



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 XI

October, 1957

Number 2

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

*New Titles**for Children and Young People*

- NR 7-9 Adams, Dorothy. Cavalry Hero: Casimir Pulaski; illus. by Irena Lorentowicz. Kenedy, 1957. 190p. (American Background Books). \$2.50.

Fictionalized biography of Casimir Pulaski, hero of the Polish attempt to win freedom from Russia and, later, military leader of importance in the American Revolution. The writing is just average; Pulaski's Catholicism is brought in at frequent intervals whether it has any relevance to the events being described or not, and the account of his activities during the Revolution frequently gives the impression that he won most of the War single-handed.

- R 5-7 Baker, Nina (Brown). Juan Ponce de León; illus. by Robert Doremus. Knopf, 1957. 149p. \$2.50.

An exceptionally well-rounded biography, emphasizing Ponce de León's importance as a colonizer in Haiti and Puerto Rico rather than his search for the Fountain of Youth. The grim cruelty of the times is depicted fairly but without morbid emphasis and Ponce de León comes into his share of criticism where merited, although in the main he emerges as a more admirable leader than most of the Spaniards who first came to the New World. The style is relatively easy and the

book should have wide appeal.

- R 7-12 Barclay, Isabel. Worlds without End; Explorations from 2000 Years B. C. to Today; illus. maps by Rafael Palacios. Doubleday, 1956. 352 p. \$3.95.

The story of 4000 years of exploration and expanding horizons is fascinating in itself and, as told here, the author's fine feeling for personalities and emphasis on historical background and continuity add other dimensions to these stirring adventures. Included are true explorers such as Captain Cook as well as the seekers of glory and gold such as Alexander the Great and Cortez. This is a book to be read for enjoyment and not a history lesson, however, since the historical content varies in amount from chapter to chapter, is occasionally not distinguished from legend, and is sometimes oversimplified due to the special viewpoint of the book; nor is there a consistent attempt to mention source material. Nevertheless, the book is valuable for its detailed accounts of men and explorations, and the chatty style and illustrated maps make it enjoyable.

- NR 9-12 Bassett, Sara Ware. South Cove Summer. Doubleday, 1956. 223p. \$2.95.
The story of an aggressive, tyrannical five-year-old and the efforts of four people to guide him

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.

Second-class mail privileges authorized at Chicago, Illinois.

toward growth. There is a stereotyped romantic plot involving the four adults but the reader is given no indication of the outcome of the final relationships. A number of the discussions are extremely philosophical in aspect. Conversation is stilted and the sentences are too short and choppy. Several questionable values are expressed: i.e., the idea that money is necessary to happiness; the level of activities given a five-year-old with no previous educational experience, and the unfavorable comparison between Hungarians and Americans. The plot develops on coincidental situations and the characters are too stereotyped to have reality.

R Bell, Margaret Elizabeth. Daughter of Wolf House. Morrow, 1957. 218p. \$2.95.

Using the same characters who appeared in Watch for a Tall White Sail and Totem Casts a Shadow, the author tells of the early days of the Monroe salmon factory from the point of view of the Indians. Nakatla, the half-breed Indian girl who married Gregory Monroe, is the heroine of the story, which is primarily concerned with changing customs among the Indians and the conflicts within the tribes as a result of their contacts with white men. As in the earlier books, this one reflects a maturity of writing and depth of characterization to appeal to teen-age girls who are growing beyond the stage of the light romance.

NR Bialk, Elisa. Tizz Takes a Trip; illus. 2-4 by Dwight Mutchler. Childrens Press, 1956. 96p. \$2.50.

The slight story of a young boy, Don, and a girl, Tracy, with a Tizz (horse) mania. Tracy's every thought is about the horse and after delivering papers on horseback, taking it to Grandma's for Thanksgiving and inviting it into the house to watch a square dance, the reader is quite Tizz-ed out. Very poorly written in a condescending tone with an over-abundance of Tizz. Advanced third grade readers could handle the material but it would have to be read aloud to younger children.

Ad Buchheimer, Naomi. Let's Take a Trip to a Fire House; drawn by Vee Guthrie. Putnam, 1956. 47p. \$1.75.

A description of the various kinds of equipment used in fire fighting: trucks, hoses, ladders, nozzles, protective clothing and fire extinguishers. A list of terms used in the text and their definitions is included at the back of the book. There are children and dogs in the pictures but the text is not fictionalized. The illustrations are more informative than decorative, although one is not explained in the text at all. Because of the technicality of the text it is rather difficult reading: upper third grade level. If read aloud, it could be used with younger children working on a community helpers project.

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. John Billington, Friend of Squanto; illus. by Peter Burchard. Crowell, 1956. 88p. \$2.50.

A more detailed story of the settling of Plymouth colony by the Pilgrims than that told in the author's Squanto. The same characters appear but the hero is the young boy John Billington, who tagged along after Squanto in the first book. John, mischeivous and always causing trouble, is captured one day in the woods by Chief Aspinet's braves. Squanto brings about his release, and it is through John's contact with these Indians that peace is later made with the Cape Cod Indians. Simply written, the book gives an interesting picture of what might have happened at Plymouth as the Pilgrims sought to make friends with the Indians and establish their colony.

R Charlip, Remy. Where Is Everybody? 3-11 Scott, 1957. 48p. \$2.25.

Beginning with an empty page, to represent the sky, the author-illustrator introduces in turn a bird, the sun, hills, a river, a fish, a tree, a forest, a road, a deer, a house, a man, a boy, a boat and a rain cloud. As each item is added to the picture it is identified by a single sentence. At the end, as the man and boy are feeding and petting the deer, the rain cloud comes along and obscures the sun. Each item is then withdrawn from the page as the people and animals seek shelter and the trees and house are obscured by rain. The final page shows rain only. The book could be used as a picture book with young children and as a beginning reading book or a remedial reading book for older children.

R Cheesman, Evelyn. Sealskins for Silk; 7-9 Captain Fanning's Voyage around the World in a Brig in 1797-99; illus. by Geoffrey Whittam. Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 237p. \$2.50.

An interesting biography of Edmund Fanning, ship captain and discoverer of small islands when in 1790 he went on a voyage around the world. The opening chapter is written as fictional material, but the rest of the book is a relation of the incidents of the voyage as recorded in the British Admiralty Library and the sketch of Fanning's later life. The crew of the Betsey had many exciting adventures and it is extremely interesting to read of them. They encountered savage man-eating cannibals and a shipwrecked crew living a life of luxury on a previously uninhabited island. Any boy or girl interested in the sea and sea adventures will find this story quite satisfying. A map indicating the voyage around the world precedes the story and is a valuable aid in tracing the journey of the Betsey.

R Crisp, Frank. The Manila Menfish; illus. 7-9 by Richard Powers. Coward-McCann, 1957. 244p. \$3.

Another story of Dirk Rogers and Jim Cartwright, deep-sea salvage divers in the Far Pacific. This time they become involved in a Communist plot to smuggle uranium out of the Philippines and Dirk becomes a governmental spy sent to uncover the smuggling operations. In spite of a tendency

toward the melodramatic in some of its cloak-and-dagger aspects, the story is well-paced, closely plotted and should have appeal as an adventure story.

NR Daniell, David Scott. The Dragon and the Rose; illus. by Sheila Stratton. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 208p. \$2.75.

A story of court intrigue in 16th century Florence. Young Carlo Rovero has dreams of becoming attached to the court of Count Paolo, but his aspirations are shattered when he picks as a sponsor, Signor Iacopo Salvi, the court musician, who has earned the Count's ill will. Iacopo is defending the Princess Fiorella whose uncle, the Count, is trying to cause her death before her sixteenth birthday when she would supplant him as ruler of Florence. In a comic opera sequence of events Fiorella, Iacopo, Carlo and Iacopo's brother, Benedetto, flee from Florence and wander over Tuscany before they finally find sanctuary at the Abbey of Montefiore, where the Abbess is discovered to be the mother of Fiorella and Carlo turns out to be the girl's long lost brother. The Count is deposed and all live happily thereafter. The writing combines all the cliches of the comic opera and the old-fashioned melodrama.

M Douglas, Gilbert. Hardnose. Crowell, 1957. 213p. \$2.75.

Dean Canady, a high school senior, felt at odds with himself and his father, largely because he thought his father was ashamed of him. Dean was not of as big or as strong build as his brothers or his father and he could not make as good a showing in sports, especially football where the Canadys had always starred. During a camping trip, Dean and two friends were captured by a couple of escaped convicts and forced to hike through rough, mountainous country before one of the men broke a leg and the other decided to give himself up. During the time Dean proved his stamina and courage and was then ready to face his father on equal terms. Dean's conflict with his father is well-handled; the entire episode with the criminal is too preachy and melodramatic to have reality.

R Dudley, Ruth Hubbell. Our American Trees; illus. by Nils Hogner. Crowell, 1956. 147p. \$2.50.

The complete story of the life of the tree; its parts and the function of each; the condition of our forests today; the types of trees from which are obtained lumber, fuel, paper, cloth, chemicals, and food; large and small trees; rare and plentiful ones; and conservation steps in which each individual can participate are all given consideration. The material is well-written and is interspersed with legends and old-time beliefs about trees to add interest. A list of the addresses of State Foresters, a bibliography of books about trees and an index are included at the end.

NR Eager, Edward McMaken. Magic by the Lake; illus. by N. M. Bodecker. Harcourt, 1957. 183p. \$2.95.

In this sequel to Half Magic, the three children,

Martha, Katherine and Mark, are spending a summer vacation at a lake cottage with their mother and stepfather. A sign by the cottage, Magic by the Lake, starts them out on their adventures. As usual in Mr. Eager's books, there is no originality to the episodes that follow—the children merely repeating adventures that were originated by writers such as E. Nesbit or that occurred in well known fairy tales. The main problem faced by the family is a financial one, and it is solved by the finding of treasure. The author's self-conscious appreciation of his own humor, the dependence on a knowledge of the first book for an understanding of this one, and the lack of originality in the magic episodes, all combine to make a poor attempt at fantasy.

R Earle, Olive Lydia. Crickets. Morrow, 1956. 62p. \$2.

A factual presentation of various types of crickets from the egg to full grown chirper. Told in a clear, precise style and well illustrated, the material will make an especially welcome addition to nature study collections.

Ad Embry, Margaret Jacob. The Blue-Nosed Witch; pictures by Carl Rose. Holiday House, 1956. 47p. \$2.

Blanche and her cat Brockett were always late when the special scurry of witches, Scurry No. 13, flew out in formation with Grand Madam in the lead on her vacuum cleaner. In fact, the only reason Blanche was allowed to belong to Scurry No. 13 at all was because her nose had a special blue glow. In order that she would be on time the important night of Halloween, her friend Josephine, without letting anyone know, set Blanche's alarm clock two hours ahead; and for the same reason, Blanche herself, set it ahead one and a half hours. When she left headquarters, therefore, it was only about nine o'clock instead of midnight. Seeing a strange procession below led by a witch who looked like Josephine, Blanche landed and joined the group. She discovered it was a group of "trick-or-treaters" but she shared their evening's adventures, securing refreshments for the witches' party and helping the children trick a mean man who gave them rotten apples. Blanche arrived at the witch formation point almost late again, but Scurry No. 13 made a nice showing against the moon so they were allowed to have a party. A fair story plot but unfortunately not developed as strongly as it might have been. The characters are not clearly defined. The writing lacks vigor and imagination. This story would have to be read to young readers but fourth graders could handle the material without difficulty.

R Evans, Eva (Knox). The Adventure Book of Money; illus. by Raymond Burns; photography by Aldo Vinai. Capitol, 1956. 93p. (Young Collector Books). \$2.75.

A clearly written, extremely interesting book on money, designed to encourage children to become coin collectors. It discusses odd, valuable coins;

how money began; coins of other lands; how to clean, store, label and use a coin collection; paper money; counterfeit money; tokens, medals and stamps that have been used for money, and special helps for the collector. The book is indexed and includes a world currency guide. Any one who is already a coin collector would find much of interest here, and the book should also serve to stimulate children to become interested in coin collecting as a hobby.

R Gallup, Lucy. Spinning Wings; illus. by 5-7 Dimitri Alexandroff. Morrow, 1956. 96p. \$2.50.

The story of one season in the life of a pair of terns, as they build a nest, hatch eggs, and cope with the problem of the male tern's injured wing. The story, told with sympathy and real insight, is somewhat hampered by the introduction of specific people, rather than leaving the people without characterization except as a force acting upon the life of the terns. The illustrations reflect the same feeling for bird life shown in the text and give added appeal to the story.

M Garst, Doris (Shannon). William Bent and 7-9 His Adobe Empire. Messner, 1957. 192p. \$2.95.

Rounding out her series of biographies of mountain men of the old West, the author now turns to William Bent, one of the famous brothers of the Bent-St. Vrain team who established a trading empire in the Southwest. Like the other stories, this one gives a rather glorified picture of its hero and seldom penetrates below the surface of characterizations or events. The characters never seem quite as robust as they must have been to have survived in that period and place. In spite of these weaknesses, the book has value for its description of the period and especially for the account of the conflict between Bent and his half-breed sons who joined the Indians in their final stand against the white men.

Ad Goetz, Delia. Neighbors to the South; 7-9 illus. with photographs. Rev. ed. Harcourt, 1956. 179p. \$3.50.

A revision of an earlier book giving information about the countries of Central and South America and Mexico. It is adequate for a quick look at the southern half of the Western Hemisphere, but no one country is dealt with in sufficient detail to use without other material. Emphasis is put essentially upon the current problems of each nation and the steps being taken to solve them. A brief historical account is given in each case but again it needs to be supplemented with other material. After discussing the various countries, the author then takes up modes of transportation and their development in this part of the world, exports and imports, the work of various native artists, the task of providing education for the various countries, the work of the Pan American Union, and national heroes of our southern neighbors. A table is included at the end of the book which gives the population,

area in square miles and capital of each country. A complete index is also included.

NR Goodenow, Earle. The Bashful Bear. K-1 Follett, 1956. 32p. \$2.

Exceedingly slap-stick story of a young bear who is bashful because of his small size. He becomes lost one day while trying to escape from some bees and meets a coyote who nearly eats him before he makes a valiant stand and kills the coyote with a camper's frying pan. Cartoon-like illustrations and a comic book story.

R Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Whales! 2-4 illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Scribner, 1956. 94p. \$2.50.

In easy reading, interesting style the author presents the blue and sperm whales as they rear their young, find food and learn to survive the attacks of their enemy, the killer whales. The whaling industry is discussed briefly and adequately. The illustrations are well adapted to the text.

R Hader, Berta (Hoerner) and Elmer. The 1-3 Runaways. Macmillan, 1956. 39p. \$3. All the trees in Branch Hill woods were cut down and the animals living there were forced to find new homes. Mr. Skunk was very unhappy, but the bulldozers persuaded him that leaving his old home was the wisest thing to do. With the raccoon family in the lead, the small forest animals set out over a highway, a bridge, down a railroad track until they found the right place for a new home on the McGinty's hillside. The larger animals soon arrived, too, grateful that the McGintys welcomed them. Written for young children, the story would have to be read aloud to them. They would enjoy the illustrations; the black and white ones being better than the colored.

NR Harmer, Mabel. The True Book of 2-4 Pioneers; illus. by Loran Wilford. Childrens Press, 1957. 47p. \$2.

A brief, over-simplified account of the westward trek of pioneers across the continent. The text implies that Daniel Boone was the first pioneer to cross the mountains into Kentucky and that he went alone. There is no clear distinction made in references to events, ways of transportation, or of living, etc. between those that are typical of eastern pioneers and those that were found only in the far west. The text is written at a fourth grade reading level but the style of writing and format will have little appeal for readers at that level.

Ad Hayes, John F. Bugles in the Hills; illus. 7-9 by Fred J. Finley. Messner, 1956. 192p. \$2.95.

A story of a fifteen-year-old boy, Bill Walton, who acts as a guide for the Northwest Mounted Police, when in 1874, they made their hazardous trek from Winnipeg to Fort MacLeod. Background material, gathered from original diaries and records, is interwoven with fiction in an adventure story that boys especially will enjoy.

None of the hardships or responsibilities of traveling the uncharted plains is minimized and the story reflects throughout the endurance and the camaraderie of the Mounties as they faced the hardships of crossing the plains. The writing is somewhat weakened by the monotonous regularity of the sentence structure.

**M Hill, Lorna. Castanets for Caroline; A Story
7-9 of Sadler's Wells; illus. by Oscar
Liebman. Holt, 1956. 224p. \$2.75.**

The story of Caroline Scott who goes to the Sadler's Wells Ballet School for two years, only to be told by the director at the end of that time that she will not be able to go into the Senior School with her classmates. Caroline knew she lacked some of the finesse of classical ballet. She excelled in character dancing and was extremely interested in Spanish dancing largely because her friend, Angelo, had introduced her to the fascinating rhythm of this type of the dance. Still, it was a shock to be officially denied the privilege of continuing her ballet study. Written in the first person, the story of Caroline's year of practice before entering the Wells School at her Northumberland home, her two years in London during which time she lived with the unhappy daughter of a prima ballerina, and the outcome of her dismissal from the school make a light, entertaining story. Only the important events of the three years are dealt with but the transition from one to another is done with ease. The fact that Caroline was allowed to go to London and stay with a family her parents did not know and later she was allowed to join a troupe of Spanish dancers at the age of fifteen without consulting her parents seems a bit incredible. The story is an adequate one for anyone interested in ballet and life at the Wells School, but it is unfortunately weakened by such extreme independence on the part of the heroine.

**R Jackson, Caary Paul. Buzzy Plays Midget
3-5 League Football; illus. by Kevin Royt.
Follett, 1956. 112p. \$2.**

Buzzy Colby was more concerned about his lost dog than about the midget football league being formed. With his friend Don Butler, however, he went to the park to join the neighborhood team. As the season passed and the competition began to get tough, Buzzy's friends and family were greatly disappointed to find that he exploded with anger when hit extra hard or was ribbed by the opposing team. His struggle to be a good sport and control his temper finally won him a berth on the city All-Star team being sent to the Piggy Bank Bowl, as well as the respect of his friends and coach. The new puppy which suddenly appeared from behind a bush and looked so much like his lost dog aided Buzzy in learning a valuable lesson. Printed in large type the book can be read by advanced third grade readers.

**NR Jones, Patricia. Fair, Brown and Trembling;
3-5 An Irish Fairy Tale; pictures by Jan B.
Balet. Rand McNally, 1957. 32p.
(A Concora Book) \$1.50.**

A re-telling of the Irish version of Cinderella. The

story has been considerably shortened and is by no means as pleasing as that contained in Jacobs' Celtic Fairy Tales (Putnam, 1893). The illustrations are too sophisticated to have much meaning for young children. The slotty toy in the back of the book is not suitable for the age reader who would by most likely to enjoy this type of fairy tale.

**R Judson, Clara (Ingram). Sod-House
6-8 Winter; They Came from Sweden;
illus. by Edward C. Caswell.
Follett, 1957. 214p. (They Came
from . . . Series) \$2.40.**

Re-issue of a book first published in 1942 by Houghton under the title They Came from Sweden. The story tells of the fortunes of the Larsson family as they settled first in Wisconsin and then in the Minnesota territory near what is now Red Wing, Minnesota. The book tends to gloss over the problems faced by homesteaders in that part of the country, but gives a warmly realistic picture of family life among the Swedish immigrants.

**NR Kelling, Furn. Listen to the Night; pic-
K-1 tures by Mariel Wilhoit Turner.
Broadman, 1957. 32p. 60¢**

A young child describes and identifies the different sounds he hears at night—the wind, trees against the window, thunder, rain, mice, insects, an owl, stairs creaking, a policeman's footsteps, sirens, jets and trucks. The book is intended to re-assure children and help them overcome fears at night and, aside from the fact that it is quite uninspired writing and illustrating, could be used for this purpose.

**R Key, Alexander. Cherokee Boy.
6-8 Westminster, 1957. 176p. \$2.75.**
Not all of the Cherokee Indians who started on the "Trail of Tears" march arrived at the reservation in Oklahoma. In addition to those who died along the way, some managed to escape from their guards and return to their mountain homes. This is the story of a group of children, the oldest being fifteen-year-old Tsi-Ya, son of a chief, who escaped in Illinois and made the long trek back, across the Ohio River and to the Indians' Secret Place in the Carolina mountains. Some times they were aided by friendly white people, but more frequently they had to live by their own wits and courage, and the story of their journey makes a dramatic saga of wilderness travel.

**R Leighton, Margaret (Carver). Comanche
7-9 of the Seventh; illus. by Elliot Means.
Ariel Books, 1957. 206p. \$3.**

An absorbing history of the famous horse, Comanche, from its birth to the end of its life as the pet of the Seventh Regiment. The account is climaxed by the events of Custer's defeat, but the author also deals fully with Comanche's earlier years as the favorite mount of Captain Myles Keogh, and thus gives an interesting picture of army life on the frontier in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Comanche emer-

ges as a well-developed character but remains always a horse, with none of the unrealistic personification or mawkish sentimentality that too often characterize stories about him. The book should be enjoyed both as a good horse story and for its historical background.

R Lewis, Hilda. The Gentle Falcon.
7-10 Criterion Books, 1957. 256p. \$3.50.

An intriguing story of England in the days of Richard II. The book takes its title from the name given to seven-year-old Princess Isabella of France who became the child bride of Richard. The story, told in the first person by fifteen-year-old Isabella Clinton, an impoverished gentlewoman and distant relative of Isabella's who was chosen to be the Queen's companion, is both the tragic story of the young queen and the happier love story of Isabella Clinton and Gilles Cobham. If, in places, the phrasings are somewhat too reminiscent of Shakespeare's play, this becomes a minor weakness when the book is considered as a whole, and it stands up as a well-paced piece of historical fiction.

Ad Macmann, Elaine. Ozzie and the 19th of April; illus. by Leonard Shortall.
4-6 Putnam, 1957. 126p. \$2.50.

Ozzie (Oswald) Clark is a young boy living in Lexington, Massachusetts. He has two great ambitions—to find a pair of Revolutionary War pistols and to win the April 19th drum contest so that he can represent the drummer boy in the "Spirit of '76". How he achieves the first ambition and fails in the second makes a mildly amusing story that is simply written but fairly well paced.

R McNeer, May Yonge and Ward, Lynd. Armed with Courage. Abingdon, 1957. 112p.
5-7 \$2.50.

A series of seven sketches of well-known persons who dedicated their lives to the service of mankind. Included are: Florence Nightingale, Father Damien, George Washington Carver, Jane Addams, Wilfred Grenfell, Mahatma Gandhi, and Albert Schweitzer. The sketches are well-written and the book is beautifully illustrated.

NR Marks, Mickey Klar. Fish on the Tide;
1-3 pictures by Irma Wilde. Childrens
Press, 1956. 29p. \$2.50.

Young Danny goes fishing along the sea wall one day as the tide comes in. As he waits patiently for a bite, he watches the birds and animals around him and eventually his patience is rewarded when he catches a fish. The illustrations of the sea gulls are quite well-done; Danny does not come off quite so well, and in the picture of the heron the text and illustration are in disagreement as to how the bird carries its feet in flight. The text, written at a fourth grade reading level, would need to be read aloud to young children and some of the unfamiliar terms explained.

Ad Meyers, Barlow. Fireball. Westminster,
7-9 1956. 208p. \$2.75.
Dave Yule, an orphan, went to live with Big John Benedict and Aunt Beth on a cattle ranch in Idaho.

He was very happy there except for the resentful attitude of Big John's nephew, Sandy. Sandy's misjudgement caused great misfortune, including the injury of three people in an automobile crash. A great number of cattle were disappearing from the ranch and no one could discover exactly how or where they were taken. Big John took the hot-blood stallion, Fireball, away from Sandy because the horse was mistreated and, when he then let Dave ride Fireball, Sandy became even more resentful and sold the horse late one night to a passing trucker for fox bait. Dave ran after the horse dealer, climbed aboard the moving truck, succeeded in freeing the stallion. As they returned to Three Rivers Ranch, Dave realizing the seriousness of his position, for he knew Sandy would say that he had stolen the horse and run away, in a moment of confused desperation drove Fireball away into an uninhabited mountain area near the ranch. The story of the re-capture of Fireball, his slow re-training and the gradual crystallization of clues leading to the capture of the cattle thieves makes an action-packed tale. The solution of the personal problems of the two boys is done realistically without over-glorified results. The unreality of some of the responsibilities given a boy Dave's age and a few incidents which border on the sensational detract somewhat from the general appeal of the book.

NR Miller, Mary Britton. Give a Guess;
K-2 illus. by Juliet Kepes. Pantheon,
1957. 32p. \$2.50.

Twenty-two verses about animals—each verse in the form of a few statements and a question that the child is supposed to answer by naming the animals involved. The statements made about the animals are not always completely accurate, and occasionally extraneous material is thrown in for no better reason than to pad out a short verse. The rhyme and rhythm are too uneven to make the verses fun to read aloud. Kepes's drawings are pleasing but do not make up for the poor quality of the text.

R Mowery, William Byron. Swift in the Night, and Other Tales of Field and Wood. Coward-McCann, 1956. 254p.
7-9 \$3.75.

A very interesting collection of tales previously published in magazines, which tell of animals and plants of the field and woods. All of the stories except the first, from which the book takes its name, are actual experiences of the author in his travels through the United States and Canada. "Swift in the Night" tells of a fox vixen, her struggle to keep her cubs alive and, when they are killed, her adoption of the cubs of her dead rival. Much information is given about a variety of woodland life: foxes, rabbits, wolves, woodchucks; small bird life; wild greens which can be used in salads, and various types of mushrooms, accompanied by suggested methods of preparation. While highly informative, the material is so written that the reader's interest is caught and held. This book would be enjoyed by anyone who likes the out-of-doors

and wild animal life. It encourages the reader to strike out into any small field or wooded area near-by and see what he too, can find.

R Norton, Andre. Sea Siege. Harcourt, 9-12 1957. 216p. \$3.

In a story that for stark grimness is somewhat comparable to her Star Man's Son, the author tells of the experiences of a young boy on San Isadore at the time of the first atomic war. Griff Gunston had come, rather reluctantly, to San Isadore to be with his father, a scientist who was investigating a mysterious new disease affecting marine life. When Dr. Gunston was injured and forced to return to the States, Griff found himself alone except for the few native inhabitants and a group of Navy men working on a secret project at the other end of the island. The effect on the island of the atomic blasts that cut it off from all the rest of the world is described in vivid detail, as are the accompanying horrors growing out of the presence around the island of a malignant breed of octopi that are capable of thinking and waging war on mankind. The story ends with Griff and the other survivors optimistically planning ways of coping with their sea enemies and of re-exploring the world for possible survivors of the war. Strong fare for any except mature readers.

NR Otto, Margaret (Glover). Great Aunt Victoria's House; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Holt, 1957. 121p. \$2.50.

Great Aunt Victoria lives in a large, rambling house with two Irish servants and a variety of animals pets, all of whom, except Pig Holiday, practice and enjoy magic. Efforts to bring Pig Holiday into the magic fold are somewhat hampered by the presence of Great Aunt Victoria's niece and nephew, Georgiana and Edward, who, for no very clear reason, are kept in ignorance of the magical happenings. The children find out for themselves and are in on the triumphant occasion when Pig Holiday finally learns to practice magic. A quite dull, forced bit of fantasy that lacks humor and any real feeling for the fanciful.

M Parsons, George A. Put Her to Port, Johnny; illus. by Oscar Liebman. Holt, 1957. 223p. \$2.75.

The life of a shanty boat family on the Ohio River in the early 1900's. The Honeycutt family left their worn-out hill farm in West Virginia for the river where Mr. Honeycutt expected to make a living operating a junk boat and selling inexpensive dishes. Eleven-year-old Johnny was the only one who shared his father's optimism, although his mother and sister eventually came to a grudging acceptance of the new life. The story has an interesting setting, but the writing is quite pedestrian and there are several instances in which Johnny and his father operate in a manner that is just barely within the law.

NR Paschal, Nancy. Someone to Care. Westminster, 1957. 206p. \$2.75.

When her father died, sixteen-year-old Betty Fondren felt herself to be completely alone in the world and facing an uncertain future. She had a temporary home with the Gibsons for whom her father had worked as a tenant farmer, but she knew they were too crowded to keep her for long. Jobs were hard to find in the small Texas town nearby, but she was fortunate to find work as a housekeeper for a well-known author who had come to the area to get material for a book. After a series of highly predictable ups and downs, Betty succeeded in finishing high school and in marrying Gil Gibson. A very light love story with no originality to the plot or characterizations.

R Phillips, Mary Geisler. The Makers of Honey; illus. by Elizabeth Burckmyer. Crowell, 1956. 164p. \$2.50.

An easy to read, clearly understandable presentation of the life of the honeybee, its anatomy, habits and contributions to mankind and to the world of nature. The attractive, informative illustrations add to the appeal and usefulness of the book.

Ad Rich, Louise (Dickinson). The First Book of New England; pictures by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1957. 60p. \$1.95.

An over-view of New England, its history and present-day industries, told primarily through descriptions of several typical families living in the various sections of the region. The families are chosen to show the variety of backgrounds to be found in this area, some of them being second generation Americans and others descendants of early Puritan families. At the end there is a short section of things to see in New England and one on interesting New Englanders. The fictionalization is adequately handled but will lessen any appeal the subject might have had for older readers.

R Rounds, Glen. Whitey Ropes & Rides. Holiday House, 1956. 90p. \$2.25.

Written in the style of a short story, this is the tale of two youngsters, Whitey and Josie, and their various attempts to learn to rope and ride bucking broncos. Their adventures are written with imagination and children will especially enjoy the humorous incidents which occur. The format of the book is deceptive; the large print and small pages imply easy reading but this is not actually true. Advanced fourth grade readers could handle the material adequately, but it would have to be read to younger readers. The cartoon-like illustrations are well adapted to the type of humor expressed.

Ad Savitt, Sam. Step-a-Bit; The Story of a K-2 Foal. Dutton, 1956. 68p. \$2.95. The pictorial story of a foal from birth to weaning time. The charcoal drawings capture the mood of the filly's life, with its joys, lessons and disappointments. The text is written as though Step-a-Bit herself, her mother, or an observer were speaking; it could be confusing if the reader were not extra careful. The illus-

trations are especially good and could be used without the text but with simple explanations to young children.

R Steele, William Owen. Flaming Arrows;
6-8 illus. by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, 1957.
178p. \$2.75.

Once again Mr. Steele has written a vigorous, suspenseful story of frontier life in the Cumberland mountains. This time the action centers around a single Indian attack on a settlement and the interplay of emotions and relationships among the settlers as their fear for their own safety leads them to the verge of actions that are as bad as those of the Indians. When the Logan family came to the fort for safety they were almost forced out again because some of the settlers believed Mr. Logan was a traitor and on the side of the Indians. Only the intervention of the scout, Amos Thompson and of Mr. Rabun saved the family. In the ensuing quarrel the settlers forgot to guard the walls and were almost overrun by the Indians. The story is told as experienced by Chad Rabun, who opposed his father at first, but then came to see the injustice of his own attitude. Boys wanting a good adventure story will find this one well-paced and exciting; the more perceptive readers among them will get, in addition, a penetrating study of human relationships.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Because of Madeline. Harper, 1957. 201p. \$2.75.
8-12 What happened to the students of Bramley, an exclusive private school in New York City, when a scholarship was granted to Madeline Portman, the brilliant, aggressive, non-conformist daughter of an East Side cleaning woman. The story is told in the first person by Dorothy Marks, who was a classmate of Madeline and who, in college, began to realize the impact that Madeline had had on all of the students in Bramley. The story is quite slow-paced and introspective and will probably have less appeal than some of Mrs. Stolz's other books, but it has considerable substance for the readers who will take the time to find it.

Ad Strachan, Winona. Christopher Jarrett of New Plymouth; illus. by Paula Hutchison. Dutton, 1957. 192p. \$3.

Twelve-year-old Christopher Jarrett came to New Plymouth seeking his younger sister Betsy, who had been snatched from him in England by men who stole children to sell as indentured servants in the colonies. During his years in New Plymouth, Chris never forgot his mission, but as he became involved with the life of the colony he determined to make it his permanent home. Eventually he found Betsy and the two settled in New Plymouth. There is nothing especially noteworthy about the story although it will be acceptable where additional stories of this period are needed.

R Sutcliff, Rosemary. The Shield Ring;
7-9 illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Oxford,
1957. 215p. \$3.

An absorbing tale of the Lake District during the 11th century, and of the last stronghold of the Norsemen who successfully defended their land against the Norman invaders. Young Frytha was

taken to Jarl Buthar's stronghold when her father's farm was destroyed by the Normans and all her family killed. Into the story of her growing up and of her love for Bjorn, the author has woven the story of the Norse resistance to the Normans to make a tale of adventure that will have appeal for boys and girls alike.

Ad Tharp, Louise (Hall). Tory Hole; illus.
6-8 by Jessie Robinson. Little, 1957. 202p.
\$3.

Re-issue of a story first published in 1940. The setting is Middlesex, Connecticut, about 1780 and the story involves the efforts of fifteen-year-old Steven Waring and his neighbors to rid themselves of British raiders and sympathisers. An interesting view of one small segment of the War that will be of use where additional materials on the period are needed.

M Thomson, Peter. Ski Ranger. Dodd, 1957.
7-9 215p. \$2.75.

Another story of Doug Moran (Sierra Ranger), Park Ranger in the High Sierras. This time Doug is manning the station through the winter, for the first time. His adventures run the usual gamut of capturing a couple of poachers and rescuing the occupants of a small plane that crash lands in the mountains. The poacher episode follows a well-worn pattern and the chief appeal of the book will come from the quite good description of the rescue operation in which Doug and Sue Harrison bring Sue's injured brother, Price, over the mountains to the Ranger station. Even this part will lose some of its appeal for boys because of the introduction of a love affair between Doug and Sue.

Ad Tor, Regina. Getting to Know Canada.
4-6 Coward-McCann, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

A brief tour of Canada, arranged by geographic regions and stressing the present day ways of living. Historical events are touched on only as they are needed to understand current problems and conditions, with the exception of Quebec where the history is rather fully developed. The book will serve as a useful introduction to the country although some of the sections will need expansion for full understanding, and there is, strangely enough, no mention of the St. Lawrence waterway.

Ad Trent, Robbie. To Church We Go; illus.
K-2 by Elizabeth Orton Jones. Follett,
1956. 30p. \$2.

A pleasing picture book describing many aspects of worship as a child sees and understands them. The author's text is interspersed with familiar passages from the Bible relating to worship. Elizabeth Orton Jones's illustrations lend dignity and appeal to the book. The main use of the book will be with Protestant Christian children.

NR Turner, Audrey. Lacy Edwards, Veterinar-
7-9 ian. Lantern Press, 1957. 221p. \$2.50

When Lacy Edwards reports for her first job—as assistant to Dr. Barry who is nearing retirement age—she is almost fired at once for he had not

known she was a girl. She persuades him to give her a chance and, in true career book fashion, meets every possible complication during her first few months of work, solves them all, and ends with an engagement ring. There is a smattering of interesting information about veterinarian medicine, but the plot is too contrived and the characterizations too poorly drawn for the book to satisfy as a piece of fiction.

R Viksten, Albert. Gunilla; An Arctic Adventure; tr. by Gustaf Lannestock. Nelson, 1957. 160p. \$2.75.

A starkly beautiful story of the life of a lone hunter on North East Land island on Spitsbergen. The story, told in the first person, takes the man through the last two of a four year stay on the island, where his only companions were his dog, Wulf, and the polar bear cub, Gunilla, that he adopted when its mother was killed. There is drama and suspense to the episode in which the man is forced to battle Gunilla for his life—a result of pampering her as a cub and not disciplining her as a mother bear would have done; and there is, throughout, a deep and satisfying appreciation for the beauty and grandeur of the Arctic country. A distinguished piece of fiction.

NR Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. Palomino Girl. 7-9 Westminster, 1957. 175p. \$2.75.

A poorly written, quite superficial story of a ranch girl at an Eastern college. Before she returns to college Kit Kendall's brother, Cam, warns her that she is well on the way to becoming a domineering woman and should find herself a man who is stronger than she is. Kit accepts his advice literally (and so evidently does the author) and attaches herself to Glen Gilbert, an athletic young man with much brawn but little evidence of brain. Kit's real trouble—complete and utter selfishness—is ignored. There is the usual girl rival, Dorset Cornwall, a psychotic creature whose problems are solved by Kit in a highly dramatic climax. There is no depth to the characterizations, and the problems are inadequately thought out and superficially handled.

R Watson, Sally. To Build a Land; illus. by 6-8 Lili Cassel. Holt, 1957. 255p. \$3.50. What seemed at first a tragedy, proved beneficial when twelve-year-old Mia Morelli's broken arm brought her and her fifteen-year-old brother Leo to the attention of the Jewish war relief officials in Naples. The children, who had fought a bitter struggle for existence in the slums of Naples following the death of their parents during the war, were sent first to Marseilles where they were taught Hebrew and then to Israel to the children's village of Gan Shalom. The time was 1947 and the children were soon drawn into the fighting that took place between the Arabs and the Jews after the British withdrawal from the country. The story of their adjustment to the new life at Gan Shalom and of the struggles of the new country are vividly portrayed with enough action to please the casual reader and a maturity of concepts to satisfy the more discerning reader.

NR Webb, Clifford. Magic Island. Warne, 3-4 1956. 53p. \$2.

The small island in the middle of the lake near their home becomes a place of enchantment for Charles and Carol one day when Carol tries one of the lessons in her new book "Magic for Beginners." The two children are transferred to a South Seas island where Carol's doll Sooty and her toy elephant come alive. The children visit Sooty's family, use Carol's magic to subdue a dragon, and finally return home. Except for some of the scenes involving Sooty's family, the book has a certain matter-of-fact charm as a fanciful tale. The illustrations are too gaudy to be pleasing.

R Weil, Lisl. I Wish, I Wish. Houghton, K-2 1957. 38p. \$2.50.

Little Francesca lived in a narrow house in a narrow street in Florence. One of her greatest pleasures was to visit the Galleria Pitti and watch an American lady paint miniatures. With all her heart Francesca longed for one of the miniatures. How she got her wish, and a kitten too, makes a delightful picture-story book.

SpC Weisgard, Leonard. Mr. Peaceable Paints. 2-4 Scribner, 1956. 32p. \$2.75.

Mr. Peaceable painted all the signs which hung above the shops in the village, except the one at the inn. One morning the innkeeper discovered his sign was gone and while everyone else in the village went to the harbor to see six incoming ships drop anchor, Mr. Lion went looking for his inn sign. He discovered Mr. Peaceable painting a grinning lion which looked so much like himself that he used it for his inn—after Mr. Peaceable painted his favorite poem on it. The plot has little action and, although third graders could handle the text, it would have to be read to younger children. The real value of the book lies in the illustrations which are done in the manner of early American primitive art.

R Welch, Ronald. Captain of Dragoons. 7-9 Oxford, 1957. 256p. \$3.

A swashbuckling tale of Marlborough's campaign against the French in the early eighteenth century. Charles Carey, heir to the estate of Aubigny, swordsman par excellence, and a captain in Cadogan's Regiment of Dragoons, becomes involved in a bit of espionage that takes him to the court of the Pretender at St. Germain, to Versailles, to the Bastille as a prisoner, and back to the English army in time to participate in the Battle of Blenheim. The story is fast-paced, filled with suspense and gives a vivid picture of the period.

R Wibberley, Leonard. John Barry, Father of the Navy. Ariel, 1957. 157p. \$2.75.

The life and work of John Barry from 1775 when he brought his ship safely through the first of the British blockades until his death in 1803. During this time he not only participated actively and successfully in both land and sea battles of the Revolution, but also laid the foundations for the building and strengthening of the American navy. The writing is not Wibberley's best but it does

give an interesting picture of Barry and the period in which he lived.

R Wiig, Hanna. The Tale of Tiny Tutak;
K-1 illus. by Sven Skauge. Lippincott,
1957. 60p. \$1.25.

A small book (5-1/2 x 4-1/4) about a small Eskimo boy, Tiny Tutak, who sets out one day to hunt. In turn he meets a baby seal, a great big seal and a great huge polar bear, each of which offers him a gift, folk tale style, in order not to be killed. When Tiny Tutak meets a walrus, he calls on his new friends to help kill it and carry it home. A satisfying story for young listeners, pleasingly illustrated.

NR Williams, Henry Lionel. A Dance for
3-5 Dulcy; illus. by Veronica Reed. Arco,
1957. 48p. \$2.

A quite dull, over-long and wholly improbable story of a small girl living in New York City at the time of Washington's inauguration. Dulcy has inherited a beautiful white ball dress that was once her mother's, so she puts it on the night of the inauguration ball, slips into the governor's mansion and dances with Washington. The format is that of a picture book, but the story is much too long and too difficult for the picture book age.

M Willis, Robert. Caesar's Blue Ribbon.
2-4 Follett, 1956. 64p. \$2.

The story of Caesar, an old work horse, and the little girl Bridget, who thinks he is beautiful enough to win a blue ribbon at the fair. Bridget washes and brushes Caesar until his dapple gray coat is shining, but when the two arrive at the show ring, Caesar is clearly out-classed by the spirited young horses. Caesar proves his worth, however, when he is able to pull a car out of the mud, and receives a blue ribbon for the beauty and strength locked in his great heart and sturdy body. A slight story which lacks imaginative style. The format suggests easy reading, but a child would need to have a reading ability of average third grade to handle the material with ease.

R Winwar, Frances. Elizabeth; The Romantic
7-10 Story of Elizabeth Barrett Browning;
illus. by Enrico Arno. World, 1957.
247p. \$3.

A full, well-rounded biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning told with a sympathetic objectivity and a penetrating insight into her character and personality. The mature style and perceptive analysis of the subject and her writings make this an admirable biography to use as a steppingstone to adult books.

M Wise, William. Johathan Blake; The Life
K-2 and Times of a Very Young Man; illus.
by Howard Simon. Knopf, 1956. 54p. \$2.

Twenty-one poems about young Jonathan Blake, his activities and his thoughts on a variety of subjects. There is more than a touch of A. A. Milne to the style and content of the poems. Some of the verses are quite pleasing; a few leave a definitely bad taste, i.e. the snobbishness reflected in a part of "Grandmother's Visit"; the erroneous concept introduced in "The Poor Australians"; and the nega-

tive attitude expressed in "Concert Going". There is not enough originality to the verses to wholly overcome these weaknesses.

NR Witton, Dorothy. Crossroads for Chela.
7-9 Messner, 1956. 192p. \$2.95.

Chela Campos is a Tarascan Indian girl living in Los Tares, a village of the Sierras. At about the same time that the villagers are having troubles resulting from a misunderstanding of a governmental order regarding the cutting of trees near the village, Chela meets an American boy, Lorrie Kimberly, son of a geologist who is working in the area. Through the help of the Kimberlys the villagers regain their forest rights and Chela is offered an opportunity to go to school in Mexico City. The interesting picture of modern Indian life in Mexico is unfortunately off-set by the interference of the Americans in Mexican affairs and the implication that it is only through their interference that anything good comes to the villages.

Ad Worcester, Donald Emmet. Lone Hunter
5-7 and the Cheyennes; illus. by Harper
Johnson. Oxford, 1957. 103p. \$2.75.

A story of Lone Hunter and Buffalo Boy, two Oglala Indian boys who are captured by the Cheyennes after they diverted a Cheyenne attack on their people. The boys are taken to the Cheyenne winter camp, adopted by two childless widows and accepted by all of the tribe except Two Elks, who swears revenge on the two boys because his own brother has been killed by the Oglalas. The two boys escape one night when the Cheyennes are having a dance. Although they have practiced only a little on snowshoes and they have only one bag of dried meat, one bow with arrows and two fur robes, they travel through snowstorms and up and down mountains at an exhausting rate, with Two Elks on their heels, getting closer and closer. A bear and cave make it possible for them to escape from their pursuers, and in a moment of charity, they leave Two Elks and his friend their snowshoes to replace those destroyed by the bear. This becomes an adventure story with tinges of the incredible when the age of the boys and the conditions under which they are traveling are considered. The illustrations, in blue and black, add appeal to the story although they do not always agree with the text.

R Wriston, Hildreth Tyler. Susan's Secret;
3-5 illus. by W. T. Mars. Ariel, 1957.
126p. \$2.75.

A fast moving story of a family living in Vermont before the Civil War. Their home is a station in the underground railroad although Susan and her younger sisters do not know it. She asks questions which make her parents wonder if she has guessed the secret. Her curiosity is aroused by strange noises and when she investigates she finds a sliding panel in the hall and a fugitive slave behind it. The climax occurs when she is left at home along with her two young sisters while three fugitives slaves are hidden above the kitchen. The warning is given that the Negroes must be moved and Susan proves that she is a

brave, resourceful girl. Well written for the most part, the story presents an adequate picture of the period.

NR Watson, Jane (Werner). How To Tell
K-1 Time; pictures by Eleanor Dart.
Simon and Schuster, 1957. 28p.
(A Little Golden Book) 25¢

A slight book too obviously contrived to help a young child learn to time. The history of time telling, from prehistoric man's use of sun and shadow to modern times is related and pictured at the beginning. This section will have no meaning for children and is not detailed enough to interest adults. Then comes a story of a small boy who was always late. His rather obtuse family try everything from moving his bed to catch the morning sunlight to setting up a sun dial in the garden before it occurs to them to buy him a watch. They never do get around to using an alarm clock as a solution for his over-sleeping. In the final section the child using the book is supposed to settle down to a serious study of the clock face on the book cover and learn to tell time. This is made difficult by the fact that the text refers indiscriminately to the little boy's watch and the book's clock face, and which is referred to when is anyone's guess.

NR Weiss, Harvey. A Gondola for Fun.
K-2 Putnam, 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

As young Mario rode in his father's gondola, he longed to be allowed to handle it himself, but his father always said that he was too small. Then one day Mario's father fell overboard and Mario was left with a boat load of passengers and a gondola he could not control. The boy did his best, which was mostly reassuring the passengers that all was well, and eventually they were all rescued, but not before they had drifted out to sea. Slap-stick humor, much of which would have to be explained to young children, who would also wonder at Mario's rapid changes in age and size throughout the illustrations. The book would have to be read aloud since one page of text is almost entirely obscured by an over-printing of color.

Ad Wellman, Manly Wade. Young Squire
7-9 Morgan. Washburn, 1956. 172p.
\$2.75.

The story of a young man studying law during the frontier days in Alabama. Jason Morgan saves the life of Squire (meaning lawyer) Colquit and is invited to study law with him when a reward is refused. The main case in the story involves the right to build a courthouse on a particular piece of property on the town square of Moshawnee, Alabama. Through the help of an Indian friend, Jason wins the case. It is his first one and although he is not really ready to practice law, he is forced to represent the town of Moshawnee when Squire Colquit is injured by henchmen of the defendant. The story gives a good picture of frontier towns and an interesting description of the legal battle itself. The conversation between Jason and his bene-

factor's grandniece, Betsy, is a bit stilted, but otherwise the story is adequate for anyone interested in law or frontier days.

NR West, Jerry. The Happy Hollisters and
4-6 the Old Clipper Ship; illus. by Helen
S. Hamilton. Garden City Books,
1956. 184p. \$1.

Another second-rate Hollister mystery treated in the traditional Hollister way and written in the same uninspired style. This time the mystery is about a missing clipper log-book on which an inheritance depends. Movie stars and bullies are duly met and dealt with by the all-conquering family.

NR White, Gwen. A Book of Dolls. Macmillan,
7-9 1956. 108p. \$2.75.

A survey of the history and design of dolls from about 2000 B.C. to 1941 A.D. Very unorganized text gives the history of dolls at various periods of time dealing with various countries within the specific time limit. Historical facts are interspersed and it is difficult to tell whether the author is talking about the dolls or the fashions of their time. Toward the end of the book only English dolls are discussed for the most part. The sentence structure is clumsy and awkward and because of the confusing organization of facts, will be of little interest to anyone except avid doll collectors and enthusiasts. The pictures are drawings made from Museum pieces. Three appendixes are included: materials used in making dolls, a short bibliography of eight books, and a list of museums where dolls can be found, the latter all being in England.

R White, Hilda. Wild Decembers; A Bio-
8-10 graphical Portrait of the Brontës.
Dutton, 1957. 319p. \$3.50.

An absorbing, semi-fictionalized biography of the Brontë family that is penetrating enough in its characterizations to give teen-age readers a beginning understanding of the strange personalities that were represented in the family and some of the factors that may have caused those idiosyncracies. The account is told primarily from the point of view of Charlotte as she looks back over her life after the deaths of all her family except her father. The author neither dwells morbidly on the tragedies that beset the family nor does she indulge in sentimentality, and the book should serve well as an introduction for readers to some of the works of the Brontës.

M Whitmarsh, F. E. Famous American
7-9 Athletes of Today. 14th ed. Page,
1956. 308p. \$3.75.

The story of living American athletes from every field of sports, with an extra chapter on "TV and Radio in Sports." The information about each athlete is presented in a straightforward, factual style, with no attempt to make the men out as better than they actually are. The practical physical training undergone by each athlete is described. In some cases the men had to over-

come handicaps; many simply used their natural talents to the best of their abilities. A factual book that will not have much appeal for general reading but will be of some value as a reference tool.

NR Williams, Henry Lionel. The Singing Glasses; illus. by Veronica Reed. Arco, 1957. 48p. \$2.

Exceedingly dull, pedestrian story of young Pell Jamison, an orphan, who is given temporary shelter by Benjamin Franklin and repays his host by helping to build the armonica. When Franklin injures his arm and cannot keep an engagement to play the armonica at a concert hall, Pell steps in and plays so well that Franklin promises to send him to music school. The book is published in picture-book format but the story is much too long and too labored to hold the interest of either the picture-book age child or the independent reader.

Ad Williams, Jay and Abrashkin, Raymond. 5-7 Danny Dunn on a Desert Island; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Whittlesey House, 1957. 159p. \$2.75.

Another story of Danny Dunn and his friends—Joe Pearson, Professor Bullfinch, and Dr. Grimes. This time the two scientists are embroiled in an argument as to which is the more practical. They decide to put the matter to a test by spending a month on a desert island—each man to take a separate island. (The boys go along just for fun.) The plans are changed when their plane crash-lands in the ocean and they find themselves actually marooned with little or no equipment. As might expected, Danny proves the most practical member of the group, and even he has some lapses. The book does not have quite the spontaneous humor of the first story, the two adults seeming especially unrealistic in their childish bickering. It will, however, have appeal for the details of how the group provided the necessary food, clothing and shelter by reproducing some of the tools used by primitive man.

R Williamson, Joanne S. The Eagles Have Flown; illus. by George Fulton. Knopf, 1957. 211p. \$3.

A swift-paced, absorbing story of Rome at the time of the assassination of Julius Caesar. The story is told in the first person by Lucius, a young orphan in the service of Marcus Junius Brutus. The characters are vividly portrayed and come alive as real people, not just as historical figures. An excellent piece of historical fiction and one that would be of especial interest for classes studying Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar.

NR Wood, James Playsted. An Elephant in the Family; illus. by Kurt Werth. Nelson, 1957. 64p. \$2.95.

In spite of its picture book format, this is really a full-length story for middle elementary grade readers. Stephen, Susan and David were delighted one morning to find an

elephant in their barn—and not especially surprised to find that he could talk to them. Excitement came fast and often thereafter as they faced the problems of keeping such a pet without arousing the entire neighborhood. There are occasional flashes of humor to some of the episodes but frequently the story merely plods along. It is too long and too difficult reading for children below the fifth grade reading level, and is not suited to reading aloud. The illustrations seldom match the text and one, in which a small boy is pointing a gun at an adult, is especially objectionable for a children's book.

R Wyler, Rose. The First Book of Weather; 5-7 pictures by Bernice Myers. Watts, 1956. 63p. \$1.95.

A well-organized introduction to weather—what causes the various manifestations of weather; how weather predictions are made; construction of simple weather instruments; and how to read weather maps. Easy experiments are included to demonstrate some of the principles involved. A useful book for science classes as well as for general reading.

SpC Yasuda, Yuri. Old Tales of Japan; with 4-6 ninety-eight illus. by Yoshinobu Sakakura and Eiichi Mitsui. Tuttle, 1956. 320p. \$2.95.

A collection of tales from Japan. In making the translations, the author has over-simplified the stories and they lack the beauty and vigor of Yoshiko Uchida's translation in The Dancing Kettle (Harcourt, 1949) and The Magic Listening Cap (Harcourt, 1955). The collection is interesting, however, because of its color illustrations by two Japanese artists, some of them done in the rather traditional Japanese style with the figures clearly outlined, and others in subdued pastels. One story is told in dialogue suitable for play-giving. Although the dialogue is rather stilted as it appears in the book, the illustrations give many good ideas on presenting Japanese plays using masks to denote characters. The book will have interest for storytellers for its contrast with other versions of the same tales.

Ad Yates, Brock Wendel. The Indianapolis 500; The Story of the Motor Speedway. Harper, 1956. 147p. \$2.50.

A very comprehensive history of the actual events of the 500-mile Memorial Day race at the Indianapolis Speedway, from 1909 when the track was built, to 1955. Pictures accompany the text and indicate the type of car used at specific races. The material would be a bit easier to handle if the description of each separate year's race were more clearly divided from the one preceding and following it. Unfortunately the author uses a style of sentence regularity which detracts somewhat from the appeal of the book. The material will be especially enjoyed by boys interested in racing however, although the chapter on the engines of racing cars is too technical for those with only an average interest in the sport.