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Bulletin
of
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December 1958 • Vol. XII • No. 4



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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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XII

December, 1958

Number 4

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Acker, Helen. Lee Natoni: Young Navajo; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Abelard-4-6 Schuman, 1958. 136p. \$2.75.

Lee and his sister go to the mountains to hunt for a plant that can be used as medicine for a neighbor, but it does no good. Nor does the prayer of the medicine man help, so Lee goes again to the mountain in order to signal (by walkie-talkie) the white teacher of the Navajo trailer-school in the valley. Lee feels that some of the ways of the white man are good, while the medicine man disapproves of all that is not Indian. When the sick neighbor is helped by the white man's hospital to which the teacher takes him, the medicine man himself states in Council that there is good in the new ways too. The story reads easily, and the contrast between generations is well drawn. The book is rather heavy with its purpose and with the ending in which all problems appear to be solved, but it can be enjoyed for the credible atmosphere and the dignified treatment of relationships between the white man and the Indian.

R Adler, Irving. Man-Made Moons; The Earth Satellites and What They Will Tell 7-12 Us; illus. by Ruth Adler. Day, 1958. 128p. \$2.95.

An exceptionally clear discussion of the artificial satellite and the purposes it will serve. The author explains, for each area of knowledge, what is now known, what it is hoped will be discovered, and how the information obtained from the instruments on the satellite will be used to ascertain new facts. Areas for which added facts will probably be found are the earth's shape and atmosphere, the surface of the earth and its magnetism, cosmic rays and the stars. Diagrams are excellent.

R Alden, Raymond Macdonald. The Christmas Tree Forest; illus. by Rafaello 3-5 Busoni. Bobbs-Merrill, 1958. 32p. \$2.25.

Published first under the title, "In the Great Walled Country" in Why the Chimes Rang and Other Stories (Bobbs-Merrill, 1906). A fanciful Christmas story about the land where all were children. Each year the children found gifts for each other in the Christmas Tree Forest, until the year that each decided to find gifts only for himself; that year the only child who found presents at all was the boy who was secretly collecting them for his crippled sister. All the children learned from this the lesson of unselfishness and from then on, they looked only for the sake of others—and always there were gifts. A good tale for storytelling.

Ad Armer, Alberta. Cherry House; with illus. by Winifred Madison. Beacon, 3-4 1958. 47p. \$2.75.

The worker in a settlement house played a game with her group: each child was to tell what he had seen that was pretty. Some of the moments of beauty that the slum children saw were a baby's hair in the sunlight, pigeons in flight at sunset, the blue eyes of a new kitten and the sound of a guitar at night. At the beginning and again at

the close of the book the worker thinks sadly of all the beautiful things these children will never see; this tinge of nostalgia permeates the book. It does create a mood and it presents the bond between culturally different groups; but the idea that one can find some beauty anywhere is rather tenuous for holding the attention of the reader, who may complain that nothing happens in this book.

R ✓ Armstrong, Warren. Last Voyage. Day, 1958. 256p. \$3.50.
6-8

Twenty stories of doomed ships, told with a wealth of vivid detail and with a building of suspense that makes them seem adventure tales rather than the true events they are. The stories range over the years from the sinking of a Spanish ship in 1588 to the collision of the Stockholm and the Andrea Doria and the litigation about this (still in process). Some of the stories are about well-known disasters like the Titanic and the Morro Castle; others are less-publicized dramas of the sea. The book was first published in England (Muller, 1956). A minor flaw is that there is no way to find a listing of the ships about which the anecdotes have been written.

Ad ✓ Asimov, Isaac. The World of Carbon; illus. with diagrams. Abelard-Schuman, 8-12 1958. 192p. \$2.75.

High school students who want to supplement their chemistry course with outside reading will find much to interest them in this book. The author covers the field of organic chemistry in well-organized and clearly written fashion, and the index seems quite complete. Various types of carbon compounds are discussed and numerous examples given of substances of each type and their uses in industry and in everyday life. Since the material is, by its very nature, difficult for the casual reader with no background in chemistry, some of the author's more elementary explanations and his apologies for using formulae and diagrams seem unnecessary. There is too great a use of footnotes for remarks and information which the author apparently could not incorporate smoothly into the main body of the text.

SpC ✓ Barrows, Marjorie, ed. Treasure Trails Parade. Grosset, 1958. 418p.
5-7 \$4.95.

A collection of stories, poems, games, puzzles and pictures, some by children, some reprinted from other sources, and the largest number reprinted from Treasure Trails magazine. Sources are given, and an author-subject index appended. Selections are arranged through the school year, so that all material on Thanksgiving is in one place. The collection comprises both good and mediocre writing; the inclusion of puzzles that are solved by writing in the book (e.g., crossword puzzles), indicates that the book is best suited for a home collection.

NR ✓ Boehm, Peggy. The Story of Schools from Ancient Times Till Now; illus. by 4-5 Bernard Case. Sterling, 1958. 48p. \$2.50.

A superficially written history of schools, which touches briefly on many countries of the world, but emphasizes western civilization and the United States especially. Both the chronological and the geographical span are too broad for extensive examination, but the chief flaw of the book is its tone, which is condescending and frequently flippant. Although many facts about different kinds of schools are given, the random selection, brevity and lack of index make the book lack merit. The last paragraph refers to the schools of Israel, and the book ends abruptly here; no concluding or summary statement is given.

NR ✓ Burgess, Thornton Waldo. The Adventures of Peter Cottontail; illus. by 3-4 Phoebe Erickson. Grosset, 1958. 69p. \$1.95.

Highly personified animals engage in a battle of wits amid the Merry Little Breezes of the Green Meadows. Writing tends to be coy and has quite a bit of padding and

repetition. The claim made by the publisher that the book is an aid to nature study is somewhat misleading, as it names and pictures animals with only an occasional bit of information. So many delightful books about animals have been written since these stories first appeared, that this version (abridged) suffers in comparison as both nature lore and reading fare.

R ✓ Butler, Evelyn I. and George A. Dale. Alaska: The Land and the People; illus. 6-9 with photographs. Viking, 1958. 159p. \$3.50.

The authors, both Supervisors of Education for the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska, report vividly and competently on that country. Presenting first a background of geographical and historical information, the authors proceed to describe the ways in which different groups of Alaskans live. A coastal village, an Indian village in the interior, Eskimo communities and larger towns are pictured; a separate section is devoted to a description of a reindeer round-up. Writing style is matter-of-fact but never formal, and the many photographs are informative and unusual.

Ad ✓ Butters, Dorothy Gilman. Heartbreak Street. Macrae, 1958. 191p. \$2.75. 7-9

When Kitty Bosc graduated from high school, her great desire was to rise above her environment. Her mother was a Czechoslovakian immigrant, their home was a ramshackle structure in a rundown neighborhood, her older brother verged on delinquency. Kitty yearned especially for the affection of Dean Tracy, a high-school hero. The lives of the entire family were changed by the help given by the new social worker from the community house. Kitty realized that her values had been false; she became aware of the worth of Dean's friend Peewee, the minister's son who had long been in love with her. Her brother is convinced by the social worker that it is possible to achieve a medical career. All of the family determined that they didn't need to move away from Pearl Street, but could change their attitudes, improve the home they had, and even help their neighbors make changes. Family relationships are good, and the characterizations of the two brothers as they are torn between the conflicting standards of home and gang are especially discerning.

NR ✓ Campbell, Rosemae Wells. Books and Beaux. Westminster, 1958. 192p. 7-9 \$2.95.

Sue Stratton had not been looking forward to her new job as assistant librarian on a bookmobile, but she found that she enjoyed the traveling as well as the diversity of patrons. The double love story of the two librarians, Sue and Addie, seems superimposed on the somewhat purposive message about rural reading needs, and the mysterious campaign to abandon rural service gives a rather contrived opportunity for Sue to make a speech on the subject.

Ad ✓ Cassell, Sylvia E. Back-Yard Games and Activities. Harper, 1958. 147p. 4-6 \$2.75.

A book of suggestions for games, crafts, and camping skills that may be tried in a yard or any outdoor spot. The first section tells how to make and use camping equipment, and includes detailed advice on building various kinds of fires, observing safety rules, and acquiring basic skills with tools. Cook-out recipes are included. The second section describes many games, some of them familiar ones such as hopscotch or marbles, for outdoor play. Parties and special events are discussed and instructions given for making costumes or handicraft articles. Information is not complete enough to warrant use of the book as a camper's handbook, nor is the book organized as a handbook. The suggestions for recreational activities are not extensive, but are useful.

Ad ✓ Chalmers, Mary. ✓ Boats Finds a House. Harper, 1958. 32p. \$2.25.
4-6
yrs.

Boats, the ship's cat, decides to stay on land. He hunts for exactly the right house, gathering pots, lamps, chickens, books, and other belongings. Trudging about with his wagon, he finds an empty house that is just right. A friendly farmer transplants daisies for Boats and the little girl nearby becomes his friend. A pleasant story, simply told; it is much like others by this author yet does not have the charm of, for example, A Hat for Amy Jean.

Ad ✓ Chambers, Peggy. ✓ A Doctor Alone; A Biography of Elizabeth Blackwell: The 7-9
First Woman Doctor 1821-1910. Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 183p. \$2.75.
A biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, the daughter of a non-conformist English family who came to the United States; Dr. Blackwell became the first woman doctor in this country, and she and other members of her family participated in many of the progressive causes of the day. Emphasis is on Dr. Blackwell's training and her subsequent career. Style of writing is rather uninspired, although the material is organized with competence. It is somewhat more difficult reading than Baker's The First Woman Doctor (Messner, 1944), which has been one of the sources, because of type size, style, and vocabulary.

NR ✓ Chandler, Thomas. ✓ Learn To Read by Seeing Sound; design by Mary Gehr.
K-1 Childrens Press, 1958. 62p. \$2.50.

A book that combines color-coded phonics and sight reading. The alphabet is presented, followed by the consonant sounds (to be memorized); two sets of vowel-sounds, long and short, are keyed to colors which are then used whenever the sound occurs in a word. Sight words are listed separately. The procedure adds an additional factor to the reading process which seems extremely complicated. The sentences for reading are extremely contrived and stilted: for example, "Sam, a man, has a tame rat, Nate. Nate takes naps on Sam's lap. They are pals."

R ✓ Chappell, Warren. ✓ The Nutcracker. Knopf, 1958. 32p. \$2.95.
3-5

Based on the Dumas version of E. T. A. Hoffmann's story is the fantasy of the Nutcracker who fights the Mouse King; of the bewitched Princess Pirlipate and her handsome rescuer. All these—and more—adventures are the dreams of Marie, the little girl who received a toy nutcracker for Christmas, and who grew up to wed a handsome young man exactly like the imagined suitor of the Princess. Some musical themes from Tschaiikovsky's ballet version are reproduced through the book.

M ✓ Chastain, Madye Lee. ✓ Jerusha's Ghost. Harcourt, 1958. 188p. \$2.95.
4-6

Jerusha is a timid girl, frightened by noises and by strange objects floating in the sky. She hopes that the three other girls who are coming to visit during her stay at Greatuncle Bertie's home, that summer of 1851, will not discover her fears. Jerusha is caught in a situation in which she must either make a balloon ascent or admit her cowardice to Emmy; she takes the trip and even learns to enjoy flight. She also realizes that the balloon is the strange object she has seen in the night skies, and she participates in a ride during which some horse-thieves are scouted from the air. Suspense is well maintained, but the book is marred by the presentation of the Jamaican servants as superstitious folk afraid of "duppies" or spirits.

R ✓ Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. ✓ The Cat Who Went to Heaven; illus. by Lynd
4-7 Ward. Macmillan, 1958. 63p. \$3.50.

A new edition of a long-time favorite, with new illustrations by the same artist. Pre-

pared on rice paper and printed in gold tones and black are drawings that are more detailed and realistic than those which they replace. They do not, however, have the same softness and sensitivity. Added are many new illustrations, gold on white, that are vignettes of Japanese and Indian scenes. For those who have not read the older edition of the book, it tells of the poor artist who was commissioned to paint a portrait of the Buddha. Knowing that he should not, he included in the picture the cat, who in life had not been blessed by Buddha—and a miracle came to pass. A rarely beautiful joining of mystical prose and poetry and distinguished illustration.

SpR Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. The Peaceable Kingdom; And Other Poems; illus. 3-4 by Fritz Eichenberg. Pantheon, 1958. 49p. \$2.75.

Three poems on Biblical themes: "Journey" tells of the travel of the animals to the safety of the Ark; "Rest in Egypt," based on a medieval legend, describes the homage of the animals to the Holy Family as they rested in the desert; "The Peaceable Kingdom" speaks of the perfect peace and joy in the day when the lion shall lie down with the lamb. All the poems reflect a calm faith and a gentle affection for the animal world; they are pleasant rather than outstanding poetry, well-suited to reading aloud.

M Conklin, Gladys. I Like Caterpillars; pictures by Barbara Latham. Holiday 2-3 House, 1958. 27p. \$2.75.

A book that describes some of the kinds of familiar caterpillars found in most parts of the country. While no attempt is made to give complete information, just some traits and an accurate illustration, the book is useful for its simplicity. It is, however, material that might equally well be absorbed from a more difficult handbook, since the small child could note the name and see the picture there also. The illustrative pages are so filled by leaves and flowers on which the caterpillars are climbing that it is, unfortunately, often hard to distinguish plant and animal.

R Cooper, Elizabeth K. Science in Your Own Back Yard. Harcourt, 1958. 192p. 5-7 \$3.

A book about nature study, presented in an informal style and comprising many areas of scientific knowledge. Suggestions for simple equipment and methods for observing, collecting and experimenting are accompanied by clear instructions and diagrams. Twenty brief sections treat of fossils, plants, animals, weather, stars, soil, water, and outer space. A good book to stimulate and guide the independent reader, and one that can be used also in the classroom or by a group.

R Coy, Harold. The First Book of the Supreme Court; pictures by Helen Borten. 5-7 Watts, 1958. 59p. \$1.95.

A lucid and well written explanation of the history of the Supreme Court, its role in the government of the United States and the way in which it functions today. Actual cases are cited to illustrate the principle or law under discussion. Of particular interest are the small details that enable the reader to feel familiar with the procedure, so little publicized in comparison with other branches of our government. In addition to an index and a carefully written glossary, a list is appended of all Justices who have served in the Supreme Court.

M Craig, Margaret Maze. Three Who Met. Crowell, 1958. 249p. \$3. 8-10

A rather interesting story with three heroines, who meet at a fraternity house party. Casey is a waitress who accepts the invitation in order to "see how the other half lives"; Beth is a teen-ager who rebels against her abnormally strict parents and comes to the party without their knowledge as the guest of a boy she knows only by sight; Monica is wealthy, spoiled, and insecure. Each gains something in maturity

from the week end, and the characterizations are handled well enough to show motivations and a believable growth in understanding. However the characterizations do not have enough depth to give the book value for older girls, especially since the minor characters are quite shallow and unrealistic. Some of the incidents, such as Beth's frightening encounter with a fraternity wolf, and the distasteful account of the house party might be objected to as fare for the usual junior high reader.

R ✓ Čurčija-Prodanović, Nada, ed. Yugoslav Folk-Tales; illus. by Joan Kiddell-5-7 Monroe. Oxford, 1957. 210p. \$3.50.

Eighth in the English series of myths and legends. The author here retells twenty-nine stories for which various collections of Serbian folk tales served as sources; she has imbued the retellings with the vivacity and robust folk humor that often escape in translation.

M ✓ De Leeuw, Adele Louise. The Goat Who Ate Flowers; illus. by Marjorie Hart. 2-4 Steck, 1958. 48p. \$1.50.

Klaas and Trina loved their white goat, Piet; the widowed aunt who lived with them didn't like the goat at all, because he ate the flowers that she had so carefully planted. A routine story, dulled by an often-used ending: the goat redeems himself in Aunt Willy's eyes by "finding" her lost ring, so she relents and says that the children will not have to send the goat away. Illustrations are poor, those of Aunt Willy being most unattractive, and all stereotypical old-time Holland. First published in 1952 in the American Junior Red Cross News.

R ✓ De Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. Something Special; drawings by Irene Haas. 4-6 Harcourt, 1958. 48p. \$2.25.

yrs.

A collection of poems in varied styles. Some are rollicking entertainment, such as the cumulative chanting game, "What Did You Put in Your Pocket?" with the humor of incongruity; others are gently evocative ("If You Find a Little Feather"); and "If I Were Teeny Tiny" is pure fantasy. Concepts and humor are equally well suited to a young audience, and the charming illustrations are perfectly complementary.

NR ✓ Disney, Walt. Old Yeller; told by Willis Lindquist; pictures by the Walt Disney Studio, adapted by Robert Doremus. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 29p. (A Big Golden Book) \$1.

Lurid illustrations and choppy writing mar a book that is inappropriately, unnecessarily oversize. The story of the stray dog who saved the life of the smallest member of the family and who later had to be shot because he had become rabid through contact with a wolf. Although wounded (in yet another brave deed), Old Yeller had attacked the wolf when it threatened the lives of two of the womenfolk. A melodramatic story, all plot and no background or character development; the original book by Fred Gipson was a distinguished novel but the adaptation has suffered marked damage.

NR ✓ Disney, Walt. Old Yeller; told by Irwin Shapiro; illus. by Edwin Schmidt and 3-4 E. Joseph Dreany. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 24p. (A Little Golden Book) \$1.12.

An adaptation for younger children, from the movie adapted from the original book. Many of the incidents of the Doremus adaptation (above) are included here in abbreviated form, and an effort has obviously been made to eliminate unpleasant details: Old Yeller is not wounded, the episode about the wolf is omitted and the book has a happy ending. However, the tale has been so chopped and stripped that it is of little value; the reader has only a fragmented synopsis of plot.

Ad ✓ Dorritt, Susan. Jason's Lucky Day; pictures by John Strickland Goodall. K-2 Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 43p. \$2.50.

A story about the day's events in the life of a boy who enjoyed little things. Jason thought he was lucky to have pancakes for breakfast, lucky to find a piece of green glass, lucky to find a peculiar curved stick. When his father came home, he explained to Jason that the stick was a boomerang; they went outdoors to try it, and the boomerang just missed a neighbor's greenhouse—luckily. The boomerang was hung on the wall, to be the start of Jason's museum. Pleasant, slight story; unappealing illustrations.

R ✓ Duvoisin, Roger Antoine. Petunia, Beware! Knopf, 1958. 34p. \$2.95. K-2

A familiar saying, "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence," told and pictured in amusing fashion. In search of greener grass, the foolish goose wanders afield, and is almost caught and eaten; she decides, on reaching home safely, that the grass in her own meadow is the best she's ever tasted. This is the most child-like of the Petunia stories, and it should be thoroughly enjoyed by young children.

R ✓ Ellis, Harry B. The Arabs; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. World, 1958. 6-9 124p. \$2.95.

An excellent book on the ethnological and cultural patterns of the Arabian peoples. A typical desert scene is presented as a frame of reference for a discussion of Bedouin culture and nomadic pattern. The history of Islam is related to other monotheistic religions and to the migrations of groups in early Arabian history; the importance of the Arabian contribution to the preservation of western civilization is stressed. A brief last section discusses the Arab world today, the struggle for Arab unity, the conflict with Israel, and the political and economic relationships with world powers because of Middle Eastern oil. Except for one sentence mentioning the establishment of an Egyptian Republic in 1953, the history of the last decade is not given, and some of the discussion of the Arab world today tends to simplify matters. However, the book is, as a whole, useful; a chronological chart that correlates events in the Arab world (from 500 A.D.) with other world events is especially important. The book reads easily, but the background knowledge of history and geography needed makes it more suitable for the older child.

R ✓ Farjeon, Eleanor. ✓ Jim at the Corner; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Walck, 4-6 1958. 102p. \$2.75.

First published in England (Blackwell, 1934). Jim is an old man who sits all day on an orange crate at the corner, a friend to all the neighborhood and a special favorite of the children. Jim has been a sailor, and he tells young Derry several tales of fantasy. These stories within a story are bound together by the brief encounters between Derry and Jim, and are ended by a sentimental episode in which Derry's father takes the old man to see the sea about which he has been telling the boy. Imaginative and humorous stories told in a vivid and highly individual style.

NR ✓ Forrest, Alex. ✓ Peco and the Pirates. Rand McNally, 1958. 42p. \$2. K-2

On the island of Pipinjay lived a thousand parrots, of whom only one, Peco, had short tail-feathers. Teased and miserable, Peco swam to another isle to live with seven turtles. When pirates raided the home island, Peco thought of a wonderful trick to outwit them, and made the pirates sign a promise never to return to Pipinjay Island again, and the parrots made Peco their king. A slight story, the plot being a variant of the oft-used theme of the outcast who becomes the hero of the group.

R Franchere, Ruth. Willa; decorations by Leonard Weisgard. Crowell, 1958.
6-8 169p. \$3.

A well-written, entertaining biography of Willa Cather's early years that brings her to life as a person and vividly recreates the era in which she lived and which served as background material for her own writings. The appeal will be for younger readers than those who usually enjoy Cather's novels, and the book will be read more as an engrossing story of a young girl than as a biography of a writer.

Ad Freeman, Mae (Blacker) and Ira. Your Wonderful World of Science; illus. by René Martin. Random House, 1957. 84p. \$1.95.

General information about a variety of natural phenomena, and some experimental techniques to illustrate them. The authors give basic facts about earth, sky, and sun; about plants and minerals; about fire and heat, air and weather, water and the processes of condensation and evaporation. Each topic is treated briefly, so that the book may be used as an introduction to science, but it will not be adequate for full topical discussion. Illustrations in many instances repeat statements in the text, rather than clarifying them.

Ad Gass, Irene and Herbert Weinstock. Through an Opera Glass. Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 166p. \$3.

A history of opera from 1600 to the present day that cannot, because of time covered, give a detailed presentation, but does give an overview of the development of the opera. Handling of libretto synopses is somewhat uneven, some of the better-known works being described in a paragraph (Tännhäuser) while those less familiar may have a page devoted to them (Pique-Dame). The chatty and anecdotal style makes the book easy to read, but the special nature of the subject limits the audience. The book will be useful in music classes and in music collections as an introductory study for those acquainted with opera as an art form.

Ad Graham, Lorenz. South Town. Follett, 1958. 189p. \$3.45.
8-10

David Williams, age 16, wanted to become a doctor and to return to South Town and serve the Negro people. Dave's life is upset by the behavior of the Boyds, employers who resent the independence of the Williams family. An increasingly tense situation leads to violence, and the family decides to leave South Town. This is a book about Negro-white relations in which neither race is depicted as all good or all bad; Dave is an ordinary adolescent in an ordinary middle-class family who are in an extraordinary situation. A candid story about prejudice, marred by a plodding style and uneven characterization.

R Gunther, John, with Sam and Beryl Epstein. Meet South Africa; illus. by Grisha. Harper, 1958. 232p. (A Meet the World Book) \$2.50.

An historical and sociological survey that contains material from the author's Inside Africa, written for adult readers. Physical description and industrial development are subordinated to political considerations. A good supplement to Paton's The Land and People of South Africa (Lippincott, 1955), which gives more detailed historical and geographical information. Much attention is given to "apartheid" and to the pressures of segregation and integration that influence almost every activity in South Africa today. Despite occasional passages liable to misinterpretation, this is a valuable book; the vastness, strength, wealth, and growing importance of Africa in the world today is made manifest. Geographical sections studied are Angola, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Bechuanaland, South West Africa, and the Union of South Africa. Indexing is extensive.

R Halacy, D. S. Fabulous Fireball; The Story of Solar Energy. Macmillan, 1957.

6-8 154p. \$3.

A survey of the ways in which mankind has used solar energy follows a discussion of the importance of the source and a brief review of early history. The author explains in detail many of the applications of solar energy today: solar cookers, furnaces, and air-conditioners; solar clocks and batteries; solar-powered space ships; and research being done in using sunlight to help produce food and water. One chapter discusses solar science as a career; the concluding chapter envisions uses of solar energy in the world of tomorrow. There is no index. Many illuminating photographs supplement the well-written text.

M ✓ Harrison, Crane Blossom. The Odd One; illus. by Elizabeth Dauber. Little, 7-9 1958. 269p. \$3.

Pat Castle's family is not happy about the girl's unfriendly behavior, and Pat herself feels that she is the odd one. Indeed, she has been convinced by an imaginative friend that she is actually an Indian and has been adopted. While she is visiting a ranch with her grandmother, Pat finds that she is truly the child of her parents, a fact that has never been in question. Pat has, encouraged by her grandmother's faith and love, been moved to think of other people, to feel wanted, and eventually to have some security. Grandmother is a very warm character, although many other characterizations are bizarre. Pat's maturation and her values are on the whole good; the effect is marred seriously by the attitude that it is dreadful to be Indian, a prejudice not repudiated by anyone in the story.

R ✓ Hays, Wilma Pitchford. Freedom. Coward-McCann, 1958. 56p. \$3.
5-10

A series of 26 full-page reproductions, chronologically arranged, of documents or parts of documents important in the history of the United States. The author suggests the use of a magnifying glass for viewing the facsimile reproductions, some of which are rough drafts or bear marginal notes. Facing each photograph is a page of background information. A most interesting collection of papers; some of those included are Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, Washington's last official letter, the Emancipation Proclamation, Roosevelt's note to Stalin appointing Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of "Overlord," and the United Nations Charter signatures.

R ✓ Haywood, Carolyn. Betsy's Winterhouse. Morrow, 1958. 192p. \$2.95.
3-5

A pleasant story with the perennial appeal of true-to-life doings of credible children. Betsy and her friends are lively, imaginative youngsters with whose behavior and conversation the reader can identify. The winterhouse that Father has built in the basement affords the children new opportunities for group play. Written with understanding and described with simplicity, the tale emerges with the seeming effortless-ness of true craftsmanship.

R ✓ Heinlein, Robert Anson. Have Space Suit—Will Travel. Scribner, 1958. 276p.
6-10 \$2.95.

Kip Russell renovates a space suit he has won in a soap slogan contest, and it serves him well through a series of fantastic adventures. An outline of the plot seems pure space opera—it climaxes with Kip and his friend Peewee defending the human race before the council of the Three Galaxies. However, the author's skill in creating real and interesting characters is great enough to make the action seem credible. Kip, for example, does the best he can under some extremely trying circumstances—he is not always the brave, resourceful and rather naive hero usual in such stories. Nor does he save the human race with an eloquent speech at the last minute; he and Peewee are merely two positive bits of evidence, and the race is simply granted a reprieve

in which to become a responsible member of the universe. The action is brisk, the writing style smooth, with an element of humor, and some serious ideas are introduced as well. The author engages briefly in poking fun at the extended curriculum of Kip's high school.

NR ✓ Hewett, Anita. ✓ Think, Mr. Platypus; pictures by Anne Marie Jauss. Sterling, 3-4 1958. 32p. \$2.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Platypus do not know where to make their home, so they ask other animals—the koala bear, the wombat, the echidna—if there is anything suitable in the neighborhood. All declare their own habitats to be unsuitable for a platypus. Mr. Platypus, after deep thought, remembers the proper sort of place, so the two find a spot, dig a burrow and start a family. There is no explanation in the text of the fact that the birds and animals mentioned are all indigenous to the Australian scene. The book is halting and repetitive as a story and not illuminating as a nature study, especially the suggestion that any species is in doubt about establishing a home.

NR ✓ Hoberman, Mary Ann and Norman. ✓ How Do I Go? Little, 1958. 32p. \$2.50. K-1

How does one go from one place to another? The possibilities are explored, and some of the time there is more than one way to go, some of the time only one way—after some improbable methods have been suggested and rejected. Simple text and bright, flat, poster-style illustrations present these environmental concepts. The only value of the book is in the presentation of such concepts, but some rather obvious omissions may provoke questions. The ocean can be crossed in a plane as well as a ship, and planes are probably more often used than trains to travel from Texas to Maine. For this age reader, the placing of text on pages and the use of first person may well be confusing.

Ad ✓ Hofsinde, Robert. ✓ Indian Beadwork. Morrow, 1958. 128p. \$2.50. 5-8

An adequate handbook on the various types of beading methods and the articles which can be made using beadwork as decoration—belts, jewelry, purses, knife sheaths, book covers, and moccasins. In each case the author recommends ready made articles to be decorated or tells how to make them; for example, he gives detailed instructions for moccasins of both Plains and Woodland type. Since the work is fairly intricate, and in some cases requires a special frame or leather, most children would probably need some assistance in getting started. However, the instructions and diagrams are, for the most part, clear and detailed, so that children skilled with their hands and familiar with handicraft supplies would be able to use the book by themselves.

NR ✓ Hogan, Inez. ✓ Twin Kittens. Dutton, 1958. 41p. \$2.25. 3-5

yrs.
Two little black kittens roam through a house, into the yard, and then go out through the gate and into the town. A dog chases them back to their own yard. As they grow older, the kittens are able to drink milk from a saucer and to catch mice; they now know better than to roam away, but sit on the gateposts and never stray to the dangerous sidewalks where the big dog is. A slight story with sterile text and repetitive illustrations.

NR ✓ Hogner, Nils. ✓ Farm for Rent. Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 42p. \$2.50. 2-3

Bill Greene's parents were looking for a farm to rent so that they might escape the noises of the city. They found that animals were very noisy when they visited a farm,

so they decided to rent a farm that had no animals. Little by little, they acquired animals, however, because they were needed; when they had a visitor from the city who found the animals noisy, the Greenes were quite surprised: they had become so used to the noise they didn't mind it a bit. A slight story that emphasizes animal noises; illustrations use many colors unrealistically, and on some pages are oppressively page-filling.

R ✓ Jackson, Jacqueline. ✓ The Paleface Redskins. Little, 1958. 275p. \$3.50.
4-6

Four children who are vacationing at a Wisconsin lake are absorbed in Indian lore. When a new Scout camp is built on the land that the four feel "belongs" to them, tribal war is declared. Minor skirmishes and major engagements are fought before the pale-face redskins make peace with the Scouts. The intensity of emotion felt by the children is convincing; the conflict that each feels about appeasement is most realistic. Much of the action is seen through the eyes of Marcy, a pre-teen-ager who is just beginning to feel concern about growing up and who resists change more than the others. Her ambivalence and the sense of relaxation she feels once she has made the choice of roles is described with perception.

R ✓ Joslin, Sesyle. ✓ What Do You Say, Dear ?; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Scott, 3-6 1958. 48p. \$2.75.
yrs.

A rollicking introduction to manners for the very young. A series of delightfully absurd situations—being introduced to a baby elephant, bumping into a crocodile, being rescued from a dragon—are posed, and appropriately answered. The illustrations are among Sendak's best—and funniest. Even if no manners were learned from the book it would be a source of much pleasure and amusement for children and adults alike.

Ad ✓ Jupo, Frank. ✓ The Day It Happened; Stories of Nine Eventful Days Long Ago 5-6 When Something Important Happened for the First Time. Macmillan, 1958. 64p. \$2.75.

Nine short stories about the days of famous firsts: some are inventions, such as the submarine and the first self-propelled vehicle, and others are firsts for their time or place, such as the first American newspaper or the first European use of coffee. While each anecdote is interesting, they seem a haphazard selection: for instance, the first flight of an aerial machine and the first appearance of an umbrella in London. The book is written in a pleasantly lively style, but the lack of index and the fact that the table of contents does not indicate the subjects of the anecdotes limits its usefulness.

Ad ✓ Kamerman, Sylvia E. ✓ A Treasury of Christmas Plays. Plays, Inc., 1958. 4-10 509p. \$5.

Forty one-act plays for stage and radio, royalty free. Plays are grouped for lower, middle, and upper grades and radio; production notes are appended that include playing time, characters, costumes, properties, setting, and lighting. One play for the older group and several for radio production are adapted from other sources. The calibre of the plays varies, but the number and variety will probably afford use by groups of many kinds. Some of the plays are modern, some old; some are humorous, some are fantasies; some are based on the birth of Jesus and others are illustrative of the spirit of Christmas.

R ✓ Kettelkamp, Larry. ✓ Singing Strings. Morrow, 1958. 48p. \$2.75.
4-6

An unusual book about the development of stringed instruments and differences be-

tween four main groups. The author traces the history of the harps, the piano family, the guitar family, and the violin family; he shows how, from the simpler forms, the instruments used today have evolved. Illustrations are clear, and instructions are given to the reader for making a simple version of each type of instrument from materials that may be found in the home. Interesting material that is well presented in a book of attractive design.

M ✓ King, Marian. A Gallery of Mothers and Their Children. Lippincott, 1958.
5-7 63p. \$3.

A selection of portraits (all to be found in galleries in this country) of mothers and their children. On the facing page is a description of the picture, including some facts about the subjects themselves, and a brief biographical sketch about the artist. Approximately half the text concerns the details of the painting: while the reproduction in black and white is disappointing, a description burdened with details of color of the original does not compensate. An explanation of those details of position that are visible to the reader seems superfluous. The book may be useful in art-appreciation classes, but the choice of pictures as well as the text indicates that the book may prove more interesting to adults than to children.

Ad ✓ Klein, Leonore. Brave Daniel; The Story of a Brave Boy; illus. by John K-2 Fischetti. Scott, 1958. 44p. \$2.25.

A book that uses a patterned device to produce a humorous effect: Daniel is pictured in a brave deed, but the explanation on the following page shows that under the circumstances, it was an ordinary action. For example, Brave Daniel jumped into the water to save a life . . . it was a kitten that had fallen into a bathtub. The result is not hilarious, but there will be satisfaction for some readers in anticipating the author.

SpR ✓ Krauss, Ruth. Somebody Else's Nut Tree, and Other Tales from Children;
3-5 pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1958. 43p. \$2.
yrs.

The brief selections in this book are based on words that the author has heard children use, some in prose and others in free verse. The tales range from simple and ingenuous bits that truly reflect the speech of childhood to longer and more complicated stories. Most of these express children's love in many ways, and will probably be more interesting to the adult concerned with the creative writing of children than to children themselves. Some selections are imaginative and evocative; others seem staccato and contrived. The full-page illustrations are appealing small-scale drawings, some of which repeat the tale in its entirety.

R ✓ Ladd, Elizabeth Crossgrove. Judy's Summer Friend; illus. by Mary Stevens.
4-6 Morrow, 1958. 158p. \$2.75.

Although Judy had David for a friend, he was a year older and often didn't want to include her in his activities. On the rather lonely Maine farm where Judy lived, there were no other playmates, so Judy was delighted when a girl of her own age came for the summer. Laurel and Judy, the native and the summer visitor, do not always understand each other; they have a strengthening friendship despite this, even when Judy wrongly suspects Laurel of malicious mischief. The plot is simple, with incidents that emerge naturally from the motivations of the characters, who are drawn with consistency and restraint.

R ✓ Latham, Jean Lee. Young Man in a Hurry; The Story of Cyrus W. Field; pic-
6-8 tures by Victor Mays. Harper, 1958. 238p. \$2.95.

The story of Cyrus Field, the man who labored for thirteen years to lay the Atlantic cable. Mr. Field's adult career is followed up to the point of this success, and is as

absorbing as any adventure story, as one financial tangle and challenging mechanical failure follows another. The faithful wife who believed in him when others doubted, and the sacrifices that had to be made to continue work on the cable lend drama to a vividly written book.

NR ✓Leavens, Evelyn. ✓Boswell's Life of Boswell. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 25p. 6-7 \$1.95.

A picture book about a sad-eyed dog, each page being a half-tone illustration of Boswell engaged in a different activity. There is no story line; the humor depends on the caption on each page, often a play on words: i.e., "I am capable of calm reflection" is the caption for a page that shows the dog regarding his reflection in the water. Format is simple and vocabulary very difficult; it seems highly improbable that this book will hold the interest of any but the most unregenerate lover of dogs. Even if read aloud to a younger child, the jokes would need explanation.

R ✓Levin, Jane Whitbread. ✓Bringing Up Puppies; A Child's Book of Dog Breeding 4-7 and Care; photographs by Mary Morris Steiner. Harcourt, 1958. 62p. \$2.95.

A practical and comprehensive book, written in informal and readable style. The author discusses breeding and pre-natal care, and gives explicit instructions for care of puppies at birth and during their early days. Health, diet and training (training of friends as well as dogs) are explained and are illustrated by photographs. Young readers will probably appreciate the tone of the book, which is businesslike and reassuring; there is no sentimentality and no patronizing.

M ✓Liang, Yen. ✓The Skyscraper. Lippincott, 1958. 48p. \$2.95. 2-3

As the city became more crowded, people were dissatisfied and the planners decided to tear down the old buildings and put buildings "one on top of the other" to have more surrounding space. It seems misleading to assume that the chief reason for building skyscrapers is to obtain more light and air, especially since children who have seen business districts will not associate them with surrounding space. The relocation of the people of the neighborhood presumably takes place in a tall building that does not look like a residential structure. The central portion of the book, illustrating the construction of the skyscraper, is excellent: precise and informative.

NR ✓Lindquist, Willis. ✓The Red Drum's Warning; illus. by Harper Johnson. Whitt-4-6 lesey House, 1958. 128p. \$2.75.

Kit Standish, age 13, is the son of an American planter in Haiti in 1802. When the natives rise up against the plantation owners, Kit is desolate because Teebo, a native friend, has deserted him. Teebo is affiliated with the voodoo cult, much to the regret of his father, Sebastian, who is a Christian and loyal to the Standish family. The family escapes to an American-bound ship after Kit, who has guarded the house alone, joins them with Teebo (in revolt against voodoo) by his side. The red drum is a voodoo instrument that has mysteriously "protected" Kit. Happily, the mechanics by which it operates are explained by Teebo. Although the author is quite positive about racial equality, the presentation of the mutinous natives has the opposite effect, which is only slightly mitigated by the fact that Teebo, Sebastian and one other native are "good."

NR ✓McClintock, Theodore. ✓Animal Close-ups; photographs by Desider Hollisher. 4-6 Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 160p. \$3.50.

A haphazard assortment of informational bits about some mammals and a few birds. The author started with a collection of photographs, which no doubt accounts for the random selection. With no index and with a table of contents that is not alphabetized,

the book is of little use except for casual browsing. Photographs are good but not unusual. The amount of information given about each animal is scanty.

M ✓ Maloney, Terry. ✓ Other Worlds in Space. Sterling, 1958. 128p. \$2.95.
8-10

A book on the solar system in which information is given about the planets and their satellites. Chapters on amateur astronomy and on the progress toward exploration of other planets are included. For full comprehension, a previous knowledge of astronomy is indicated, but readers who are interested in the subject may obtain considerable information even though they skip some of the more complicated material on planetary motions and astronomical calculations. Tables of data on the planets are appended, as are summaries of Newton's and Kepler's laws and a glossary that is extensive, but not always precise in definition. No index. The chapter on space travel is out of date, pictures are badly placed and the pedestrian writing is often unclear.

M ✓ Markun, Patricia Maloney. ✓ The Secret of El Barú; pictures by Barry M.
4-6 Martin. Watts, 1958. 213p. \$2.95.

When Sally and Dave came to Panama to stay with their father, who was working on the Inter-American Highway, they found a good friend in young Rick Martinez. The three were inspired by an archeologist to do some digging on their own, and were puzzled by mysterious vandalism at their dig. Another mystery was the theft of their father's highway survey maps. The children are suspiciously successful in their ventures; where adults have failed, they discover the thief; and they find, at their own dig, the answer to a problem the archeologist has been unable to solve. The author has lived for many years in the Canal Zone, and gives authentic background detail, presented unfortunately in a manner that interferes with the story line.

R ✓ Means, Florence (Crannell). ✓ Borrowed Brother; illus. by Dorothy Bayley
7-10 Morse. Houghton, 1958. 239p. \$3.

Jan Pratt, an only child, changes places for a month with her cousin Molly Avery. Living with a family of nine sometimes overwhelms Jan, but her natural good sense and good humor help her to adjust and to do a bit of growing up. Mark, the oldest boy, to whom Jan is attracted, has misinterpreted an overheard conversation and thinks he has been adopted; a major portion of the action is centered on his problem. The author's skill at writing keeps the unusual characters from becoming stereotypes and the family life from being unrealistically involved. Family relationships are good, especially among the three generations, and the values that the Avery parents try to instill in their children are good. In addition, there is a nice feeling for the rough and picturesque Colorado country where the Averys' "Gingerbread Castle" is located. A minor flaw is the incident where a baby's throat is swabbed with merthiolate, not a standard medical practice.

R ✓ Meyer, Edith Patterson. ✓ Bible Stories for Young Readers; illus. by Howard
4-6 Simon. Abingdon, 1958. 288p. \$3.50.

Based on the Revised Standard Version of the Bible are these stories selected from the Old and New Testaments. The author's notes give the reader some background about the source and a list of Bible references follows the index. The stories are grouped together for better sequence, and are told in simple language with some quotations from the Bible.

NR ✓ Miles, Betty. ✓ What Is the World?; illus. by Remy Charlip. Knopf, 1958. 39p.
4-5 \$3.

yrs.

A book that tries to present to the child the idea of the inclusive nature of his world.

Unfortunately, the concept is illogically developed, and the child may well be confused by the way the word "world" is used and by the inclusion of objects, actions, sensations and time. The illustrations do not clarify environmental concepts, but are strikingly and sophisticatedly designed.

R ✓ Minarik, Else Holmelund. No Fighting, No Biting!; pictures by Maurice Sendak. 1-2 Harper, 1958. 63p. (An I Can Read Book) \$2.50.

A story within a story: Rosa and Willy, teasing and pushing, ask Cousin Joan to tell them a story, and she tells them about the two small quarrelsome alligators who nearly met a terrible fate because they had stopped to fight. A book with spontaneity and humor in text and illustrations. The lesson in the tale of the alligators may be seen quickly by children, but there is no dull, complacent moral ending—Rosa and Willy go right on squeezing and teasing.

NR ✓ Moore, Joseph A. ✓ Hot Shot at Third. Duell, 1958. 184p. \$2.95. 6-8

After spending the first part of the season in Louisville learning the third base position, Don Whitehouse goes on to success as third baseman of the Yankees. There is virtually no plot, though the author tries to add interest with irrelevant and pointless sub-plot: Don's brother is arrested as a Communist spy, but it is later revealed that he was working for the F.B.I. all along. Characterization is shallow, and the author's constant referral to Don's being "too cocky" and "swell-headed" do not ring true. The writing is slow-moving, even in the game sequences and the style is full of sports-writers' jargon and strained figures of speech, such as "The Orioles came to bat with blood on their fangs."

R ✓ Morris, Richard Brandon. The First Book of the Constitution; pictures by 5-7 Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1958. 69p. \$1.95.

A well-written and useful book, beautifully illustrated. The author, a professor of history at Columbia, describes the troubled state of the thirteen colonies as they worked together to achieve independence; the weak confederation out of which grew a strong organization and the struggle between those who favored federal strength and those who feared it. In reporting the discussion at the Constitutional Convention and the arguments for ratification, Mr. Morris brings to the reader a picture of the strengths inherent in the document as it evolved. A simplified outline of the Constitution (and its amendments) is included.

Ad ✓ Morrow, Betty. ✓ See Up the Mountain; with the editorial co-operation of 3-5 Millicent E. Selsam; pictures by Winifred Lubell. Harper, 1958. 46p. \$2.50.

An interesting description of the changes in weather and of the variation of flora and fauna in the various zones of a mountain. Following an explanation of the zones, a trip up the mountain begins. The device of having people who are going up the mountain is here rather obtrusive, since there is no relationship between the personal and the objective observations. A very simple exposition is made of the correspondence between the ecology of mountain zones of a particular temperature and that of low-land areas of comparable temperature.

Ad ✓ Newberry, Clare (Turley). ✓ Widget. Harper, 1958. 32p. \$2.50. 3-5

yrs.

Widget, a small black kitten, escapes from her box and explores the world until Mother Cat sees her encounter a puppy and comes to the rescue. Widget, curled up beside her mother, is glad to be home. A slight story that is secondary to the soft and appealing illustrations, reminiscent of other books by this author.

Ad Norton, Andre. The Time Traders. World, 1958. 219p. \$3.

9-12

Toward the end of the twentieth century, the Russians have acquired a source of information that is highly advanced; the Americans have organized a complex network of agents to find the source. One agent is Ross Murdock, a petty criminal who is given the opportunity to train at the secret base as an alternative to rehabilitation. Sent back in time to prehistory, Ross engages in a series of dangerous adventures in which his enemies are Russians who have also moved back in time, men of prehistoric Britain, and spacemen from the future. From the latter, whose ship is buried inside a glacier, the Russians have been getting their knowledge. The action is suspenseful, although the several narrow escapes are rather repetitive in pattern; the complex of plots (time travel, spy story, interpersonal conflicts at the base, buried spacemen) becomes somewhat elaborate and involved.

R Parsons, Tom. How To Make Earthworms Pay; illus. by Frank Oates.

7- Abelard-Schuman, 1958. 126p. \$3.

A how-to-do-it book that gives comprehensive information about worm-farming, telling the reader how to get worms with which to start a business and how to house, feed and breed them. Advice is given on financial details, supplies and publicity. By knowing the uses of worms, the breeder can tell who his potential customers are, and, the author states in his conclusion, the road to success lies in mastery of salesmanship techniques.

SpC Paullin, Ellen. No More Tonsils!; with photographs by Roger Russell. New
3-5 ed. Beacon, 1958. 31p. \$2.

yrs.

A series of poorly reproduced photographs illustrate the story of Karen, who had her tonsils removed after examination by a doctor indicated that this was advisable. Text and illustrations have been planned to minimize for the child the fears that the prospect of an operation or a hospital stay may evoke. First edition was published in 1947. Probably the book will be most useful for parental use in the home.

R Rasp-Nuri, Grace. Yusuf; Boy of Cyprus; tr. from the German by J. Maxwell
5-7 Brownjohn. Criterion, 1958. 322p. \$3.50.

A fast-moving and convincing adventure story. Yusuf, when his mother died, was left orphaned and went grudgingly to live with a friend of his mother's, the spinster Pembe Hanum. The boy was kidnapped by thieves and forcibly trained to assist them; sent into a home to steal, Yusuf roused the family and saved them. In gratitude the homeowner, an Englishman, provided schooling for Yusuf and an allowance. Another Englishman, impressed by the intelligence and bravery of the boy, adopted him. Enroute to England via ship, the men who had abducted Yusuf are captured when he informs the Englishman that they are aboard. The island people are presented with sympathy and discernment, the story line is brisk yet smooth, and characterizations are sharply individual.

SpR Reid, Alastair. Allth; illus. by Walter Lorraine. Houghton, 1958. 52p. \$3.
5-8

Another lovely fairy tale that continues the fantasy world of Fairwater. Allth, one of the Seven Kingdoms, has become dark and desolate since the wizard Quirkillion disappeared, and with him the Lost Song of Allth. Pirn, the last of a hereditary line of minstrels, resolves to find the Song; he ventures into the castle of the cruel Kirth. Aided by the magic of Quirkillion, Pirn finds the Lost Song, rescues the long-captive princess, and outwits Kirth the Grim. When Pirn sings the Lost Song, the crystal waters flow, the trees turn green, and the land of Allth is again lovely and alive. Authentic fairy tale flavor and distinguished literary style; a book to enjoy for reading

aloud and storytelling as well as for individual reading.

R Reinfeld, Fred. Chess for Children; with moves and positions pictured in 5-9 photo and diagram. Sterling, 1958. 61p. \$2.50.

A good introductory book on chess that can be used alone and will be especially helpful to study as a supplement to personal instruction. The pieces used in the game, the ways in which each piece moves and captures and the conventions of illustration (of the board and of moves in diagram) are explained. Photographs and diagrams are used to illustrate chess moves such as castling and checking, opening moves and the drawn game. The author, a chess expert, includes a section on standard-opening games such as the Danish gambit and the four knights' games.

R Rey, Margaret. Curious George Flies a Kite; pictures by H. A. Rey. Houghton, 1-2 1958. 80p. \$2.75.

Another appealing story about the small and determined monkey who gets into, and out of, one predicament after another. Gay pictures and simple text show George playing with a baby rabbit, going fishing and flying a kite. When the kite flies off with George, a rescue by helicopter ensues. This is an addition to materials for beginning readers, and action is more slow-moving than is usual for Curious George because of the attention to vocabulary—resulting in quite a long story for the beginning reader. Not a read-aloud book.

NR Rowand, Phyllis. George Goes to Town. Little, 1958. 41p. \$2.75.
K-2

Not quite as probable as the first book about George. Here the family moves to the city and George is left all alone in the apartment. Each of the eight members of the household suddenly realizes that the dog is neglected, and takes him off on an expedition, none of the family being aware that George has been out that day. (Therefore George goes out eight times, including a trip to the Empire State Building and a ride on a boat, all in one day.) That night, the family gathers, happy to see each other because they haven't before all been home at the same time. They realize they have missed each other, and move back to the slower pace of the country. The moral stated is that home is where those we love are. The implication that a family cannot be together and have a happy home in the city seems fallacious.

NR Sanders, Doris and Patricia Highsmith. Miranda the Panda Is on the Veranda. 5-6 Coward-McCann, 1958. 40p. \$2.50.

An illustrated version of a nonsense game that has long been popular, animals placed by rhyme: i.e., "a lynx on a sphinx" or, extended, "a newt on a flute can toot." Some of the captions are faintly humorous, but most are rather labored, and the whole book is less effective than it would be were the incongruities less prevalent.

M Saxon, Gladys (Relyea). All Around the Land; illus. by Jo Polseno. Holt, 1958. 4-6 127p. \$2.50.

A dozen short stories, each with a different regional background. Some illustrate customs of local origin and others the customs brought to America from another land. Several of the stories illustrate the problems of children embarrassed by parents who are not native Americans; others reflect the reluctance of the group to accept one who does not conform to the group's pattern. Useful for intergroup or intercultural understanding, but limited by mediocre style and purposive, made-to-order plots.

R Schlein, Miriam. The Big Cheese; with pictures by Joseph Low. Scott, 1958. 1-3 48p. \$2.95.

The tale of a farmer who made a superlative cheese which he felt was fit for a king—

so he put it in a wheelbarrow and started out to the palace. Some of the people he met on the way, and several more at the palace persuaded him to give them a taste, so all the king had was the last small sliver. The farmer agreed to come again and bring a whole, untasted cheese when he made another as good as the first. A modest story, but one that appeals because of the traditional, almost folklore, flavor and a unified story line.

SpR Schrank, Joseph. The Plain Princess and the Lazy Prince; with drawings by 6- Vasiliu. Day, 1958. 58p. \$2.95.

A sophisticated mock-fairy tale about a homely princess whose parents are having some difficulty arranging a marriage for her. It is decided that she ought properly to be rescued from a dragon, but all the young dragons have more customers than they can handle; she finally pays a monthly rent to a tired old dragon who really doesn't want her. The story of her rescue by the prince and of their subsequent negotiations proceeds in this highly irregular vein. The incongruous combination of fairy tale framework and crisp, businesslike detail can be enjoyed by all, but will be most fully savored by older or more sophisticated readers. Fun to read aloud.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Nature Detective; pictures by Theresa Sherman. 2-4 Scott, 1958. 48p. \$2.75.

Pictured in text and illustrations are animal clues that the amateur nature detective can observe and understand. Mrs. Selsam shows how one may see not only what animal made the tracks, but what he may have been doing; how traces of meals can indicate the identity of the eater; how the direction of a gull's tracks can tell which way the wind was blowing. Simply written, yet the impression is conveyed that hunting for clues is an absorbing pastime. A brief list of selected readings is appended.

R Seuss, Dr. The Cat in the Hat Comes Back! Random House, 1958. 63p. (A 1 Beginner Book) \$1.95.

A happy addition to entertaining books for beginning readers, the further adventures of Dr. Seuss' Cat will delight his friends. This intrepid animal enlists the help of Cats A-Z (twenty-six cats, each smaller than the one before, who emerge from each other's hats) in getting him out of incongruous difficulties.

Ad Seymour, Alta Halverson. When the Dikes Broke; illus. by Al Schmidt. Follett, 5-6 1958. 144p. \$2.85.

A family story based on the great flood in Holland on January 31, 1953. Most of the action centers around the remote farm section of Kuyfoort and concerns the van Rossern family whose farm house flooded up to the attic. The family is separated and thirteen-year-old Lisa is instrumental in finding her young aunt, Anna, who has been swept far away. The search for Anna gives the author an opportunity to give a broad picture of devastated Holland; it gives all the characters opportunities to be self-sacrificing and heroic. Not a distinguished book, but dramatic in subject and poignant and warm in family relationships.

R Sharp, Edith Lambert. Nkwala; with illus. by William Winter. Little, 1958. 6-7 125p. \$3.

The story of an Indian boy in the Pacific northwest several hundred years ago. Nkwala, who is approaching the age of manhood, is anxious to have his Dream that will give him an adult name. Although he prays and fasts, although he repeatedly observes all the rites, his Dream does not come. The Spokane, a Salish tribe to which Nkwala belongs, has been traveling away from its drought-stricken lands and has been attacked by the Okanagan, another Salish tribe. When the boy courageously risks his life to gain time for parley, he is at last declared an adult. An absorbing story written in distinctive and beautiful prose.

R ✓ Slobodkin, Louis. ✓ The First Book of Drawing. Watts, 1958. 68p. \$1.95.
6-9

An introduction to some of the principles and techniques of drawing. The author discusses shape, structure of men and animals, movement, perspective, shadow, and depth. The media and tools are described and their uses explained; the effects achieved by the different techniques are illustrated. While the author offers encouragement for the amateur, he makes it clear that his purpose is to give instruction so that the reader may achieve a measure of confidence; he does not suggest that the book will equip the amateur for a career.

M ✓ Slobodkin, Louis. ✓ The Spaceship Returns to the Apple Tree. Macmillan, 1958.
3-5 128p. \$2.50.

Eddie is visited, while at his grandmother's farm, by Marty, the spaceboy who had been there the summer before. His spaceship is invisible to those who do not have the special glasses which only the two boys have; folded inside the ship is a little green automobile. By using the ship for traveling, and the car while in cities, Eddie and Marty visit many historic sites all over the United States in four days. Marty saves the town's Fourth of July display from destruction and is declared a hero before he goes back to Martinea. The terminology for Martinean gadgets and the descriptions of their use become dull through repetition in a book that seems too long and rather elaborate: a combination fantasy and travelogue. There is on one page a pointed reference to the book to which this is a sequel.

Ad ✓ Steinman, Beatrice M. ✓ This Railroad Disappears; with pictures by Douglas
4-6 Gorsline. Watts, 1958. 181p. \$2.95.

When Seth discovered that his father was working on the Underground Railroad, he wanted to help and to show his parents that he could assume responsibility. Opportunities for him to help did come, and Seth was instrumental in saving lives of some of those escaping to freedom. The book has several suspenseful episodes but is not cohesive. The writing is adequate, but the story is marred by recurrent introduction of political information, which is not handled skillfully enough to be unobtrusive.

R ✓ Sutcliff, Rosemary. ✓ Warrior Scarlet; illus. by Charles Keeping. Walck, 1958.
7-10 208p. \$3.25.

A story of the Bronze Age in England, fast-paced and with a sustained excitement. The scarlet cloth that might be worn only by warriors was denied to Drem; he had failed to pass the test of manhood, killing his wolf. Because he was handicapped by a crippled arm, Drem had trained hard for the wolf-killing, and he was desolate when his failure brought the traditional punishment of banishment from the tribe. The courage Drem shows when he does kill a wolf while herding sheep admits him to the tribe again. The details of ritual training and rites make convincing the picture of an ancient culture. Such details mean that the book cannot be read superficially, but the very real and timeless people and the drama of the action create an absorbing book.

R ✓ Thayer, Jane. ✓ The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy; pictures by Seymour Fleishman.
K-2 Morrow, 1958. 48p. \$2.50.

The one thing Petey wanted for Christmas was a boy, but his mother simply couldn't find one. She offered Petey a rabbit or a canary, but he still wanted a boy, so he trotted off to see if any dogs would give their boys away. The dogs he asked were very rude, and Petey was discouraged and tired by the time he reached the orphan home. The happy ending for Petey was that he got fifty boys for Christmas. A pleasant and unassuming story, first published in the December, 1946 issue of Story Parade.

M ✓ Thomas, Henry. ✓ Sister Elizabeth Kenny; illus. by Polly Bolian. Putnam, 1958.
5-7 126p. (Lives to Remember) \$2.

A biography that is chiefly concerned with the part of Sister Kenny's life which was devoted to the promotion of her treatment of the muscular after-effects of polio. The indictment of the medical profession is rather strong, but the picture of an unselfish and dedicated woman fighting for her cause is underlined by the resistance she met in the profession. Style of writing is good, though florid in spots, but the material is somewhat repetitive.

M ✓ Tufts, Anne. ✓ Rails along the Chesapeake; illus. by Rus Anderson. Holt, 1957.
7-9 223p. \$3.

Young Brad Warren, who had been working in a granite quarry in New England, became interested in the horse-drawn railway that served the quarry. He traveled down to Baltimore to work on a new railroad track; here he met Peter Cooper and helped him with the construction and trial run of the Tom Thumb. The backgrounds of the granite quarry and of the pioneer years of railroading are interesting and are smoothly incorporated into the story, but the plot is overburdened with villains, fights, escapes, saboteurs, and accidents.

NR ✓ Walker, Gwen. ✓ The Golden Stile; illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Day, 1958. 188p.
5-6 \$2.95.

Noel, whose parents pushed him to study constantly because he had an I.Q. of 150, was a very unhappy boy until the night a little man appeared at his window and invited him to climb over the golden stile into the world of imagination. Noel became involved in a series of adventures, in most of which he was surrounded by frogs, mice, squid, or lobsters of enormous size and of varying degrees of hostility. In the last episode, Noel met a farm couple, Ma and Pa, with whom he felt secure. At this point, Noel awakes to find that it was all a dream; he had been very ill because of overwork. His parents plan to take him to the farm where Ma and Pa live. Some of the imaginary episodes are most unpleasant, and the vocabulary is very difficult for the age that might find this fantasy of interest.

M ✓ Webber, Irma Eleanor (Schmidt). ✓ It Looks Like This; A Point-of-View Book.
K-2 Scott, 1958. 62p. \$2.

Revised edition; first published in 1949. Four mice, each of which lives in a different part of the barn, has a definite idea of how large animals look—depending on the point of view from which it is seen. They argue until a cat, rolling over, makes them realize that one thing may be seen from several points of view. Useful as the concept is, the drawings that illustrate it are rather confusing, especially to the very small child.

R ✓ Whitcomb, Helen and John. ✓ Strictly for Secretaries; illus. by Gill Fox. Whittlesey House, 1957. 166p. \$3.

A book of advice for secretaries or those who plan a secretarial career, written in a pleasantly breezy style. How to choose a job, how to apply for a job, and how to dress appropriately are discussed, and a check-list for grooming is given. Suggestions are made for maintaining good relationships with fellow workers, employers and clients; ways of improving performance are listed: using reference books, improving typing speed, or composing letters. Some of the material in the book has been published in Today's Secretary. A useful book for a vocational guidance collection.

R ✓ Wilson, Barbara Ker. ✓ Path-through-the-Woods; illus. by Charles Stewart.
6-9 Criterion, 1958. 182p. \$3.50.

An English nurse gives one of her patients an old quilt, made in the Path-through-the-Woods pattern, to mend. Each piece of material takes the reader back to an episode in the early life of Sophie Fielding, one of the first women doctors of England. While the device of recalling by association is unoriginal, the style of the book is fresh and spontaneous; the reader is given a vivid picture of family life in Victorian England as well as the story of young Sophie's preparation for her career.

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Reading for Teachers

- ✓ Committee on Teaching Aids of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English.
✓ Teaching Aids in the English Language Arts. National Council of Teachers of English, 1958. 95p. \$1. Annotated by high school teachers.
- ✓ Finder, Morris. "Using Magazine Articles as a Stimulus for Writing." Chicago Schools Journal, pp. 17-20. October, 1958.
- ✓ Havighurst, Robert and Neugarten, Bernice. Society and Education. Allyn and Bacon, 1957. 465p. \$5.75.
- ✓ International Reading Association. Reading for Effective Living. Scholastic Magazine, 1958. 192p. \$2. Official proceedings of the 1958 conference.
- ✓ Jewett, Arno, ed. Improved Reading in the Junior High School. U. S. Office of Education, Bulletin No. 10, 1957. U. S. Government Printing Office. 171p. \$.60.
- ✓ Kingsley, Marjorie. "An Experiment in Individualized Reading." Elementary English, pp. 113-118. February, 1958.
- ✓ Mackintosh, Helen and Mahar, Mary Helen. "Teaching Reading the Individualized Way." School Life, pp. 4-7. May, 1958.
- ✓ National Association of Manufacturers. Our Teachers, Their Importance to Our Children and Our Community. N. A. M., 2 E. 48th St., New York 17. 21p. Single copy free to teachers.
- ✓ Postel, Harold. "Reading the Entire Book: An Experiment in Sustained Reading." Elementary School Journal, pp. 389-390. April, 1958.
- ✓ Russell, David. "Personal Values in Reading." The Reading Teacher, pp. 3-9. October, 1958.
- ✓ Stewart, J. L. and others. Improving Reading in the Junior High School; a Librarian and a Core Teacher Work Together. Appleton, 1957. 67p. \$.95.
- ✓ Williams, Elizabeth. "Teaching Judgment of Prose Fiction." The English Journal, pp. 495-499. November, 1958.

