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## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- 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.

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## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Ad Adams, Samuel Hopkins. Chingo Smith of the Erie Canal; illus. by Leonard  
5-8 Vosburgh. Random House, 1958. 276p. \$2.95.

The building of the Erie Canal, as seen through the experiences of Chingo Smith, a waif who grew up to be a canal boat captain. The first boat to provide sleeping accommodations for travellers was built in part because of Chingo's inventiveness. The story is well-paced and has enough of the rough and tumble aspects of life during the period and at the locale to give added interest.

R Ames, Gerald and Rose Wyler. First Days of the World; pictures by Leonard  
3-5 Weisgard. Harper, 1958. 48p. \$2.95.

A scientific explanation of the formation of the solar system, and of the beginnings of atmosphere and ocean on our planet. The descriptions of the first living things and of the increasing complexity of life forms are given with simplicity and clarity. The geologic changes through the ages, and the survival of all the varied forms of plant and animal life that existed in the pre-history of the world are explained with accuracy and with a sense of wonder that is strengthened by the dramatic force of the illustrations.

R Ames, Gerald and Rose Wyler. The First People in the World; pictures by  
3-5 Leonard Weisgard. Harper, 1958. 48p. \$2.95.

A companion volume to First Days of the World. First we meet some of the mammals that had developed new characteristics such as the opposable thumb and the long gestation period that is associated with a well-developed brain. These were the kinds of changes that made possible the living habits and the survival pattern of the first men. With the evolution of speech, men could communicate. They could exchange tools, and methods of hunting or planting could be adapted from one group to the next. So civilization began, each generation absorbing the knowledge of those who had lived before. Text and illustrations are less dramatic in this volume since the subject itself is less

Ad Angelo, Valenti. The Acorn Tree. Viking, 1958. 39p. \$2.50.

1-3

A bluejay finds a large oak tree that bears a heavy crop of acorns, and tries to keep other birds and animals away from "his" tree. Failing to do so, he hunts for another hiding place, but can keep none a secret. At last he finds a hole in the oak tree itself. Here he drops acorns and more acorns: the hole never fills up, and he wearily goes to sleep. Next morning he realizes that all the acorns have dropped through the hole to the bottom of the tree, where all the other acorn-eaters are having a feast. Bluejay joins them: he decides that there are enough acorns for all—but after this, the others can gather their own. A realistic lesson in sharing and compromise, marred by a weak ending, and a good picture of the querulous bluejay. Illustrations are repetitive but attractive.

NR Arestein, Jean. How To Draw People and Animals. Sterling, 1958. 128p.

9-12 \$2.50.

May be used with high school students who want to use action figures in cartoons, etc. There is no easy way to learn to draw creatively and this book does not appear to have many virtues beyond providing a series of humorous or stylized figures to copy.

M Barnum, Jay Hyde. Motorcycle Dog. Morrow, 1958. 48p. \$2.50.

3-5

Tex is a stunt motorcycle rider in a traveling show. One night he adopts a stray dog and teaches it a trick that accidentally becomes a part of his performance and revives the flagging interest of the crowd. A well-worn plot that may have some appeal because of the unusual background. The type size seems to indicate a book for beginning readers, but the difficulty of the vocabulary and the rather confusing arrangement of text on two of the pages may discourage young readers.

Ad Bischof, George P. and Eunice F. Sun, Earth, and Man; illus. with drawings by Jere Donovan and with photographs. Harcourt, 1957. 118p. \$2.75.

It is somewhat difficult to know just how this book would be used, there is such a wide variety of subjects introduced, and such scanty treatment of each one. Probably its greatest value would be for conservation classes, since that subject seems to have the greatest coverage. Not an essential book, although it may fill a need in some libraries where great quantities of such materials are used.

R Borski, Lucia Merecka and Kate B. Miller, tr. The Jolly Tailor, and Other Fairy Tales; tr. from the Polish; illus. by Kazimir Klephacki. Longmans,

1957. 158p. \$2.75.

A re-issue, this was first published in 1928, and has been out of print for some time. The ten fairy tales have the true universality and high moral precepts of all fairy tales. There are the two beautiful sisters, one of whom chooses the peasant (a king in disguise) while the more mercenary sister is punished. There is a frog who turns into a woman when she is loved. One of the most enjoyable tales is that of Mr. Nitechka, a tailor, who won the hand of a princess when he stopped a prolonged rain by sewing up a large tear in the sky. Good storytelling material.

R Bradley, Duane. Cappy and the Jet Engine; pictures by Alice Cosgrove. Lip-  
2-4 pincott, 1957. 141p. \$2.95.

A most successful presentation of information about physical laws set in a fictional framework. There is no plot other than the endeavors of two small boys to learn about science under the guidance of the father of one boy, but the framework enables the author to use the informal conversational approach. Very simple experiments that illustrate Newton's Laws of Motion are tried by Cappy and Timmy. Diagrams are very clear. The translation of polysyllabic scientific terminology into simple language may serve to encourage the child to understand the reasons for using long words for stating a principle even when the longer words are more difficult to understand. Also of value is the lesson that the jet engine is based on principles used in all types of motors.

R Bradley, Duane. Engineers Did It!; illus. by Anne Marie Jauss. Lippincott,  
5-7 1958. 121p. \$2.95.

A simple but lively account of some of the great achievements in the history of the engineering profession. Incorporated into the descriptions of individual structures are some of the basic principles and machines used in engineering everywhere. The constructions are related to the background story in informal and informative style. The feats of engineering construction listed are the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Diana, the roads and aqueducts of Rome, Caesar's military bridge, the architectural features of church and cathedral, the Eddystone light, the London tunnel, the trans-Atlantic cable and the Brooklyn bridge.

R Brown, Palmer. Something for Christmas. Harper, 1958. 32p. \$1.95.  
3-5 yrs.

A slight but engaging book about a little mouse who wanted to make a Christmas present for someone he loved. His mother convinces him that no other gift is as welcome as love. The little mouse climbs on his mother's lap to confess that it was mother he had been thinking of; mother tells him his gift is just what she wanted. The ingenuous simplicity of text and illustrations will probably appeal to the adult who reads the book aloud to small children as well as it does to the listeners.

R Brown, Vinson. How to Understand Animal Talk; with illus. by William D.  
6-8 Berry. Little, 1958. 205p. \$2.75.

Title is misleading: the author describes, not animal sounds only, but the various other methods that are used for communication as well: scent-spots, tree marks, signals by body motions or flight patterns. The categories used in the book are domestic animals, carnivores, herbivores, wild birds, insects, and the inclusive chapter on reptiles, fish, and amphibians. A pleasantly written and informative book, although some of the description is a mingling of fact and Mr. Brown's interpretation of fact. The amount of information given about each animal varies in rather random fashion.

M Buehr, Walter. Cargoes in the Sky. Putnam, 1958. 52p. \$2.75.  
4-6

A book about air freight, the first section of which is a history of the development of air cargo service in the past half century. The special advantages of air freight are stressed. The kind of freight cargo carried is discussed next, and this is followed by a report on air cargoes during the second world war. In rather poorly organized style, included in this last report is a brief section on the future of air freight. The final section is quite separate: a series of fifteen drawings of airplanes, listing for each the statistics, such as range, cargo, altitude, speed, payload, etc. The listings are not always in the same order, and the information given about each plane varies.

Ad Burchard, Peter. The Carol Moran. Macmillan, 1958. 40p. \$3.

1-3

On his grandfather's last day of work, Chip goes along on a visit to the tugboat, the Carol Moran. The introduction of the slight framework of a plot—and the dialogue attendant upon it—neither adds to nor detracts from a book about ships and boats. Illustrations are colorful, those of the Queen Mary giving a vivid impression of the awesome size, and all will probably be enjoyed by young boat lovers.

M Calhoun, Mary Huiskamp. River-Minded Boy; illus. by William R. Lohse.

4-6 Morrow, 1958. 157p. \$2.75.

The story of a young boy who dreams of someday piloting a towboat on the Mississippi River, but who first must prove himself mature enough to accept responsibility and to use his head in an emergency. Working on a towboat, Ron finds that most of the crew suspect him because he is the owner's nephew. He gets into trouble, is put off the boat to care for another boy, Buck, who has a broken leg, and rescues Buck from a deserted house when they are marooned in a flood. The setting is interesting, but the characterizations and plot are too typed and predictable to offer much to young readers.

Ad Cavanna, Betty. Stars in Her Eyes. Morrow, 1958. 256p. \$2.95.

8-10

The trouble with Maggie Page was that her father was a well-known television star, and Maggie wanted to shine by her own light. She had had an upsetting experience as a child that made her shy of an audience, contributing to her insecurity. A summer as a waitress helps Maggie feel independent, and a spot on her father's show then reveals that she is not ready to perform, so she convinces her parents to send her to Paris to study for a year. Maggie learns quite a bit about herself and about other people with time and distance to help her perspective; she returns to her family and another public appearance with new confidence. The sensitivity of the author to relationships among young people gives depth to a book in which the plot is rather worn. Some of the shorter episodes in the book compensate for the worn story line: Maggie's handling of a boy who mauls her in a taxicab and, in Paris, her happy, poignant love for a French boy she knows she will not see again.

R Chase, Mary (Coyle). Loretta Mason Potts; pictures by Harold Berson. Lippincott, 1958. 221p. \$3.50.

Fantasy written with a deft hand. Colin Mason learns that he has an older sister. Spying on his mother when she visits Loretta, he finds that Loretta is coming home to join the family very much against her will. Some magic spell seems to tie her to the Hill where she has been living. One by one Colin and his younger brother and sisters are enthralled by the same magic, until their lives are endangered by the people of the Hill's other world. They are saved by human love and courage. The adults, real and fantastic, are portrayed with discernment; the children with humor and understanding; family relationships are especially good. The style of writing is light, but pithy, and the story line is drawn with craftsmanship.

NR Colman, Hila. A Crown for Gina. Morrow, 1958. 221p. \$2.95.

7-9

Gina Brookes is impressed by her brother Ricky's college—an exclusive Ivy League institution—even though she resents the fact that the expense prohibits her going to school too. However, during her senior year in high school, she meets an interesting young man, blossoms out as a star pupil in a local art class, and, after an unpleasant date with Ricky's socialite room-mate, learns not to judge by outward appearances. The moral of the story is considerably weakened by the fact that the young man Gina comes to love for his character and charm just happens to be quite wealthy. The characterizations are shallow and rather unrealistic. For example, Gina and her young aunt are depicted as being quite close, but it seems to be stretching family affection a little far when Gina is invited to spend the winter in New York with her newly-married aunt, art school tuition to be paid for by the new uncle.

NR DeLeeuw, Adele Louise and Cateau. The Strange Garden; illus. by Meg Wohlberg. Little, 1958. 90p. \$3.

Amanda, the Manx cat, is abandoned by her owner as they ride through a small town. Mandy, used to a city apartment, has many new experiences with the creatures she meets in the garden. By her bravery she wins the rabbits and robins as friends—by warding off enemies who threaten their babies. Mandy is adopted by the people of the house that goes with the garden and is very happy in her new home. All the animals understand and speak the same language, and to them all are attributed mental processes which are distinctly human. Pedestrian writing and very meagre plot. Mandy has, like the heroine of a teen-age romance, success in her every effort.

M de Leeuw, Hendrik. Java Jungle Tales; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Arco, 1957. 4-6 304p. \$2.50.

First published in 1933 by Doubleday, this is a combination of travel book and folklore collection. Information about the country is given as visits to various regions are described, and the author uses the device of having one or another of the natives he meets on his travels tell the tales. In the stories about the animals of the Javanese jungle, the hero is usually the small and clever mouse-deer. The book is marred by two faults: the artificial way in which the tellers of tales are introduced into the book, and the more serious flaw of pronounced condescension toward non-white people. The folk tales are interesting and could well be used by adults for story-telling.

R Dow, Emily R. Brooms, Buttons and Beaux; A World of Facts for Girls in Their Teens. Barrows, 1957. 189p. \$2.95.

A practical reference book for teen-age girls. The index does not make all the material accessible, but this is compensated for by the topical treatment. Information is given in brief and brisk how-to-do-it style. Topics included are home help and home nursing, child care, cooking, sewing, entertaining, plant care, craft work, etiquette, grooming, and some simple rules of health and hygiene. The advice given is, in some instances, simplified and there is no comprehensive coverage in any area, but for quick help the book is dependable and easy to use.

R Duvall, Evelyn Ruth (Millis). The Art of Dating; with the collaboration of Joy Duvall Johnson. Association Press, 1958. 254p. \$2.50.

A handbook on dating, from the initial necessity for "overcoming shyness" to "getting ready for marriage." The authors use data from sociological studies to show the function which dating serves in our society and to give an idea of what dating practices actually are, as well as offering advice on some of the problems of boy-girl relationships. The presentation is comprehensive and sound, presenting each topic from the view of both sexes and often of parents too. The book is well suited to group use.

Ad Ets, Marie Hall. Cow's Party. Viking, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.

3-5

yrs.

When the bluejay heard the cow wish she had company, he suggested that she give a party. He himself invited all the farm animals, but he didn't think they would stay. After the games were over, all the animals that did not eat grass departed, but the horse, the goat and the lamb stayed with the cow. They stayed all summer and ate grass with her, and the bluejay decided that these animals had a rather pleasant life, at that: perhaps he was wrong to have laughed. There is little substance to the book, but it is, in both text and illustrations, relaxed, amiable, and simple; a pleasant variation on animal books for the very young.

R Frank, R. Ice Island; The Story of Antarctica; illus. with photographs. Crow-7-10 ell, 1957. 218p. \$3.50.

While the style of writing is rather heavy, the interesting history that is covered and the competent and thorough reporting will hold reader interest. The impressive and dramatic assaults upon the icy and unknown continent are told, as explorers from the eighteenth century to today investigated Antarctica. The expeditions of Cook, Wilkes, Ross, Scott, Amundsen, Byrd and others are described, and many of their findings mapped. Some description is given of the proposed projects of the International Geophysical Year, still in progress when the book was published.

M Gallant, Kathryn. Jonathan Plays with the Wind. Coward-McCann, 1958. 15p. 3-5 \$2.

yrs.

Jonathan sees the wind playing with the leaves and with the clothes on the clothes-line. He asks the wind to play with him, please. Each adult who hears him says, "The wind never plays with little boys." When Jonathan's big brother comes home with a kite, the wind tugs at the kite and the small boy is happy to have the wind play with him. A slight story in which it is disappointing that all the grown people seem to discourage imaginative play.

SpC Gilbert, Arthur and Oscar Tarcov. Your Neighbor Celebrates; book design by 5-10 Ezekiel Schloss. Friendly House, 1957. 119p. \$2.50.

A liberally-illustrated discussion of Jewish holidays and the Jewish synagogue, adapted from two pamphlets prepared by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. This information is supplemented by a short section of explanatory notes and a glossary of Hebrew words. It is most unfortunate that more basic information on the Jewish faith has not been included; as it stands, the book consists of two disjointed halves, with the most specialized information, that on holidays, presented first. As a result, the book can not be used alone as introduction of Judaism to non-Jewish children, even though the glossary and notes fill in the gaps in the main text to a certain extent. Used in religious education classes by a teacher, especially in conjunction with books such as Fitch's One God (Lothrop, 1944) and Smith's The Tree of Life (Viking, 1946), the book should be useful in spite of its occasional superficiality.

Ad Goodspeed, J. M. Let's Go to a Garage; illus. by Ruth Van Sciver. Putnam, 2-4 1958. 48p. \$1.95.

Informative and easy material about a service familiar to most children. How the mechanic checks a car, makes minor repairs and takes care of water, gas and oil are explained and illustrated. Some of the less familiar activities that go on in a garage or service station will probably be of more interest: checking a cold patch (of less interest than it might have been before the invention of tubeless tires) or operating the lubrication rack. Some of the illustrations are merely ornamental, and the glossary consists of approximately a dozen terms that have already been explained in the text.

Ad Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Wild Dogs!; illus. by Garry MacKenzie.  
2-4 Scribner, 1958. 94p. \$2.50.

The habits and behavior of the red fox are told in this story about one fox family. The author writes with simplicity and sympathy, as in the other books in this series. There is little information given about other wild dogs than the red fox. Since the fennec fox, as an example, is a desert dweller with a quite different environment, the fact that it is accorded only two sentences in the text is an indication that the book is not really about the whole family of wild dogs. Very brief attention is given to wolves and coyotes.

Ad Harris, Louise Dyer and Norman Dyer. Little Red Newt; illus. by Henry Bug-  
3-5 bee Kane. Little, 1958. 57p. \$2.75.

In simple yet lively style, the story of a red newt is told. In part the description is given through the eyes of the children in whose classroom is a terrarium housing a small newt; in part the story is told in a flashback technique. The stages of the life cycle of this small amphibian are thus told very vividly. Some information about other forms of pond life is given, and a merit of the book is the way in which the teacher and children together care for the newt and eventually return him to his mossy home.

M Hawkins, Quail. The Aunt-Sitter; pictures by Brinton Turkle. Holiday House,  
2-4 1958. 34p. \$2.50.

Sally thought she was old enough to take care of herself and her younger brother while Mother went to the P.T.A. meeting. Mother was relieved when Aunt Dorothy, their overnight guest, volunteered to stay with the children. Aunt Dorothy put too much coal in the furnace and Sally had to call the fire department; Aunt Dorothy was allergic to cats and Sally removed the cat and her three newborn kittens from her aunt's fur hat; Aunt Dorothy couldn't stand the sight of blood, so Sally took care of her brother's nosebleed. When Mother returned, she admitted that Sally was certainly old enough to take care of herself after aunt-sitting. Sally is resourceful, but not impossibly so. Not an outstanding story, but an amusing account of the small crises of family life.

R Hayes, Florence (Sooy). The Good Luck Feather; illus. by Harve Stein.  
5-7 Houghton, 1958. 204p. \$2.75.

Cheedah is a modern Navaho boy who gets his fondest wish when he is allowed to attend the month-long school for shepherd boys. The many new experiences he faces in this first contact with the white man's world are told with humor and also with a sympathetic understanding that bring Cheedah to life as a very real and likable boy. There is not much action to the story, but it will help to foster better understanding of modern American Indians.

Ad Hogben, Lancelot Thomas. Wonderful World of Energy. Garden City Books,  
7-10 1957. 69p. \$2.95.

A history of mankind's use of power, from the early use of muscle power and simple machines to the increasingly complex and diversified sources of the present. An interesting aspect of the book is the repeated reference to a need that existed for improvement, and the ways in which, in response to the need, scientists and other men worked in complementary fashion to discover new facts and to apply them to new technical achievements. Among the topics discussed are physical laws, heat energy, principles of electricity, atomic energy and radiation. Myriad examples of the ways in which these sources of energy have been applied are given. The illustrations are plentiful and attractive; many are illuminating, but others are complicated and not clarified by the captions. No index is appended, and the six content areas are large and inclusive. Although, like others in the series, the book is oversize and the print

large, the text is often much too difficult for the cursory treatment given to rather advanced subject matter.

Ad Hoke, Helen L. The First Book of Tropical Mammals; pictures by Helene Carter. Watts, 1958. 63p. \$1.95.

Brief descriptions of mammals that live in four geographical areas along the equatorial belt: in South America, Africa, India and Ceylon, and Malaysia. Illustrations of animals and of tropical foliage are good, although in a few instances the animal faces are so humanoid as to seem caricatures. The amount of information given about each animal is scanty, but some of the animals are seldom included elsewhere. More useful as supplementary material than as a primary source, and suited by the brevity and variety of treatment for casual reading.

NR Houston, Joan. Horse Show Hurdles; illus. by Paul Brown. Crowell, 1958. 5-7 243p. \$3.

Tam Wade was worried. The new stables were getting all the customers, and Wilby's, where she kept her horse, was struggling. When the new business added a French riding master and a horse show, Tam's uncle insisted that she enroll. Frank Wilby and his helper were resentful, not realizing that Tam had changed unwillingly. Eventually everybody realized that the new man was an unprincipled scoundrel. The riding master eloped with Wilby's sister; the owner of a nearby camp decided to rent all her horses from Wilby's stable after all. Stereotyped characters, ignoring of other facets of life than riding, and a too-pat ending make the book of little value.

M Ivens, Dorothy. The Upside-Down Boy. Viking, 1958. 40p. \$2.25.  
K-2

One night John saw three-toed footprints on the ceiling, so he stayed up the next night, and that was how he met the upside-down boy. They became good friends, and the boy helped John in many ways, such as getting dressed quickly. He was not visible to anybody but John, so when the two boys together caught a large fish, John got all the credit. When his sister Cathie took a picture of John and his catch, only John could see that the upside-down boy was in the picture too. Illustrations are pleasant and children will probably enjoy turning them upside-down to see the invisible boy right-side up. The story is not very original and is written in a bland and colorless style.

NR Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Silver Dawn. Morrow, 1958. 80p. \$2.50.  
3-5

Mediocre story based on the "Black Beauty" theme. Silver Dawn is a champion jumper whose owner is forced to sell her. She goes through a series of mis-adventures—with a circus and in a riding stable—before being re-united with her original owner. Uninspired style that is not as easy as the large size print would seem to indicate.

R Jones, Ruth Fosdick. Escape to Freedom; illus. by Dorothy Bayley Morse. 5-7 Random House, 1958. 236p. \$2.95.

Timothy finds out that there is a reason for all the mysterious comings and goings of his parents: they are running a station on the Underground Railway. It is agreed that Tim is reliable enough to keep the secret and to help. Tim comes to realize how his law-abiding father can bring himself to break the fugitive slave laws when he hears the stories of some of the slaves on their way to Canada. The boy participates in a daring plan to escort one young Negro woman across the river to Canada. The quiet co-operation of many citizens of the town in giving aid to the active operators of the stations is brought out, and the author has kept within the bounds of credibility, letting the drama of the Underground Railway speak for itself. A strength of the book is the absence of high moral statements about slavery: the whole book is im-

PLICITLY such a statement, and the message is thereby the more effectively conveyed.

Ad Kahl, Virginia. Droopsi. Scribner, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.

K-2

A happy reversal of the theme of local boy makes good. Droopsi, a boy in a large Bavarian family, has been practicing on the concertina owned by Herr Helmut, the artist of the village. When a contest is scheduled between Herr Helmut and the champion of the village that is the perennial rival of Pfeffernussenhofen (Droopsi's town), the whole population turns out. Herr Helmut is injured and can't compete; Droopsi offers to play, but his family knows how badly he does so and says "No." But there is nobody else. Droopsi plays, and he's terrible; when the rival plays, his concertina pinches the tail of Droopsi's cat, and he's worse. There is, unfortunately, no illustration of the incident, and the reader may wonder how or why the cat stayed to have its tail caught more than once. The villagers award the prize to the cat and go right on arguing about the contest. The story is amusing nonsense, the illustrations delightfully individual.

R Kingman, Lee. Flivver, the Heroic Horse; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Doubleday, 2-4 1958. 76p. \$2.50.

The story of Snuggler's Cove, a fishing town that had been ruined when its harbor was blocked by a derelict barge. When the inheritor of the barge appears, he meets with hostility. The whole situation is saved by his horse, Flivver, who talks—but only to his owner. A model of discretion, Flivver uses tact and imagination and eventually helps his owner solve the problem. They turn the town into a resort for artists; prosperity smiles; and all are content. Blegvad's illustrations complement to perfection the innocent insanity of the text.

R Latham, Jean Lee. On Stage, Mr. Jefferson!; pictures by Edward Shenton. 7-9 Harper, 1958. 266p. \$2.95.

A fictionalized biography of Joseph Jefferson III, with emphasis on his childhood and youth. The book ends at the peak of the famed actor's career, with his creation of the role of Rip Van Winkle. The writing is vivacious and readable; the picture of a theatrical family unusual; and the family relationships most perceptively portrayed. Background material about the United States before and during the Civil War years is incorporated smoothly into the lives of the characters.

R Lauber, Patricia. Dust Bowl; The Story of Man on the Great Plains; maps by 5-8 Wes McKeown. Coward-McCann, 1958. 96p. (A Challenge Book) \$2.50.

An exceptionally interesting, vivid account of the factors involved in turning a section of the Great Plains into a dust bowl wasteland, and of the steps that are being taken to rectify those mistakes and to prevent a recurrence. The text is supplemented by well-chosen photographs and maps that dramatically point up the tragic misuse of land. A valuable book for social studies or conservation classes.

R Lent, Henry Bolles. Men at Work in the Great Lakes States. Putnam, 1958. 5-8 128p. \$3.

A brief over-view of the kinds of industries that help to make the Great Lakes states prosperous. The author describes some of the major industries as he has seen them on visits; in some cases the actual brand name of the product is given and in other instances the description is of an unspecified plant in a named town or city. With very few exceptions, the index lists products and industries only, so that information about the products of a particular state is not easily accessible. The straightforward style will give the book value for social studies classes.

Ad Lord, Nancy. My Dog and I; pictures by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey House, 1958.

K-2 32p. \$2.25.

A picture book in which a small boy describes in rhyme the prowess of a large and intelligent dog. The text is not very good poetry nor are the ideas of the episodes very original, but the drawings redeem the book from mediocrity by their style and humor. The dog performs deeds of courage and daring with bland ease; at the end of the book, the boy is just as happy to stay at home as he was to go about adventuring, because the dog has had puppies.

NR Malvern, Gladys. The Great Garcías; decorations by Alan Moyler. Longmans, 7-9 1958. 210p. \$3.

The story of a prominent musical family of the nineteenth century, this fictionalized biography is crowded with dramatic events based on the careers of father, son and two daughters. All the Garcías (except the mother) sang, and most of them had other talents as well. Their tours, triumphs, and troubles; their family relationships, usually in a state of stress; the considerable amount of musical history; and the eminent musicians amongst whom the Garcías moved are material enough for several books. The writing is not skilful enough to compensate for the confusion of detail, since in addition to being a musical history and a family story, the biographical material is about four extremely colorful and active personalities.

R Manning, Rosemary. Green Smoke; illus. by Constance Marshall. Doubleday, 4-6 1958. 165p. \$2.50.

A good book to read aloud to younger children. Alone on a Cornwall beach one day, Sue talks to a mysterious being who emits, from the depths of a cave, a puff of green smoke. He turns out to be a dragon. He is rather conceited and he cadges food, but he loves having Sue for a friend. He takes her for rides and he tells her stories of the past. Sue learns to sing dragon-charming songs, and when the summer is over, the dragon gives the child as a parting gift his secret name, which will give her the power to call him if ever she is in dire need. Sue is a nice little girl, but ordinary. The dragon is the true personality of the book, and a vivid one; the stories he tells Sue, including the Molly Whuppie story and parts of the King Arthur legend, are interesting and have the same timeless charm as does the rest of the book.

NR Maurois, André. The French Boy; with photographs by Gerald Maurois. 2-3 Sterling, 1957. 48p. \$2.75.

Nico is shown with his family, at play and at school; large photographs on each page illustrate the story. Nico is a youngster who does not do his home work, teases the dog, argues with his parents and plays with his food. One night he is changed into a dog. When mother finds a strange dog in her boy's bed she does not realize who it is. Nico finds that a dog's life is dull, and is relieved to wake another day as himself. (He's been dreaming.) Overjoyed at being a boy, he washes his neck, does his homework, and gets a medal for being highest in his class. Father rewards him with extra dessert. The book seems to be a vehicle for photographs, some of which are attractive. As a story it is insubstantial; as an example of poor parent-child relations it is quite unpleasant.

Ad Meadowcroft, Enid (LaMonte). Holding the Fort with Daniel Boone; illus. by 3-5 Lloyd Coe. Crowell, 1958. 147p. \$2.75.

A pioneer story that illustrates the way in which one group of colonists did their part in the War for Independence. At the small settlement of Boonesboro, the patriots fought those Indians who were in league with the British. When news of the Declaration of Independence came by messenger, many of the settlers elected to stay, although they were aware that they risked attack from the Indians. Men, women and children joined in defending the fort for an arduous nine-day siege. The book gives

a picture of pioneer life that is interesting, although the writing is rather bland. Useful, if additional material about Daniel Boone or about pioneer life is wanted.

R Moore, William and Robert Cynar. Fun with Tools. Random House, 1957. 5-8 64p. \$1.50.

A simple and practical how-to book. First is a section on the basic tools used in all work and crafts, with instructions on proper care of tools, preparation for work and safety measures. In step-by-step directions are given instructions for making many articles of wood and metal. Diagrams are clear and, in each case, tools and materials that are needed are listed first in recipe style. Photographs are amply provided throughout the book. Perhaps the one weakness of the book is that for some projects it presupposes knowledge of electrical work, and that without such information, these projects require adult supervision.

M Morgan, Carol McAfee. Hunt for the Yule Log; illus. by Brian Wildsmith. 5-7 Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 159p. \$2.75.

The action in this book is based in part on the hunt for a Yule log that is actually held each year in the town of Palmer Lake, Colorado. Chet, a native, brings home as a guest for the Christmas vacation a hostile German boy named Emil. Chet is not happy about Emil, but the head-master had suggested the visit, and Chet tries to be a good host. Emil is quite unpleasant, but finally responds to the friendliness of almost all the residents of Palmer Lake. He even arranged to have Chet find the Yule log and get all the credit. A fellow student from Puerto Rico flies in for Christmas day, and the book ends in an atmosphere of sentimentality that is not unexpected and makes the message of good will and intercultural understanding less effective. The message itself is worthy and the values of the book might be more effectively conveyed were there not too many characters and too many sub-plots.

Ad Norton, Andre. Star Gate. Harcourt, 1958. 192p. \$3. 7-10

An adventure tale combining features of medieval legend and modern science fiction. Kincar, a young nobleman of the feudal planet Gorth, joins a band of Star Lords who emigrate to another Gorth in a parallel world. On both Gorths, the highly civilized Star Lords have come from outer space and shared the planet with the original population, but on the second Gorth the Lords have used their superior technology to enslave the natives. How Kincar helps defeat the evil Lords makes a fascinating, if sometimes slightly confusing, variant on the old theme of good versus evil: battles are fought with bows and arrows and electronic blasters; a magic talisman combats brute force and a mind-conditioner; and several of the characters meet distorted counterparts of themselves face to face. The action is swift-paced and many interesting details are included, though occasionally the reader would like a moment to catch his breath and get a firm grasp on the situation before continuing. The author also introduces some more serious speculations into the action: the idea of parallel worlds resulting from the choices people make on important questions or from the different ways in which a personality may develop; and the fervid religious beliefs of Kincar and the other native Gorthians.

Ad Ogilvie, Elisabeth. The Fabulous Year. Whittlesey House, 1958. 223p. \$3. 7-9

Cass knows that she is more attractive than ever, she has a new boyfriend, and she has high hopes that her senior year at high school will be exciting. She hopes especially to be invited to join an exclusive club. At first she is so anxious to conform to the snobbish standards of others that she ignores her conscience and snubs a new-comer; gradually she realizes that the queer new girl who has been hanging around

is a worthy person, even if she does jeopardize the prestige Cass has achieved with the "best" girls. Cass becomes aware of how shallow her goals were and decides to do what she knows is right. To her surprise, others respect her and even follow her example. The values of the standards Cass chooses are good, indeed, but the wholesale reform of adolescent girls at the end of the book is too pat an ending.

R Phillips, Eula Mark. Chucho; The Boy with the Good Name; illus. by Howard 4-6 Simon. Follett, 1957. \$3.15.

When Chucho's grandmother dies, the boy wants to go to a relative in another town to learn the family art of weaving hats. He consults both the wise man of the little Mixtec village and the priest: both advise him to abide by his conscience. Chucho's problem is that he has a sickly younger brother who would be a burden on the journey. He starts off alone, but cannot bear to continue, and returns home for the little brother. Everywhere he goes, Chucho is good and unselfish, and he finds that almost all the people he meets on the way are kind. The style of writing is well suited to the simple story and rural setting, but the trip is a series of similar incidents and the theme of universal goodness is a bit overworked.

Ad Posell, Elsa Z. The True Book of Deserts; illus. by Carol Rogers. Childrens 1-3 Press, 1958. 47p. \$2.

Brief, simply written introduction to deserts and to some of the plants and animals to be found there. The information is generally accurate, although there are some statements that could be amplified. The illustrations are attractive, but not always useful in determining size relationships. Goetz' Deserts (Morrow, 1956), although more difficult reading, will be more widely useful even with younger children because it is more detailed and less given to over-simplification.

Ad Rickert, Edith. The Bojabi Tree; adapted from an African folk tale; pictures 2-3 by Anna Braune. Doubleday, 1958. 45p. \$2.

A new edition of an old favorite. Adapted from an African folk tale is the story of the tortoise who finds out from the lion what the new kind of fruit tree is called. All the other animals who have gone to the lion to find out have forgotten by the time they return home. But the tortoise helps himself by saying "bojabi" on the long, slow trip back. The illustrations are uninspired, with a cartoon flavor. The story is not as well suited to this picture book format, meant for visual appreciation, as it is for story telling or for reading aloud.

R Rounds, Glen. Swamp Life; An Almanac. Prentice-Hall, 1957. 117p. \$3. 5-7

Through the changing seasons of the year, the denizens of the swamp that borders Little Fiery Gizzard Creek adapt their ways. The colony has its transient visitors too. The ways in which the night animals get along with their neighbors, the ceaseless struggle for survival, the varying patterns of family life are described with perceptiveness and an affection that permeates and enlivens this book. The author's plea for conservation practices is made the more effective by the explanation of the benefits of conserving wildlife. Liberally illustrated with vigorous black-and-white sketches by the author.

M Savery, Constance. Magic in My Shoes; illus. by Christine Price. Longmans, 5-7 1958. 152p. \$2.75.

Sally Pershore, a young girl visiting her Aunt Persis in the country, finds herself in the midst of a mystery involving three boys, triplets and orphans, one of whom the county has boarded with Sally's aunt. The other two boys have run away from their hard masters and it eventually turns out that they are hiding in Aunt Persis' attic and taking turns appearing. There is little reality to the characterizations; no

real feeling for the period (1766); and the whole affair is more confused than mystifying. Excitement is sustained well throughout the book.

R Schealer, John M. This Way to the Stars; author's diagrams executed by John 5-9  
D. Ressler. Dutton, 1957. 181p. \$2.95.

Excellent introduction to astronomy, with many explanatory diagrams, charts, and photographs. After some introductory material about the universe, the story of the outstanding discoveries in astronomical history is presented, from the Sumerian astrologists to Albert Einstein. Earth, sun and moon are described in separate chapters, as are the instruments used in astronomical observation. Each planet in the solar system is allocated a brief section in which the orbit, atmosphere, size and any unusual phenomena are surveyed. Meteors, asteroids and comets are discussed, and nebulae, stars and galaxies are explained. The bibliography gives books on astronomy and on related subjects. Terminology and vocabulary are simple but never oversimplified.

R Schlein, Miriam. The Bumblebee's Secret; illus. by Harvey Weiss. Abelard- K-2  
Schuman, 1958. 51p. \$2.50.

An accumulative tale that follows a traditional pattern. As the bumblebee hurries along she announces that she has a secret but won't reveal it. The butterfly follows along to find out what the secret is; then in turn a series of animals—bluejay, squirrel, chicken, pig, two dogs and three horses—follow each other, not really knowing what they are after, but curious as to why everyone else is going. When the secret is revealed as a nest of bumblebee eggs, the animals all run pell-mell back where they came from. Young children will enjoy the humor of the repetitive text and the illustrations.

Ad Schoor, Gene. Jackie Robinson; Baseball Hero. Putnam, 1958. 187p. \$2.95. 6-8

A biography that gives a picture of the child, the college student, and the family member as well as the famous baseball player. Robinson's work in the minor leagues and his spectacular record with the Brooklyn Dodgers are described with repeated reminders that he has always in mind the welfare of the Negro, and his role in public life. Style of writing is crisp, slangy and enthusiastic; the author writes with sympathy for all of Jackie Robinson's problems, including his decision to withdraw from professional baseball.

Ad Seuss, Dr. Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories. Random House, 1958. 80p. 2-4 \$2.95.

Three stories reprinted from Redbook Magazine: "Yertle the Turtle," "Gertrude McFuzz," and "The Big Brag." King Yertle found that he could see farther by standing on other turtles. So he ordered his subjects to pyramid ever higher: he claimed that as king of the turtles all that he could see was within his domain. Eventually the turtles toppled, leaving Yertle King of the Mud and freeing the other turtles. Gertrude is a bird who wishes for fine feathers, but finds that too many weigh her down. In the third story a lowly worm wins a boasting contest with a bear and a rabbit. All three tales point a moral; dependent upon exaggeration for their humorous appeal, they fall a bit flat, partly because the outcome of each is immediately obvious. Illustrations are divertingly comic. The stories are told in rhyme and are rather nice for reading aloud.

R Severn, Bill and Sue. How To Earn Money; A Young People's Guide to Spare- 7-10  
Time Income; drawings by Ida Scheib. Prentice-Hall, 1957. 210p. \$2.95.  
A compendium of practical advice for young people who want to earn money at a part-time job with independent status. Giving, in each section, many examples of actual

cases, the authors discuss some of the legal and financial restrictions and practices the young worker should know, and the intricacies of income tax. How to choose a job, how to prepare for it and plan the time, how to set up a service business, or organize a group money-raising project are explained. There is information on crafts and edible products, on packaging, on suppliers, business firms, sources of further information, and merchandise selling. A classified list of books and pamphlets is included.

R Shapiro, Irwin, ed. The Golden Book of America; Stories from Our Country's 5- Past. Simon and Schuster, 1957. 216p. (A De Luxe Golden Book) \$4.95. Articles about American history and the American scene, adapted from American Heritage magazine. Stories have been chosen at random, indicating use for browsing or casual interest rather than for reference. From early explorations to the first world war, the material is especially rich in articles about the Indians and about the West. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs and reproductions of old prints in color, unusual valentines, posters and old paperback novels.

R Smith, Bradford. The Islands of Hawaii. Lippincott, 1957. 118p. \$2.75.  
7-10

A comprehensive and informative book, written in a flowing and readable style and evincing throughout the author's attitude of respect for all of the cultural and racial groups among the inhabitants of the Islands. An absorbing account of the early history of the Hawaiian Islands, and a geographic description are given first. Aspects of culture in the past and present are examined, as are the contributions of the many groups that have contributed to the Hawaiian melting pot. Finally, the political and industrial scenes are examined and the relationship of Hawaii to the mainland is explored, including the desire of the inhabitants for statehood. Mr. Smith has written with moving sincerity of "one of the most exciting experiments in democracy the world has ever seen."

R Sootin, Laura. Let's Go to an Airport; pictures by George Wilde. Putnam, 2-4 1957. 48p. \$1.95.

A tour of an airport that includes those sections usually seen by passengers and those activities not so well known. The ways in which fuel, baggage, cleaning and repairs are handled; the mechanics of stacking, circling and landing; the work of the ground crews are described in simple style. A detailed account of the operations of the control tower and the gathering of weather reports is included.

R Sullivan, Walter. White Land of Adventure; The Story of the Antarctic; illus. 7-10 with maps and photographs. Whittlesey House, 1957. 224p. \$3.50. A shortened version of the original title, Quest for a Continent, the book covers the history of explorations in the Antarctic from the eighteenth century through the establishment of special sites for observations of the International Geophysical Year. The author has participated in three Antarctic expeditions. The material and treatment in this book are quite similar to that of Ice Island, reviewed in this issue; both are well organized and illustrated with photographs, both incorporate into the history some of the information about the animal life of the region. Mr. Sullivan's style is somewhat more conversational, and the book has excellent maps.

Ad Treece, Henry. The Further Adventures of Robinson Crusoe; illus. by Will 6-8 Nickless. Criterion Books, 1958. 190p. \$3.50.

As a sequel to another author's work, the book is rather successful: the flavor of the original appears throughout, although the technique is a bit labored. Mr. Crusoe, now a wealthy landowner, is persuaded out of retirement by a map that shows where the famous pirate, Morgan, left a cache of buried treasure. The ship's doctor turns

out to be Robinson's long-lost brother. The treasure is found, after an inordinate amount of craftiness, mutiny, desertion, fighting, etc. Friday stays on with his own tribe, sending his share of the treasure as a wedding gift to Crusoe's daughter. A good adventure story for those who like action on every page and are able to accept the idea of Crusoe rampant again.

R Underhill, Ruth M. First Came the Family; illus. by Arminta Neal. Morrow, 7-10 1958. 223p. \$3.

An introduction to one phase of social anthropology, emphasizing the importance of the family in primitive societies, and drawing frequent analogies and comparisons between primitive and modern customs. The role of the family in structuring such areas of social concern as education, marriage and treatment of the aged are discussed, and the explanations of different solutions to these problems should give young people a better understanding of how and why different types of behavior arise. Occasionally the author over-simplifies, and the tone of the first chapter seems too young for the rest of the book, but these flaws do not detract from its values as social studies and guidance material, nor outweigh its interest for general reading. The book would be suited to classroom use, since each section covers a well-defined topic: the chapters could be used separately in different areas of study, or as reference material.

Ad White, Anne Terry. All About the Great Rivers of the World; illus. by Kurt 5-7 Wiese. Random House, 1957. 150p. \$1.95.

The first section of the book describes the ways in which rivers are formed, grow, change and die. How rivers affect mankind (and how the man-made changes affect rivers) is reiterated in the stories of five great rivers: the Nile, the Amazon, the Yangtze, the Volga and the Mississippi. In each case, except for the Amazon, some of the history of the country is told. Treatment is rather uneven and the maps seem inadequate. The first page describing the Volga, for example, ends with the sentence, "And the sea of Azov is little better than a marsh." On the opposite page the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea are noted on the full-page map; the Sea of Azov is not marked.

R Williams, Jay and Raymond Abrashkin. Danny Dunn and the Homework Ma-  
5-7 chine; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Whittlesey House, 1958. 141p. \$2.95.

An entertaining and instructive story about a computing machine. Danny and his friends, Joe and Irene, are left to guard and guide the small computer that belongs to Professor Bullfinch. Danny decides that this is a great opportunity to get the homework for all three of them done by the machine. A suspicious classmate spies on them and reports this to the teacher. Teacher calls on Mrs. Dunn, who thinks of a happy solution: give them more and harder homework. When the schoolyear ends, Danny realizes that machine or no machine, he has studied: in order to get the answers from the computer, he had had to know what questions to ask. It is a delightful surprise to find out how much the children have learned without realizing it. The reader will also learn what a mechanical "brain" can and cannot do. Teacher-pupil relationship is especially well-drawn by the authors.

NR Wise, Winifred. Frances by Starlight. Macrae, 1958. 200p. \$2.75.  
7-9

Another book about Frances Cochrane, who wants to be a clothes designer. When her aunt, a wealthy socialite, takes Franny to Hollywood with her, the opportunity presents itself to work in a studio as a messenger. Franny, who is rather unappreciative of her aunt's efforts to entertain her, decides to use her position to advance. She appears one day in Egyptian costume in order to get the attention of the costume designer. She gets it. Successful in the first try. She also has a love affair with a rather artificial character, the scion of an old Spanish family. Generally, the human relationships are presented in a pessimistic aura: most of the people are self-centered if not completely selfish. The writing is frequently ungrammatical and slangy in descriptive passages as well as in conversation.

Ad Woolley, Catherine. Miss Cathy Leonard; illus. by Theresa Sherman. Mor-  
4-6 row, 1958. 189p. \$2.75.

Cathy has two projects for her summer: one is finding a home for Naomi and her mother so that they won't have to move back to New York and the other is serving as librarian of the collection of books from the school library. Although the Leonard's house is crowded, Cathy's mother agrees to give space to the books for the summer. Cathy finds that she can conduct a very successful story hour for small children. She also engineers a plan to remodel the family barn as a house for her friends. A pleasant story, but it seems improbable that a child so young would be entrusted with a book collection, serve as reporter for the town paper, and solve a housing problem.

Ad Wright, Anna Maria Rose. The Horse Marines; illus. by Ursula Koering.  
4-6 Houghton, 1958. 193p. \$2.75.

The three Tyler children and their friend, Pete, go with Mrs. Tyler and their constant companion, a pony, to the seashore for the summer. With the help of a salty old man called "The Hermit" they renovate an old sailboat. When the boat is stolen, the children track down the thief, a boy their own age. Jimbo is an orphan, and Mrs. Tyler agrees to take him in. A general rehabilitation program for Jimbo is established. The

...more by studying books about ani-  
mals which are not for the purpose of teaching artists, but do illustrate accurately the structure and external characteristics of wild animals. The book seems an artificial type of "How To" instruction.

R Zim, Herbert Spencer. Ostriches; illus. by Russell Francis Peterson. Morrow,  
3-5 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

Excellent detailed information in Zim's usual clear style, especially satisfying when the area of knowledge explored is small and can be comprehensive. Illustrations are well integrated with the text and those that give details of comparative anatomy are very helpful. After discussing briefly differences between birds and other vertebrates, and also the difference between flying birds and the flightless ratite group (of which the ostrich is a member), the habits and the history of ostriches are examined. Other related birds are described and some of the popular misconceptions about the behavior of ostriches are refuted.

## *Bibliographies*

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Books for the Teen Age, 1958. Annual list of The New York Public Library. 50p. \$.25 by mail. Write to the Library at Fifth Ave. and 42nd St., New York 18, N.Y. Titles have been chosen by librarians for readers between the ages of thirteen and eighteen.

Books of the Traveling High School Science Library. 3rd ed. 1957. 73p. \$.25 by mail. Write to: The Director, High School Traveling Science Library Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D.C. Indexed by author, subject and title.

Growing Up With Books. 250 titles, classified by age and interest.

Growing Up With Science Books. 200 titles. Both booklets have brief annotations, both are \$.10 each, or \$3.35 per 100. R. R. Bowker Co., 62 W. 45th St., New York 36, N.Y.

Junior Booklist. Current books chosen by the Secondary Education Board. 1958. 47p. \$.50. Write to Esther Osgood, Executive Secretary, Secondary Education Board, Milton 86, Massachusetts. Approximately 300 books published in 1957, selected by teachers and librarians for children through grade 9, divided by grade groups.

Senior Booklist. 1958. 47p. \$.50. Secondary Education Board, same address as above. For students in grades 9-12. Approximately 350 titles. Division is by subject; grade is given. Annotation is written for the student. Dewey Decimal Classification number is suggested. Both junior and senior lists have author index.

