



I L L I N O I S

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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PRODUCTION NOTE

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### EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

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

- R 8-10 Allan, Mabel Esther. Summer of Decision; illus. by Geoffrey Whittam. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Sheila O'Mara and her younger sister Mops leave Lancashire for a summer with relatives in Ireland. Sheila, 17, wants to be a writer; her cousin, Mairin, the same age, wants to become an actress. The parents of both girls are opposed to their plans and want them to do something more sensible. The three girls and Mairin's brothers Terry and Lanty do such a spectacular job of putting on a play for their own entertainment that they are pressed into forming a theater company. Sheila takes a part-time job and has a story printed in the local paper. By the end of the summer, both girls have convinced their parents to let them try to achieve their goals. Especially well-expressed by the author is the conflict which both the young people and their parents feel about a choice of career; the solution for Sheila is a realistic compromise in which she is to try writing while she works. Romance is introduced with less exaggeration than in many

teen-age novels: Lanty falls in love with Sheila, but it is clearly compounded of proximity, novelty and moonlight.

- Ad 4-6 Beim, Jerrold. The First Book of Boys' Cooking; pictures by Dick Dodge. Watts, 1957. 85p. \$1.95.

The introduction and the selection of recipes are carefully chosen for masculine interest, and the recipes themselves are quite simple. For a truly inexperienced cook, however, there is a bit too much taken for granted: the glossary does not include all the terms used and no explanation is given of utensils or their uses. Some of the drawings clarify procedures, but many are used for pure decoration.

- NR 2-4 Bianco, Pamela. Toy Rose. Lippincott, 1957. 91p. \$2.50.

Joy and Jessica are twin girls. Joy becomes annoyed with Jessica one day when she insists on playing with an imaginary doll named Toy Rose. After spoiling Jessica's pleasure in her imaginary toy, Joy then sees the doll and has an evening's adventure in fairy land. At the end the two girls are presented with twin replicas of Toy Rose for their birthday. The exceedingly precious tone of the writing will lessen its appeal, and as usual it is difficult to distinguish

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the children from the dolls in the illustrations, since both are equally stiff and unrealistic.

NR Blanton, Catherine. The Gold Penny;  
5-7 illus. by Albert Orbaan. Day, 1957.  
188p. \$2.95.

In 1914 the Lee family moved from Missouri to Arizona on the doctor's recommendation that the climate there would be more favorable for twelve-year-old Benjamin who had been crippled by polio. Ben was not happy over the move and especially over the thought that it meant a hardship for the entire family. He determined to be as much help as possible, and through his cheerfulness and ingenuity paved the way for a satisfactory adjustment for the family. Weak writing and a pollyannaish tone will keep the book from having much value or appeal.

M Branley, Franklyn Mansfield and Vaughan,  
2-3 Eleanor K. Rusty Rings a Bell;  
illus. by Paul Galdone. Crowell,  
1957. 31p. \$2.50.

When Rusty, in bed with a bad cold, loses his hand bell, his father rigs up an electric bell and battery for him to use. The simple text explains how the bell, and later a light bulb, can be made to work when properly attached to the battery. For the most part the illustrations serve to amplify the information contained in the text. A rather contrived story that is too difficult for beginning readers to handle alone and does not have enough specific information to interest readers who could handle the text.

Ad Bronson, Lynn. Popular Girl. Double-  
7-9 day, 1957. 191p. \$2.75.

Sixteen-year-old Tracy Scott was bitter at the thought of having to move from the city to the small mountain town of Cooper Spur just as she was beginning to be accepted by a rather exclusive group at Westwood High. At first her snobbish attitude prevented her from making friends in the new school, but as she began to take a closer look at herself and the other students, she realized that she had nothing to be snobbish about, and when the time came to return to Westwood she did so with a much sounder, healthier attitude toward school life. There are some interesting aspects of teen-age school life presented, although Tracy's relationships with her age-mates come off better than her relationships with her parents. The effectiveness of the writing is off-set by the frequent typographical errors.

NR Brown, Bill and Rosalie. The Boy Who

3-5 Got Mailed; illus. by Peter Burchard.  
Coward-McCann, 1957. 42p. \$2.

Peter Perkins goes to the post office and asks to be mailed to Corncob, Kansas. He is accepted for mailing; stamped, cancelled, post-marked and tagged, he travels to his aunt's home in Kansas. En route, he knocks out a robber by wielding his baseball bat. The small amount of information about postal service is easily available elsewhere. The story fails as nonsense and succeeds only in being silly. Easy to read but not worth the effort.

R Buehr, Walter. Underground Riches;  
5-7 The Story of Mining. Morrow, 1958.  
95p. \$2.50.

An introduction to various types of mining activities, touching briefly on the history of mining and giving a fairly detailed account of modern methods. The material is interestingly presented in both text and illustrations.

NR Burchard, Peter. The River Queen.  
3-5 Macmillan, 1957. 40p. \$3.

Chip, son of a riverboat captain, was quite excited when his father took him along on the trip that was scheduled to end in a race between the River Queen and the Cleo Oakley. At the height of the race the captain had to leave the wheel house and he turned the steering over to Chip who brought the boat safely to victory. A dreams-of-glory type of story that fails to give any indication of the period in which it is set, and has no real flavor of river boats. Burchard's illustrations are pleasing but by no means his best work.

NR Burgess, Thornton Waldo. The Adventures of Ol' Mistah Buzzard; illus.  
1-3 by Harrison Cady. Grosset, 1957.  
192p. (Bedtime Story-Books). \$1.

Reprint of a book first published in 1919. With the present wealth of accurate, interestingly written nature materials for children, these sentimental, excessively personified stories seem even less appropriate than when they were originally written.

NR Cameron, Polly. The Cat Who Couldn't  
K-1 Purr. Coward-McCann, 1957. 32p.  
\$2.25.

The story of a kitten who was so busy learning the things a cat should know and exploring the world that he never did learn to purr. When he realized his deficiency, he returned to his parents and in the mutual rejoicing at being together again all three broke down and purred. Very slight story, with static, uninspired illustrations.

NR Chastain, Madye Lee. Leave It to the  
4-6 Fripseys. Harcourt, 1957. 187p.  
\$2.75.

In this fourth story of Marcy and her neighbors, the "Happy" Fripseys, the children are once again facing the problem of what to do about Gwynn Gilson, an obnoxious show-off in their class at school. For the better part of the year the class is torn between two factions, but in the end sweetness and light triumph and Gwynn is reformed by the loving kindness shown her at a party that is given for her by her classmates for no other purpose than to let her know that they all love her in spite of her nasty disposition. Gwynn's change is too complete and too sudden to be realistic nor is it reasonable to assume that all of the children in the class would conform to the nauseatingly sweet example set by the Fripseys, who are much too like the well-known Hollisters for comfort or enjoyment.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Firing Line!;  
6-8 Weapons, Vehicles, Rockets, and  
Research—Army Proving Ground,  
Aberdeen, Md. Coward-McCann,  
1957. 48p. \$2.

Photographs and brief text present authentic information regarding the testing of weapons, vehicles and rockets at the Army Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Md. An interesting and informative presentation.

M Cook, Marion Belden. Terry's Ferry;  
3-5 pictures by Erika Weihs. Dutton,  
1957. 45p. \$2.50.

Usually Terry is happy for an excuse to row across the creek in his boat, Watermelon. However, the day the circus comes to town he wants to be left in peace so that he can earn enough money to see the show. Unfortunately the bridge is broken and so many people want to be taken across that Terry never does get his fish. He does get to the circus, though, as a reward for his ferry service. An interesting theme but a pedestrian style, and caricaturish illustrations.

R Cooper, James Fenimore. The Last of  
7-12 the Mohicans; A Narrative of 1757;  
illus. by James Daugherty; intro.  
by May Lamberton Becker. World,  
1957. 440p. (A Rainbow Classic).  
\$1.75.

A new edition of one of Cooper's most popular novels, excitingly illustrated by Daugherty in black-and-white and color. The print is small, but clear.

NR Davey, Cyril. Lady with a Lamp; The

6-8 Story of Florence Nightingale. Roy,  
1957. 96p. (Stories of Faith and  
Fame). \$1.50.

A biography of Florence Nightingale that depicts her as a paragon and disparages her family; it substitutes new incidental dialogue for new information. The book is so poorly made that the spine cracks when pages are laid flat.

NR Davis, Fanny. Getting to Know Turkey;  
4-6 illus. by Don Lambo. Coward-  
McCann, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

An over-view of Turkey, dealing briefly with the history of the country and in more detail with present day conditions. Much of the material is valid and interesting, but the book has some serious weaknesses as social studies material. The map is incorrect in that it omits the entire European section of Turkey. The very autocratic manner in which Ataturk brought about his reforms is treated lightly and with an "end justifies the means" attitude, and the implication is given that everything he did is now fully accepted and approved by all the people. The very serious economic problems facing Turkey today and the lack of freedom of the press and freedom of thought, as well as the explosive nature of Turkish-Greek relations are all glossed over. On a less profound level, it is difficult to understand why the author has chosen to refer to the well-known Hodja by his much less well-known name, Nasr-Ed-Din. Where used, the book will need to be supplemented by fuller explanations or more detailed writings.

Ad De Leeuw, Adele Louise and Cateau.  
7-9 Breakneck Betty. World, 1957.  
221p. \$2.75.

Betty Hoyt's habit of acting first and thinking afterward frequently led her into situations that were embarrassing or even mildly disastrous. During her first year out of high school, as she embarked on a first job and the pursuit of a new boyfriend, she began slowly to realize that her head-long ways could lead to serious trouble both for herself and for those around her. The story takes her through the better part of a year during which time she learns to control her impulses and to channel them into actions that are worthwhile and sensible. A mildly pleasing story with some interesting characterizations, but with no great depth or maturity of style or concepts.

NR Deming, Dorothy. Trudy Wells, R.N.,  
7-9 Pediatric Nurse. Dodd, 1957.  
244p. \$2.75.

Typical career-love story set in a private orphanage in the East. Trudy Wells accepts a job as head of the Happy Valley Home infirmary and within a year's time has perfected plans for a new medical center, solved a number of personality problems among her patients and become engaged to a wealthy young trustee of the orphanage. A pedestrian style overloaded with occupational facts and figures.

NR Disney, Walt. Perri; from the Walt K-1 Disney Motion Picture of Felix Salten's original story; adapted by Emily Broun; illus. by Dick Kelsey. Simon and Schuster, 1957. 28p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.

A typical Disney distortion of an original story. The writing is pedestrian and the illustrations too coy to have any value for children.

NR Dorritt, Susan. Wait Till Sunday; pictures by Roger Duvoisin. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 42p. \$2.50.

The butcher, the farmer and the fisherman work hard all week and each one looks forward to Sunday as a day of rest. They enjoy the day but are quite ready to go back to work on Monday. An adult concept that has little to offer young children.

R Dumas, Alexandre. The Three Musketeers; illus. by C. Walter Hodges; 8-12 intro. by May Lamberton Becker. World, 1957. 621p. (A Rainbow Classic). \$1.75.

A complete and unabridged edition, set in small but very clear type, and fittingly illustrated with C. Walter Hodges' rather swashbuckling drawings.

R Earle, Olive Lydia. White Patch; A City Sparrow. Morrow, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

Entertaining account of the life of a city sparrow that migrates from Battery Park to Staten Island where it mates and settles down to stay. Considerable information about the feeding, nesting and wintering habits of city birds is woven into the account, and although White Patch assumes a personality he is never personified. The author's excellent black-and-white drawings add appeal to the book and are almost as informative as the text. The lack of chapter breaks and the fairly difficult style will limit the book to use by middle elementary grade readers, or to reading aloud to younger children.

Ad Franklin, George Cory. Zorra; illus.

5-7 by L. D. Cram. Houghton, 1957. 118p. \$2.50.

A sequel to Tricky, with Zorra, the daughter of Tricky and Vixen, as the main character. The setting is the area near the cabin of Ryan and Stevens in the Five Rivers Country, and the story follows a predictable pattern as the foxes have run-ins with a trapper, experiences with other animals, etc. The story is well told and the subject interest will probably overcome the lack of originality in treatment or content.

Ad Fritz, Jean. The Late Spring; drawings 1-3 by Erik Blegvad. Coward-McCann, 1957. 33p. \$2.50.

Robin R., the First Robin, was having such a good time sleeping in an orange tree down south that he almost forgot to fly north and, as a consequence, spring was late that year. Rather slight story, illustrated with black, white and red drawings.

NR Gay, Zhenya. Who Is It? Viking, 1957. K-2 47p. \$2.50.

Nine familiar woodland animals are presented through brief text that describes some of their individual characteristics, a page showing the tracks of each, and a double page of pictures of several of the baby animals of each kind. The text is moderately satisfactory, except for the unwarranted personification of the skunk; the pictures of the animals are adequate although they tend to be unnecessarily coy; in almost every instance the tracks vary from those for the same animals that are pictured in Mason's Animal Tracks (Morrow, 1943).

Ad Godden, Rumer. Mouse House; illus. 2-4 by Adrienne Adams. Viking, 1957. 63p. \$2.75.

Mary was given a jewelry box shaped like a small house, but was disappointed because the two toy mice in it did not move. Then a real mouse got in one night and caused such damage trying to get out that the house was relegated to the basement, where a whole family of real mice moved in. Thereafter Mary enjoyed sitting quietly in the basement watching the mice at their play. The story does not have quite the beauty of style or sense of wonder of the author's earlier books for children, but will have appeal for young readers who like stories about small animals.

NR Graham, Alberta (Powell). Clara Barton, 4-6 Red Cross Pioneer; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Abingdon, 1956. 128p. (Makers of America). \$1.50.

A superficial biography of Clara Barton. All of the important details are included but they

are presented in such a simple way that the impression is given that Miss Barton's work was easily accomplished without too much hardship. The style is pedestrian because short choppy sentences are used, and the lack of a free-flowing style is a severe handicap. This book does not do justice to the full, rich life Clara Barton led, nor to the personal commitment which led her to dedicate her life to service for others.

NR Harris, Christie. Cariboo Trail. Longmans, 1957. 188p. \$3.75.

A poorly written story of an overland trek from the Red River country of Minnesota to the Cariboo gold fields in Canada in 1862. The Hawthornes were the only family in the caravan, and the story is primarily concerned with twelve-year-old Maeve Hawthorne's attempts to prove that women and children are more of a help than a hindrance on such an expedition. The situation has possibilities for an interesting story but the inept writing keeps it from having value or appeal.

NR Hill, Margaret. Senior Hostess; frontispiece by Manning deV. Lee. Little, Brown, 1958. 276p. \$3.

Another step in Beth Dean's career, this time as the responsible senior hostess on an Alaska flight, concerned also about the irresponsibility of the junior hostess. Jacket of the book states that there is "strictly authentic background." Unfortunately, the authentic background is rather massively purposeful and is thinly disguised by the fictional trimming; the characters are unreal, the plot is a series of incidents, and the result is neither a good story nor a good brochure on air travel.

M Holberg, Ruth (Langland). The Smugglers of Sandy Bay; illus by Kurt Werth. Doubleday, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Cape Ann in 1814 was an exciting place to live. The British were blockading all ports and fishermen were in constant danger of being stopped and losing their cargoes and, occasionally, their liberty. For many of the coastal villages smuggling was the only means by which food could be brought in. Tomboyish young Cindy Lowe planned to become a smuggler herself someday and was thrilled when she began to suspect that her father was engaged in such activities. The adventures of Cindy and her two friends, Hank Mason and Emmett MacBride, as they try to find out about the smuggling operations and to thwart the British in their raiding activities, make moderately good reading.

The book suffers from careless writing and Cindy is, on the whole, a quite obnoxious child, selfish, headstrong, and willing to risk her own or anyone else's life just to satisfy a whim. She is seldom rebuked either by her parents or the author.

M Holland, Marion. A Tree for Teddy. 2-4 Knopf, 1957. 61p. \$2.

When Grandmother Gardner's standards for what is acceptable in a Christmas tree proved too high for the urban community in which Teddy and his family lived, it began to look as if there would simply be no tree that year. Determined to have one anyway, Teddy set out, with two young friends, to hike to a nearby woods where he hoped to find a tree. The three became lost in a snow storm and wandered into a nursery where they frightened a man who was stealing trees. As a reward, the owner of the nursery gave Teddy one of the trees that had been cut and took the children home in a horse drawn sleigh, all of which met with grandmother's approval. A highly improbable story with many negative aspects—in the family relationships as well as in the actions of the children in setting forth on such an expedition without letting anyone know where they were going.

Ad Honour, Alan. Ten Miles High, Two Miles Deep; The Adventures of the Piccards; illus. with photographs and with line drawings by Charles Geer. Whittlesey House, 1957. 207p. \$3.

With an emphasis on the work of Auguste, the author describes the famous Piccard twins and their work in exploring the stratosphere and the ocean depths. Detailed accounts are given of two of Auguste's balloon ascensions and of his explorations in the bathyscaphe. One balloon ascension by his twin, Jean Felix, is described. The style is quite awkward and never as smooth as that of the author's earlier book, and neither of the Piccards ever comes to life. The book will have interest for its treatment of a timely subject but the appeal will be lessened by the quite pedestrian style.

R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. Exploring Earth and Space; The Story of the I.G.Y.; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Whittlesey House, 1957. 160p. \$3.

An introduction to the many aspects of the work being done as a part of the program of research for the International Geophysical Year. This includes learning more about the earth itself as well as experiments with outer space. The information is interestingly pre-

sented and should have wide appeal.

Ad Jackson, Jesse. Room for Randy;  
6-8 illus. by Frank C. Nicholas.  
Friendship Press, 1957. 136p.  
\$2.50.

Rick and Randy, who are thirteen and close friends, return to school after a trip to find a problem situation. A change in school plans is to bring in from Tintown forty new pupils, most of whom have the reputation of being tough. There is some disagreement among all the boys as to whether or not the newcomers shall be welcomed with the traditional initiation ceremony. Randy is a Negro; his father doesn't want to jeopardize the status he has achieved in the town by having his son participate in greeting the Puerto Rican boys from Tintown. Randy can't tell Rick why he won't take part, and their friendship suffers. A rather artificial crisis (an airfield disaster that occurs while the fair is going on) brings all the hostile groups into harmony and ends the breach between Rick and Randy. The book is useful for additional material on inter-cultural relations, but the solution is too easily achieved and the tensions could be more fully explored.

NR Kennell, Ruth (Epperson). The Secret  
4-6 Farmyard; illus. by Jules Gotlieb.  
Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 223p.  
\$2.50.

Joel Burness lived in a crowded part of a medium-sized city during the time when housing was still difficult to find after the war. When the landlord refused to allow him to keep a dog, Joel settled for a pair of baby chicks, although his father disapproved and Joel was forced to keep his chicks in an unsettled spot between his house and the public woods beyond. Joel talked his friend, Steward, into joining the business so that they could have a flock of chickens rather than just two, and although Joel had to do all the work involved, Stew still claimed a share of the eggs. Various other community problems are brought into the story, but add little by way of interest or appeal. Joel does not seem realistic in his willingness to give up friends in order to take care of his pets. The book is written in an uninspired style and attempts to combine too many elements which slow the pace of the story and result in confusion.

R KIELTY, Bernardine. The Fall of Con-  
7-9 stantinople; illus. by Douglas  
Gorsline. Random House, 1957.  
181p. (World Landmark Books).  
\$1.95.

Beginning with the final siege of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in 1453, the author employs a series of flash-backs to trace the history of the city from the time of Constantine I to its final surrender to the Turks. Although occasionally over-simplified, the information is generally accurate. The book does an excellent job of showing the importance of Constantinople to Western civilization.

NR Kraus, Robert. Ladybug, Ladybug!  
K-1 Harper, 1957. 32p. \$1.75.

A small boy chants the nursery rhyme "Ladybug, Ladybug, Fly away home . . ." with almost disastrous results when the ladybug takes him seriously and recruits the various animals to help her fight the fire. After he explains it was just a sort of joke, he is forgiven and everyone ends up singing. Unevenly rhymed text and a forced story.

M Krauss, Ruth. Monkey Day; pictures by  
3-5 Phyllis Rowand. Harper, 1957.  
yrs. 26p. \$3.25.

On Monkey Day everyone brings the little girl monkey a present. One present is a boy monkey. By the next Monkey Day there are dozens of monkeys, each of whom receives a mate. The illustrations are amusing but the text strains hard for its effects and fails to achieve either the humor or the spontaneity of Bears, to which the publishers compare it.

R Lavin, Mary. A Likely Story; illus. by  
4-6 Nora S. Unwin. Macmillan, 1957.  
78p. \$2.50.

In a little cottage in Ireland live a poor widow and her son Packy. Packy is easily impressed by the extravagant stories told him by other children, but when he tells the tales at home his mother scoffs. Therefore Packy doesn't tell her at all about his own adventure with the Shee, the Little People. He has been persuaded by a small and querulous old man to come underground and join the immortals, but he escapes before the Shee can induce him to stay forever. The humor and Irish flavor are quietly pervasive; style is smooth and sprightly. Both fantastic and homely episodes are described in matter-of-fact language. The illustrations augment the effect of engaging simplicity.

Ad Lawrence, Mildren (Elwood). Good  
7-9 Morning, My Heart. Harcourt, 1957.  
191p. \$2.75.

Jan Barnaby, youngest of the four Barnaby girls, was the only one who resembled her father. Her darker coloring and reserved nature were in such contrast to her sisters that

Jan had had moments of thinking she might be an adopted child. At college she was, at first, expected to follow the social pattern set by her popular sisters, but soon she was left to go her own way. That way took her to the college newspaper where she won a place for herself, helped promote a town project for improving the living quarters of migrant workers, and acquired a boy friend. Jan's conversion and the solving of the migrant workers' problems seem a bit too easily and too quickly achieved to be wholly realistic, but the story has some pleasing pictures of college life. The style, with its use of the first person singular and frequent flash-backs, may not be widely popular.

NR Lewellen, John Bryan. Tee Vee Humphrey; illus. by Kurt Werth. Knopf, 1957. 146p. \$2.50.

An unsuccessful attempt to combine a humorous story of a young boy with information about the inside workings of a television station. Ten-year-old Tee Vee (Theodosius Valentinus) Humphrey decides to go to work for station WHAT since he is determined to make his living in some phase of television work. He starts as an errand boy and in an unbelievably short time rises to a position of MC for a dog food show. The would-be humor of most of the episodes falls flat, and Tee Vee is at once too naive and too successful to be at all realistic.

Ad Lindgren, Astrid (Ericsson). Pippi Goes on Board; tr. by Florence Lamborn; illus. by Louis S. Glanzman. Viking, 1957. 140p. \$2.

In this sequel to Pippi Longstocking, the reader again joins Pippi and her friends, Tommy and Annika, in their hilariously impossible escapades. As in the earlier book much of the humor comes from the child's appreciation of Pippi's rebellion against convention. Up to a point the story is as effective as the earlier one, but unfortunately the ending falls completely flat.

NR MacKellar, William. The Team that Wouldn't Quit. Whittlesey House, 1956. 160p. \$2.75.

A high school basketball story centering around Doug Mason and his efforts to make the Colville Rangers a winning team in spite of all obstacles. When Jeff Baron, 6' 10" tall, enrolls in Colville, Doug is disappointed to learn that he plays only soccer and, indeed, has a neurotic hatred of basketball. He is cured in a few weeks, however, and makes 30 points in his first game. Doug's problems

are not yet over, but he meets them all with short-sightedness, a selfish disregard for everyone else's feelings, and a chip on his shoulder. Eventually of course, the Rangers win their championship, and Doug is given a public ovation for his leadership. There is not even good basketball to redeem the extremely bad writing, plot and characterizations. The author shows little understanding of the conditions of high school basketball, and there are several errors and careless inconsistencies in the story and the game descriptions.

R McNeer, May Yonge. America's Abraham Lincoln; illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton, 1957. 119p. \$3.50.

A well-written, beautifully illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln, that touches only the high spots of his life, but succeeds in giving the reader an awareness and understanding of his personality. The lack of chapter breaks may prove a deterrent for some readers.

M Masters, R. E. First Performance; A Mystery with Music; illus. by Lunt Roberts. St. Martin's, 1956. 245p. \$2.50.

A mystery story involving the discovery of an imaginary symphony by Mozart and the part five youngsters have in rescuing it from the hands of crooks. Set in both England and France, there is quite an educational discussion of classical music and the orchestras that play it. A bit spectacular in places and bogged down by music theory in others, the book will not appeal to the general reader. A music theorist will find the description of "The Merry Pranks of Till Eulenspiegel" by Richard Strauss interesting.

NR Mauzey, Merritt. Oilfield Boy. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 80p. \$2.75.

Following the same pattern as his earlier books, the author-illustrator attempts to combine factual information about oil-drilling, a lesson in morals, and a story. The information and the morals are made quite clear; the story is virtually non-existent and dull when it does occasionally break through. The lithographs might be of interest to art classes, but the book has no value otherwise.

Ad Meadowcroft, Enid (LaMonte). Silver for General Washington; A Story of Valley Forge; illus. by Lee Ames. Crowell, 1957. 247p. \$3.

A new edition of a book first published in 1944. When the British threatened Philadelphia in 1777, Gilbert and Jenifer Emmet were sent to relatives in the then peaceful village of Valley Forge while their father was in France on

diplomatic business. The children soon found themselves plunged into the middle of the war when Washington's army made its historic wintering nearby. Distressed over the plight of the soldiers, Gilbert and his cousin, Danny, slipped into Philadelphia to recover some silver dishes that Gilbert's father had buried in the cellar and sold them for money for the army. Although the plot is quite predictable, the story is told with suspense and will make an acceptable addition to collections of historical fiction.

SpC Milne, Alan Alexander. The World of Pooh; with decorations and new illustrations in full color by E. H. Shepard. Dutton, 1957. 314p. \$3.95.

The complete texts of Winnie the Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner combined into one large volume, with the original Shepard illustrations plus eight new full-page illustrations in color. The book seems to lose some of the appeal of the smaller, individual volumes and will be more difficult for young children to handle. For some adults the color illustrations will not have the same appeal as the original black-and-white drawings.

NR Otto, Margaret Glover. The Tiny Man; 2-4 illus. by Peter Burchard. Holt, 1955. 122p. \$2.50.

The Tiny Man was carved from the wooden figurehead of the wrecked Mighty Oak, by Uncle Jeb, the ship's captain. The Tiny Man slipped out of Jeb's pocket into the ocean, however, and was washed ashore in the next cove. Discovered by a pair of sea gulls, and with their help, the Tiny Man tries to find a home like the one Uncle Jeb described. Fearing he has bothered the gulls too much, he slips out early the next morning and is found by two children. They prove to be friends of Uncle Jeb and they are all reunited when Uncle Jeb decides to live in the cottage with his sister and her two charges. The fantasy leaves much to be desired in terms of style; the conversations are stilted and lack vigor, and the gulls end up being the best defined characters in the story. The book would need to be read to young readers, who would not be able to handle the vocabulary.

NR Pastore, Edward W. African Safari; 5-8 illus. by Victor Dowling. Dodd, 1956. 231p. \$3.

Fifteen-year-old Chet goes to Africa to spend his vacation on a safari with his uncle, a professional hunter for the Lincoln Zoo. Chet, Uncle Harry and Moglu, the native gun bearer,

have many adventures: Moglu is injured several times, over 40 animals are collected and a variety of wild animals are observed. The material about various animals is enlightening but is so poorly put together that it is of little interest. The style is quite pedestrian and reflects the fact that the author used research material entirely in an unsuccessful attempt to build a story.

R Plotz, Helen, comp. Untune the Sky; 4- Poems of Music and the Dance; illus. with wood engravings by Clare Leighton. Crowell, 1957. 162p. \$3.50.

Drawing on the works of the great poets of all times, Mrs. Plotz has once again produced an unusual anthology to delight both the poetry and the music lover. The poems are divided into five sections: 1) All Instruments, 2) Singing over the Earth, 3) One God Is God of Both, 4) Poet to Dancer and 5) Music Shall Untune the Sky. The mood ranges from the reverence of Psalm 150 to Phyllis McGinley's gay "Recipe for an Evening Musicale." A beautifully designed book that will make a distinguished addition to poetry collections everywhere.

Ad Politi, Leo. The Butterflies Come. K-1 Scribner, 1957. 31p. \$2.75.

Stephen and Lucia live on the Monterey Peninsula near one of the spots where monarch butterflies spend the winter months. The children go into the woods to see the butterflies and then watch the parade during the Butterfly Festival. An exceedingly slight story whose chief appeal will come from the illustrations.

NR Power-Waters, Alma (Shelley). Virginia Giant; The Story of Peter Francisco; 7-9 illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund. Dutton, 1957. 224p. \$3.

Fictionalized biography of Peter Francisco, a seven-foot youth of unknown parentage, who served in Washington's army and was given a sword that was made especially for him at Washington's order. The potential interest of the subject matter is wholly lost in the excessively poor writing with its short, choppy sentences and frequent grammatical errors. Francisco talks and acts much younger than his sixteen years.

NR Prud'hommeaux, René. Hidden Lights; 6-8 illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Viking, 1956. 246p. \$2.75.

Jill and Michael Kelton go to spend a month with their uncle on Fire Island and before they have even set foot on it they have intuited a smuggling mystery. They prove to be correct

and there is much of the usual mystery story activity—four suspicious men, an all-night vigil in a forest, trespassing and theft by Jill and Michael, their imprisonment in an attic—before three of the suspects turn out to be government agents and the real smugglers are caught. This rather hackneyed plot is cluttered up by an island feud which Jill ends melodramatically in a fire. The relationship between Jill and Michael is well-handled but the book has several weaknesses besides the plot: Steve Larrup of The Sunken Forest is included, with no useful purpose except to put in a three-page plug for the earlier book. Michael delivers long, extemporaneous poems with remarkable ease. The writing is often slow, stilted or careless.

Ad Radlauer, Ruth Shaw. Fathers at Work; 1-2 illus. by Jaroslav Gebr. Melmont, 1958. 32p. \$2.

Drawings and brief text introduce the child to seven non-professional occupations. Included are: steam shovel operator, truck driver, jet flyer, newspaper reporter, linesman (electricity), gardener and carpenter. The coverage is quite good and the book is attractively illustrated. The very condescending tone will limit its usefulness to young children.

SpR Reid, Alastair. Fairwater; illus. by 6-9 Walter Lorraine. Houghton, 1957. 50p. \$2.50.

Modern fanciful tale of a utopian island, shaped like a seahorse, where everyone is happy and no problems arise until the day when the king's fairy daughter falls in love with a stone carver. The man is banished, and in his effort to cheer up his daughter, the king makes it possible for a magician to place the entire island under a spell. The stone carver breaks the spell, but in doing so sacrifices his own life. Thereafter he remains only as an image in a mirror, appearing to the princess every evening. There are no chapter breaks and the story is somewhat long to hold the interest of young children if read aloud at one sitting. Much of the story, including the ending, will be too subtle for the average reader below the high school level. However, the beauty of the language and the poetic mood it invokes might have appeal for teen-age girls who are just beginning to discover the appeal of lyric poetry.

NR Reynolds, Helen. We Chased a Rainbow; 7-9 illus. by Lucille Wallace. Funk & Wagnalls, 1957. 214p. \$2.95.

Two girls, Mary Holmwood and Elaine Fairley, go, with little money and great hopes, to Banff

National Park for a summer. They plan to get jobs as waitresses in the Banff Spring Hotel where there would be opportunities for Elaine to attract the attention of a movie scout or two. Mary wants to pursue her art career in her leisure time. Matters do not work out quite that easily but the two do manage to eke out enough to live on and end the summer with two boy-friends to compensate for the lack of a movie contract. A light novel, told in the first person, and overburdened with clichés of writing and characterizations.

NR Rietveld, Jane. Roly and Poly. Viking, K-2 1956. 44p. \$2.

A slight story of two pigs who are taken to market against the wishes of Jimmy, the farmer's son. En route to market they bounce off the truck. The pigs encounter various animals, who are of no use in showing them the way home, and they find a farm mud-hole where they stop to play until the owner calls the police. The police have no luck catching them, but fall in the mud themselves. Luckily Jimmy comes by on his way home from school and takes charge, successfully catching the pigs. The humor is crude and questionable derogatory terms are introduced, i.e., Old Lady Sharp. The text is too difficult for the age which might be interested in this type of story, and the brown pencil illustrations add little to the mediocre tale.

NR Selden, George. The Garden under the 4-6 Sea; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Viking, 1957. 190p. \$2.75.

A rather forced attempt at animal fantasy that somewhat imitates but never compares with Hatch's The Lobster Books. The story takes four animals who live in the shallow water near shore through a summer of building an underwater garden of items stolen from people on the beach. The four, a lobster, a crab, a starfish, and a cunner, have no reality as animals since they are endowed with complete knowledge of all things relating to human beings. The fantasy is labored and the humor too self-conscious to have much appeal.

Ad Sherer, Mary (Huston). Ho Fills the 4-6 Rice Barrel; illus. by Marion Greenwood. Follett, 1957. 127p. \$3.

Ho is a young boy of Formosa whose family makes its living by felling camphor trees and distilling the camphor crystals for sale in the port city of Taipei. When the market for camphor is lost because of the use of synthetics, Ho saves his family from starvation by selling a box he has carved and by earning orders for as many more as he can make. There is little

originality to the plot but the book does give an interesting picture of one aspect of life in Formosa.

NR Spyri, Johanna (Heusser). The Pet Lamb and Other Swiss Stories; 2-4 tr. from the German by M. E. Calthrop and E. M. Popper; with a coloured frontispiece and drawings in the text by Michael Ross. Dutton, 1956. 244p. (Children's Illustrated Classics). \$2.75.

Reprint collection of uninspired stories of poor peasants living in the Swiss Alps, some of which appeared originally as separate volumes. The stories are too moralistic to be of general interest. They follow the same pattern of plot development which keeps them from being somewhat redeemed by a variety of action. If used with young children (under fourth grade) the stories would have to be read aloud for the closely placed sentences make reading difficult as well as do the words and style used.

R Steele, William Owen. Daniel Boone's Echo; illus. by Nicolas. Harcourt, 1957. 79p. \$2.50.

Amusing tall tale of Daniel Boone and young Aaron Adamsale who venture into Kentucky to learn the truth of the existence of such creatures as the Sling-Tailed Galootis and the One-Horned Sumpple. As in Davy Crockett's Earthquake, the author writes with a straight-faced, understated humor that is fun for reading aloud or for independent reading.

Ad Steiner, Charlotte. My Slippers Are 3-5 Red. Knopf, 1957. 34p. \$2.75. yrs.

A picture book designed to help young children learn to distinguish among the major colors. The rhymed couplets of the text are less satisfactory than the illustrations, being frequently forced and awkward rhythm and in at least one instance resorting to very poor grammar in order to get an appropriate rhyme. For the most part the objects pictured are familiar ones, and young children should enjoy the guessing game aspect of the book.

R Stockton, Frank Richard. Ting-a-Ling Tales; illus. by Richard Floethe. Scribner, 1955. 161p. \$2.50.

New edition of a long-time favorite collection of fairy tales which reflect exaggeration and humor with an Oriental flavor. The stories are primarily about the fairy, Ting-a-Ling, and the giant, Tur-il-i-ra. The thread of imagination and plot is creative and fanciful. The adult who wants to read the stories aloud will need

to do some prior study of them before presenting them to a group of children, for some of the humorous parts are gross exaggerations and must be read as such or they take on a rather gruesome tone.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Good-by My 8-10 Shadow. Harper, 1957. 208p. \$2.50.

A penetrating, sympathetically understanding study of an adolescent girl's growing pains. Barbara Perry has reached an emotional state in which she has completely lost confidence in herself, is at odds with her family, especially her mother, and looks on life as a grim prospect. The story takes her through one Christmas season in which she reaches the heights of joy—in a new love affair; abysmal depths, climaxed with a childish fit of screaming rage directed at her parents, and finally the beginnings of an understanding of her problem and a way out through growing interest in and concern for other people. Barbara and her parents are clearly, maturely drawn and emerge as very likeable people. Teen-age girls will find, in Barbara's relationships with family and friends, many of their own problems reflected.

R Stoutenburg, Adrien and Baker, Laura 7-9 Nelson. Snowshoe Thompson; illus. by Victor DePauw. Scribner, 1957. 215p. \$2.95.

John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson was one of the more colorful characters of the West during the Gold Rush days. Not only was he known for his exceptional height and strength, but he also won fame as the first man to traverse the mountains during the winter time on skis. Using a crude pair of home-made skis, he carried the mail to remote mountain towns that had heretofore been completely isolated for many months during the year, and his success in this mode of travel induced others to follow his example so that by the time of his death, skis had been perfected and ski-meets were beginning to be an accepted part of the organized sports program in the Sierra Nevada mountains. The authors have created a realistic picture of Thompson in a well-written biography that has, in addition, all the action and excitement of a good adventure story.

M Thayer, Jane. The Outside Cat; illus. K-2 by Feodor Rojankovsky. Morrow, 1957. 32p. \$2.95.

Very slight story of Samuel, a cat who had always wanted to live in a house. The people who owned him had one cat, so he was banished to the outdoors. When the family moved, Samuel was left behind and since the new people had

no cat at all, he gained his wish at last. The arrangement of text on the pages will make it difficult for young readers to handle alone. Some of the illustrations are quite pleasing, others seem garish.

NR Thompson, Mary Wolfe. Snow Slopes; 7-9 illus. by Frank Kramer. Longmans, 1957. 179p. \$2.75.

Arleigh Burd and her mother had recently moved to Vermont where Mrs. Burd opened a guest house for skiers. Arleigh would have liked to participate in the sport but polio had left her with just enough of a limp to make such activities impossible. Besides which, her time was pretty well taken up with working to supplement the family income and with attempting to keep her very flighty mother from spending more than the two of them could earn. Arleigh's unhappiness over her handicap was overcome when she attracted the attention of Garry Caldwell who came to the guest house with his parents, and the family finances were settled when wealthy Uncle Charles married Mrs. Burd. There is a bit of ado about discovering that the house had once been a station on the Underground Railroad, but it adds little to the story. Cavanna's Angel on Skis (Morrow, 1957) has a similar setting and is a more realistic story. Facile characterizations and too easy solutions to the problems keep this book from having much value.

R Titus, Eve. Anatole and the Cat; pictures by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey House, 1957. 32p. \$2.25.

Another delightful tale of Anatole, the mouse who became head Cheese Taster for M'sieu Duval's cheese factory. This time Anatole is being harrassed by the cat that belongs to M'sieu Duval, and in his usual intrepid way becomes the only mouse in history to succeed in belling the cat. A perfect blending of text and illustrations to create a picture book that will appeal to children and adults alike.

R Todd, Ruthven. Space Cat Meets Mars; 3-5 illus. by Paul Galdone. Scribner, 1957. 72p. \$2.25

The intrepid space cat, Flyball, and his friend, Captain Fred Stone, are once more venturing into outer space. This time they have rocket trouble and make a forced landing on Mars. While Stone repairs the ship, Flyball goes exploring. He meets the only remaining Mars cat and persuades her to return to earth with him. The simple style, timely subject, and humor will please young readers, as have the earlier stories about Flyball.

R Toor, Frances. Made in Italy; with line 7-9 decorations by Earle Goodenow and with photographs. Knopf, 1957. 209p. \$3.75.

Beginning with the assumption that although much is known about Italian fine arts, her folk arts represent an important but little known field, the author discusses the many types of handicrafts that have grown up in Italy throughout her history—everything from pottery to foods and household furnishings. There is a brief history of the development of each as well as a consideration of its present day importance in the economic and everyday life of the people. An interesting book that will have much to offer both social studies and art classes.

R Treece, Henry. The Road to Miklagard; 8-12 illus. by Christine Price. Criterion Books, 1957. 254p. \$3.50.

In a rousing sequel to Viking's Dawn, the author traces the adventures of Harald as he once more goes a'viking. This time he starts on an expedition to win the treasure guarded by an Irish giant and then, through a series of misadventures, becomes a Moorish slave, travels to Constantinople (called Miklagard by the Vikings) and then north through what is now Russia until he once more reaches his Viking home. The story has all of the pace and suspense of the earlier book, plus the colorful settings of Moorish Spain and eighth century Constantinople.

R Verne, Jules. The Mysterious Island; 7-12 illus. by Henry C. Pitz; intro. by May Lamberton Becker. World, 1957. 626p. (A Rainbow Classic). \$1.75.

An attractive new edition of Verne's classic, with vigorous illustrations that capture the spirit and excitement of the story. The type is small, but clear and quite readable.

NR Waldman, Frank. Lucky Bat Boy; 7-9 illus. by Frank Kramer. World, 1956. 216p. \$2.75.

An aging pitcher, Matt Cooper, comes to accept the fact that he must become a relief pitcher if he is to continue playing in the major leagues. In this he is supposedly helped by one Billy Carmichael (the bat boy of the title), a fifteen-year-old fan of his. Billy moves into Cooper's house—although he has a perfectly good home of his own; he follows Cooper around the country—completely disregarding school attendance laws; and he performs many fantastic feats, such as saving Matt from an angry mob, inspiring Matt's new team to victory by his unwavering enthusiasm, and getting the Commis-

sioner of Baseball to disregard his illegal tampering with the team's equipment. For all his eccentricities, Billy remains a completely flat and unbelievable character who only interferes with the story of Cooper. Tunis' Young Razzle is a better story of an old player's comeback.

NR Walker, Nona. Kappy Oliver; illus. by  
7-9 Veronica Reed. Holt, 1956. 256p.  
\$3.

While her parents were spending a year in Europe, Kappy Oliver went to Yancey City, North Carolina, to live with her Cousin Bessie Plum, whom she had never met before. There Kappy hoped to prove to her own satisfaction that she could be popular in her own right, without help from her famous and attractive parents. Her plans were soon shattered by the presence of another cousin, Till, whose extremely anti-social attitude repelled everyone and even kept Kappy from making friends at school. With a maturity and understanding far beyond her years, Kappy set out to reform Till and in two months time had changed her into an attractive, popular girl. A superficial treatment of serious problems that has nothing to redeem it.

Ad Weber, Lenora (Mattingly). Happy Birthday, Dear Beany. Crowell,  
7-9 1957. 244p. \$3.

Just before her birthday, Beany begins to long for Miggs Carmody who had been her best friend as a child and whose birthday was on the same day as Beany's. By chance she is re-united with Miggs, but the meeting is not an entirely happy one, for Miggs and her family have changed considerably over the years. Through a series of circumstances that will be quite predictable to readers of the earlier Beany books, the Carmodys throw off their newly gained veneer of sophistication and revert to the simple farm family Beany had known and loved. The book should have the same appeal as the earlier ones since it is essentially the same plot.

M Will and Nicolas. Sleepyhead. Harcourt,  
K-1 1957. 41p. \$3.

He was a sleepyhead at night but the first one awake every morning and the leader of the boys through the day. The brief text and pictures take the small boy through a day of swimming and playing follow-the-leader with his friends until he goes home at night too tired to do more than drop into bed. The point of the story is somewhat adult to have much meaning for young children and the pictures are frequently more confusing than helpful in explaining the text.

NR Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins). The Surprise  
4-6 of Their Lives; with illus. by Robert  
Henneberger. Little, 1957. 154p. \$3.

Episodic account of the adventures of the Dunham children living in Portland, Maine, in 1910. Some of the episodes are of the kind that might reasonably happen to children, but the final one in which eleven-year-old Mary Jo and her younger brother, James, are locked in the stateroom of a Germany-bound ocean vessel by a practical joker playmate and have to work their way across the ocean and back is wholly improbable.

M Woolley, Catherine. Ginnie and the Mys-  
4-6 tery House; illus. by Ursula Koering.  
Morrow, 1957. 191p. \$2.75.

Ginnie becomes curious about an old and seemingly abandoned house in the neighborhood, and her curiosity is strengthened when she sees an elderly, poorly dressed woman go into the house. After considerable sleuthing by Ginnie and her friends, in the course of which they even attempt to break into the house, the mystery is cleared up. The old woman, who is suffering from senility, is taken away by her nephew and the children climax the whole affair by finding her lost fortune where she had hidden it in the attic. A somewhat improbable story that never quite comes off as a mystery.

R Zion, Eugene. Jeffie's Party; pictures  
K-1 by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper,  
1957. 32p. \$2.50.

None of Jeffie's friends had ever attended a masquerade party before and they were all excitedly planning what they would wear. The party was just as much fun as they had anticipated, and young listeners will have an equally enjoyable time trying to guess which child is wearing which costume. As usual Mrs. Graham's pictures are full of action, detail and humor. Unfortunately the colors do not seem quite so clear as those of some of her earlier books.

Ad Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). Over and  
3-5 Over; pictures by Garth Williams.  
yrs. Harper, 1957. 29p. \$2.75.

A small girl who has forgotten the sequence of holidays, but vaguely remembers each time that something else follows, goes through a year's round of celebrations from Christmas to her own birthday. As a birthday wish, she wishes they would all happen again—and of course they do. It is doubtful that the book will convey much of a message to children who are themselves too young to have the holiday sequence firmly in mind, but they will enjoy Garth Williams' pictures of the little girl as she celebrates each day in turn.