



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 X

June, 1957

Number 10

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. Full Count. Macrae, 7-9 1956. 204p. \$2.75.

Larry Kilmer is a young and potentially great pitcher whose career is endangered when he is over-worked by the manager of a minor league team who is more concerned with his own advancement than with the welfare of his players. Larry gets a chance to move up to the major league but his stay there is cut short when his pitching arm fails him. At first he decides to quit the game, but after a period of rest he joins a minor league team in Texas and works his way back to the majors where he pitches his team to victory over the team managed by the man who nearly ruined him. There is a slight romance on the side-lines, but baseball fans will be more interested in the vivid descriptions of the games in which Larry plays.

R Ardizzone, Edward. Tim All Alone. Oxford, 1957. 48p. \$2.75.

Further adventures of the doughty Little Tim. This time Tim is searching for his parents, who are temporarily lost. As he seeks them up and down the coast, his emotions run the gamut from

despair engendered by abuse from a bullying ship's captain to the joy of a final reunion with his parents. Once again the author combines text and pictures to produce a story with excitement, suspense and a truth of characterization to delight young children.

NR Bailey, Bernadine (Freeman). Carol Carson: Books across the Border. Dodd, 7-9 1956. 245p. \$2.75.

Carol Carson, fresh out of library school and with no previous experience, is hired to fill an emergency vacancy in the U. S. Information Library in Mexico City. She has an adequate knowledge of Spanish—even though it has a slightly Midwest twang—and her blond beauty helps also in her personal relationships. Although she has never done any children's work or had any special training along these lines, she is assigned to the Benjamin Franklin Library and is an immediate success. She undergoes the usual love affair with a dashing young Mexican, but returns to her Indiana beau in the end. For good measure there is a Communist spy episode thrown in and much exhortation to the effect that no one is to be trusted these days. Carol never shows any evidence of coming to a real understanding of Mexico or the Mexican people, and her story is further weakened by extremely careless writing.

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.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: one year, \$2.50; two years, \$5.00; three years, \$7.50. Single copy, 50¢. 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.

Application for second-class mail privilege is pending at Chicago, Illinois.

Ad Barr, Jene. Fast Trains! Busy Trains!
1-2 illus. by Chauncey Maltman. Whit-
man, 1956. 32p. \$1.25.

Fairly simple, repetitive text and full-color illustrations introduce the young reader to life on a cross-country passenger train. The activities of both train crew and passengers are described, as well as some of the countryside through which the train passes and the freight train that is met at one point in the trip. There is little life to the narrative, which is more concerned with readability than with literary quality. However, the text is easy enough for middle second grade readers to handle alone, and could be used by younger readers with some previous introduction to the technical terminology. The primary value of the book will be as a supplement to classroom readers and for social studies units.

R Becker, John Leonard. New Feathers for
2-6 the Old Goose; illus. by Virginia
yrs. Campbell. Pantheon Books, 1956. 63p.
\$3.

A collection of thirty-seven short rhymes and one long going-to-sleep rhyme. The verses range from the familiar everyday world of childhood to sheer nonsense, and have a pleasing rhythm that will make them fun to read aloud to young children. Virginia Campbell's small, gay drawings capture the spirit of the verse and add to the fun of the book. A refreshing addition to the child's store of nursery rhymes.

M Bigland, Eileen. Madame Curie; illus. by
6-8 Lili Cassel. Criterion Books, 1957.
191p. \$3.

A fairly simply written, but quite superficial biography of Marie Curie, taking her from early childhood to the end of her life. The writing is adequate, although not outstanding and the book will serve as an introduction for readers who cannot handle the better written biography by Eve Curie.

NR Brucker, Margaretta. Three Boys and a
7-9 Girl. Ariel Books, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Seventeen-year-old Debby Edwards, native of the resort town of Little Harbor, is trying to live down a near-scandal of the preceding summer when she attempted to elope with Jay Benson, son of a wealthy family living in the resort colony. She is helped by steadfast, affectionate Joe Nelson, who wants to marry her, but who seems too stolid and unromantic when compared with Jay. The third boy, Charlie Dawson, is a small town wolf whose attentions she usually spurns, although even he has his moments of attraction. The story takes Debby through a summer devoted almost exclusively to trying to

decide which boy she prefers. The author has posed some serious and pertinent problems in the story but their treatment is too casual, vague and unrealistic to have any value. Debby herself emerges as an exceedingly shallow, self-centered person and the three boys are nothing more than stereotypes.

Ad Burns, William Aloysius. Man and His
5-7 Tools; pictures by Paula Hutchison.
Whittlesey House, 1956. 159p. \$2.75.

An account of man's development of tools from prehistoric to modern times. Following a general discussion on the importance of tools in the history of civilization and the means by which scientists discover the steps in mankind's development of tools, the author presents the major types of tools used today and gives a brief history of the development of each type. Included are: knives, hammers, saws, boring and finishing tools, fire, transportation, power, fastenings, lifting tools, measuring tools. Much of the same material is included in the Adler, Tools in Your Life (Day, 1956) although the organization of the two books is quite different. The effectiveness of the Burns book is occasionally lessened by the awkward writing. Well indexed.

NR Burr, Sybil. Highland Fling. Westminster,
7-9 1957. 223p. \$2.75.

A disappointing sequel to the author's excellent mystery, Night Train to Scotland. The same three young people are involved, but they are as rude, brash and unappealing in this story as they were likable and realistic in the first book. They are joined by a caricatured, wholly unbelievable Lord Bills and his chauffeur, who turns out to be an impoverished Scots nobleman. The setting is the Scottish seaside at Kinglas, and the plot involves a strangely acting brother and sister who prove to be hiding their feeble-minded mother. The mother dies and the chauffeur marries the sister. The loosely-constructed plot becomes confused at times; the characters are all without appeal—the children being as objectionable in their rude brashness as Lord Bills is unbelievable in his complete cupidity.

M Child Study Association of America, comp.
3-5 More Read to Yourself Stories; Fun
and Magic; illus. by Peggy Bacon.
Crowell, 1956. 239p. \$2.50.

A collection of twelve stories, most of them condensations of or excerpts from books originally published as individual volumes. Among the titles which have been excerpted or condensed are: "Tom Benn and Blackbeard, the Pirate"; "Fish Head"; "Pogo, the Circus Horse"; "A Street of Little Shops"; "The Sound of Sleigh

Bells"; "Gozo's Wonderful Kite"; "Billy Had a System"; "Herbert Again"; "Five Golden Wrens"; "The Magic Shop"; "The Sleeping Giant and Other Stories". The quality of writing and content is quite uneven, and children would do better to have the original, full-length version than the portions given here.

NR Church, Richard. Down River. Day, 1957. 6-8 189p. \$2.75.

A quite disappointing sequel to the author's excellent Five Boys in a Cave. The same boys and the same cave are involved, plus John Walters' young brother, Andrew, two friends of Alan Hobbs, and a group of smugglers with whom the boys have a near-disastrous run-in. The emphasis this time is solely on adventure, with none of the perceptive characterization that was to be found in the earlier book, and the adventure, unfortunately, borders much too closely on the melodramatic. An even greater weakness lies in the fact that this story does not stand alone, but must be read as a sequel in order for there to be any understanding of the characters or the setting.

M Conrad, Sybil. Enchanted Sixteen; illus. 7-9 by Velma Ilsey. Holt, 1957. 219p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Connie Foster is suffering the full pangs of adolescence—and frequently her parents are made to suffer along with her. She is erratic—going from one interest to another and with each one centering around an imagined love affair. She is inconsiderate—to the point of being ostracized by her friends who have borne the brunt of her selfishness and are rebelling. She is unhappy with herself and every one around her. After a most unsatisfactory junior year, she takes a summer's job as nursemaid to two small children in a seaside resort and grows up as she meets the responsibilities of the job and learns to curb her overactive imagination. The characterization of Connie as a fairly typical sixteen-year-old is less successful than that of Jane Ellison in Emery's Sweet Sixteen (Macrae, 1956), and Connie's change does not quite ring true. The effectiveness of the writing is further weakened by the numerous typographical errors in the book. Since the story is written in a modified stream-of-consciousness style, it becomes quite confusing when quotation marks are omitted entirely or are used only at the beginning or at the end of conversations.

NR Cooper, Frank A. Mr. Teach Goes to War. 7-9 Whittlesey House, 1957. 187p. \$3.
A story of the War of 1812 as it was fought on and around Lake Champlain. Nineteen-year-old

Hosea Bonesteel, a schoolteacher, was anxious to do his bit in the war, but was even more concerned with helping one of his students, Muskrat Jack, an Indian boy, adjust to white ways. Jack's father was in the clutches of a renegade Indian known as Carcajou who was feared by Indians and whites alike and who was known to be aiding the British. There is considerable suspense to the story of Bonesteel's attempts to rescue Jack's father and to the description of the fight between the British and American fleets on the lake. The writing is weakened by a breathless style—few sentences are more than three or four words in length; and the almost piously didactic tone assumed when Bonesteel is talking to Jack or to Jack's friend, Joshua, or when he is defending Jack against the white men of the town who think that the only good Indian is a dead Indian. None of the characters comes alive and the style throughout is too awkward to have much appeal.

M Crane, Florence. Gypsy Secret. Random 7-9 House, 1957. 245p. \$2.95.

Randy Alvarez has never known anything except gypsy life until her sixteenth year when her father, Culvato, takes her to a river town in southern Illinois where she is to live with Abraham Lake and his wife. All that Culvato will tell her is that this is her mother's wish. Randy is quite unhappy in the Lake home since Mrs. Lake, her daughter Ellie, and granddaughter Lucy May do all in their power to make her feel unwanted. The only bright spots are Abraham Lake's obvious affection and the love she begins to feel for a neighbor, Troy Lansing. After several months during which Randy and Mrs. Lake come to a slightly better understanding of each other, word comes of the death of Randy's father and then Mr. Lake discloses the long kept secret that Randy's mother was the Lake's youngest daughter. Randy and her grandmother are reconciled and the book ends just before her marriage to Troy. Throughout the story Randy seems more like an average teen-ager dressed in gypsy clothes than a real gypsy. The book has none of the vivid characterization found in Kahmann's Gypsy Melody (Random House, 1942) and the plot is very obvious.

Ad Crist, Richard and Eda. The Cloud-Catcher. 4-6 Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 143p. \$2.50.

A slight, but amusing bit of fantasy involving two boys who build a large sail on top of a high hill and catch clouds which they store in empty cider bottles. At first they simply catch the clouds for fun, but then nine-year-old Gretta Kleiner appears on the scene and things become livelier as she suggests using the clouds for filling balloons and mattresses. The story is sheer

nonsense but is told with an air of logic and plausibility that makes entertaining reading, in spite of its rather pedestrian style.

R Cross, Roy. Supersonic Aircraft. Hanover, 1956. 63p. \$2.50.

A look at present day supersonic aircraft presented through text, photographs and drawings. Contents include: The Test Pilot Speaks; Aerodynamics at Sonic Speed; Supersonic Shapes; The Supersonic Pilot; Highlights of Supersonic Flight; Supersonic Aircraft; and High-Speed Heating and Other Problems. The section on aircraft includes craft from France, Great Britain and the United States.

NR Dudley, Nancy. Linda Goes to a TV Studio; 3-4 pictures by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1957. 48p. \$2.

Linda has won the second grade spelling prize, a trip to a TV station, and sets forth determined to take full advantage of her opportunity no matter how much it may inconvenience others. She is especially determined to appear on TV and has memorized a saccharine bit of verse for the occasion. Following the usual pattern of these stories, Linda meets a young boy who is slightly older than she is and who has a problem he cannot solve. For a slight variety there are two boys this time: Terry, the son of a staff member, who wants to appear on TV but is shy about expressing his desire, and Pablo, a Mexican boy who is supposed to put his burro through a series of tricks but is too frightened to remember the necessary words. Little Miss Fix-It, of course, solves both their problems. There is virtually no information about TV and the story is too improbable to have much appeal or any value.

Ad Eyre, Katherine (Wigmore). Children of Light; pictures by Artur Marokvia. Lippincott, 1957. 128p. \$2.75.

A completely fictionalized account of the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls. According to this story the scrolls were discovered by a young Arab boy, Abdulla, an orphan, and his employer, a Bedouin goat herdsman as the two were traveling toward Bethlehem. The Bedouin is certain the find will bring him enough wealth to start his own herd of camels; the boy is more interested in the content of the scrolls as it is explained to him by the Syrian and Jewish scholars who examine them. For readers wanting detailed, accurate information about the finding of the scrolls as well as about their content, the Honour, Cave of Riches (Whittlesey House, 1956) will be preferable. The primary value of this book is for its picture of modern Palestine and of the semi-nomadic life that many people

live there today.

R Fletcher, David. Confetti for Cortorelli; 5-7 illus. by George W. Thompson, Pantheon, 1957. 147p. \$2.75.

Angelo is an orphan living with the large Bertoni family in Syracuse, Sicily. He is treated more as a servant than as one of the family, but this does not make him too unhappy except at Carnival time, when he is not allowed to dress up and join the merrymakers. One year the Bertonis are away at Carnival time and Angelo is left in the care of Signora Cortorelli, next door. How he sets about earning a costume for the Carnival and ends up winning first prize and a permanent home—with Signora Cortorelli—makes a delightful story that captures the spirit of Sicily and of young boys.

NR Floethe, Louise Lee. The Winning Colt; 4-6 illus. by Richard Floethe. Sterling, 1956. 92p. \$2.50.

A coy story, told in the first person by the horse himself, of a famous trotter who injured his leg, was sold, had a hard life with an owner who mistreated him, and was finally bought by a young girl who re-trained him as a jumper and show horse. The excessive personification keeps the story from having any reality.

Ad Forsee, Aylesa. Miracle for Mingo; pictures by Veronica Reed. Lippincott, 1956. 159p. \$2.65.

A pleasant, but not especially outstanding story of the life of a modern Indian family of Ecuador. As young Mingo helps his father around their mountain home and plays with his pet kinkajou, he longs to be allowed to go searching for his older brother, Amador, a pack train driver, in order to persuade him to return home. Mingo's desire serves as a thread to hold together a series of episodes picturing Indian life in the villages and in the city of Quito—and at the end his wish comes true.

M Frick, Constance H. Patch. Harcourt, 1957. 188p. \$2.75.

A high school track story, with the mile race as the main point of interest. Patch Jones, a recent transfer to West High School, was a natural runner, but lacked the competitive spirit necessary to make him a great runner. The story is built around the efforts of Coach Anderson and some of the other track team members to instill that spirit into Patch without destroying any of his enjoyment of the sport. A great many side issues are introduced but not developed fully enough to add anything by way of interest. Some of the information about running will be of interest to track fans.

NR Gard, Robert Edward. Scotty's Mare;
7-9 illus. by Aaron Bohrod. Duell, 1957.
152p. \$3.

A boy-horse story set in the western ranch country of Alberta, Canada. Restless, bored, unwilling to stick with any project or job to the end, sixteen-year-old Scotty Jefferson is the despair of his parents. Only his mare, Trip, can arouse his interest, and with her flighty ways she seems destined to bring additional trouble to the already hard pressed ranch. Then comes a clue to a long lost gold mine and Scotty and Old Dave, a hired hand, set forth to find it. They are side-tracked by coming on a party of strange acting white men and some Indians. One of the strangers is an anthropologist whose daughter is determined to prove the Indians superior to the white men and almost causes Scotty to be murdered in her attempt. The mine is not found, but the mare leads Scotty to a cache of valuable paintings that bring enough money to save the ranch. A vague, confused story that is unfair to anthropologists and Indians alike.

Ad Gray, Alice. The Adventure Book of In-
5-7 sects; illus. by Joseph Sedacca, Char-
lotte Howard and the author. Capitol,
1956. 117p. (Young Collector Books)
\$2.75.

An interesting introduction to the world of insects designed to encourage young readers toward a further study through the hobby of collecting, identifying and displaying insects. The first two sections deal with false conceptions about insects and a consideration of what the world would be like if there were no insects. Then come sections on the ways in which various insects live, the life cycle of typical species and the anatomy of insects. The final sections are devoted to suggestions for making insect collections, classification of insects, and a picture guide for insect identification. A bibliography at the end suggests further reading. In spite of a slight coyness of style and a tendency to talk down to the reader, the book has good information and will be useful for nature study and hobby collections.

M Greene, Carla. I Want To Be an Animal
1-2 Doctor; illus. by Frances Eckart.
Childrens Press, 1956. 30p. \$2.

When Dick's dog, Tony, becomes ill one day, Dick takes him to Doctor Brown the veterinarian. There Tony is cured, and Dick learns enough about Dr. Brown's work to cause him to decide to be an "animal doctor" when he grows up. The text, written at a beginning second grade reading level, is adequate for supplementary reading. The illustrations leave much to be desired, since they frequently sacrifice accuracy

and information to an unsuccessful attempt at humor.

NR Greene, Carla. A Motor Holiday; photog-
1-3 raphy by Harold L. Van Pelt. Mel-
mont, 1956. 31p. \$1.50.

A family decides to motor from their home in Upper Texas to Southern California—a trip of about four days. They use road maps to plan their route, stop overnight at a variety of motels, and make short side trips along the way. The text is obviously written for the purpose of describing motor travel, and the illustrations are equally obviously posed photographs. There is no story interest for general reading. The text is written at a beginning third grade reading level.

M Guy, Anne. A Baby for Betsy; pictures by
K-1 Priscilla Pointer. Abingdon, 1957.
32p. \$1.25.

Betsy longs for a baby sister just like the one Tommy has. When she learns that Tommy's sister is adopted, she suggests to her parents that they also adopt a baby, only to discover that they have already applied at an agency. The waiting time seems long, but finally Betsy has her wish—doubled, for her parents adopt twins. A slight, rather sentimental story that might be used to prepare young children for the idea of adoption. The text might be read independently by readers at the upper first grade level.

Ad Haber, Heinz. The Walt Disney Story of
6-9 Our Friend the Atom. Simon and
Schuster, 1957. 165p. \$4.95.

Using the analogy of the fisherman and the genie, the author traces the history of man's search for knowledge concerning the nature of matter from the time of the ancient Greeks to modern times. The presentation is interesting and, although occasionally over-simplified, generally accurate. The colored illustrations make the book attractive but would have been more useful had they been more clearly labeled. In a few instances they are wholly decorative and even tend to detract from the readability of the text.

M Halacy, D. S. Star for a Compass. Mac-
7-9 millan, 1956. 172p. \$2.50.

Sixteen-year-old Rod Storey was determined to sail on his father's tunaboat, Blue Queen, even though his father insisted that he should stay at home and finish his school year. He stowed away and, when found, was given grudging permission to remain aboard rather than being put off at the nearest port. The voyage turned out to be more exciting than he had anticipated, in part due to the presence of an arsonist aboard. However, the man was caught, the load of tuna

saved and Rod forgiven for his disobedience. The story borders too closely on the melodramatic to be completely satisfactory. Du Soe's Sea Boots (Longmans, 1949) is a better written story with a similar setting.

M Hart, Jeanne McGahey. Gloomy Erasmus; illus. by Leonard Shortall. K-2 Coward-McCann, 1957. 33p. \$2.

Erasmus is an anti-social bear who goes into the deep woods to get away from the other animals, becomes confused by the lack of sunshine there and decides it is time to hibernate. He sleeps all summer and comes out in the winter, when he would have starved to death had not the small animals shared their store of seeds and nuts with him. Thereafter he observed the regular seasons but retained his gloomy ways. A pointless story that has pleasing illustrations but nothing else to recommend it.

R Henry, Jan. Tiger's Chance; illus. by Hilary Knight. Harcourt, 1957. 138p. 4-6 \$2.75.

As everyone knows, tigers' whiskers are magic—even when the tiger has been made into a rug. Rajah is just such a tiger rug, complete with whiskers, when he comes to live with the Potters—Carol and David Potter and their young daughter, Jennifer. Rajah's experiences in his new surroundings as he makes friends with Jennifer's cat, Midnight, and with a raccoon from the nearby woods, and helps to tame Jennifer's young cousin, Johnny, build to a suspenseful and satisfying climax in which he finally uses the power in his whiskers to alleviate his own restlessness and to give Jennifer, inclined to be a skeptic about such matters, a belief in magic. The author's adept handling of conversation brings each of the characters to life as real people, and the blending of fantasy and realism is a work of art. The book will be fun both for reading aloud and for individual enjoyment.

NR Hiser, Iona Seibert. Desert Drama; Tales of Strange Plants and Animals. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 159p. \$3. 5-7

An introduction to some of the plants and animals characteristic of the desert section of the Southwest United States. The material is presented in a highly personalized style, interspersed with numerous anecdotes about the author's family and friends, not all of which are pertinent to the subject at hand. The illustrations are a combination of very good photographs and just average drawings. The cozy tone and the author's tendency to say she thinks a thing to be thus and so, without bothering to

verify the accuracy of her thinking will limit the book's value as reference material.

R Hogner, Dorothy (Childs). The Cat Family; pictures by Nils Hogner. Oxford, 1956. 69p. \$2.75. 3-5

A companion volume to The Horse Family and The Dog Family. Contents include the various breeds of domestic cats and their uses by mankind, the various breeds of wild cats found throughout the world, cats in history and myth, and other animals that are closely related to cats. The material is primarily descriptive of the outer appearance and habits of cats and does not have the details of anatomical structure that are given in Zim's Big Cats (Morrow, 1955).

M Hutton, Clarke. A Picture History of Canada. Watts, 1956. 62p. \$3.95. 5-7

Following the usual pattern for the author's "Picture History" books, this one presents, in large, colorful pictures and brief text, the high spots of the history of Canada. The reader will need considerable prior knowledge of Canadian history to understand many of the over-simplified statements about events and personalities. The pictures might be used as supplementary material for history classes; the style is not absorbing enough nor the information complete enough for the text to have much appeal or usefulness.

R Icenhower, Joseph Bryan. Submarine Rendezvous; Pacific Adventure in World War II; illus. by Norman Guthrie Rudolph. Winston, 1957. 182p. \$2.95. 7-9

A suspenseful tale of adventure in the Philippine Islands during the early days of World War II. Sixteen-year-old Ben Scott has been assigned responsibility for protecting the famous scientist, Dr. Benson, on the final day of the army's evacuation of Manila. Thanks to the treachery of one of Dr. Benson's Japanese laboratory assistants, the two miss the last boat to leave Manila and are forced to make their way to safety as best they can. The story of their trek, usually just one jump ahead of the enemy, across Luzon, down the length of Mindoro and to the tip end of Mindanao, where they are finally rescued, makes absorbing reading.

R Kahl, Virginia. Maxie. Scribner, 1956. K-2 32p. \$2.50.

Maxie was a small, mild, rather slow-moving dachshund who in no way answered the description of a "Big, and Fierce and Fast" dog such as was wanted by the Baron. However he went along when the other dogs of the village were assembled for the Baron to make his choice,

and through a combination of luck and fast thinking proved himself superior to the other dogs and won the Baron's approval. This is not quite as funny as the author's other books, but has enough of the same lilting style and humorous illustrations to give it appeal.

NR Konkle, Janet. J. Hamilton Hamster; 1-2 designed by Mary Gehr. Childrens Press, 1957. 32p. \$2.50.

J. Hamilton Hamster is so occupied with his new house that he has no time to stop and say hello to the other animals who pass by. When he complains that he has no friends, the old hen advises him to go and find them. After he has done a good deed to each in turn, he has their friendship once again. A very slight story. The illustrations are a blend of color drawings and black and white photographs that have no unity and are generally quite unattractive. The text is written at a middle second grade reading level and is made more difficult by the poor use of punctuation.

R Latham, Jean Lee. This Dear-Bought 7-9 Land; pictures by Jacob Landau. Harper, 1957. 246p. \$2.75.

In a more fictionalized style, but with the same competent, forceful writing that characterized her biographies of Bowditch and Maury, the author tells of the early days of the Jamestown settlement from its founding to the arrival of Lord Delaware just as the colonists were about to give up and return to England. The story is told as it happens to fifteen-year-old David Warren, son of an investor in the London Company, who, when his father died, took his place, but insisted on sailing before the mast rather than as a passenger. Through David the reader comes to know the men who built the Jamestown colony, in all their strengths and weaknesses, and, like David, will alternate between hate and admiration for John Smith—with admiration winning through in the end. An excellent piece of historical fiction to give young people of this generation an understanding of the quality of men who founded the early colonies.

SpC Leach, Maria. The Beginning; Creation 7-10 Myths around the World; illus. by Jan Bell Fairservis. Funk & Wagnalls, 1956. 253p. \$3.50.

An interesting presentation of creation myths from many ages and many religions. The myths represent the major religious and cultural groups of the world, with the exception of the Hebraic-Christian religions. In the Introduction the author attempts to summarize briefly the history of the development of various scientific theories as to the origin of the

earth and to give an analysis of the elements common to the creation myths of varying cultures. Unfortunately the resulting discussion is over-simplified to the point of being of little value. The stories themselves make interesting reading. They are almost all re-told or adapted from other works, and in each instance there are complete references to the original sources. The book will be of major interest as a source book for storytellers, although the detailed bibliography at the end could help to lead readers on to a study of comparative mythology.

R Lehr, Paul E., Burnett, R. Will and Zim, 5-12 Herbert S. Weather; Air Masses - Clouds - Rainfall - Storms - Weather Maps - Climate; illus. by Harry McNaught. 160p. (A Golden Nature Guide) \$1.

Following the usual pattern for the Golden Nature Guides, the authors have presented, in pocket book format, a detailed account of weather; air masses, clouds, rainfall, storms, weather maps, and climate. The brief, but clearly written text is supplemented by numerous color photographs and drawings which help to make the book as attractive as it is informative.

Ad Lovelace, Delos Wheeler. That Dodger 7-9 Horse; illus. by Clifford Geary. Crowell, 1956. 177p. \$2.50.

Fourteen-year-old Glen Balikie's plans for the summer were shattered when his parents announced that they were going to South America and were sending him to his great-uncle's farm in Minnesota. The only bright spot was the thought that a farm was certain to have horses, and even that hope came to an end when he learned that Uncle Orlando had recently converted the farm entirely to machinery. However, before Glen could become too bored with farm life, Uncle Orlando bought Dodger, a Morgan, at an auction to prevent the horse from being sold to a neighbor who was notorious for his mistreatment of horses. For the remainder of the summer Glen had fun with the mischievous little horse. He also played a bit of baseball, made some new friends, and won an antagonistic neighbor boy to friendship. Nothing outstanding in plot or characterizations but an adequate horse story.

Ad McGiffin, Lee. The Fifer of San Jacinto; 7-9 illus. by Frank Nicholas. Lothrop, 1956. 191p. \$3.

Fifteen-year-old Page Carter and his mother arrived in Serena, Texas expecting to stay for a brief time only since their plans for settling there permanently had been shattered by Mr. Carter's death on the way. When they found themselves unable to sell their lot or wagon for

enough cash to take them back to Virginia, they built a cabin and Page began to teach school and to try to learn the skills necessary for survival on the frontier. The story takes place in the period immediately preceding the fall of the Alamo, and into the early days of the Texans' battle for independence, a battle in which Page takes part. In spite of fairly frequent lapses into sentimentality, there is enough action and suspense to the story to give it appeal where additional materials about this period are needed.

R Malkus, Alida Sims. Young Inca Prince;
7-9 illus. by William Moyers. Knopf,
1957. 246p. \$3.

A story of Peru in the days before the coming of the white men. Cusi Huascar, son and heir designate of the ruling Inca, is the main character. The story takes him through a period of war with the northern enemies, the Shyrri; and through a part of his reign. The account is fictionalized but is based on actual events and people and gives an absorbing picture of the period and of the ways in which the Incas ruled their people.

Ad Meigs, Cornelia Lynde. Wild Geese Fly-
6-8 ing; illus. by Charles Geer. Mac-
millan, 1957. 194p. \$2.75.

After years of traveling abroad, the Miltons looked forward to settling down in the large house in Jefferson Village, Vermont, while Mr. Milton was on a job in South America. The house had been inherited from Mrs. Milton's father, but neither she nor the children had been there before. From the very first it was evident that something was wrong, for the townspeople showed more than the usual Vermont reticence about accepting the Miltons. Twelve-year-old Dick Milton determined to get to the bottom of the trouble (a matter of missing money records), and with the friendly help of Jerry Stewart, finally did so, although even before that the family had won over many of the townspeople through their friendly, neighborly ways. Despite a quite contrived ending, the story has value in its description of the Vermont countryside and of the way of life in a small village.

Ad Mother Goose. A Little Golden Mother
2-4 Goose; illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky.

yrs Simon and Schuster, 1957. 24p. (A
Little Golden Book) 25¢.

Seventy-five well-known Mother Goose rhymes, illustrated with Rojankovsky's usual colorful, humorous drawings. The pages are too crowded for the drawings to be wholly effective, but the book will suffice where an inexpensive edition of the nursery rhymes is wanted.

W Ad Nesbitt, Marion. Captain John Smith's
3-5 Page; pictures by Douglas Gorsline.
Lippincott, 1957. 79p. \$2.50.

A fictionalized account of the experiences of ten-year-old Samuel Collier, a real boy who lived in the Jamestown colony, served as a page to John Smith, spent some time with a friendly Indian tribe learning their language, and eventually became governor of a town in Virginia. There is nothing especially noteworthy about the writing, and Samuel never quite comes alive for the reader. The primary value of the book will be for libraries wanting additional materials on the settlement of Jamestown.

R Norton, Andre. Star Born. World, 1957.
8-12 212p. \$2.75.

Three generations after the first Terrans landed on Astra (The Stars Are Ours! World, 1954), their survivors are still struggling to firmly establish the Colony and attempting to map out the unknown sections of their new world. They have made friends with the Mer-men, who are beginning to lose some of their fear of Those Others and to spend increasing amounts of time on dry land. The present story takes Dalgard, great-grandson of Dard Nordis, on the journey of exploration that is required of all young men before they are accepted as adults. With Dalgard goes his friend, Ssuri, a Merman. The two become involved in an attempt by Those Others, ancient enemies of the Terrans and the Mermen, to regain world power and also with one of the occupants of a space ship that has recently arrived from Terra. Those Others are defeated and the crew of the ship persuaded to return to earth and give the Colony a chance to develop undisturbed for at least another generation before returning. As usual the author writes a vigorous, forceful story that meets the requirements of both fiction and science.