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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO · GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XI

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Number 7

### 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*

- M Allen, Marie Louise. A Pocketful of  
4-6 Poems; pictures by Sheila Green-  
wald. Harper, 1957. 32p. \$2.

Twenty-five poems selected from the author's Pocketful of Rhymes that was originally published in 1939. The subjects cover many aspects of a child's everyday life. Some of the verses are pleasing, but none seems especially inspired. The illustrations are very much in the Sendak manner.

- SpC Allstrom, Elizabeth C. Jesus, Friend and  
4-6 Helper; pictures by Iris Beatty Johnson.  
yrs. Abingdon, 1957. 48p. \$1.50.

Re-tellings of seven stories from the New Testament. The meanings of some of the stories have been lost in the oversimplification, and a few of the changes in terminology seem unreasonable, as when "colt" rather than "donkey" is used as a substitute for "ass." The book will have little general value, but could be used in Sunday School collections, where an adult could discuss the meanings with the children.

- Ad Armstrong, Richard. The Lost Ship; A

- 6-8 Caribbean Adventure. Day, 1958.  
192p. \$3.

Although this adventure story of the sea has an interesting setting (the Caribbean) and such elements as shipwreck and mystery solving to add appeal, it is by no means up to Mr. Armstrong's usual standard of quality. Two young men fall overboard from the tanker on which they work, one as a deck hand and the other as a cook's assistant, and are picked up by a mysterious schooner. When they learn of the crew's plan to abandon them on an island, they manage to turn the tables and sail away leaving the two crew members on the island. After a hurricane that wrecks the schooner, they are rescued by the tanker from which they fell originally. Rather slick writing that has none of the maturity or depth of Cold Hazard, although it is a cut above the average quality of adventure stories for this age reader.

- NR Barker, Melvern J. The Different Twins.  
3-5 Lippincott, 1957. 31p. \$2.50.

Joey and Johnny, four-year-old identical twins, were inclined to be somewhat annoyed with the way in which adults could never tell them apart. Then they went to nursery school, and from the very first the other children could distinguish between them. A very slight story, somewhat

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confusing since it never makes clear just how the children knew which boy was which, and illustrated with quite mediocre drawings.

NR Barrie, James Matthew. Peter Pan; ed. K-2 by Josette Frank; illus. by Marjorie Torrey. Random House, 1957. 64p. \$2.85.

A re-written version of Peter Pan that succeeds in removing all of the beauty of language and sense of wonder that have made the original a classic. The resulting skeleton of a story is more feeble than Tinker Bell at her lowest point, and is enough to make all children lose their belief in fairies.

SpC Bechtle, Raymond. Every Day Is a 3-5 World; pictures by Mary Chalmers. yrs. Harper, 1957. 63p. \$2.25.

Four episodes in the life of a small boy. In two of them Nathan meets and talks with two animals—a blue jay and a deer—who visit his yard. One involves the games that Nathan plays with the other children on his block. And the final episode is a bed-time story his grandmother tells to him. The book is intended as a "read-aloud" book, and its greatest use will be for home collections.

Ad Beery, Mary. Young Teens Talk It Over; 7-9 illus. by Charles Geer. Whittlesey House, 1957. 160p. \$2.75.

Quoting the comments of some young people in a discussion group, the author discusses behavior and etiquette for the junior high years. Questions that have been submitted about school, home or social life are answered and specific suggestions given for what to say and do in problem situations. Because of the question-and-answer format, categories overlap somewhat. The style is choppy; the book is neither as well organized nor as comprehensive as its predecessor, Manners Made Easy. A bibliography is appended. Useful for collections that serve pre-adolescent young people.

Ad Berry, Erick. The King's Jewel; illus. 7-10 by Frederick T. Chapman. Viking, 1957. 189p. \$2.75.

Sturla Thordsson, a young half-Viking, half-Saxon warrior, fights with King Alfred to rid 9th century England of the invading Danes. Through a series of campaigns, his friendship with Alfred's daughter, and his opportunity to observe Alfred's methods, Sturla comes to realize the value of strategy as well as brute force and courage in war, and of the need to plan for peace. The story is not long on plot, but the series of adventures is exciting, and Sturla's gradual maturing is convincingly handled. There

is a good deal of historical feeling, though the author has not been entirely faithful to the facts. She states in the preface that she has condensed some events, and made Alfred older than he actually was when he became king, in order to be able to include his daughter in the story.

NR Brady, Rita G. Vida Prescott: Attorney. 7-9 Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 206p. \$2.75.

A career-love story that takes a young woman through the first few months of her work as partner in her father's law office in a small town. There are some interesting glimpses into small town life, from a legal point of view, but the characterizations are too weak and the solutions to problems too easily achieved for the story to ring true. The romance seems thrown in more to meet the requirements of this type of formula writing than because of any help it might give to the plot.

NR Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). My Several 8-10 Worlds; abridged for younger readers. Day, 1957. 192p. \$3.

An abridged version of the author's long, autobiographical book of the same title. Miss Buck's reminiscences of her childhood and growth in China and the United States are written with her usual fluidity of style and sincerity of conviction and the book offers thoughtful commentary on life in Asia. Unfortunately the abridgment has eliminated most of the passages reflecting the author's own philosophy and the impact of her experiences in both countries on her personal development. The result is a series of interesting episodes but little depth to challenge the reader. Since the author's original work is well within the ability of most junior and senior high school readers to understand, it seems unnecessary to give them this kind of an abridged version.

Ad Buehr, Walter. Railroads Today and Yesterday. 4-6 Putnam, 1958. 72p. \$2.50.

A brief look at the history of railroading, with the emphasis on its development in this country. The importance of railroads is touched on, and the book ends on a hopeful note regarding the future of railroads in American life. An interesting presentation that adds little that is new, but that will be of value where additional material on the subject is needed.

M Carlson, Natalie (Savage). The Happy 2-4 Orpheline; pictures by Garth Williams. Harper, 1957. 97p. \$2.95.

Brigitte is one of twenty French orphans who are so happy in their orphanage that their one dread is the thought of being adopted. The story recounts one adventurous episode in their lives when they go to visit a dog cemetery and Brigitte

is lost. Her happy existence at the orphanage is threatened when she comes to the attention of a senile woman who fancies herself to be real "Queen" of France and who wants Brigitte as a servant. Brigitte's method of thwarting the woman verges on slap-stick. There is considerable child humor to the account, although it is to some extent weakened by such statements as: ". . . her last name didn't matter because she lived in an orphanage."

Ad Chalmers, Mary. George Appleton. Harper, 3-5 1957. 32p. \$2. yrs.

Trilby the cat went into the Deep Woods one day and there met George Appleton, a dragon. The two played together all day and then Trilby went home and told Bobby about his new-found friend. A slight story, but told with a nice touch of humor and delightfully illustrated.

NR Cheney, Cora. The Christmas Tree Hessian; illus. by Edith Ballinger Price. Holt, 3-5 1957. 151p. \$2.75.

A story of Newport, Rhode Island, during the Revolutionary War. The Smith children were determined to do all they could to harass the British who occupied the town and to help the American cause. Twelve-year-old Abel did his bit by persuading Hessian soldiers to desert and then leading them to the army. The children think, talk and act more like modern children than like those of 1776, and there is little feeling of reality to the setting or plot.

Ad Chute, Marchette Gaylord. Around and About. Dutton, 1957. 124p. \$2.95.

A selection of poems from three volumes first published by Macmillan, only one of which, Rhymes about the City, is now in print. The verses are quite uneven in quality, but are generally pleasing bits about a child's everyday experiences. Silhouette illustrations.

NR Coleman, Pauline (Hodgkinson). The Beau Collector. Dodd, 1957. 213p. \$2.75.

Another light-weight tale of the Dillon family (The Different One), this time with the younger sister, Charlotte, as the leading character. It is summer and the Dillons have rented a campsite in Yellowstone Park to which each member of the family has invited an assortment of friends for the Fourth of July. The story is primarily concerned with the reform of Charlotte, as shallow and boy-crazy a teen-ager as ever graced a junior novel, but there are also a number of side issues involving the girls' efforts to break up Frank Dillon's engagement to a woman they consider unsuitable, Ella's whirlwind romance with a mysterious stranger

who has the campsite next to theirs, and Mrs. Dillon's unaided struggles to feed and clean up after nineteen people. The characterizations and plot are too shallow to have anything to offer young readers.

M Collin, Hedvig. Nils, Globetrotter. 4-6 Viking, 1957. 189p. \$2.50.

Further adventures of Nils, the young Danish boy who left his island home to come to the United States with his father, a construction engineer. While Mr. Hansen is busy on a new job, Nils stays with a family near Santa Fe. The story is primarily concerned with picturing his reactions to the many new experiences that a young boy who has lived all his life on an island in Europe would have living in the interior of the United States. At the end Nils' mother and sister come to this country and Mr. Hansen buys them a home on the Maine coast, where Nils can once more be an island boy. The interest that the subject might normally have is seriously weakened by the choppy style of writing and rather contrived situations.

NR Collodi, Carlo. The Adventures of Pinocchio; retold by Shirley Goulden; illus. by Maraja. Grosset, 1957. 126p. \$2.95.

A re-telling of Pinocchio that loses much of the original appeal of the story through its condescending tone, strained attempts at humor and frequent insertion of side remarks that reflect Miss Goulden's lack of faith in the mental abilities of her readers. The illustrations are colorful but do not seem as suited to the text as those of Mussino.

NR Colman, Hila. The Big Step. Morrow, 7-9 1957. 192p. \$2.95.

Sixteen-year-old Debby Milford, an only child, had mixed feelings toward the idea of having her two step-sisters spend a summer in the Milford home. She liked Laura, the younger of the two, but disliked and resented Joan for her competence and poise. Debby inclined to always let someone else make up her mind for her but in her efforts to meet Joan's competition for boy-friends, she learned to be herself and to make her own decisions. There is no depth to any of the characterizations and only the most superficial treatment of the problems involved. Debby's change is too complete and too sudden to be realistic.

Ad Colver, Anne. Old Bet; illus. by Tony Palazzo. Knopf, 1957. 53p. \$3. Old Bet was a real elephant, the first to be brought to this country. The author has intro-

duced a fictional character in the person of T'wan-Ka Baker Clark, orphaned son of missionaries, who comes to the U.S. with Old Bet. After a season of travel with the Bailey Menagerie Show, T'wan, or Tom as he is now called, discovers an aunt and uncle and goes to live with them, leaving Old Bet with the menagerie. A rather slight but pleasing story. The picture book format is unfortunate since the text is best suited to middle elementary grade readers.

M Cook, Lyn. Jady and the General; illus. 7-9 by Murray Smith. St. Martin's, 1956. 242p. \$2.95.

Set in southern Canada, this is the story of the growth of a boy. Jady Farriday did not get along with his Dad, and whenever he mentioned his dream of owning a horse, his father became very upset, so Jady turned to Woody, a young neighbor, for comfort, understanding and companionship. In time Jady learned that one's family is more important than dreams, that understanding of one's parents often comes through endeavor with them, and that friendship must be an expandable thing which allows for the inclusion of others. Through an American friend Jady finally receives his horse; through 4-H activities he learns that working together to help others is the highest kind of endeavor; and through sacrifice and hard work he grows to understand his father and make a friend of him. The book presents all these adolescent problems clearly and creates a deep sympathy on the part of the reader for Jady, as he undergoes the pangs of growing pains. Unfortunately the author is not so adept at writing conversation as explanatory material. Her conversations have a stilted tone which detracts from the high interest of the plot and will lessen the appeal of the story for the general reader.

NR Day, Dee. Getting to Know Spain; illus. 6-8 by Don Lambo. Coward-McCann, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

A brief introduction to Spain touching the high spots of its history, geography and present way of life. The author ignores most of the economic and political problems that beset Spain today and gives the impression that all the people lead bright and rosy lives filled with fiestas and holidays. The book abounds in misleading generalizations and such oft disproved ideas as that Columbus was the first person to propound the theory that the earth is round. Whenever the author speaks of customs, food preferences, etc. the statements are in terms of "all the people" or "everyone," so that the reader is left with the impression of a country of automats all performing exactly the same motions

at exactly the same time. Although it is more difficult reading, Loder's Land and People of Spain (Lippincott, 1955) is a more satisfactory source of factual information about the country.

M Dennis, Wesley. A Crow I Know. Viking, K-3 1957. 55p. \$2.25.

A series of episodes involving a pet crow that are obviously based on the author's experiences with such a pet. There is no plot and the style of writing is exceedingly pedestrian. The illustrations are pleasing but not outstanding enough to compensate for the contrived text.

R Dillon, Eilis. The Wild Little House; K-1 illus. by V. H. Drummond. Criterion Books, 1957. 31p. \$2.75.

The little house had been built by a sea captain and it felt out of place in the midst of the city's tall buildings. One night it went for a walk and ended up in a seaside village where there were other small houses just like it. The family living in the little house were surprised at first but accepted the change of setting with great aplomb. When winter storms began, the little house returned to the city, but each year thereafter it went back to the seaside for the summer. An amusing bit of fantasy, pleasingly illustrated.

NR Elam, Richard M. Young Readers Science Fiction Stories; illus. by Victor 5-7 Prezio. Lantern, 1957. 191p. \$2.50.

There is little variation in these thirteen stories; the crisis situation in almost all is solved by the incredible acumen or courage of a child. Characters are noble and wooden, style trite and frequently ungrammatical. Each tale is an artificial concoction meant to demonstrate some particular aspect of interplanetary travel.

NR Ellis, Mary Jackson. Spaghetti Eddie; K-1 illus. by Sylvia Myers. Denison, 1957. 75p. \$2.50.

Unrealistically exaggerated tale of a small boy who persuades his older sister to cook spaghetti one day. She puts in about twelve pieces of spaghetti but Eddie thinks that is not enough and so, while she is out of the room, he persuades the grocery boy to add the remainder that is in the box. As spaghetti begins coming out of the top of the pan, Eddie and his sister fill bowls until everything in the kitchen is full. Then they give spaghetti to everyone in the neighborhood and try to feed it to the dog, cat and birds. By supper time Eddie is too tired to eat his spaghetti. The calender-art illustrations do nothing to help the trite story.

R Fenton, Carroll Lane and Pallas, Dorothy 5-7 Constance. Trees and Their World.

Day, 1957. 96p. \$3.25.

An introduction to trees that is concerned primarily with their structure, methods of reproduction, adaptation to variations and extremes of climate, and uses by mankind. The material is fairly simply and interestingly written, with excellent black-and-white drawings to illustrate the major points that are discussed in each chapter.

NR Folsom, Franklin. The Hidden Ruin. Funk & Wagnalls, 1957. 217p. \$2.95.

Al Buckles is at odds with his father and the coach at school because he thinks they are trying to run his life for him. He becomes interested in the archeological work being done by his uncle and, in defiance of his father, persuades his friend, Jerry Cooper, to go with him in search of a lost Indian village. The boys discover the village, bring about the arrest of a man who is looting it, and Al makes his declaration of independence at home and at school. The characterizations are not well handled and the book reflects several negative aspects, i.e., the attitude that it is all right for the boys to trespass on private property after they have been warned off because they suspect the man who owns the property, and that adults never accomplish anything without teen-agers to urge them on.

Ad Foster, Genevieve (Stump). Birthdays of Freedom; From the Fall of Rome to July 4, 1776. Scribner, 1957. 74p. \$3.

Following the same pattern as her first book, the author begins with the Declaration of Independence and then traces man's efforts toward freedom from the fall of Rome to 1776. As in the first book, the high spots only are touched, and there are frequent over-simplifications that could prove misleading for readers who do not already possess a sound background of knowledge of the events. The style is primarily suited to use by junior or senior high school students.

NR Foster, Harold R. The Medieval Castle. 5-7 Hastings House, 1957. 126p. \$2.50.

A rather thin story serves as a framework for an account of life in medieval England. Some aspects of a feudal culture are described, and the recreation and education of sons of the nobility are emphasized. Consistent brevity of sentences indicates use by a reader who would be too young for the many unfamiliar words; the short sentences are not easy, merely dull. The obscurity of phrasing, interpolation of word-definitions, and the trite language make this very poor writing. The book is profusely il-

lustrated by the author with pen drawings of technical excellence. Like the text, they are informational but laden with heavy humor and sentimentality.

NR Freer, Marjorie (Mueller). Orchids for April. Messner, 1957. 185p. \$2.95. April Ames's deep longing for a garden seems impossible of ever being achieved since her parents are both realtors who buy old houses to live in while they are being remodeled and then to sell and move on to another place. The story takes April through a part of one year when her family stay in one place long enough for her to have a small greenhouse and to fall in love with the son of a nearby nursery owner. The characterizations are quite superficial and the book is further weakened by an excess of poor grammar and typographical errors. Quotation marks are scattered throughout the book at random with only the most casual relationship between their location on a page and the conversations they would normally enclose.

NR French, Paul. Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter. Doubleday, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Lucky Starr is a combination of Superman and Philo Vance, the youngest member of Earth's Council of Science. With his devoted toady, Bigman Jones, he sets out to discover the saboteur of an anti-gravity space ship project on a satellite of Jupiter. By physical prowess, keen intellectual acumen and incredible calm in the face of danger, Lucky discovers the culprit, saves the project, and earns the admiration of the workers and the respect and gratitude of the commanding officer. A real plot-boiler.

SpR Geld, Ellen (Bromfield). The Jungley One; illus. by Herbert Horn. Dodd, 1957. 85p. \$2.75.

An absorbing story of the Brazilian jungle that is quite adult in style and tone but could have much to offer a fairly mature young reader. The story is of a young white boy's friendship with an aged Indian fisherman, and is told from the point of view of an adult friend of the boy's family. The format is unfortunate in that it is both unattractive and misleading, making the book seem suitable for a much younger child than the age reader who would enjoy the story.

R Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Beavers!; 2-4 illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Scribner, 1957. 94p. \$2.50.

The life cycle and living habits of the beavers are described with accuracy and simplicity. Illustrations are somewhat more sophisticated than text; they will probably extend the useful-

ness of the book in their appeal to older children. The author succeeds in investing the animals with personality without resorting to personification.

Ad Gramatky, Hardie. Homer and the Circus Train. Putnam, 1957. 62p. \$2.75. Homer is a small caboose who resents having to look at everything backwards. Then one day he saves a circus train from disaster on a steep grade and decides it is worth spending his life riding backwards in order to have the circus animals for friends. A rather trite plot, redeemed by Gramatky's humorous illustrations and smooth style of writing.

M Hartwell, Nancy. My Little Sister. Holt, 7-9 1957. 187p. \$3. Francie Thorne, age sixteen, writes of the problems she and her sister have as they try to achieve a social pattern as free as that of their friends. Mr. and Mrs. Thorne are rather strict, and Francie becomes adept at deceiving them. Her sister is even more adept; when she is injured in an accident, Francie realizes how foolish they have both been. Her parents are depicted as wise, patient and understanding—but easily duped. As an object-lesson on parental wisdom, the book would be more effective if the conversion were less abrupt. It assumes, at the close, the artificiality of a Moral Tale. Despite this flaw, and the pedestrian writing, there are positive values. Francie shows great loyalty to her sister and to her best friend; she adjusts well to her first unrequited love.

Ad Hill, Ralph Nading. The Doctors Who Conquered Yellow Fever; illus. by R. M. Powers. Random House, 1957. 180p. (Landmark Books) \$1.95. A history of the progress which has been made in the eradication of yellow fever. A large portion of the book is devoted to the biography of Walter Reed; description of the work of William Gorgas and other participants is restricted to medical rather than personal history. Although the medical detail is accurate, a plodding style ornamented with incidents not relevant to the topic detracts from readability.

M Holling, Holling Clancy. Pagoo. Houghton, 5-7 1957. 87p. \$3.75. Using the same pattern as his Minn of the Mississippi, the author describes and pictures the life of a hermit crab from the hatching of the egg to maturity. The illustrations, both full page color and black and white marginal drawings, are excellent and give the book its real value. The text is, unfortunately, irritatingly coy

in tone and Pagoo is so highly personified that he loses his reality as a hermit crab.

Ad Israel, Marion. Sheep on the Ranch; illus. 3-4 by Robert Dranko. Melmont, 1958. 36p. \$2.

In spite of its fairly general title, the book is predominantly about the process of shearing sheep. Much of the information is interesting, but its manner of presentation will limit the book's usefulness. The format and tone of writing are intended to appeal to young readers, but the full pages of text and rather difficult style will require an advanced reader. One major, double-spread drawing is quite confusing and would need adult help for interpretation.

M Johnson, Siddie Joe. New Town in Texas; 4-6 illus. by Margaret Ayer. Longmans, 1957. 301p. \$3.50.

Period story of Texas in 1872 at the time of the establishment of the town of Denison as a stop on the newly constructed M.K.-T. Railroad. Abigail Thompson and her family came to Texas where Mr. Thompson planned to buy a site in the new town and open a general store. The story of their first months makes moderately interesting reading, although the style is quite mediocre, there is an unpleasant tone of white superiority, and the text has, for no clear reason, been printed in an extra large type that gives the book a primerish appearance for all that it is over 300 pages in length.

M Kaune, Merriman B. My Own Little House. K-1 Follett, 1957. 29p. (A Beginning-to-Read Book) 96¢.

A child tells how he draws a house and adds various features to make it more attractive or to change it to a church or a school. The writing is typical of a child's work and the drawings are such as a young child might do. The book may have some appeal for children who enjoy seeing other children's work, but there is nothing to the text or the art to stimulate the reader's own growth and development.

SpR King, Martha Bennett. Bean Blossom Hill; 3-6 pictures by Jan B. Balet. Rand McNally, 1957. 34p. (A Concora Book) \$1.50.

A slight story told in the manner and style of folklore and employing several folk themes. There is very little plot, the story telling mainly of young Peter's experience with a fabulous pumpkin that grew so fast and so large he was able to use it to build a house for his bride. The chief appeal of the book will come from the beautifully poetic, almost singing quality of the prose that lends itself admirably to reading aloud. Unhappily the illustrations almost totally fail to do justice

to the story. A Slottie-Toy is included at the end, but is not bound into the book.

NR King, Robin and Billie. Just the Right Size.  
K-1 Dutton, 1957. 45p. \$2.25.

Tris was too small to keep up with his older brothers, to see over the tops of tables or counters, or to do any of the things he wanted to do. Then one day he discovered the insect world in the grass at the foot of a tree and realized that he was just the right size to enjoy these small creatures. The solution seems a bit mild to appeal to youngsters who are trying to compete with older brothers or sisters.

NR Krautter, Frances Corey. The Mystery of Devil's Canyon. Dodd, 1956. 175p. \$2.75.

A run-of-the-abandoned-mine western mystery, concerning two boys from Missouri, Don and Bill, who visit an Arizona ranch and help solve a murder and an old robbery. While the book does not have all of the objectionable features of its type, it does include more than enough to condemn it—a disguised F.B.I. agent, a mysterious hermit, Don's being left to die in the abandoned mine, a buried treasure, and Bill and the ranch manager's son outsmarting the sheriff. The characterizations are weak and the writing is mediocre.

R Kuskin, Karla. James and the Rain.  
K-2 Harper, 1957. 48p. \$3.

An accumulative tale, in rhyme, of a small boy who goes out in the rain one day and meets a succession of animals—1 cow, 2 ducks, 3 toads, etc.—each of which shares his joy in the rain, and joins the procession. In the end they all gather in front of the fire, sleeping cosily while the rain pours and the wind howls. There is a nice rhythm to the text and considerable humor to the illustrations.

R Lifton, Betty Jean. Joji and the Dragon;  
K-2 illus. by Eiichi Mitsui. Morrow, 1957. 69p. \$2.50.

Amusing story of a Japanese scarecrow, Joji, who made friends with the crows and won their promise not to eat the rice. When Joji was supplanted by a fierce dragon, the crows rallied round to help restore him to his rightful position. Mitsui's illustrations capture the humor and spirit of the story's action and setting.

M Lyon, Jessica. The Given Heart. Macrae, 7-9 1957. 199p. \$2.75.

Once again the author has taken a very real and fairly common problem of young people and dealt with it validly, although with no great depth of characterization and with a somewhat too facile

treatment of the problem. This time the problem involves adjustments of early marriage between a friendly, out-going personality (the wife) and a more withdrawn, intensely serious character (the husband). The situation is intensified when the two move from the small Midwest town where the wife had lived all her life to an industrial suburb in New Jersey, where she has no friends and has difficulty understanding the reticent nature of her new neighbors. The treatment is not mature enough for the book to have much to offer high school readers, and it is questionable how meaningful the problem will seem to the eleven-thirteen year olds who are the major consumers of these junior novels.

R McCloskey, Robert. Time of Wonder.  
3-5 Viking, 1957. 63p. \$3.50.

In a departure from his usual style of writing and of book illustration, McCloskey's latest offering is a kind of prose poem in full color. It is more a mood piece than a story, all of the action centering around the family's anticipation of an end-of-the-season hurricane, the storm itself, and the calm afterward when the family pack away their summer things and return to the city. The artist's people are less successfully portrayed in color than in the black-and-white of his earlier books, but his landscapes, which are really the most important part of the book, are wonderfully evocative of the beauty of the Maine coast and of the power of the storm. Although the format is that of a picture book, the major appeal will be for children older than the traditional picture-book age who can appreciate the rhythmic beauty of the language and the mood that is being portrayed. An excellent volume for home libraries where the entire family will find much to share and enjoy.

NR McCready, Thomas Leighton. Mr. Stubbs;  
K-2 illus. by Tasha Tudor. Ariel, 1956. 48p. \$2.50.

A coy story of a cat with a stub tail. Because of this affliction, or in spite of it, Mr. Stubbs is adopted into the Warner family and allowed to do whatever he wishes. The story lacks action and seems to be a rather pedestrian way of discussing the life of an eccentric cat. The illustrations are sentimentalized and static.

NR Mace, Katherine. A Tail Is a Tail;  
3-5 pictures by Abner Graboff. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 41p. \$2.50.

Slight text and highly stylized illustrations introduce the young child to the world of tails. The rhythm of the text is somewhat uneven, but has more child appeal than has the very adult humor of the illustrations.

- M** McEwen, Catherine Schaefer, comp. Away  
3-5 We Go!; 100 Poems for the Very Young;  
illus. by Barbara Cooney. Crowell,  
1956. 111p. \$2.50.

A collection of poems for the very young child, drawn from all the various experiences a young child has. No fanciful poems are included. Some of the poems reflect real insight but many are written in a run-of-the-mill pattern and lack any imagination or appeal.

- R** Machetanz, Sara. A Puppy Named Gih;  
3-5 illus. by Fred Machetanz. Scribner,  
1957. 32p. \$2.75.

Gih was not the largest but he was the liveliest puppy in his litter. In fact, he earned his name, which means "Go" from the fact that he was always starting off some place. When the puppies were old enough to be hitched to a sled, Gih was more interested in going ahead than in playing and so won the coveted place of lead dog. An appealing story of Alaskan sled dogs, pleasingly illustrated in soft colors.

- NR** Malvern, Gladys. There's Always Forever;  
7-9 decorations by Allan Thomas. Long-  
mans, 1957. 182p. \$2.75.

An overland trek in 1850 serves as a background for this poorly written, slightly melodramatic story, replete with false accusations, noble forgiveness and a thoroughly stereotyped Indian-white man relationship. Young Tom Willis has been accused of stealing from his employer in St. Louis. When he and his father started West he hoped to leave the stigma behind, but Dan Shannon, a weak, fear-ridden boy, took pains to tell the other members of the wagon train of Tom's supposed defection. Tom nobly saves the train several times; Dan is finally exposed as the criminal, and Tom and Dan's sister, Sabra, close the story in a strictly B-movie clinch.

- NR** Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Freddy;  
2-4 drawn by Vee Guthrie. Macmillan,  
1957. 86p. \$2.

Freddy is an unusual rabbit belonging to the Pirtle family. He was an Easter present and had been dyed with a new kind of dye that is permanent and changeable. The story takes Freddy through a series of episodes in the country as he learns to follow a scent the way a dog does and to kick the way a mule does. He becomes so obstreperous that his owners are in despair, but a tangle with a hawk convinces him that he prefers to be just a plain rabbit. As a final contribution he finds some buried money for a neighbor. Some of the episodes are quite hilarious, but the story is too drawn out and the humor is not

sustained throughout.

- M** Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Katie Kitten-  
3-5 heart; illus. by Charles Geer.  
Macmillan, 1957. 131p. \$2.50.

When her parents went out of the country, Katie Kattenhart (nicknamed Kittenheart) was sent to stay with her grandmother in Kentucky. There she enrolled in a small country school and by remembering always to pattern herself on her beloved teacher, Miss Aberdeen, proceeded to meet all emergencies calmly and efficiently. There are occasional flashes of humor to the story and some elements of suspense in the final episode in which Katie is left in sole charge of a primary class during a flood that isolates the school overnight. On the whole, however, Katie is just a bit too good to be true. The incident of a kitten that is trapped in a washing-machine is frightening.

- M** Meader, Stephen Warren. Everglades  
7-9 Adventure; illus. by Charles Beck.  
Harcourt, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

When the Morgan family moved to Fort Dallas, on the edge of the Florida Everglades, in 1870, sixteen-year-old Toby became immediately absorbed in exploring his new surroundings. In the course of his explorations he was wounded by an alligator, and was rescued by a Caloosa Indian boy, who became his friend. Later when Professor Evans, a naturalist and early photographer, came to the Everglades, Toby was not only able to help him find rare specimens of birds and reptiles, but also introduced him to the Caloosa Indian tribe. The setting of the story is quite interesting, but the ending, in which the Indians lead the white men to a long lost treasure trove, weakens the entire effect of the book, and there is, furthermore, an unfortunate tone of white superiority.

- Ad** Mirsky, Reba Paeff. Beethoven; illus. by  
4-6 W. T. Mars. Follett, 1957. 176p.  
\$3.45.

An adequate, although by no means outstanding, fictionalized biography of Beethoven. The author pictures him sympathetically and indicates some of the factors that most influenced his career and his personality, although she never quite succeeds in bringing him to life for the reader. The style is fairly simple, and the attractive format will give the book appeal where additional materials of this nature are wanted.

- Ad** Mitchell, Faye L. The Tide Always Turns;  
7-9 jacket and title-page by Richard Bennett.  
Doubleday, 1957. 215p. \$2.95.

This sequel to Pitch in His Hair is primarily concerned with the affairs of John, the older son of

Abbie and Jack Watson who were the main characters of the first book. John wants to become a farmer rather than to follow his father's career of lumberman. His father's opposition plus a series of set-backs in the lumbering business threaten to put an end to his plans for agricultural college, but he eventually wins his father's approval and help. An interesting study in conflicting interests, somewhat weakened by typed characterizations of the minor characters and a tendency toward the melodramatic.

NR Neurath, Marie. Exploring the Atom.  
5-7 Lothrop, 1957. 36p. \$2.

An attempt at a simplified explanation of the structure and nature of atoms and the effects of atomic reactions. The style of writing is much too difficult for young children to handle alone, and the author has added to the complexity of the material by referring throughout to electrons, neutrons and protons as green, white and red particles. Since no attempt has been made to simplify the language otherwise it is difficult to see why this erroneous and wholly confusing substitution of terms has been made. Readers who are advanced enough to handle the text will not be attracted by the manner of presentation.

Ad Ormsby, Virginia H. Twenty-one Children.  
K-1 Lippincott, 1957. 32p. \$2.25.

Twenty first grade children tell of the exciting things that happen during one week of school. One boy's dog comes to school, a girl's pocket-book is lost—and found, the bird escapes from its cage, and, on Thursday, a new girl joins the class. Her name is Emelina and she speaks only Spanish. The children teach her English words and she teaches them Spanish. A rather uninspired recital of the everyday activities of a class room, that will have its major usefulness as an easy reading book for beginning readers.

M Pace, Mildred (Mastin), et al. Three  
5-7 Great Horse Stories; complete and unabridged; illus. by Wesley Dennis and Ross Santee. Whittlesey House, 1957. 510p. \$4.95.

Three full length horse stories that were originally published as separates have been brought together in one volume. They are Old Bones, the Wonder Horse, by Pace; Mountain Pony and the Pinto Colt, by Larom, and Black Fury, by Cannam. The stories are of uneven and generally mediocre quality and the excessive size of the book gives it a forbidding look for readers who would normally be interested in the stories. The original volumes were reviewed as separates in the following issues of the BULLETIN: Old Bones

(Vol. IX, No. 6, Feb. 1956, p.70); Mountain Pony and the Pinto Colt (Vol. I, No. 3, Jan. 1948, p.3); Black Fury (Vol. IX, No. 10, June, 1956, p.109).

R Pardoe, M. Curtain of Mist. Funk and  
7-9 Wagnalls, 1957. 246p. \$2.95.

The three Macalister children are visiting their grandparents in Scotland. Walking in the mist, Martin meets a strangely dressed boy named Cymbel, who says he is the son of a king. Later, all the Macalisters and their tutor meet Cymbel. Again a mist rises and the familiar country about them disappears. Cymbel is indeed the son of a king in Celtic Britain and they have been transported to the same spot in pre-history. Travelling through the country, they have a series of adventures; when, at last, they are returned to their own day, they find that time has stood still. The fantasy is well done and the picture of Celtic culture quite informative. The unlikely synthesis of informational material, time travel and telepathy is made convincingly real by smooth writing and, as indicated by the bibliography and glossary, authenticated details.

M Payne, Pierre Stephen Robert. The Splendor  
8-10 of Persia; illus. with line decorations by Leonard Everett Fisher and with photographs. Knopf, 1957. 232p. \$3.50.

A history of Persia from earliest to modern times. The material is interesting but its manner of presentation will be confusing for most readers who are not already acquainted with the area being discussed. There is no map, and aside from one brief reference at the beginning to modern Iran there is nothing to help the uninitiated reader relate what he is reading to names of places that are prominent in today's news.

R Quennell, Marjorie (Courtney) and C. H. B.  
7-9 Everyday Life in the Old Stone Age.  
Putnam, 1956. 116p. \$2.50.

The first volume of a series first published in 1924. The new edition apparently has only minor changes in the text, and a few additional illustrations. While the series is very well-written and well-illustrated, and should be enjoyed by those interested in archaeology and history, its format unfortunately makes it look like a set of rather dull text-books. In this volume, the authors discuss the science of archaeology itself and trace man's development through descriptions of prehistoric men (Neanderthal, Rhodesian, etc.) and their cultures. The comparisons drawn between prehistoric cultures and the Stone Age cultures of today are especially interesting and informative.

R Quennell, Marjorie (Courtney) and C. H. B.

- 7-9 Everyday Life in the New Stone, Bronze & Early Iron Ages. Putnam, 1956. 120p. \$2.50.

This second volume of the set covers the period which lasted in Britain from about 3000 B. C. to just before the Roman invasion. Very little information on cultures and civilizations of other areas is given, except as they affected the British peoples. Within its limited range, however, the book contains a great deal of interesting and thoughtfully presented information on dwellings, weapons and tools, clothing, arts, etc. In addition, the authors give a good picture of the attitudes and capabilities of the man of that time, as interpreted through their handiwork.

- R 7-9 Quennell, Marjorie (Courtney) and C. H. B. Everyday Life in Roman Britain. Putnam, 1956. 128p. \$2.50.

As in the second volume, the emphasis in this book is on England, but it will still be of general interest. It presents a good picture of the impact of an advanced civilization on a crude culture, and of the dying out of civilization under barbarian attack. The text is built around the excavation of the old Roman city of Silchester in England, and there is a great deal of information about Roman building, costume, social customs and so on, which will be especially useful in Latin classes, as well as descriptions of the life of the native Britons. Material has been added in this edition concerning the use of air photography in archaeology. This is the only volume of the four that is marred by excessive Britishness—though the now outdated pride in the British Empire of thirty years ago is an interesting parallel to the author's comments on the transience of the Roman Empire.

- R 7-9 Quennell, Marjorie (Courtney) and C. H. B. Everyday Life in Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman Times. Putnam, 1956. 116p. \$2.50.

Now well into historical times in England, the authors make extensive use of contemporary writings, such as those of the Venerable Bede and the Norse poets, in showing how people lived during the dark ages. While this book is just as well-written and illustrated as the other volumes in the series, it will probably hold less interest for most American readers. There is much interesting information on life and attitudes of the times, but it is almost obscured by the many references to details of English history and of English historical sites that will have limited significance to the average reader in this country.

- SpR Rand, Ann and Paul. Sparkle and Spin;

- K-3 A Book about Words. Harcourt, 1957. 42p. \$2.95.

In bold colors and quite sophisticated designs the authors try to picture for the young child what words are and what they can mean for him as an aid to communication. Both concrete and abstract words are introduced, the abstract for the most part dealing with feelings and relationships that will be meaningful for a child. The book is not one that a child can enjoy alone and will need considerable adult help to make the text meaningful. It can, however, serve to give a child a beginning awareness of words and their power. Unfortunately the first sentence in the book is of such awkward construction as to prove a stumbling block for children and adults alike.

- R K-2 Rey, Hans Augusto. Curious George Gets a Medal. Houghton, 1957. 48p. \$3.25. George, the light-hearted monkey whose curiosity has taken him through humorous adventures, is once more on his hilarious way. This time he starts with spilled ink and ends with a flight into space. The story will have a timely appeal for space-minded youngsters, and George is even funnier than usual in the pictures showing him clad as a spaceman.

- R 5-9 Ripley, Elizabeth (Blake). Rubens; with drawings and paintings by Rubens. Oxford, 1957. 71p. \$3.

Using the same pattern which has made her earlier biographies of famous painters so successful, the author presented, in brief text and full-page reproductions, a sketch of Rubens as man and artist. The organization is chronological, with the reproductions chosen either because they were painted at the time of the events being described or because they picture those events. The text is interestingly written, and the reproductions, all in black and white, are quite well done.

- R 4-6 Ripper, Charles L. Moles and Shrews. Morrow, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

A fairly simple introduction to the different varieties of moles and shrews that are to be found in this country. The text describes food habits, location, anatomy and advantages and disadvantages to mankind of each animal. Descriptions in the text are supplemented by excellent black-and-white drawings that are especially useful for showing relative sizes and anatomical structure. The lack of chapter divisions, sub-headings or an index will limit the book's value for younger readers or as reference material.

- R Ritchie, Rita. The Year of the Horse;

7-9 illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund.  
Dutton, 1957. 191p. \$3.  
An absorbing adventure story set in the Gobi desert in the year 1211—The Year of the Horse. The plot is a familiar one—a boy's efforts to clear the name of his father who has been wrongly accused of treason against his leader, Genghis Khan, but the setting and the handling of characterizations have a freshness and vigor to give the story appeal. The writing is well-paced and there is enough suspense to hold the reader's interest throughout.

M Riwkin-Brick, Anna, illus. Eva Visits  
1-3 Noriko-San. Macmillan, 1957. 48p.  
\$2.50.

Slight story quite obviously contrived to fit a series of photographs. Eva, a five-year-old Swedish girl, flies alone to Japan to visit some friends of her mother. The photographs show the Japanese girl Noriko-San as she prepares for Eva's visit, and the two children together as they become acquainted and even swap clothes. The text is unfortunate in its references to Japanese clothes as "funny" and the photographs are limited in that they show only traditional Japanese styles with no indication given in pictures or text that modern Japanese wear Western styles as well. The writing is quite pedestrian and the only value of the book comes from its excellent, although posed photographs.

NR Rowe, Viola Carson. A Way with Boys;  
7-9 decorations by Millard McGee.  
Longmans, 1957. 182p. \$2.75.

Barbara Gilbert has suggested that a summer colony be started on some lakeside property belonging to her grandparents. There is no real plot, merely a succession of incidents; Barbara devotes most of her time to being susceptible to all the males in her life and fretting about which one she prefers. None of the characters is drawn with depth or conviction.

M Scherman, Katharine. Catherine the  
8-10 Great; illus. by Pranas Lapé.  
Random House, 1957. 184p. (World  
Landmark Books) \$1.95.

With so colorful a subject, reader interest will probably be maintained despite mediocrity of writing. The improvisation of florid detail encumbers rather than enhances the biography of an idealized Catherine. There are questionable omissions: there is no mention made of Paul's first wife, and Paul is presented as Catherine's only child. While it is not imperative that a young reader be informed of all the lurid details in the life of the Empress,

it is perhaps not accurate to say of a woman whose extravagance and susceptibility are matters of historical record, "Only one thing she would not tolerate—that was scandal. The moral tone of her court was high."

NR Scott, Jim. County Fair Colt. Coward-  
6-8 McCann, 1957. 255p. \$3.  
Ted Dawson wants to quit high school to become a jockey. His mother objects to such a dangerous career and his teacher objects because he is good at math and should continue his education. Both are depicted as rather foolish creatures. Both are persuaded with suspicious ease to give permission; there is no suggestion that any adult objects to a race-track environment. In the usual quick-success formula, Ted wins his second big race, the Santa Anita Derby. There is complacent mention of betting results. Slang and trite phrases abound; the people in the book are painfully Quaint Characters.

Ad Seuss, Dr. How the Grinch Stole  
K-2 Christmas. Random House, 1957.  
58p. \$2.50.

The Grinch lived on a mountain where it was able to ignore the people of the valley except at Christmas time when it had to endure the sound of their singing. One year it decided to steal all the presents so there would be no Christmas, but much to its amazement discovered that people did not need presents to enjoy Christmas. It thereupon reformed, returned the presents and joined in the festivities. The story has somewhat less of the spontaneous humor of other Seuss books. The theme is the same as that of McGinley's Year without a Santa Claus (Lippincott, 1957) but is less effectively handled.

NR Shapiro, Irwin. Circus Boy; pictures by  
K-2 Joan Walsh Anglund. Simon and  
Schuster, 1957. 24p. (A Little  
Golden Book) \$1.12.

A brief and highly improbable story of a small boy, who is attached in unexplained fashion to a circus. Corky's goal is a role in the circus performance; he attains the goal as the result of a newspaper story about the backyard act he and a baby elephant have given for some sick children. There are ten children in one family, all suffering from measles, none of whom expresses surprise at seeing an elephant in his backyard. Illustrations are "cute," garish, and out of proportion.

SpC Silverman, William B. The Still Small  
9- Voice Today. Behrman, 1957. 311p.  
An examination of the sacred institutions of Judaism and of ethical teachings for young people. Each section of the book begins with

an informal class discussion of some aspect of applied ethics and is followed by illustrative quotations, suggestions for further study, and separate reading lists for pupils and teacher. The textual approach precludes other uses than in religious education classes.

NR Simister, Florence Parker. The Pewter Plate; illus. by Lloyd Coe. Hastings House, 1957. 157p. \$2.75.

A very run-of-the-mill story of the Revolutionary War in Rhode Island. Ten-year-old Hannah Williams refuses to give up her prized pewter plate when pewter is requested for making bullets and her conscience bothers her until the plate helps to save her brother's life. There is a British spy thrown in for good measure, but he is wholly unbelievable.

R Slobodkin, Louis. Melvin the Moose Child. Macmillan, 1957. 36p. \$2.50. Melvin lived in the south woods because his father could not stand the cold of the north. One day Melvin asked his mother to let him go north to find another moose child with whom to play. On the way he was joined by a beaver child, a bear child and a deer child. The three had fun all day but were frightened by an owl at night and returned to their mothers. Told and pictured in Slobodkin's own inimitable style, this is a book to bring chuckles to children and adults alike.

NR Smith, William Jay. Boy Blue's Book of Beasts; illus. by Juliet Kepes. Little, 1957. 59p. \$2.75.

Thirty-nine poems about animals, real and imaginary, that Boy Blue supposedly has in his menagerie. There is a nice touch of humor and imagination to a few of the poems; others strain for effects. One of the poems is based on an Aesop Fable (although this is nowhere acknowledged) and several are reminiscent of the work of other children's poets.

R Sprague, Rosemary. Conquerors of Time. 8-10 Oxford, 1957. 211p. \$3.50.

Eighteenth century London provides a colorful setting for this story of a young boy of wealthy background whose father is caught in the South Sea Bubble swindle. Young Reg Hill, who had never given serious thought to the work of handling his father's farm lands, is forced to go to London to work as an apprentice to a clockmaker when his father is sent to debtor's prison. While in London Reg has an opportunity to work in the shop in which the first musical clock, for which Handel composed the music, was made, and he also locates the man who had swindled his father and is able to clear his

father's name. An absorbing story, with well-drawn characters, a fast-paced plot and a real feeling for the period and the setting.

R Sterne, Emma (Gelders). Mary McLeod Bethune; illus. by Raymond Lufkin. Knopf, 1957. 274p. \$3.50.

Absorbing, sensitively written biography of a great Negro leader. Mrs. Bethune's background as the child of poor, but ambitious parents living on a farm in an isolated, depleted area of the South, helped her in later years to understand the problems and needs of other Negro young people growing up in similar surroundings. Through her untiring efforts to win adequate educational facilities for the Negroes of the South she earned the respect and admiration of many people, Negro and white alike, and the Bethune-Cookman College stands as a fitting monument to her memory. The author writes objectively, but with sympathetic understanding of Mrs. Bethune and her work.

Ad Sutton, Margaret. Palace Wagon Family; A True Story of the Donner Party; illus. by Mary Stevens. Knopf, 1957. 210p. \$3.

A fictionalized account, based in large part on actual diaries and letters, of the disastrous Donner party trek to California. The story is told from the point of view of Virginia Reed, who with her family, was one of the few survivors of the trip. The author has managed to convey a sense of the extremity and grimness of the hardships suffered by the members of the party, without undue emphasis on the more gruesome side of the experiences. The writing is of very average quality but will suffice where there is need for material on this historical event.

R Tallant, Robert. Evangeline and the Acadians; illus. by Corinne Boyd Dillon. Random House, 1957. 183p. (Landmark Books) \$1.95.

Although a somewhat misleading title, in that the legend of Evangeline is touched on very lightly, this is, nonetheless, an absorbing account of the history of the Acadians. The story begins with the first settlement of Nova Scotia, traces the growing antagonism between the French settlers and the British after the latter had gained control of the island and the dispersal of the French throughout the United States, France and England, and describes their final regathering in what is now Louisiana. The sources which Longfellow may have used as a basis for his poem are mentioned and the book should make interesting supplementary reading for classes that are studying "Evangeline."