary level but children of that age would need considerable adult help in using it.

NR Jane, Mary C. Mystery in Old Quebec;
4-6 illus. by Ray Abel. Lippincott, 1955.
123p. \$2.25.

A melodramatic, unrealistic story involving two American children who are spending a two weeks vacation with their father in Quebec. The children are on their own while their father attends to some business matters each day. During this time they explore the city, discover a young boy who has been kidnapped and restore him to his relatives—a group of Indians, complete with full-feathered head-dresses and buckskin clothes.

M Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Stowaway Cat.
3-5 Morrow, 1955. 63p. \$2.

Yala, a thoroughbred Siamese cat, runs away from the cat show in New York City, stows away on a boat going to Brazil, and is shipwrecked off the North Carolina coast on the way back. After several days spent in the woods, during which time her kittens are born, Yala finds a new home on a farm. A simple story, told in an uninspired, pedestrian style. The text is written at an upper fourth grade reading level, and is much more difficult than the primer size type and wide margins would indicate.

R Johnson, Siddie Joe. Cat Hotel; illus. by
4-6 Janice Holland. Longmans, 1955. 132p.
\$2.50.

Ted and his silver tiger cat, Butch, presented a problem when Mr. Mahon's work required that he spend a year traveling in South America. Then the Dean of Cathedral and a friendly photographer, both of them cat lovers, helped solve the problem by introducing the Mahon's to Mrs. Dietrich, who operated a cat hotel and needed a young boy to help her. The year with Mrs. Dietrich gave both Ted and Butch a chance to prove themselves—and the ending was made even happier when the Mahons moved into Mrs. Dietrich's neighborhood. Cat fanciers will enjoy the antics of Butch and the other cats at the Cat Hotel.

NR Jones, Mary Alice. Bible Stories; Old
3-5 Testament; illus. by Elizabeth Webbe.
yrs. Rand McNally, 1954. 30p. (A Book-Elf
Book). 25¢.

Five episodes retold from Old Testament stories. Included are: David and his flock, Joseph's

search for his brothers, Moses in the bulrushes, Ruth gleaning in the fields, and Elisha's room on the roof. In each instance the author has given no more than a brief fragment of a story, taken completely out of context. The results are misleading and often meaningless.

NR Kean, Edward. Howdy Doody and Mr. Bluster; pictures by Elias Marge. 3-5 yrs. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Howdy Doody helps Mr. Bluster and his sister Annabelle to solve their housing problem. Since they cannot agree on the type or location of their new home, Howdy Doody surprises them with a trailer. Slight story with cartoon pictures.

NR Key, Ted. So'm I; illus. by Frank Owen. K-2 Dutton, 1954. 68p. \$2.50.

The colt of a great racing stallion and a beautiful mare turns out to be knock-kneed and bow-legged. When people tell him how great his father was, he always says "So'm I." There follows a cartoon comedy of the colt's awkward efforts to be a racer. The text is long and somewhat confusing. The story and pictures are more for adults than for children.

NR Killilea, Marie Lyons. Wren; illus by 5-7 Bob Riger. Dodd, 1954. 119p. \$3. A true story of the Killilea family's experiences in helping their young daughter Karen to overcome her handicap of cerebral palsy. Much of the material has been rewritten from the author's Karen. The strong elements of family love and religious faith which supported Karen's personal courage and good humor in learning to use her limbs are emphasized. However, an over-emphasis on the successes of achievement and a corresponding de-emphasis on the extreme effort needed to overcome this type of handicap results in an unrealistic picture. The high standards of uncompromising endeavor on the part of Karen and her older sister might prove discouraging for those whose general experience with a handicap includes periods of discontent and discouragement as well as effort and steps toward achievement. Also, the sentimental tone of the writing detracts from the value of the story for children.

NR Knight, Marjorie. The Land of Lost Handkerchiefs; illus. by Rosalie K. Fry. Dutton, 1954. 92p. \$2.50.

Monica and Gwynne are always losing handkerchiefs. They are quite surprised to find that all lost handkerchiefs have been laundered and stowed away by a society of cats and other

animals. The fantasy is forced. The sweetly sentimental characterizations of the children intensify the condescending tone of the story.

M Knox, Olive. Little Giant; The Story of Henry Kelsey; illus. by Clarence Tilenius. Bouregy & Curl, 1954. 186p. \$2.50.

Fictionalized account of Henry Kelsey and his work with the Indian tribes who traded with the Hudson's Bay Company. Kelsey ranked with Pierre Radisson in the importance of his efforts to persuade the Indians to give up their tribal wars and in his work in exploring and mapping much of the plains and lake country of mid-Canada. The writing is adequate, though not outstanding. The format is very poor. The paper is little better than newsprint, and the inking comes through in many spots. Weak stitching.

NR Kono, Keora and Mulgrave, Dorothy. The Hidden Village; An Adventure Story of Hawaii; illus. by Isami Kashiwagi. Longmans, 1954. 111p. \$2.50.

An adventure tale of a young boy in the Hawaiian Islands before the coming of the white man. The boy Keo enlists the aid of the Menehune, the "little people", when Keo's village is threatened by another island tribe. The Menehune help supply weapons, since Keo's village is a peaceful, unarmed one. Some of the descriptions of the island village do not agree with current anthropological knowledge. A better written, more attractively illustrated adventure story of this same period and setting is Lipkind's Boy of the Islands (Harcourt, 1955).

NR Kraus, Robert. All the Mice Came. K-1 Harper, 1955. 32p. \$2.25.

The cat tells how he invited all the mice to a party—and they all came. When they learned the identity of their host, they immediately left, but he managed to persuade them of his honorable intentions. Highly sophisticated text and illustrations that will not have much meaning for young children.

R Kuhn, Ferdinand. Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan; illus. by J. Graham Kaye. Random House, 1955. 183p. \$1.50.

An interesting account of Perry's mission to Japan in 1853. The author discusses the reasons for Japan's closed-door policy, and the internal political and economic factors that resulted in Japan's agreement to make a treaty with the U.S. The problems are objectively considered from both the Japanese and the American point of view and in historical

as well as modern perspective. Perry is described with all his strengths and weaknesses and emerges as a real personality.

NR Lacey, John. Make Your Own Outdoor Sports Equipment. Putnam, 1955. 6-128p. \$2.50.

A "how-to" book for making sports equipment of all kinds, from birdcalls to a houseboat. The instructions are not detailed enough or clear enough for the inexperienced worker and the designs are too poor and the construction methods too crude for an experienced person.

M Lamb, Harold. Genghis Khan and the Mongol Horde; illus. by Elton Fax. Random House, 1954. 182p. (A World Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A brief account of the life of Genghis Khan and of his rise from poverty to a position as the wealthiest and most feared of any Eastern ruler. The book could serve as supplementary reading on the period, although there is little depth to the characterization of the man and not enough about his times to satisfy the more mature reader. The choppy style seems to indicate a book for readers younger than those who would normally have enough background to understand or enjoy the subject.

R Latham, Jean Lee. Carry On, Mr. Bowditch; 7-9 illus. by John O'Hara Cosgrave. Houghton, 1955. 251p. \$2.75.

An absorbing account of the life of Nathaniel Bowditch, author of The American Practical Navigator that is still a standard text in the U.S. Naval Academy. Nat's short stature was considered a serious handicap to his ambition to become a sailor, and when, at the age of twelve, he was apprenticed to a ship's chandler for nine years, even Nat was inclined to despair of ever completing his education or becoming a ship's captain. However, through the help and encouragement of friends who recognized his unusual mathematical ability, he educated himself and, after his apprenticeship was served, earned a place as second mate on a vessel. From there on his rise was rapid as captains began to realize that he not only had the ability to handle a ship, but could teach even the dullest of the sailors to do navigation. The fictionalized account makes good reading as a sea story as well as biography, and the book could be used as supplementary reading in mathematics classes.

NR Leventhal, John Philip. From Then to Now; 1-3 pictures by Tibor Gergely. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A young boy's interpretation of pre-historic

times and animals. The poor sentence structure and the extreme superficiality of the material leads to confusion that is in no way helped by the illustrations. For an adult there may be some charm to having a complicated subject such as this one discussed by a child in a child's own terminology, but for other children the results are meaningless and confusing.

R MacGregor, Ellen. Theodore Turtle; K-2 pictures by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey House, 1955. 32p. \$2.

Amusing tale of a turtle who considers himself to be quite clever at remembering where things are. In a manner faintly reminiscent of Epaminondas, he begins looking for a lost rubber. When he finds it he puts down the newspaper that he had in his hand, picks up the rubber, and goes down stairs. Then he begins hunting for the newspaper, and the whole process is repeated as he finds and loses the newspaper, an alarm clock, the tea pot, the ax, and the water hose. The story builds up to a climax in which Theodore's house is saved from burning because he had absent-mindedly left the hose in the attic. Told with a type of humor that most children enjoy, and spiced with witty illustrations by Galdone.

R McNeer, May Yonge. War Chief of the Seminoles; illus. by Lynd Kendall Ward. Random House, 1954. 180p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

An objective, readable history of the Seminole Wars, emphasizing the part played by Osceola, greatest of the Seminole chiefs. The author has an unfortunate tendency to bring in unnecessary references to the part played in the wars by her own ancestors, but the account is otherwise interesting. The book makes a good companion volume to Bleeker's Seminole Indians (Morrow, 1954) which contains more information about the history of the tribe, as well as an account of the wars.

NR Magoon, Marian Waite. Ojibway Drums; 5-7 illus. by Larry Toschik. Longmans, 1955. 146p. \$2.75.

Rather slight story of a young Ojibway Indian boy as he approaches manhood and goes through the experience of fasting and acquiring his totem. In spite of two raids, captures, and escapes involving another tribe, the story lacks vitality in the telling. The text is not always consistent and the illustrations do not always match the text. The conversations are a mixture of stilted Indian dialect and modern colloquialisms, and the time sequence in one chapter becomes quite confused.

NR Marge. Little Lulu and Her Magic Tricks. 2-4 Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little

Golden Book). 25¢.

Little Lulu, mischievous little girl from the comic strips, decides to play the part of a magician. A little old woman appears to show Lulu how to make some toys from pieces of Kleenex tissue. Lulu is delighted and goes home to show the toys to her parents. Directions for making the rabbit, doll, and carnation are given at the end of the story. The illustrations are not very clear, and the directions are not specific enough for a beginner in paper work to follow. A small package of Kleenex is attached to the front cover of the book.

NR Martin, Nancy. Young Farmers in Denmark; 7-9 illus. by Stuart Tresilian. St. Martin's Press, 1954. 176p. \$1.50.

A group of English children, members of the Young Farmers Club, go for a two week holiday in Denmark, where they visit farms and learn as much as possible about Danish farms and farming. The story is completely subordinated to the information, which in turn reads more like a fifth-rate travelogue than an informational book on Danish farms. The characters are wholly lacking in individuality.

NR Martini, Teri. The True Book of Indians; 2-4 illus. by Charles Heston. Childrens Press, 1954. 47p. \$2.

An inaccurate and misleading description of the American Indians before the coming of the white man. The text, which can be read at a second grade reading level, attempts to briefly depict the customs of Indians of the northwest coast, the plains, the pueblos, the eastern woodlands, and the swamps. Oversimplified statements give such misinformation as: all Indians had red skin; potlach was a big party where Indians gave away many things; pueblo refers to house; hominy is a cake made of corn. The inclusion of the Seminoles is incorrect if the book's purpose, as stated, is to depict the Indians before the coming of the white man. The Seminole tribe was not formed until after 1750. This error in period is duplicated in illustrations showing the use of horses, which were first introduced to the Indians by Europeans. Other errors in custom and costume appear in the pictures, which do not always agree with the text, even when the text is correct.

Ad Mayer, Jane. Dolly Madison; illus by 6-8 Walter Buehr. Random House, 1954. 148p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

Dolly Madison emerges from this biography as a glamorous figure of the early American period in which she lived, and all of the famous incidents of her life are included: the saving of Washington's portrait when the White House

was burned by the British, the introduction of ice cream at a Presidential party, the services which Dolly performed as official hostess during Jefferson's administration. The simple style of writing becomes choppy in some of the descriptive passages, and the superficial treatment of the characters of such people as Jefferson's daughters and of James Madison tends to exaggerate Dolly Madison's contribution to the founding of this country without really bringing her to life as a person. The book might be used as an easy-to-read introduction to this historical period, but Desmond's Glamorous Dolly Madison (Dodd, 1946) gives a fuller, better documented picture of the subject.

NR MGM Cartoons. Tom and Jerry's Merry Christmas; told by Peter Archer; 3-5 yrs. pictures by M-G-M Cartoons, adapted by Harvey Eisenberg and Samuel Armstrong. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Tom Cat and Jerry Mouse, familiar movie characters, stop their feuding long enough to give each other gifts at Christmastime. Slapstick comedy more successful as an animated cartoon than a picture book.

Ad Miller, J. P., illus. The Little Red Hen; 3-5 yrs. A Favorite Folk-Tale. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A colorful version of an old folk-tale. Although the activities of the farm animals are depicted with gaiety and humor, several of the drawings are quite sophisticated for very small children.

NR Monypenny, Kathleen. The Young Traveler in Australia; illus. with photographs and map; sketches by Henry C. Pitz. 5-7 Dutton, 1954. 223p. \$3.

Peter and Anne Newsome travel with their parents to Australia. During one year they visit all of the major cities, live with friends and relatives in the sheep raising country and generally learn all the important facts of Australian life and history. There is so much information crammed into the story that the reading becomes overwhelmingly tedious. Although the children are designated as being American, British phrasing and references slip into their conversations.

Ad Moore, Alma Chesnut. The Friendly Forests; illus. by Matthew Kalmenoff. 5- Viking, 1954. 96p. \$2.50.

An excellent plea for conservation presented through a discussion of what the forests of this continent were like before the coming of the white man; how trees make and hold topsoil and

control water flow into streams; what happens when land is stripped of its covering; how the effects of wasteful lumbering practice can be counteracted; and some of the uses of wood in modern living. The lack of an index will somewhat limit the book's use in classroom situations.

Ad Morgan, Nina Hermanna. Prairie Star; 5-7 illus. by Robert Henneberger. Viking, 1955. 189p. \$2.75.

After his father died at sea, Johan Bjornson and his grandparents left their home in Ostrum, Norway, and came to the United States to take up a homestead in what is now North Dakota. There, as Johan learned a new language and new ways of living, he had only to look at the sky at night to see the same stars his father had so often pointed out to him and to be comforted by the things his father had said to him before leaving on that last fishing voyage. The story of Johan's adjustment to the new world is not a new one, but it is pleasantly told and will be of use where stories of this period in the settlement of the United States are wanted.

NR Nash, Eleanor Arnett. Kit Corelli: TV Stylist. Messner, 1955. 182p. \$2.75. Kit Corelli has a job with the publicity department of a large department store, but she is more interested in developing a job as stylist for TV actresses. Within a short time of her arrival in New York she acquires a new roommate, gets a chance to do styling for a TV show (in her spare time at first and then as a full time job), and considers and discards two boy friends before settling on the third. The book is about half career fiction and half love story—with some very negative values expressed in each half. When Kit changes from the department store job to the full-time TV work, there is no indication that she even gave a thought to giving more than twenty-four hours notice to the store. She has no qualms about going through her roommate's personal belongings or about trying to pry out of her the details about her private life. In Kit's own home, she has only to mention a boy's name and her mother immediately draws her aside and asks eagerly if that is the boy she is in love with. The ideal marriage is described as one in which the wife completely submerges her own interests in favor of her husband's likes and dislikes. There is no depth to the characterizations, and career success is achieved too quickly and too easily for the book to have value as vocational guidance material.

NR O'Brien, John Sherman. Silver Chief's Revenge; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Winston, 1954. 213p. \$2.50.

Silver Chief III and his master Peter Thorne are involved in a story of murder and Russian espionage which takes them from the Canadian north woods to Washington and San Francisco. Poor writing and sensational plot are combined in a rugged but unconvincing story.

R Osswald, Edith and Reed, Mary M. The Golden Picture Book of Numbers; What They Look Like and What They Do; illus. by Corinne Malvern. Simon & Schuster, 1954. 80p. (A Fun-To-Learn Golden Book). \$1.

A book designed to help elementary grade children develop number concepts. The arithmetical content is basically of Grade 1 level, and except in the case of applications involving money, the numbers do not exceed ten. The approach is predominately by means of counting. Numerals are used sparingly, and the verbal forms (four, five, etc.) are used in the text. Processes (addition, etc.) are, quite properly, only hinted at. The vocabulary greatly exceeds that normally expected for Grade 1 materials, and the text must be read aloud by parent or teacher, which will limit the usefulness of the book as supplementary material in schools. Children who most need help in the number concepts are those most likely to be completely unable to get the concept from the book without adult help. The social settings in which the number ideas are imbedded are well chosen in terms of variety and children's interests. The four-color art work is of average quality, but the reproduction is poor in spots and many of the pages seem unnecessarily cluttered. The book is good for its kind, and is superior to many of the materials designed for the same purposes and intended for use in schools. Properly used, it can provide interesting and useful seeing and listening experiences for children.

R Pak, Jong Yong. Korean Boy; by Pak Jong Yong with Jock Carroll. Lothrop, 1955. 184p. \$2.50.

A story of one family's experiences during the Korean War. Because Mr. Pak had been a governmental official before the war, the family were forced to flee from their home in Chong-ju when the North Koreans took over the city. Jong Yong's mother and the younger children hid out in the nearby hills, but Jong Yong and his father went on south to gain the protection of the South Korean army. The story recounts the efforts of the mother to get food for her children and of the boy and his father to escape from the Communists, ending with the family's reunion in Chong-ju after the North Koreans had been forced back. The writing is very uneven, but the book has much to offer in giving American readers an understanding of the

Korean people. There are elements of realism in the account that make the book more suited to mature readers, although the format looks rather young.

Ad Paris, Leonard A. Men and Melodies.
8-10 Crowell, 1954. 197p. \$2.75.

An enthusiastic account of sixteen men who are key figures in American musical comedy. Brief information about each man's life is interwoven with comments on his music and the musical shows of his time. There is some repetition of anecdotes where they involve two collaborators, each of whom is given a separate chapter. The book will be of particular interest to those young people who are already familiar with the musical comedy productions from which many of our popular songs come.

R Pels, Gertrude. The Care of Water Pets;
4-6 illus. by Ava Morgan. Crowell, 1955.
119p. \$2.50.

A well-written, informative introduction to the care of water pets of various kinds: fish, both tropical and native; frogs; turtles; snails, and salamanders and newts. Directions for setting up an aquarium, for choosing fish, for caring for the aquarium, for feeding and caring for the plants and animals, for breeding fish, and for building an outdoor pond are all discussed in clear detail. The book will make an attractive, useful addition to nature study collections as well as to home, school and public library hobby collections.

NR Pilgrim, Jane. The Adventures of Walter.
K-1 McKay, 1954. 32p. (Blackberry Farm
Books). 95¢.

Dull story about a white duck who goes off exploring on Blackberry Farm. The humor seems quite forced, and the personification of the animals is poorly handled.

NR Pilgrim, Jane. Mother Hen and Mary.
K-1 McKay, 1954. 32p. (Blackberry Farm
Books). 95¢.

A slight story about a baby chick on Blackberry Farm and her first experiences with the world around her. The personification of the animals is unconvincing, and the story makes dull reading.

NR Pilgrim, Jane. Naughty George; illus.
3-5 by F. Stocks May. McKay, 1955. 32p.
yrs. (Blackberry Farm Books). 95¢.

George is a kitten who is called "naughty" because he does the things that are normal for kittens to do—sleeps on the bed, drinks cream from an open pitcher that has been left on the table, opens latches, etc. The farmer's wife

scolds him, but the little girl picks him up and loves him. Pointless and sentimental.

R Renick, Marion (Lewis). Todd's Snow
2-4 Patrol; illus. by Pru Herric. Scribner,
1955. 123p. \$2.

Todd Tracy had never seen snow until he moved North with his family, from Alabama. He was anxious to take part in all the activities of his new school and especially anxious to learn to ski well enough to have a part in the annual Snow Queen festival. How he learns to ski and wins a place in the festival makes a pleasant story, easy to read, and mirroring the kinds of experiences children often have in a new situation.

R Rey, Hans Augusto. Find the Constellations
5- Houghton, 1954. 72p. \$3.

An introduction to astronomy presented through simple text and colorful, clearly drawn star maps showing the shapes of well-known constellations that are to be seen during each of the four seasons. Names of the larger stars in each constellation and the method of locating the constellation in the real sky are also given. The maps are drawn for a latitude of 40° north, and show the hour of the night and the day of the month when each view can best be seen. An excellent book to stimulate interest in the subject and to help the beginner in star identification.

R Reynolds, Barbara (Leonard). Emily San;
5-7 illus. by Tack Shigaki. Scribner, 1955.
180p. \$2.50 (Values: International
understanding).

When ten-year-old Emily Masters moved to Hiro, Japan, with her family, she expected to make friends with Japanese children and take part in their customs. She was disappointed to find that the only Japanese people she knew—the gardener and the maid—could speak very little English. She also learned that her American neighbors in the Army village did not share her interests but preferred to go to American movies and Army sponsored club activities. As the story develops, the American and Japanese children do have fun together and learn each other's language while becoming friends. A warm family story, timely in its setting, and enlivened by the same humor and well-drawn characterizations that have made Mrs. Reynolds earlier books popular with young readers.

R Robertson, Keith. Ice to India; illus.
7-9 by Jack Weaver. Viking, 1955. 224p.
\$2.50.

In an attempt to re-build their clipper trade, lost during the War of 1812, the Mason family

went into debt to buy a ship—and then could find no cargo and only a skeleton crew. Finally, in desperation, they decided to follow the suggestion of one of the crew members and attempt to carry a cargo of ice to Calcutta. At the last minute Captain Mason was injured and could not make the trip, so his father, a retired sea-captain, undertook the voyage, taking with him his sixteen-year-old grandson, Nat. In addition to coping with the weather and trying to make fast time to cut down on the melting of the ice, the two Masons were faced with treachery on the part of three of the crew members who had been hired by a rival merchant to sabotage the voyage. The story of that unusual voyage makes an exceptionally good adventure story, told with suspense and well-paced to hold reader interest.

R Saxon, G. R. How Fast?; illus. by Isabel 4-6 Sherwin Harris. Crowell, 1954. 32p. \$2.

The meaning of speed is illustrated by a comparison of how fast birds fly, animals run, and humans travel. Interesting charts of each category and an overall comparison of vehicles and animals which travel at different speeds are accompanied by a brief text. The idea of safety as a factor in how fast automobiles, trucks, and buses travel will be useful in discussions on the topic of safety.

M Schlein, Miriam. Big Talk; with illus. by K-1 Harvey Weiss. Scott, 1955. 36p. \$2.25. A mother kangaroo asks her baby questions, such as how much he can eat and how fast he can run. He answers boastfully that he can eat all the grass in the world and can run as fast as the wind. When the little kangaroo is settled in his mother's pouch, she assures him that although he cannot really do these things now, he will when he grows up. The story will appeal primarily to the five and six-year-olds who will be able to recognize the small kangaroo's bragging as the same kind of exaggeration in which they too indulge. The illustrations are quite sophisticated and will need interpreting for most children.

R Seuss, Dr. Horton Hears a Who! Random K-3 House, 1954. 64p. \$2.50. Horton, the elephant who hatched an egg, once again is proving himself helpful and a defender of the weak. This time he is busy protecting a colony of "Whos," tiny creatures living on a speck of dust, from the efforts of the other jungle animals to exterminate them. How he finally persuades the other animals of the existence of the Whos and makes his point that "A person's a person no matter how small", makes a funny story, although not quite up to the first Horton book.

R Shippen, Katherine Binney. Men, Micro- 8-12 scopes, and Living Things; illus by Anthony Ravielli. Viking, 1955. 192p. \$3.

An absorbing account of the changes in man's understanding of living things. As in her earlier books, the author once again shares her enthusiasm for nature and science in this book about some of the great biologists. There is beauty and vigor in the writing in which the author has skillfully woven selections from the scientists' own observations. The reader examines fish by the Aegian Sea with Aristotle, the motion of the heart and circulation of blood with William Harvey, and other wonders of life up until the studies of genetics in the twentieth century. Strong, imaginative art work by Anthony Ravielli introduces each chapter and helps to make this a truly distinguished book. Not intended to be a survey of all of the great biologists (Louis Agassiz and Asa Gray are not mentioned), the book covers at least twenty of the great pioneers in various branches of biology. The book will serve as an introduction to the subject for junior high and high school students and as supplementary reading for those students who are already taking a course in biology. The style of presentation will also appeal to the general science reader.

R Simon, Mina (Lewiton). Beasts of Burden; 1-6 illus. by Howard Simon. Lothrop, 1954. 88p. \$2.50.

A very readable presentation of some of the animals that have been, and are still being, used in various parts of the world to help mankind carry loads and do other forms of manual labor. Included are oxen, carabaos, burros, Eskimo dogs, reindeer, horses, camels, llamas, Shetland ponies, elephants and yaks. The illustrations show the animals at work and, in some instances, give the outstanding physical characteristics of the animal. The book makes a new and interesting approach to the subject of animals and their relationship to mankind. The text, written at a beginning fifth grade reading level, looks simpler than it actually is, but it lends itself well to reading aloud to younger children.

R Slobodkina, Esphyr. The Wonderful Feast. 3-5 Lothrop, 1955. 26p. \$2.

yrs. Farmer Jones felt so good one morning that he gave his horse an extra large measure of feed. After the horse had eaten its fill there was enough grain left for the goat to have a feast. Then came the hen and chickens, followed by a mouse, and finally an ant carried away the last grain. In this way several animals bene-

fited by the farmer's impetuous generosity to his horse. A mild little story, simply told with no attempt to point up the moral. Illustrated with colorful, somewhat stylized pictures.

R Spies, Victor C. Sun Dance and the Great Spirit; illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Follett, 1954. 128p. \$2.50.

An appealing story of an Indian boy living in the Southwest at the time of the first white traders. Young Sun Dance longs for a knife such as the white trader owns and thinks he will be able to trap an all-black skunk that would serve as payment for one. The story of his trapping season with his father as they pit their wits and their primitive weapons against the animals, and especially against the marauding mountain lion, Malo, makes tense and dramatic reading, with an unusual ending in which Sun Dance sacrifices his chance to buy the knife by freeing the black skunk after it has saved him from the lion. The specific tribe to which Sun Dance belonged is not indicated, and the book is of more use as a story of a boy's growing up than as an Indian story.

R Stewart, George H. To California by Covered Wagon; illus. by William Moyers. Random House, 1954. 182p. (A Landmark Book). \$1.50.

An absorbing story of one of the earlier treks to California. The author has drawn freely on the diary of seventeen-year-old Mose Schallenberger, who made the journey, and has skillfully developed Mose's account into a piece of writing that reads as much like an exciting adventure story as the recounting of actual events. In spite of the choppy style that results from an excess of short sentences, the author's ability as a story-teller comes through sufficiently to hold the reader's interest.

Ad Stirling, Betty. Redwood Pioneer; 5-7 illus. by Ursula Koering. Follett, 1955. 157p. \$2.50.

Nine-year-old Mikey O'Grady felt left out as the middle child in the family and longed to prove to his father that he should be counted with the older boys. When the O'Grady family moved from their farm near Santa Cruz to the redwood forest, where Mr. O'Grady planned to earn a living by cutting tanbark, Mikey had his chance to assume greater responsibilities and to earn his right to be called one of the "big boys". The interesting setting lends appeal to a rather slight story.

M Stolz, Mary Slattery. Pray Love, Remember. 8-12 Harper, 1954. 345p. \$2.75.

Dody Jenks, high school senior, hates the medi-

ocrity of her lower middle class family and of the small town in which she lives. Clutching at any chance to get away from both, she accepts an offer of a job as companion to a wealthy and badly maladjusted child, and she learns from the job that wealth does not always bring happy, gracious living. A love affair—which ends with the tragic death of the boy—brings her a new maturity and an ability to look at herself and her family with a more healthy perspective, even though it does not reconcile her to returning to Plattstown to live. Dody is in some ways a realistic character, and many of her problems will be recognized by teen-age girls as similar to their own. The character of Stephen Roth, the boy who dies, is less skillfully handled and the reader is left with the feeling that his death was brought in as much to give the author a solution to the religious problem which his and Jody's love affair would have raised as it was to give Jody a chance to exercise her new-found maturity. The other characters vary in quality of development from obvious stereotypes to well-rounded individuals. The plot development is quite weak.

M Swift, Helen Miller. Adventure in Store. 7-9 Longmans, 1955. 242p. \$3.00.

Joan Peters wants a career in merchandizing; her mother is equally determined that she will become a concert singer. Joan finally wins permission from her mother to try a year on a job and she starts in as stock girl in a large Boston department store. The year brings the usual quota of work and personal problems, and at its close Joan is more certain than ever that she wants to stay in this type of work. She is, however, will to agree to her mother's request that she continue with her singing whenever possible, and she has also come to realize that she will need further training if she is to become a success in her chosen field. Joan's work experiences are adequately handled; the characterizations tend to be types rather than individuals.

R Todd, Ruthven. Space Cat Visits Venus; 3-5 illus. by Paul Galdone. Scribner, 1955. 88p. \$2.

Another story about Flyball, the Space Cat. This time he travels with Colonel Stone in a new rocket ship from the moon to Venus. They meet the high forms of vegetable life which are able to transmit the thoughts of the plants and also enable the Earth human and the cat to communicate their thoughts to each other. The story is told with humor, fantasy, and enough scientific fact to make this a good science fiction story for the young fan.

R Turngren, Annette. Steamboat's Coming;

7-9 decorations by Allan Thomas. Longmans, 1955. 183p. \$2.75.

Will Morgan dreamed of the day when he could become a pilot on a Mississippi River boat, but before that day came he had to learn to accept his share of responsibility on the family's river farm and to persuade his hero, Captain Hanks, to take him on as a cub pilot. The story covers the events of a year in which Will overcomes his jealousy of Bengt Lindstrom, a neighbor boy who is for a time a rival for the cub pilot job; works in a lumber camp; and finally proves himself capable of handling the coveted position. An entertaining adventure story, with just average characterizations and well-paced action.

Ad Urmston, Mary. The Seven and Sam; illus. 4-6 by Grace Paull. Doubleday, 1955. 188p. \$2.50.

In this sequel to Mystery of the Old Barn, the three Arnold children and their friends are once more faced with strange and inexplicable doings around their farm home. This time the mystery involves Sam, Mr. Jethro's horse, who disappears occasionally from the south pasture where he is boarded on weekends. The solution to the mystery brings new friends to the Arnolds and provides the children with an exciting summer. A very slight story but with pleasant family relations.

Ad Verral, Charles Spain. Champion of the Court. Crowell, 1954. 192p. \$2.50. A second story of Frenchy Beaumont and his friends at Pineville High School. This time the action centers around the attempt to start a basketball team, with the player problem centered on the star of the team—a maladjusted boy suffering from the effects of a broken home. Again Frenchy's Uncle Leo and his mother come to the rescue with psychological aid—the boy is straightened out—the team wins the championship. Adequate, although not outstanding.

NR Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. Three Loves Has Sandy. Whittlesey House, 1955. 160p. \$2.50.

Fifteen-year-old Sandra Herzog was a hot-

tempered, tomboyish girl until she met Bill, a newcomer from Wyoming; Lucky Lady, a horse; and Fred, an artist-caretaker on the estate where Lucky Lady lived, and fell in love with all three. Among them they managed to teach Sandy to curb her temper and act like a lady. Very neat and contrived. The short, choppy sentences and slangy style add nothing to the well-worn plot and typed characterizations.

NR Watts, Mabel. Bedtime Stories; illus. by K-1 Barbara Clyne. Rand McNally, 1955. 30p. 25¢.

Four very slight, inconsequential stories based on familiar, well-worn themes: a birthday present for mother, personified animals, a little boy learning to be helpful, and a Pollyanna-ish train engine.

NR West, Anthony. The Crusades; illus. by 7-9 Carl Rose. Random House, 1954. 185p. (A World Landmark Book). \$1.50.

A once-over lightly treatment of the four major Crusades. The author does not go deeply into any of the motives behind the Crusades, although he does allude frequently to the mercenary reasons behind them. Full play is given to the unnecessary brutality of the Crusaders, and in this respect the Saracens come off much better, as being more humane and more civilized. The writing leans heavily on slang. The style is exceedingly dull, none of the characters is convincing and even the bloodiest of the battle scenes remains uninteresting. The short, choppy sentences are awkward, and the book is not as interesting as many encyclopedia accounts of the same episodes.

NR Whelpton, Barbara. A Window on Greece; 7-9 illus. by the author. Roy, 1955. 168p. \$3.00.

A fictionalized account of the author's experiences in touring Greece. The introduction of fictionalized characters adds nothing of interest to the book and merely interferes with the descriptions of places and scenes. The result is neither fiction nor a good travelogue. Illustrated with lithographs and drawings that are atmospheric rather than detailed.