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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume X

May, 1957

Number 9

### EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

### *New Titles for Children and Young People*

- R Asbjørnsen, Peter Christen and Moe,  
3-6 Jørgen Engebretsen. The Three  
yrs. Billy Goats Gruff; pictures by  
Marcia Brown. Harcourt, 1957. 32p.  
\$3.

A delightful picture book edition of a favorite folk tale. Marcia Brown's illustrations convey perfectly the terrible nature of the ogre and the impudent courage and gaiety of the goats as they trick him one by one until finally Big Billy Goat Gruff puts an end to him altogether. A book to share with children.

- R Asimov, Isaac. Inside the Atom; illus.  
8-12 by John Bradford. Abelard-Schuman,  
1956. 176p. \$2.75.

An exceptionally able discussion of atomic energy—what atoms are; what is known of their composition and how that knowledge was acquired, how atomic energy has been used to the present time, and what are some of its possibilities for future use. The material is clearly presented but will be most meaningful to readers who have some background in advanced mathematics and chemistry.

- R Ayars, James Sterling. Caboose on the  
3-5 Roof; illus. by Bob Hodgell. Abelard-  
Schuman, 1956. 77p. \$2.50.

In spite of its almost picture book format, this is a story that in length, content, and style is most suited to the middle elementary grade level. Young Peter makes friends with Mr. Jedediah Johnson and shares with the older man his love for trains. That Peter likes diesels and Mr. Johnson prefers steam engines makes no difference. When severe rheumatism makes it impossible for Mr. Johnson to go to the Big Hill and watch the trains go through the valley, it is Peter's idea to build a caboose on the roof of the Johnson's house, and it is Peter who rounds up the neighbors to finish the carpentry job before winter sets in. A warm friendly story with much more than the trains to give it appeal.

- Ad Baldwin, Victor and Jeanne. Little  
K-2 Kitten, Big World. Morrow, 1956.  
32p. \$2.

The adventures of Simmy, a seven-weeks-old Siamese kitten, on his first journey outdoors, presented through brief text and excellent black and white photographs. This is primarily a book for cat fanciers rather than for young children in general. The text is written at a fourth grade reading level.

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**R** Bartlett, Ruth. Insect Engineers; The Story of Ants. Morrow, 1957. 128p. \$2.75.

An absorbing discussion of ants, based in large part on the author's own experiences in observing ants both in their natural environment and in glass nests. The general anatomy of ants is described, their different ways of building nests, the social structure of their colonies, and the different kinds of ants to be found throughout the world. The final section gives instructions for collecting ants and making simple glass nests. An excellent book for nature study and hobby collections.

**NR** Beaton-Jones, Cynon. The Adventures of So Hi; illus. by John Ward. Vanguard, 1956. 178p. \$3.

An unsuccessful attempt at fantasy. So Hi, son of So Long, is a small Chinese boy whose adventures include cutting the tails off the Emperor's horses to obtain a strong string for his kite; making friends with a dragon, Drip-off; and saving the Emperor's musical goldfish from thieves who want to sell it to an enemy. The author tries hard for his humor, which consists mostly of ridicule of Chinese names and customs (i.e., the thieves are named Ook Lyne and Sin Kur; the shoemakers are Noh Tow, Lo Eel, and Hi Step.)

**R** Bleeker, Sonia. Horsemen of the Western Plateau; The Nez Perce Indians; illus. by Patricia Boodell. Morrow, 1957. 157p. \$2.25.

Eleventh title in the author's series on Indian tribes of North America. As in the other books the style is semi-fictionalized, with the everyday life, customs, beliefs, and activities shown through the experiences of a typical member of the tribe, usually a young man. In this volume the emphasis is on the period in the life of the Nez Perce Indians, after they had acquired horses from the white man and up to the time when their land began to be overrun by gold-miners. The last chapter sums up Chief Joseph's life, the final forcing of the tribe on to a reservation, and a brief look at the Nez Perce of today. The illustrations are attractive although less informative than those of some of the earlier titles.

**R** Block, Irvin. People. Watts, 1956. 184p. 7-12 \$2.95.

Drawing in large part on the works of Boaz, Mead, Benedict, the author describes six primitive cultures showing how each has developed its own ways for satisfying the basic needs that are common to them all. Included are the Arapesh, Dahomean, Eskimo, Pueblo Indian, Tchambuli, and Kwakiutl Indians. The

material is interestingly presented and should have value for social studies classes as well as interest for general reading.

**Ad** Bowers, Gwendolyn. The Wishing Book 3-5 Doll; illus. by Corinne B. Dillon. Morrow, 1957. 64p. \$2.25.

On her eighth birthday Nicole, a small girl living on an island in the St. Lawrence near Quebec, wanted a doll such as she had seen in the mail order catalog (the Wishing Book). She knew there was little chance that she would get one, but she continued to hope, especially when she counted six white horses and three red-haired ladies (a wish-making combination) all in one day. As it turned out an American family traveling through on their way west picnicked in Nicole's father's pasture and the little American girl left her doll behind, being far more interested in cowgirls than dolls. Nicole's dog found the doll and brought it home, and so she had her wish after all. A pleasant enough story but in no way outstanding.

**M** Brock, Emma Lillian. Come On-along, K-3 Fish! Knopf, 1957. 31p. \$2.25.

The four brothers, Johnny, Dic, Willy and Jan, are Cornish fishermen. One day they are caught in a storm and have to cut away half their nets in order to save their boat. The next day when they return home, they learn that their nets have drifted in to shore and have been saved by other fishermen. There is less story here than in the author's more recent books and her frequent use of incomplete sentences makes it one that will need to be read aloud to children. The pictures are far below Miss Brock's usual standard.

**NR** Broekel, Ray. You and the Sciences of Plants, Animals and the Earth; illus. by Stephen Gal. Childrens Press, 1956. 61p. \$2.

Brief information about the various sciences relating to plants, animals and the earth. Includes biology, zoology, botany, geology, physical geography, chemistry, physics and astronomy. There is not enough information for the book to have any reference value, and what is given is in such technical terminology as to discourage the casual reader at the lower grades. The picture book format and extra-large type will have no appeal for older readers who might otherwise use the book for its rather slight bits of vocational information.

**R** Brooks, Gwendolyn. Bronzeville Boys and Girls; pictures by Ronni Solbert. Harper, 1956. 40p. \$2.

A collection of thirty-four poems about chil-

dren. Although the title sets the poems in Bronzeville, the ideas and moods expressed are typical of all children anywhere and of any cultural or racial background. Most of the poems reflect the thoughts and feelings of children—pleasure in snow or a tea party, a need for privacy, awareness of the physical world around, the relations to other members of the family, etc. Some of the poems are quite childlike; others are more an adult's understanding of a child and may have little meaning for young children. The line drawings complement the text nicely and help to make this an attractive volume for poetry collections.

NR Brown, Jeanette Perkins. Deedee's  
K-1 Holiday; drawings by Joseph Es-  
courido. Friendship Press, 1956.  
32p. \$1.25.

Very slight story of a small Egyptian boy who goes to the pyramids with his family to celebrate the "Day of Smelling the Pure Air." During the day Deedee loses his parents in the crowd and is rescued by an American family. The reason for the festival is never explained and the story will do little to give young children any clear understanding of who the Egyptians are or what they are like.

M Callahan, Lorna. Where the Trail Di-  
7-9 vides; illus. by Paul Galdone. Whit-  
tlesey House, 1957. 188p. \$3.

A very run-of-the-mill story of a wagon train journey from Independence to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Fernande Watteau and her father joined the train in the hope that her father would be able to earn a living in the new settlement by teaching school. Their presence was strongly resented by Mrs. McCoon who distrusted them as "foreigners" and insisted that they jinxed the train. At the California cut-off, where the McCoons and their relatives were about to leave the train in protest against the Watteaus, a conveniently timed Indian attack gave Mr. Watteau an opportunity to display his courage and win Mrs. McCoon's approval. There is little that is new to the plot or characterizations, the author even succumbing to the fairly typical error of describing the prairie schooner wagons as "conestogas".

R Carr, Harriett H. Sharon; with decora-  
7-9 tions by Arline K. Thomson. Hast-  
ings House, 1956. 207p. \$2.75.

Sharon Heath's world looked grim the summer following high school graduation when her father's enforced retirement from New York University meant an end to her own desire to attend the University of Colorado. To add to her troubles, her older cousin from Milwaukee

came to New York for the summer and created additional problems as she failed to fit in to Sharon's circle of friends. During the summer Sharon took part in the swimming program at the Y, and in assisting the new swimming instructor came to a realization that her best choice of career lay in just such a job. By fall she was not only reconciled to attending New York University, but was also excited over the offer of a job as assistant to the swimming instructor at the Y. The author has drawn an interesting picture of life in Greenwich Village and of a young girl's adjustment to the needs of her family, even when those needs conflicted with her own desires. Not as profound as Mary Stolz's books, but with sound values and likable characters.

M Coates, Belle. Little Maverick Cow;  
3-5 illus. by Goerge Fulton. Scribner,  
1957. 57p. \$2.25.

Sue and Todd like their new home in Montana and are quite unhappy when the death of their only cow makes it seem for a while as if they will have to return to the East until their father can earn enough money to buy another cow. Then a maverick from the beef herd on the next ranch causes so much trouble by trying to break down the fence that its owners give it to Sue and Todd. A slight story that is weakened by the fortuitous ending and the author's tendency to personify the cow.

NR Daly, Maggie. Kate Brennan, Model.  
7-9 Dodd, 1956. 249p. \$2.75.

Fashion modeling in Chicago provides the subject for this quite mediocre career story. Kate Brennan, just out of college and wholly without plans for the future, visits a friend of her parents in Chicago and, in one weekend, decides on modeling as a career. By virtue of knowing the right people, she immediately obtains a job as clerk in a large department store, is rapidly promoted to a modeling job and in six months time has earned a reputation sufficient to win her an invitation to go to Paris with a well-known designer. It follows, of course, that she has also obtained an engagement ring, although not from the designer. There are some elements of interest in the career information, but the author's insistence that there is never any jealousy, ill-will, competition or other unpleasantness among models does not ring true, nor is her picture of life in a large department store convincing.

R Dillon, Ina K. Policemen; illus. by  
1-3 Robert Bartram. Melmont, 1957.  
31p. \$1.75.

Brief, simple text and black and white draw-

ings present the training and work of the police force. Contents include: Policemen; Schools for Policemen; Traffic Policemen; Motorcycle Policemen; Mounted Policemen; Policemen in Patrol Cars; Harbor Policemen; Helicopter Policemen; and Policemen Are People. The text is easy enough for second grade readers to handle alone and could be used at a lower level where children have had some introduction to the technical terms. A useful book that might be used in conjunction with Schlein's Amazing Mr. Pelgrew (Abelard-Schuman, 1957).

R Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. Prehistoric  
7-12 Animals; pictures by W. R. Lohse.  
Watts, 1957. 210p. \$3.95.

A detailed history of the evolution of animal life from the earliest trilobites to the relatively recent animals living during the ice age. The subject is introduced by a chapter on fossils, showing how each new discovery has contributed to man's knowledge of the whole history of evolution. The style is quite readable and the material interesting, although of a technical difficulty that will require a fairly mature reader to handle. Illustrated with numerous black and white drawings.

M Falk, Elsa. Fire Canoe; illus. by Robert  
5-7 Frankenberg. Follett, 1956. 188p.  
\$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Hank Heller had never been away from his Davenport home until the spring when he was hired to go with the annual Indian annuities to the reservation at Red Wing, Minnesota. A boat trip of such length in the 1850's was an exciting affair, and Hank's was made the more so by a series of run-ins he had with a bullying roustabout who worked on the boat. In fact the adventures are almost too exciting to seem realistic since the author never makes very clear why Hank should have been singled out as the target of the bully's unpleasantness. The writing is quite uneven and does little to give reality to either the characters or the actions.

M Farley, Walter. The Black Stallion's  
7-9 Courage. Random House, 1956. 242p.  
\$2.

When fire destroyed the main barn on his farm, Alex set forth with the Black to cover his loss in the New York handicap races. Black Minx is also entered but fails to make much of a showing. Following the usual pattern of these stories, the chances of winning seem hopeless up to the last big race, and then the Black comes through with a win. The book has less of the sensationalism that characterizes many of Farley's earlier titles, but is quite patterned and shows little originality of plot.

NR Fletcher, Steffi. The Lone Ranger;  
K-1 pictures by E. Joseph Dreany.  
Simon and Schuster, 1956. 24p.  
(Little Golden Books). 25¢.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto help young Tom Mason rescue his brother, a stagecoach driver, and then go on to capture the bandits who had robbed the stagecoach. Comic book caliber text and illustrations.

Ad Françoise. What Do You Want to Be?  
K-2 Scribner, 1957. 32p. \$2.75.

A wide range of possible occupations are listed and pictured, with the text asking which a child would prefer to be. There is no story and the appeal of the book will come from Françoise's gay and colorful pictures.

SpC Gardiner, Harold C. Edmund Campion,  
7-9 Hero of God's Underground; illus.  
by Rose Goudket. Farrar, 1957.  
189p. (Vision Books). \$1.95.

Semi-fictionalized account of the life of Edmund Campion, Jesuit priest, from the time he reached England in 1579 to his death at Tyburne two years later. Campion was one of many Catholic priests who were executed during the reign of Elizabeth I when Catholicism was outlawed in England. The author has succeeded in creating an interesting picture of Campion and the times in which he lived. However, for non-Catholic readers the author's fervent defence of the right of Catholics to enjoy freedom of worship is negated by his own obvious intolerance of any beliefs other than those of the Catholics. Because of this biased viewpoint the book will have little to offer any except Catholic readers.

Ad Gaul, Albro Tilton. The Complete Book  
7-12 of Space Travel; illus. by Virgil  
Finlay. World, 1956. 160p. \$4.95.

A fairly detailed statement of the progress that has been made thus far and the problems still to be solved before mankind attempts space travel. Part I discusses the kinds of training space men will need and what life probably will be like on a space ship. Part II deals with the planets, the proposed space station and the stars and what man may expect to find on each. Part III assumes that earth has already been visited by beings from outer space, gives the author's rationale for such a belief and discusses what such beings are probably like and how they should be treated. The final section contains A Portfolio of Early Space Ships as they have been depicted by writers and illustrators from 1638 to 1929. An interesting book, although the author has an unfortunate tendency to state as positive facts theories that have not been proved or that are still in dispute.

NR Gilligan, Edmund. Shoe the Wild Mare;  
6-8 illus. by Richard Bennett, Knopf,  
1956. 112p. \$3.50.

There are elements of a good boy-horse story here but they are lost in the author's strained attempts to be "literary". Daniel, a young boy living in Nova Scotia, agrees, reluctantly, to sell his stallion, Limerick, to the government to be transported to Sable Island as a stud for the wild horses there. He is hired to take the horse to the Island and stays to see that all goes well. When it becomes obvious that Limerick will either have to kill all the wild studs or be killed by them, Daniel finds a way to save his horse, and is then allowed to buy him back. The force and vigor that the story could have had with such a setting are lost in the almost precious tone of the writing.

R Gottlieb, William P. The Four Seasons.  
K-2 Simon and Schuster, 1957. 27p. (A  
Big Golden Book). \$1.

Very brief text and excellent color photographs present the four seasons through the activities of Billy and his dog in and around their farm home. There is no story, but the book will make a welcome addition to collections of materials on the seasons.

M Grant, Bruce. Longhorn; A Story of the  
7-9 Chisholm Trail; illus. by Herman D.  
Giesen. World, 1956. 219p. \$2.75.

A third story of the Burnett brothers, with Sul Burnett the main character this time. The narrative takes Sul on a journey up the Chisholm Trail from Texas to Dodge City, with a herd of longhorn cattle. The adventures follow the usual pattern for such stories—stampedes, quicksand, encounters with the Indians, cattle rustlers, and a remarkable lead steer that becomes a legend. There is little originality to the plot and the characters are equally typed. The writing, although not outstanding, is adequate and the book will be acceptable where additional materials of this kind are needed. The author's professed sympathy for the Indians does not ring true in the light of such statements as "The grown Indian was nothing but a child . . ."

NR Gray, Patsey. Heads Up; illus. by Leo-  
6-8 nard Shortall. Coward-McCann,  
1956. 191p. \$2.75.

A run-of-the-mill horse story. Young Peggy Evans, an orphan, spends the summer traveling from one fair to another with Mr. MacGrudgeon and riding his jumper, Chief. At one point she meets the Tucker family, trick riders, and is befriended by them. Although her friendship with the Tuckers costs her her job, in the end all is well for she is adopted by the Tuckers, who also buy Chief. The characterizations

are superficial and the plot highly improbable.

Ad Guillot, René. The 397th White Elephant;  
4-6 tr. by Gwen Marsh; illus. by Moyra  
Leatham. Criterion, 1957. 94p.  
\$2.75.

A fanciful tale of ancient India and of a white elephant who brought happiness to a boy king. Hong-Mo was the 397th white elephant to live in the king's stables, but from the very first it was evident that he was no ordinary elephant. His presence brought health to the boy king, who had become ill through sheer boredom, and when Hong-Mo disappeared one night the king once again became ill. How the king eventually found health and happiness through the gift that Hong-Mo left him makes a tale of fantasy that comes close to being great writing, but does not quite succeed. There is one serious inconsistency at the end of the story that somewhat spoils the entire effect.

R Gurko, Leo. Tom Paine: Freedom's  
7-10 Apostle; illus. by Fritz Kredel.  
Crowell, 1957. 213p. \$2.75.

A beautifully written biography of Paine combining a simplicity of style with a maturity of treatment to provide junior high school readers with a well-rounded picture of the man and his times. Beginning with Paine's arrival in America in 1776, the author thereafter introduces the events of Paine's earlier life as their effect is shown in his later development. The objectivity with which the author presents Paine's strengths and weaknesses helps to bring him to life as a real person, strong in his dedication to abstract principles of freedom but unfortunate in most of his relationships with other people. An excellent piece of writing for readers who are in the transitional stage between children's books and adult books.

M Hall, Rosalys. Bertie and Eddie; pic-  
3-5 tures by Veronica Reed. Oxford,  
1956. 177p. \$3.

Bertie, five, and Eddie, eight, are brothers living in New York City. One day Eddie overhears a flower vendor threaten to turn his horse into hamburger, takes the man seriously, and thereafter forces Bertie to give up his entire allowance and even to ask for money instead of toys for Christmas in order to buy the horse. The story has a somewhat nightmarish quality as Bertie follows his brother's orders without really wanting to do so but with the fate of the horse always on his conscience. When matters reach a climax, the entire story is revealed and the horse's owner assures the boys that he was merely scolding the horse in

a loving way and would not think of getting rid of it. The story is supposed to be humorous, but it is more an adult laughing at a child's misunderstandings than the kind of humor to appeal to children themselves.

NR Hamid, George Abou. Boy Acrobat; illus. 6-8 by Bruno Frost. Sterling, 1956. 124p. \$2.50.

A semi-fictionalized biography of the author's father between the ages of five and fourteen. Puabla Hamid was born in Lebanon but left his home town at the age of seven to join a section of Buffalo Bill's Circus which was then touring Europe. His life thereafter was a story of excessively hard work, beatings, and near starvation until, at the age of fourteen, he won a tumbling contest in Madison Square Garden and a place for himself among the stars of the circus world. The format suggests a book for middle elementary grade children and the style seems most suited to that level; however, the subject matter, especially the details of the harsh treatment Hamid undergoes, places the book at a higher level. The writing is in no way outstanding.

R Hardy, Kay. Make Your Own: Teen-Age 7-12 Clothes, Accessories, and Gifts. Funk & Wagnalls, 1956. 215p. \$3.50.

Directions for making basic wardrobe items—dresses, blouses, skirts—and accessories. For the most part the materials recommended are fairly simple inexpensive ones and all are appropriate for teenage use. Contents include things to sew, to knit and to crochet. The final section has suggestions for presents to make for men and boys. The instructions are easy to follow, although there are some errors in the text references to diagram numbers. Since these occur on the same pages with the diagrams, the reader will be able to figure the correct directions for herself.

NR Hirshberg, Al. Varsity Double Play; A 7-9 Barry Drake Baseball Story; illus. by Paul Galdone. Little, 1956. 246p. \$2.75.

Another story of Barry and Phil Drake, twin baseball players. This one covers four years of Yale where the twins play on the varsity, help expose an attempt by gamblers to fix a game, see Phil through a bout with a sore arm, and graduate with twin contracts with the Red Sox. The author is at his best in describing the baseball games, but there are not enough of these descriptions to compensate for the long passages of awkward writing and the weaknesses of plot and characterization.

R Irving, Robert. Rocks and Minerals and

4-8 the Stories They Tell; illus. by Ida Scheib and with photographs. Knopf, 1956. 180p. \$2.75.

A well-organized, interesting introduction designed to lead a reader on to a more intensive study of the subject through the hobby of rock collecting. The text begins with an account of the kinds of information to be found in igneous rock, top soil, metamorphic rock, and sedimentary rock—including how each is formed. Following sections are devoted to the identification of various rocks and minerals, how rocks are weathered to form soil, buried treasure to be found in rocks, and the first steps in starting a rock collection. A valuable book for nature study and hobby collections, and an attractive format for the reader who is just browsing.

R Johnson, Crockett. Time for Spring. K-1 Harper, 1957. 30p. \$2.

Irene was not happy when a late snowfall came just when everyone was predicting spring. She half-heartedly made a small snowman, and then was dismayed to have him not only come alive, but also announce that spring would not come until he left. Mr. Johnson has made the snowman such an engaging character, that some children may find it hard to rejoice with Irene when he finally disappears and spring comes. An amusing bit of fantasy.

M Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Megan, A 2-4 Welsh Corgi. Morrow, 1957. 63p. \$2.25.

Following the same pattern of her other animal stories, the author tells about Megan, a Welsh Corgi who is born in Wales, taken to the United States as a show dog and finally ends up in Colorado where she happily works on a sheep and cattle ranch. The style is quite pedestrian, and the text, written at an upper third grade reading level, much more difficult than the primer size type would indicate.

NR Knight, Frank. The Bluenose Pirate; 7-9 A Story for Boys and Girls; illus. by Patrick Jobson. St. Martin's, 1956. 258p. \$2.75.

Not really a "pirate" story since the events take place on land more than at sea and the one episode involving piracy is quite brief. Tommy Glover and his mother become involved with Billy Batt when he appears with a tale of having been the mate on Captain Glover's ship when it was captured by pirates and the Captain killed. He is soon suspected of having been one of the pirates himself and the Glovers leave Liverpool for America in an attempt to rid themselves of him. He turns up on the boat they are taking, and, with them,

manages to escape when the ship is wrecked off the coast of Nova Scotia. There he is eventually killed while attempting to pirate a ship built by the people of the Nova Scotian village where the Glovers have settled. The name "bluenose" comes from the nickname given to the people of Nova Scotia because the extremely cold winters are said to turn their noses blue. In addition to being melodramatic, the book is objectionable in its frequent use of the term "nigger."

R Lambert, Emily Whitty. The Man Who K-1 Drew Cats; pictures by Saul Lambert. Harper, 1957. 32p. \$2.

Amusing tale of Mr. Alexander Phip, whose only ambition in life was to draw cats. After considering, and rejecting, a variety of occupations, he turned his attention wholly to the drawing of cats. The worth of such an occupation was proved when he drew a cat on a foot cast to cheer up a clown with a broken leg; decorated the shopping bag of shy Mrs. Grimpo so that everyone smiled and spoke to her; and drew an enormous cat around a mousehole in Catherine Cranberry's bedroom so the mice would stop playing with her dolls at night. The ridiculousness of the situations will amuse young children; their parents may be concerned that Mr. Phip's habit of drawing cats anywhere and on anything may be catching.

M Lane, Frederick A. Nat Harkins, Privateersman; illus. by Clifford H. Schule. Holt, 1956. 218p. \$2.75.

A fairly routine story of the Revolutionary War as it was fought at sea. Nat Harkins serves on the Lee, a merchant schooner commissioned by the Continental Congress and on the Dauntless, a privateer. He is captured, spends two years in Mill Prison, escapes, and serves under John Paul Jones on the Bon Homme Richard. The action is somewhat disjointed, and the story lacks the pace and reality of plot and characterizations of either Hungerford's Escape to Danger (Follett, 1949) or Wilson's The Winds Blow Free (Washburn, 1950), both of which follow the same story pattern.

NR Langdale, Hazel Louise (Raybold). The 4-6 Cocker Spaniel Mystery; illus. by Charles Hand Geer. Dutton, 1956. 128p. \$2.50.

Mary Joan Freeman, known to her friends as Polly Trailer because her mother is named Mary Joan and her home is in a trailer, goes with her parents to a farm in Vermont where Mr. Freeman hopes to get inspiration for his painting and Mrs. Freeman for her books. The farm is primarily devoted to breeding cocker spaniels, and Polly is soon involved in a mys-

tery concerning missing pups. The best pup from each litter mysteriously disappears—usually on a moonlight night. After several false starts and red herrings, the thief is disclosed as being a German Shepherd dog that escaped while being shipped into this country and that is gathering the pups into a band in the nearby woods. How all this takes place is never very clear to the reader, but Polly seems to understand what is happening. A confused, quite unrealistic mystery.

M Lee, Rector Lawrence. Gil's Discovery 7-9 in the Mine; illus. by Sidney A. Quinn. Little, 1957. 202p. \$3.

Gil Swift's chief interest in life is football and he manages to pass his high school math courses by as narrow a margin as will still permit him to play on the school team. During the summer of his junior year he takes a job in a copper mine owned by his best friend's uncle. There he develops the muscles needed for football, but he also finds himself in a position of having to use all his mathematical knowledge and even acquire more as he assists a surveyor and keeps the company's books. By the end of the summer he has discovered an interest in mathematics that is as strong as his previous interest in football and has decided to go to mining school after graduation. There is little by way of plot or story interest to hold the reader's attention, although some of the descriptions of mining problems could be of interest.

NR Lindquist, Willis. Animals From All 2-4 Over the World; illus. by James Gordon Irving and Sy Barlowe. Simon and Schuster, 1956. 30p. (Golden Forty-Niners). 49¢.

Forty-five animals are pictured, with brief text more or less identifying each animal. There is very little real information given; the text is not always located with its matching picture, and the relative sizes of the animals are not indicated in either the text or the illustrations. Insubstantial format.

R McClung, Robert M. Leaper; The Story 3-5 of an Atlantic Salmon. Morrow, 1957. 64p. \$2.25.

The life story of an Atlantic salmon from its birth in a fresh water stream far inland, through its growth as a parr traveling down stream toward the ocean, its experiences as a full grown salmon living in the ocean and its trip back to the place of its birth to mate with a female salmon and start another generation on its way. The text is interestingly written, although by no means as easy as the large size type would indicate. The excellent

illustrations add attractiveness and appeal to the book.

NR McDonald, Lucile Saunders and Ross,  
7-9 Zola H. Mystery of the Long House.  
Nelson, 1956. 191p. \$2.75.

Eighteen-year-old Barbara rebelled at having to spend her summer on Cordova Island, where her sister and brother-in-law were taking part in an archeological dig. In spite of herself, and after doing her best to retard the work, she became interested in the search for the remains of an Indian long house that was supposed to have once stood on the beach, and by the end of the summer she was instrumental in bringing success to the expedition. She had also won the love of Evan Ramsdell, leader of the dig, who had at first resented her as bitterly as she resented the island, and with better cause. The mystery, which involves a family that have lived on the island since the days of the Indians, is highly contrived and occasionally confused. There is no depth to the characterizations and Barbara's change in character seems wholly unrealistic.

SpC McGavran, Grace Winifred. Ricardo's  
4-6 Search; illus. by Joseph Escourido.  
Friendship Press, 1956. 127p. \$2.50.

Before Ricardo's father died he made the boy promise that as soon as possible he would go to the mountains of Mindanao to carry a message to Mahng Pedro, a friend of the father's who had entrusted him with a large sum of money. The story takes Ricardo on that search, aided by his Uncle Ramon, a Protestant minister, and his Aunt Teresa, a social service worker. Ricardo finds Pedro, who turns out to be the Huk leader Uncle Ramon is trying to find to persuade to bring his guerilla bands out of the mountains. The story is too obviously purposive in its details of the workings of Protestant missions in the Philippines to have much appeal as an adventure story, but could be used in Sunday Schools.

R McLean, Allan Campbell. The Hill of the  
7-9 Red Fox. Dutton, 1956. 256p. \$3.

An absorbing mystery story involving Alasdair Cameron, a twelve-year-old boy from London who goes to Skye to claim the croft that he had inherited from his father and finds himself involved in a spy conspiracy being carried on by Soviet agents. The story, told in the first person by Alasdair, is well-paced, with good suspense and a logically worked out plot. Here are all the elements of danger and mystery solving that appeal to young readers, presented in a well-written story that brings both the characters and the countryside vividly alive.

M Merrill, Jean. A Song for Gar; drawings  
3-5 by Ronni Solbert. Whittlesey House,  
1957. 32p. \$2.25.

Absalom was the only member of the Marvell family who could not sing, but he was as concerned as the others that his older brother Gar should find a song suitable for the Song Swapping contest. Gar hoped to win the hundred dollar prize so he could get married. Each member of the family suggested a different kind of song, but Gar finally settled on one he had heard Absalom singing to his pet coon. The words were Absalom's, the tune "Polly Wolly Doodle"—and the combination won the contest. The text has some of the flavor of the southern mountains, but the song will be a disappointment to anyone who tries to sing it since it is merely a truncated version of the original and the words do not always fit. Solbert's pleasing illustrations are somewhat offset by the heavy black type that gives the pages an unbalanced look.

R Pearl, Carleton. The Tenth Wonder:  
7-12 Atomic Energy; illus. by Robert J.  
Lee. Little, 1956. 129p. \$3.

A fairly simplified account of the twentieth century's contribution to scientific progress through the work that has been done in the field of atomic energy. In addition to the explanation of what atomic energy is and how it works, some of the areas in which it has already been used and some of the possible uses in the future are also discussed. The emphasis throughout is on the peace time uses of atomic energy. In presenting some of the problems still to be solved, the author opens possible areas of occupations for young would-be scientists.

NR Peckinpah, Betty. Coco Is Coming;  
K-1 pictures by Mariana. Lothrop,  
1956. 26p. \$2.50.

Very slight story of Coco, the clown, and his companions—George Pig, who is a dog, and Christmas, a donkey. The three go to a children's hospital to perform but are refused admission. Coco then calls the President of the United States and is given permission to live on the hospital grounds and to give performances for the children. The illustrations are colorful, but not outstanding enough to give the substance that is lacking in the story.

R Raisz, Erwin. Mapping the World.  
8-12 Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 112p. \$3.

A history of map making from 100 A.D., when an ancient trader drew a map on a goat-skin so his son could lead a caravan from their desert home in Libya to Trading Bay, four

days' journey away, to modern mapmaking based on air photos. Although the material is as simply presented as is possible, the reader will need an understanding of fairly advanced mathematics to understand some of the more technical aspects of land measurement. The illustrations, most of them reproductions of ancient maps, are especially interesting, and the numerous line drawings help to explain the text. The book could be used by teachers to introduce some of the problems of mapmaking at an elementary level, but its value and use for individual reading will be at the secondary level.

SpC Riordan, Robert. Medicine for Wildcat;  
7-9 A Life Story about Samuel Charles  
Mazzuchelli, O.P.; illus. by James  
J. Ponter. Bruce, 1956. 178p. (Cath-  
olic Treasury Books). \$2.

Semi-fictionalized account of the life of Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, Dominican priest, who worked among the Menominee and Winnebago Indians of Wisconsin in the 1830's. The title is taken from an early episode in which the priest nursed an Indian through a severe illness. The Indian, Wildcat, became a convert and worked with the priest until his own tribe was sent West to a reservation in Nebraska. There is more emphasis on the priest's teachings than on life among the Indians and the value of the book will be for religious education classes rather than for general reading.

Ad Roberts, Catherine. The First Book of  
4-6 Sewing. Watts, 1956. 69p. \$1.95.  
Fairly simple instructions for doing the basic stitches involved in hand sewing and embroidery. The account begins with a brief history of sewing and of man's use of clothing, followed by a description of the essential tools that are needed. Items to make include a table mat and napkins and a doll's dirndl. Most of the instructions are printed in script, but it is easy to read. In a few instances the instructions will need fuller explanations, but for the most part the book is one that young readers could handle alone.

Ad Roberts, Hortense Roberta. Insects-In-  
1-3 doors and Out; photography by  
Francis Munger. Melmont, 1957.  
32p. \$2.

Ten fairly common insects are discussed briefly and pictured in full- or half-page photographs. Included are the cricket, grasshopper, click beetle, lacewing, butterfly, Acrea moth, Sphinx moth, clothes moth, cockroach and sil-verfish. The information given is not very detailed, but the book might be used as an introduction to the study of insects. The text is written at an upper second grade reading level.

NR Robertson, Thomas L. The Yellow Canes;  
6-8 illus. by Bill Klapp. Steck, 1956.  
170p. \$2.

Paul Leveque, a locksmith's son living at Fort Rosalie, near Natchez, was captured by an Indian tribe during a raid. After a series of rather dull and highly improbable adventures, he escaped with an Indian princess and returned to his family. The illustrations are as unattractive as the style is dull.

R Rushmore, Helen. Chief Takes Over;  
5-7 illus. by Charles Geer. Harcourt,  
1956. 130p. \$2.75.

Nine-year-old Randy Roy longed for a dog, preferably a collie, but his mother said a firm no on the theory that the city was no place for a dog, and especially so since their yard was both small and unfenced. When Randy came home one night with a bedraggled, woe-begone stray, she allowed him to keep the dog only until its owner could be found. How Randy, his father, his older brother Charles, and the dog banded together to win Mrs. Roy over to a permanent acceptance of Chief makes an amusing story expressing a pleasing warmth and depth of family relationships.

R Schlein, Miriam. Amazing Mr. Pelgrew;  
K-2 illus. by Harvey Weiss. Abelard-  
Schuman, 1957. 42p. \$2.50.

Mr. Pelgrew moved next door to Steven's family, on the outskirts of town, and soon the man and boy were good friends. However, Steven was curious as to what Mr. Pelgrew's job in the city might be, for when he asked what Mr. Pelgrew had done each day the answer might range from rescuing a duck to directing farmers' trucks and wagons to the right place in the market. The mystery was solved when Steven and his mother went shopping one day and discovered Mr. Pelgrew to be a traffic policeman. A pleasant story for helping young children develop a positive attitude toward policemen.

NR Selden, George. The Dog That Could  
4-6 Swim under Water; Memoirs of a  
Springer Spaniel; illus. by Morgan  
Dennis. Viking, 1956. 126p. \$2.50.

Flossy Thompson is a springer spaniel that discovers the art of swimming under water. The story, told in the first person by Flossy, recounts her experiences swimming in the creek and pond near her home, and ends with her daring rescue of a jeweled collar that a poodle living in the neighborhood lost in the pond. The dogs think and act like human beings, even to the point of recognizing a doll as being dressed in a colonial costume, and the whole tone is too coy and precious to have much appeal.

Ad 6-8 Smith, Bradford. Rogers' Rangers and the French and Indian War; illus. by John C. Wonsetler. Random House, 1956. 186p. (Landmark Books). \$2.50.

In a semi-fictionalized style and using Ebenezer Webster, father of Daniel Webster, as a central figure, the author tells of some of the activities of Rogers' Rangers during the last of the French and Indian Wars, interspersed with a detailed account of the battle between Wolfe and Montcalm for Quebec. The transitions from the Rangers at Lake Champlain to Wolfe at Quebec are not always smooth, but in general this is a stirring narrative of some of the better known battles of the War. There are no sources given to substantiate the author's seemingly intimate knowledge of Webster.

R 7-9 Smith, Cicely Fox. The Valiant Sailor; illus. by Neville Dear. Criterion, 1957. 186p. \$3.

An adventure story, told in the first person, and set in nineteenth century England. When Tony Donnithorne's father returned after five years of being thought missing at sea, it was at once obvious that something was awry. Tony was not allowed to mention his father outside the house, and shortly thereafter the family moved, at night, from Shields to an inn on the moor near Liverpool. Life was uneventful for a time, but then David Donnithorne disappeared again—and Tony set forth to search for him. The story of that search makes absorbing reading as Tony takes part in a sea battle, is captured by the French and finds his father in the French prison, escapes, and helps to settle the troubles that had been hounding his father. A well-paced, absorbing adventure story.

NR 3-5 Smith, Deane S. Criss-Cross Vacation; illus. by Heman Fay. Sterling, 1956. 127p. \$2.25.

Eight-year-old Morey Winters, whose mother tended to be over-protective, spent four weeks with her aunt and uncle at their Vashon Island summer cottage. Before she left home her father gave her a note book in which she was supposed to put a criss-cross every time she was especially brave or used her head to solve a problem without asking for help. Morey never comes alive and so her transformation from a timid, shy little girl to a self-reliant, confident child has no reality for the reader.

R 4-6 Sootin, Laura. Let's Take a Trip to a Newspaper; illus. by Sidney Quinn. Putnam, 1956. 48p. \$1.75.

In a straightforward, factual style the author describes the process by which news of the world is made available through the daily

papers. The account begins with a general description of the editorial offices, the work done by specialized reporters, such as court, sports, society, etc., and the step-by-step process in writing and editing news stories. The work of the composing room is fully described, with a picture and detailed explanation of the lineotype machine. The news stories are then followed through the processes of pulling galleys, making mats and plates, printing, and, finally, distributing of the finished papers to news stands. The illustrations are helpful in explaining some of the processes involved.

SpR 8-12 Stephen, David. Six-Pointer Buck. Lip-pincott, 1957. 255p. \$3.50.

In much the same style as his String Lug the Fox (Little, 1952), the author recounts the life of a roebuck from birth to maturity in the Scottish hill country. The beautifully detailed descriptions of the countryside and of the other animals that shared the country with the red deer will delight readers who are seriously interested in nature lore. The pace will be too slow for the casual reader of animal stories, and they will be further hampered by the extensive use of Scottish terms. For those readers who will make the effort, this will be a richly rewarding reading experience.

Ad 7-9 Stowe, Aurelia, ed. When Boy Dates Girl; Boy-Girl Stories for the Teens. Random House, 1956. 215p. \$2.95.

Ten short stories, all of them originally published in magazines, about teen-agers and their dating problems. Although the main character of each story is a boy, the general tone and style of the stories is such as will appeal primarily to girls. The writing is acceptable, although not particularly outstanding.

Ad 7-9 Swift, Helen Miller. Chocolate Soda. Longmans, 1956. 216p. \$3.

Ellie Randolph had moments of hating the Sweet Shoppe that was the family's sole source of income, for much of her time had to be spent there, waiting on customers or working in the candy kitchen. She especially disliked it when she had to wait on classmates or give up a date in order to work in the shop. Her longing to get away from home was all the stronger because it seemed impossible since her grades were not enough to earn her a full scholarship and her father could not afford to pay even a part of her tuition. The story takes Ellie through her senior year, with its heartaches and satisfactions—to a final acceptance of her family as it is and a

plan for her future that will, in part, fulfill her desire to get away from home. The author has drawn believable and likable characters and shows an understanding of their problems although there is no great depth to the treatment of either.

NR Tompkins, Walker A. SOS at Midnight.  
7-9 Macrae, 1957. 223p. \$2.75.

A melodramatic cops-and-robbers story, with the "cops" solving the crime through the use of modern electronic devices, plus a large assist from ham radio operators, and the robbers (really dope smugglers) countering with similar equipment, but failing before the superior intellect of the police (and a seventeen-year-old boy). Tommy Rockford is the "hero" who gets into trouble when he chases the smugglers on his own instead of notifying the police and then uses his knowledge of radio transmitting to save his own and a friend's life. The characters are no more than types and the story is frequently halted to allow the author to expound on the values and techniques of amateur short-wave radio communication.

M Ungerer, Tomi. The Mellops Go Flying.  
K-1 Harper, 1957. 32p. \$2.75.

The Mellops are a big family—father, mother, four sons and a dog—who build an airplane. The father, sons and dog try out the plane one week-end while mother stays at home and bakes them a cake. When the plane runs out of gas they crash-land and one of the boys is captured by some Indians. Before they can harm him the other Mellops, having refueled the plane by distilling alcohol from grass, rescue him. A somewhat amusing story, although in view of the otherwise modern setting, the Indian episode seems unnecessary and inappropriate. The illustrations have considerable humor and originality.

R Welch, Ronald. Ferdinand Magellan; illus.  
7-9 by William Stobbs. Criterion Books,  
1956. 178p. \$3.

A vigorous, well-written biography of Magellan from his early youth to his death while attempting to circumnavigate the globe. The emphasis is on the events of Magellan's life rather than on himself as a personality, and the book will be read as much for its appeal as an adventure story as for the factual aspect.

R Wibberley, Leonard. Kevin O'Connor and the Light Brigade. Ariel Books, 1957.  
7-9 186p. \$2.75.

A rousing tale of the beginnings of the Irish rebellion and of the Crimean War. Against his will young Kevin O'Connor finds himself faced with a choice between murdering his English

landlord, at the command of an Irish secret society, or facing a jail sentence and possibly death. He dodges both by joining the Queen's army, only to find himself in the regiment commanded by his former landlord. From there events move swiftly to the Crimea, where Kevin takes part in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade; to a Russian prison where he finds his family's legendary jewel—a black opal—and back to England where he comes to terms with his landlord. The ending seems a bit far-fetched, but this becomes a minor point when weighed against the excellence of the story otherwise. The book could be used as a stepping stone for young readers to take them on to the adult book The Reason Why for a non-fiction treatment of the same historical period.

Ad Wilcox, Don. Joe Sunpool; illus. by  
7-9 Allan Houser. Little, 1957. 261p.  
\$2.75.

An interesting, albeit somewhat patterned story of life at Haskell Institute. Joe Sunpool, a Navaho Indian, comes to Haskell determined to learn printing and to return to his tribe to put his knowledge to work in their behalf. He finds that life does not work out quite as simply as that and goes through periods of alternate hope and despondency as he comes to realize the great amount of work that must be done before he or his people will be able to benefit from his knowledge. Joe's relationships with the other students in the school will have a ring of familiarity to all readers as well as giving them an understanding of some of the specialized problems of adjustment that are faced by Indian youth of today. The writing does not have quite the depth of insight or reality of characterization of Lampman's Navaho Sister (Doubleday, 1956).

NR Wilson, Holly. Caroline the Unconquered.  
7-9 Messner, 1956. 189p. \$2.75.

Caroline Morgan rebelled at having to stay in Detroit with her Uncle Ed while her father went on to the Upper Peninsula where he was to start mining operations on Uncle Ed's property. Unwilling to abide by her father's decision that the small settlement of Henry's Bend, on Lake Superior, was no place for a young girl, Caroline persuaded her younger cousin, Willie, to run away from Uncle Ed's and take her to her father. On the way Willie is drowned when the machinaw boat in which they are traveling capsizes, but when Caroline arrives at Henry's Bend her father assures her that this was God's will so she should give it no more thought. From there on Caroline goes her willful way to romance with glamorous Johnny Coyne and a partnership in the mining

venture. Although Caroline is undoubtedly typical of the kind of ruthlessness that characterized many of the people who helped to develop the natural resources of the country, the author has drawn her so superficially that the reader is given no perspective with which to evaluate her actions.

R Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy. Viking, 1955. 3-5 37p. \$2.75.

In a picture book with charming economy of words the author tells the story of Chibi (Tiny Boy), an introverted, frightened, ridiculed school boy with the self-rewarding ability to observe and record minute details. One day a new teacher arrives at the school—a sensitive teacher with the ability to find Chibi's hitherto unappreciated talents, and of calling them to the attention of the other children. The day arrives when Chibi is renamed Crow Boy in appreciation of his exciting imitations of crows, and "Everyone of us cried, thinking how much we had been wrong to Chibi all those long years." Many a sensitive boy and girl will respond warmly to this story.

A Basic Book Collection for Elementary Grades. 6th ed. 144p. paper. \$2. American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois.

A classified annotated list of books suited to use in the elementary grades. Grade levels are indicated for each title. An especially useful list for librarians who are wanting to fill in subject area gaps in their collections. A list of magazines suitable for elementary grade use is included.

A Basic Book Collection for Junior High Schools; ed. by Elsa Berner. 2d ed. 136p. paper.

\$2. American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois. Expanded edition of a list designed to aid the junior high school librarian in building a basic junior high school library. The new edition contains some 1,000 titles, approximately 350 more than were included in the first edition. A brief list of magazines is also included. The titles given are, for the most part, suitable for use by the average reader at the junior high school level and the list will need to be supplemented by the Basic Book Collection for Elementary Grades and the Basic Book Collection for High Schools to meet the wide range of reading needs at the junior high school level.

Books Are Bridges. 64p. paper. 35¢. Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. 515 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Classified list of books suitable for building better inter-cultural and inter-national understandings. Some of the sections are arranged by broad grade levels—Kindergarten, Primary, and Junior-Junior High; other sections have no indication of the level of use. A useful list for teachers and librarians seeking materials to help build better understandings.

Jennings, Frank G. "Literature for Adolescents—Pap or Protein?" The English Journal 45:526-31. D'56.

Spieseke, Alice W. "Bibliography of Textbooks in the Social Studies 1955-1956." Social Education 20:375-77 D'56. Individual copies of the bibliography are available at 10¢ each from Merrill F. Hartshorn, Exec. Secy. of the NCSS, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.