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Bulletin
of
the
Center
for
Children's
Books

March 1959 · Vol. XII · No. 7



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. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Acting Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey, Editor.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: one year, \$4.50; two years, \$9.00; three years, \$13.50. \$2.50 per year each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy, 75¢. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois. All notices of change of address should provide *both* the old and the new address.

Second-class mail privileges authorized at Chicago, Illinois.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XII

March, 1959

Number 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

SpC Andersen, Hans Christian, et al. The Fairy Tale Book; tr. by Marie Ponsot; 3-6 illus. by Adrienne Ségur. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 156p. (A De Luxe Golden Book) \$3.95.

Twenty-eight stories from half a dozen standard authors such as Perrault and Grimm, plus some from traditional Japanese and Russian sources. In these versions of the tales are some deviations from the usual; for example, Perrault's "Donkey-Skin" tells of the king who wishes to marry his own daughter, whereas the long-accepted Rose Fairy Book version refers to an adopted daughter. Writing is involved and pedestrian, demanding simplification if read aloud to younger children. The illustrations, elaborately detailed and exquisite in the romantic tradition, merit inclusion in an art collection.

R Anglund, Joan Walsh. The Brave Cowboy. Harcourt, 1959. 38p. \$1.95.
3-6 yrs.

A day in the life of a very small and dashing cowboy is pictured in charming black and white drawings; superimposed in red are shown the imaginary activities of the little cowboy as he fights Indians, rescues a maiden in distress or engages in other dauntless action. The text describes these activities with sedate restraint, making the imaginative illustrations all the more effective. Small children can enjoy identifying with the child at play and adults can relish the intensity with which the brave cowboy lives in his dream world.

R Annixter, Jane and Paul. Buffalo Chief. Holiday House, 1958. 219p. \$2.95.
6-8

A well-written, absorbing tale of the last days of Indian freedom on the Western Plains. The story is told through the interaction of events in the life of a Sioux medicine man and of a buffalo calf that comes to represent for the Indian the Buffalo God of his people. The story of the final defeat of the Indians has been told many times, but there is a beauty of writing and a freshness of approach here that bring new interest and appeal to the account.

R Arundel, Jocelyn. Simba of the White Mane; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whitt-5-7 lesey House, 1958. 127p. \$2.95.

Toki, a small African boy, loved the bush country. When his father was alive he had been a scout in the Tanganyika Game Department; Toki wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. Therefore, when he found that a safari was starting off, the boy hid in one of the trucks as a stowaway. He was accepted as a member of the expedition, but was lost when he stopped to rescue an animal. Always Toki had heard of Simba, the almost-legendary lion with a white mane. When the lion was wounded by a hunter, Toki risked his life to save Simba's. Perceptively and sympathetically written, this

is a book that is gentle in its understanding and exciting in its action.

Ad Barbeau, Marius. The Golden Phoenix; And Other French-Canadian Fairy Tales; retold by Michael Hornyansky; illus. by Arthur Price. Walck, 1958. 4-6 144p. \$3.

An attractive collection of eight fairy tales, gathered among the French Canadians. The stories are typical of European fairy tales and have little that actually sets them apart as French-Canadian. They are, however, well-told and will have interest for children who will enjoy them as fairy tales and for all who are interested in folklore. Notes on origins are provided.

R Barker, Will. Winter-Sleeping Wildlife; illus. by Carl Burger. Harper, 1958. 5-7 136p. \$3.

Interesting account of the winter habits of different types of animals—mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, spiders, insects, and mollusks. The text is well-written and serves to dispel some of the misconceptions that people have regarding hibernation. The illustrations are attractive and quite informative. A list at the end of the book contains both the common and the scientific names of the animals discussed.

R Borten, Helen. Do You See What I See? Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 44p. \$2.75. 3-6

An unusual book that can be used in the development of visual sophistication and art appreciation. Vocabulary is difficult, but a comprehension of the text is necessary to interpret the illustrations: this means, for younger children, that the book should be looked at with adult guidance. The author shows the elements of composition: the use of lines, shapes, and spaces; colors that are bright or quiet, colors that contrast or blend.

R Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. A Book of Satellites for You; illus. by Leonard 1-3 Kessler. Crowell, 1959. 48p. \$3.

An excellent book to help feed the growing demand of very young readers and listeners for books about space. In concise and logical terms, a simple explanation of an artificial satellite is given. The launching and orbit, the instruments on satellites and the information obtained from the instruments, the satellites man has already made and some prognoses about new types are described and illustrated.

R Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. The Nine Planets; Exploring Our Universe; 6-9 illus. by Helmut K. Wimmer. Crowell, 1958. 77p. \$3.

A guidebook to the planets, presenting in concise form information scientists have gathered to date about this part of the solar system. For each planet are given the most important facts, such as distance, temperature, mass, rotation period, size and atmosphere. Bibliography and index are included. The book will have considerable reference value as well as appeal for the student who is interested in astronomy.

Ad Breetveld, Jim. Getting To Know Lebanon; illus. by Haris Petie. Coward- 4-6 McCann, 1958. 63p. \$2.50.

An introductory overview of Lebanon, its past history and its present status. Religious, political, educational, geographical, industrial, and agricultural aspects are examined briefly. It is rather jarring to have the factual text change abruptly and to be introduced to Ahmed, who conducts the reader on a personal tour: "Ahmed would tell you . . . Ahmed would explain." With no demarcation, the narration is suddenly resumed.

R Caldwell, John Cope and Elsie F. Let's Visit Korea. Day, 1959. 96p. \$2.95. 4-6

A comprehensive book about Korea that gives a good picture of the history of the country, treats briefly of the war years 1950-1953, and describes life in Korea today. The description is based, of course, on the Republic of Korea, or South Korea. Information about home life, education, the Korean alphabet and language, and about urban and rural patterns is given. While the material is well-organized and interesting, there is, in the writing, enough over-explaining or amplification of simple terms to result in an impression that the authors are writing down to their readers.

R Carlson, Bernice Wells. Make It and Use It; Handicraft for Boys and Girls; 3-5 illus. by Aline Hansens. Abingdon, 1958. 160p. \$2.50.

A useful book, much like the others by Mrs. Carlson: materials that are easily obtainable and not expensive are used to make favors, toys, gifts, games, etc. The book is divided into sections by material used: plain paper, crepe paper, newspapers, cardboard, food, cloth, wood, and other simple materials. Explanations and illustrations are clear and the handicraft suggestions are never discouragingly elaborate.

M Carson, John F. The Twenty-Third Street Crusaders. Ariel, 1958. 183p. \$3.7-10

A gang of potential hoodlums suddenly finds itself constituting a basketball team, sponsored by the 23rd Street Church and coached by a close-mouthed stranger named Sorell. This is not strictly a basketball story, for the actual games play a minor role in the description of the gang's slowly developing team spirit and positive social attitudes. Sorell, it is disclosed, had been a famous college coach and is now trying to atone for his neglect of his own son by helping the Crusaders. Joey Gibbs, who tells the story, emerges as a credible character although not a vivid one; other members of the Crusaders are also believable, but rather superficially presented. The plot has several trite elements, such as Sorell's mysterious past and the Big Game, which the Crusaders naturally win, though these elements do not interfere too seriously with the believability of the story as a whole. The author has presented good values in an acceptable way, but the book lacks real depth or insight.

NR Christensen, Gardell Dano. Mrs. Mouse Needs a House. Holt, 1958. 64p. 2-3 \$2.25.

The widowed Mrs. Mouse was disconsolate when her home was washed away in a spring flood. Other animals rescued her and formed a committee to build a new house. First the badger built one that was too big, then the chipmunk found her a house—but it was too cold. Finally Mr. Albert Mouse came along and built a house for the widow and they moved in and lived together. The illustrations of various animals are not captioned for identification. Style is slightly coy and the animals are indistinguishable from each other in their behavior.

R Cooke, David Cox. Behind the Scenes in Television. Dodd, 1958. 64p. 6-9 \$2.25.

A brief look at some of the preliminary activities, the equipment, and the techniques that are involved in the production of television shows. The clearly written text and well-selected photographs will help to make these activities understandable to the reader.

NR Crisp, Frank. The Sea Ape; illus. by Dick Powers. Coward-McCann, 1959. 7-9 255p. \$3.50.

A lurid adventure story of missing men, treasure lost at sea, murder and an abandoned ship. Dirk Rogers, the master of a salvage ship, is engaged by wealthy Edgar Haler to investigate the mystery of the derelict vessel and its crew, one of whom had been his son. Young Haler had been interested in the legend of a creature that stalked the deep—the sea ape. There are numerous island characters, all type-set, and numerous undersea hazards to be encountered before resourceful Dirk Rogers solves

the mystery. The lost heir is found, the lost diamonds retrieved from the wreck of a freighter, the sea ape unmasked and the villain outwitted. One of the members of the crew, Jose Pepito, speaks in interminable malapropisms that are too contrived to be humorous.

NR Cunningham, Mary. The Paris Hat. Funk and Wagnalls, 1958. 182p. \$2.95. 6-8

Cathy Darfield finds staying with her young aunt a pleasant break in the routine of caring for her five younger brothers and sisters. Indeed, she has decided that she is meant for more exciting things than "mothering" and determines to become a ballerina when she is encouraged by the glamorous Rex, a young, handsome, professional dancer. Then a Paris hat arrives for her aunt, and the entire family becomes tense and excited; it seems that Uncle Pat always sends a Paris hat to herald his arrival home from far-away places. A contrived atmosphere of mystery surrounds both hat and uncle. Eventually Cathy is disillusioned to find that Rex's only interest in her is as a pupil for his dance class—not as a partner in professional ballet; she gladly goes back to her faithful steady, Walt. The book is full of characters who never come alive, and the several chains of action have little relation to one another.

SpC Curry, W. Lawrence, ed. Songs for Early Childhood at Church and Home; illus. 4-7 by Ann Eshner. Westminster, 1958. 127p. \$1.75. yrs.

A collection of religious music for the small child, from simple single-line "songs" of three or four measures to longer compositions that are more demanding. Some of the selections are, unfortunately, only a part of the whole song which might better have been presented in its entirety; i.e., "Now Thank We All Our God" or "O Christmas Tree." The book is divided into five sections: God and His World, Jesus, Together at Home, Together at Church, and Together in the Community; songs are indexed by first line, title, and topic. Accompaniments are simple, words and music are printed clearly, and the source for each song is printed below the song, with copyright holder noted.

R Darling, Louis. Kangaroos and Other Animals with Pockets. Morrow, 1958. 4-6 64p. \$2.50.

A compact and informative book about marsupial mammals of the world; their evolution from a common ancestor and their isolation on the Australian continent is explained. An unusual feature in this book is the use of paired drawings of marsupial animals and their comparable forms among the pouchless mammals. The distinguishing features and habits of the red kangaroo are described in detail as an example of the marsupial's life. Profusely illustrated; not indexed.

R Detjen, Mary Elizabeth (Ford) and Ervin Winfred. So You're in High School; 8-12 illus. by Charles Geer. Whittlesey House, 1958. 126p. \$2.75. Adapted by the authors from their textbook Your High School Days. Discusses choice of courses, relationships between classmates and the student's relationships with teachers and family. Manners and habits, work, school records of non-curricular activities, and the problems of part-time jobs and of planning (and conducting) programs and meetings in school are also explored. A useful book, well-organized and briskly pragmatic. Bibliography and index are appended.

R Dietz, David. All about Satellites and Space Ships; sixteen-page photo section 6-8 with drawings by George Wilde. Random House, 1958. 164p. \$1.95. Although by no means as definitive a treatment as the title would imply, this is a useful and informative book on satellites and space travel. Principles of interplanetary flight are discussed as simply as possible and the numerous drawings aid in further

clarifying the subject. The book should prove both interesting and timely.

NR Doane, Pelagie. The Big Trip. Walck, 1958. 48p. \$2.75.

3-5

yrs.

A little boy who has never been to the city goes to visit his aunt. He sees the museum, the library, the aquarium. He goes with his little cousin to a movie and he watches television programs on her bedroom television set; he admires the stars from the apartment-house rooftop and he gets homesick. As soon as he gets back to his own home, he wants to know when he can go again. Adults may view with alarm the idea of two small children alone on a high roof with a low parapet. The author has included too many activities and has described a city family that is far from average: they live in a building with a doorman, their "dazzling" living room is enhanced by a maid and a French poodle with diamonds in her collar. Placement of text is confusing, and the use of first person is often difficult for the small child.

Ad Du Jardin, Rosamond (Neal). Wedding in the Family. Lippincott, 1958. 192p. 6-8 \$2.75.

Now that Tobey Heydon is finally marrying Brose, the author turns her attention to Tobey's fifteen-year-old sister Midge. First Brose's best man, then the lifeguard at the hotel near the Heydon's summer cottage claim Midge's affections. She is disillusioned with both, but accepts it philosophically as part of the fascinating business of learning about boys. She also meets Tom Brooks, who is not romantic, but is intelligent, sensible, and fun to be with, and when she returns from the lake she finds that it is Tom who remains in her thoughts. She realizes that shared interests are a better basis for a lasting relationship than moonlight and her happiness is complete when Tom shows up at her home for a few days' visit. Writing is smooth, characters are credible, if shallow, and while the plot is scarcely original, it is based on good values.

R Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. The First Book of Italy; pictures by Lili Réthi. 5-7 Watts, 1958. 61p. \$1.95.

A well-written introduction to the present-day Italian scene, with just enough historical background to aid understanding and lend added interest. The geography of the land, and the principal cities and islands are described; the origins of the Italian people and the customs, recreation, religion, and industries of Italians today are discussed; some of the famous old architectural treasures, the art and music of the old Italy and the bustle of the new are vividly portrayed.

Ad Floethe, Louise Lee. Terry Sets Sail; pictures by Richard Floethe. Harper, 3-4 1958. 58p. \$2.

Terry arrives at the island to spend the summer with Great-Uncle Silas and discovers, to his joy, that there is a small boat ready for him to sail by himself. All Terry's wishes for adventure come true, although not in the way he expects: he does effect a rescue operation, but the refugees are baby ducks, and he does find a treasure, although it is just some pails of clams. One real adventure Terry does have: he brings the Coast Guard to the scene in time to save a fisherman from being stranded by the ebbtide. Terry is given rather fulsome praise for this deed, but the story is otherwise credible. Some of the pages are heavy with text, and the illustrations lack appeal. The fact that Terry has no friends his own age for the whole summer weakens the book, but the story is interesting and writing style good.

NR Forbus, Ina B. The Secret Circle; illus. by Corydon Bell. Viking, 1958. 160p. 4-5 \$2.50.

Neelie receives her very first letter, and in it is a five dollar gold piece; Neelie

knows just how she wants to spend it, too: patent leather dancing slippers. The coin disappears and Neelie suspects the surly boy whose father is a peddler; then the coin turns up again, but when the peddler loses all his possessions in a fire, Neelie (who is still suspicious) contributes her coin to buy him a new wagon. By this good deed she earns the right to kneel with the animals on Christmas Eve in a magic circle, and she hears, as the animals do, a Voice. The animals themselves have been talking to Neelie, but to nobody else, all through the book—in slangy and idiomatic speech. Writing style is awkward and fantasy labored.

M Fritz, Jean. The Animals of Doctor Schweitzer; illus. by Douglas Howland. 3-4 Coward-McCann, 1958. 60p. \$3.

A compilation of brief, fictionalized accounts of some of the animals that Albert Schweitzer has kept and tamed. The material is less informative about the species of animal life that are described than it is of Dr. Schweitzer's personality and kindness. Style and subject will probably appeal more to younger children to whom the book can be read aloud, than to the child old enough to master the vocabulary.

R Goodman, George J. W. Bascombe, the Fastest Hound Alive; pictures by Paul K-2 Galdone. Morrow, 1958. 32p. \$2.75.

Once upon a time there was a basset hound named Bascombe who spent all his time resting. His owner was about to sell Bascombe because he couldn't run, so two rabbit friends taught the dog to run so he wouldn't be sold. The day of the big hunt, Bascombe outran the pack; he also outran his owner, who was exhausted and never wanted to hunt again, so Bascombe was able to stay home and rest forever after. A gay, improbable, appealing story.

Ad Holland, Janice. The Apprentice and the Prize. Vanguard, 1958. 49p. \$2.75. 5-7

Carlo was the least imposing of the apprentices to the great medieval sculptor, Maestro Doni. A gentle and talented lad, Carlo was happy to participate in the town's contest for the best statue of St. Francis. Loving all life, as did St. Francis, Carlo carved his offering with inspiration. But it didn't win the prize; to the boy's great disappointment, the winner was another apprentice with more technical proficiency. Maestro Doni was disappointed, too, that the spirit of Carlo's work was not appreciated. The apprentice forgot his chagrin in the joy of seeing a white dove make her nest in the hands of his St. Francis. Good writing style and soft, attractive black and white illustrations; both are idealistic and sentimental. The ending seems weak: Carlo has been moved always by an appreciation of the joyful love of living things, so there is no reason why the appearance of the dove should so overwhelm him. The sentimental and spiritual atmosphere of the story may limit the audience to whom it will appeal.

NR Holland, Janice. Hello, George Washington! Abingdon, 1958. 24p. \$1.75. 2-3

An introduction to the first president, for younger children. This is a narrative biography in simplified style that has an artificially cheery attitude. Marginal descriptive comments are rather flippant: "Hold on, George!" as a ride is described, or "Duty, Duty, Duty!" as Washington is called to serve as the first president. Factual material is adequately presented, but George Washington emerges as a noble and wooden figure rather than being made real to the reader.

R Kent, Louise (Andrews). He Went with John Paul Jones; illus. by Victor Mays. 7-9 Houghton, 1958. 266p. \$3.

Nick Caryl first met John Paul Jones in 1767 when both were aboard a ship bound for England. Forced into hiding by the intrigues of his wicked English cousin, Nick

spent the next ten years sailing from one adventure into another. He was taken on as a cabin boy by Captain Cook on the voyage of the Endeavor, captured by a British Navy press-gang and shipwrecked among friendly cannibals, spent several months in an infamous British prisoner-of-war camp (after being rescued from the cannibals and joining the American navy), and eventually met John Paul Jones once more and served with him through the most exciting sea battles of the Revolution. This remarkable series of adventures is rendered believable by the author's skilled characterization, by her eye for details of atmosphere and mood, and by her gift for making coincidence seem plausible. The descriptions of the voyage of the Endeavor I and of the behind-the-scenes events of the Revolution are especially interesting.

NR Kerry, Lois. Love Song for Joyce. Funk and Wagnalls, 1958. 244p. \$2.95.
7-9

A shallow story with one-dimensional characters. Almost as soon as she arrived at Denton College, Joyce Reynolds was asked to collaborate with attractive Ed Winters in writing the songs for the college musical. Joyce became infatuated with Ed, though he showed not the slightest interest in her as a person, but eventually she got over this, and found "good old" Jeff MacGreggor standing faithfully by. Aside from this Joyce has the usual problems of a college freshman—adjusting to her room-mate and dormitory living, pledging a sorority, learning good study routines and meeting college standards of performance. None of these problems is described with any degree of depth or insight, and although Joyce learns some lessons during the course of the year, she remains essentially a superficial and uninteresting personality.

M Kirn, Ann. Leopard on a String. World, 1959. 30p. \$2.75.
K-2

A leopard escaped from the zoo, was pursued by police and citizens who trembled at the ferocity of the beast, and was caught by a boy who saw the leopard crying and realized he was lost. The boy led the leopard, on the end of a string, back to the zoo. Frequently reiterated is the phrase, "Way out west in Wyoming," although the slight story has nothing to do with the west. The illustrations show interesting technique and are fresh and appealing.

Ad Koch, Dorothy Clarke. When the Cows Got Out; pictures by Paul Lantz.
1-2 Holiday House, 1958. 33p. (A Beginning-to-Read Book) \$2.50.

When Tim was visiting Grandfather's farm, he left the gate open and the cows got out. Very upset, Tim tried to think of a way to get the cows back to the barnyard by himself and he finally did manage to entice the herd back by holding out some corn. Grandfather was pleased with Tim's capability and Tim was very happy. A nicely unified story: one boy, one problem, one credible solution. Announced by the publisher as a beginning-to-read book, the tale has short sentences and a small amount of text on each page; it is, however, reminiscent in style of the staid reading text.

R Krauss, Ruth. I Can Fly; A Make-Believe Play Book; pictures by Mary Blair.
K-1 Simon and Schuster, 1958. 22p. \$1.25.

Although called a Golden Sturdy Book, the pasted pages of heavy paper make a book that is not physically sturdy. The text was first published in 1950 as a Little Golden Book which was longer and included music. The charm of the book, however, is durable indeed. On each page a small girl imitates the behavior of a different member of the animal kingdom. "A cow can moo. I can too." Or, "Swish! I'm a fish." Perky and colorful illustrations.

NR Kuhn, Lois Harris. The World of Jo Davidson; illus. by Leonard Everett
6-7 Fisher. Farrar, 1958. 181p. (A Covenant Book) \$2.95.

A biography of the sculptor, Jo Davidson, written in rather pretentious, overly effu-

sive style. Some feeling for the man's vivid personality and strength of character comes through, but is often obscured by the inept writing—particularly where the author attempts to deal with religious feelings and spiritual or artistic concepts which require dignity and insight in description. Since Davidson was a vigorous and active citizen as well as a famous portrait sculptor, events and personalities crowd the pages; the presentation is not orderly and there is some oversimplification. The author's attitude toward non-traditional art is surprisingly supercilious: "Much of it, even when not understood, was supposed to be fine art!" is a typical remark on her part.

R Kuskin, Karla. The Animals and the Ark. Harper, 1958. 31p. \$2.50.
K-2

In jaunty, ingenuous verse we read of the impending storm and the building of the ark, the gathering of the animals and their long internment while the rain rained and the waters rose. The animals were getting bored and a bit quarrelsome when, at last, the sun broke through. Told with delightful simplicity and engagingly illustrated.

Ad Life Magazine. The World's Great Religions. Simon and Schuster, 1958. 192p. 8-10 (A De Luxe Golden Book) \$4.95.

An overview of six great contemporary religions, adapted for young readers from the original edition, which was based on the series of articles in Life Magazine. Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and the "philosophy" of China (a blending of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism) are described. Over-size pages adorned by handsome photographs in color illustrate the religious art, the houses of worship, the festivals, and the solemn rites of each religion. The longest section of the book is devoted to Christianity and to denominations within the Christian religion, the life of Jesus being told through reproductions of famous paintings rather than in the text itself. The book covers much the same material that is found in Truth Is One by Forman and Gammon (Harper, 1954) which examines several additional faiths and is better written; several books by Fitch (Their Search for God, One God, and Allah) discuss the great religions in comprehensive and authoritative manner.

Ad McClintock, Mike. A Fly Went By; illus. by Fritz Siebel. Random House, 1-2 1958. 65p. (A Beginner Book) \$1.95.

When the fly went by, he was being chased by a frog (or so he thought) who was jumping because he was being chased by a cat (or so the frog thought) who thought HE was being chased by a dog. Et cetera. Finally the original culprit is unearthed: a small and noisy lamb. Told in verse and using simple vocabulary, this cumulative story is entertaining but, perhaps because it is in rhyme, is overly repetitious even for its purpose, which is to provide beginning readers with interesting material which can be read independently. Illustrations are colorful and lively, emphatic in illustrating the good intentions and good humor of the participants in the chase.

R McClung, Robert M. Whooping Crane; illus. by Lloyd Sandford. Morrow, 1959. 4-6 64p. \$2.50.

Through the description of one family of wild whooping cranes, the author tells of the life cycle of these rare birds of which so few are left alive. The courtship, mating pattern, and familial behavior; the migratory habits and the building of the nest; and the competitive role of the male in staking out a territory are seen in the story of Whooper and his mate Grue. Mr. McClung has again successfully combined a factual approach and a pervasive sympathetic attitude to achieve an excellent informative book, handsomely illustrated.

NR Maitland, Elizabeth. Runaway Rickshaw. Warne, 1958. 28p. \$1.50.

4-5
yrs.

Chang and the Little Red Rickshaw had a very busy day, and in the afternoon when they took two little English girls to the Botanic Garden, the Little Red Rickshaw was pushed into the water by some monkeys. The girls were afraid that the rickshaw would be "drowned" but Chang rescued him. The rickshaw is personified without being given any personality. Writing style is stilted, and there is a clear demarcation between the activities of the leisure class riders and the menial role of the Chinese workers.

Ad Malvern, Gladys. Good Troupers All; The Story of Joseph Jefferson. Macrae, 7-9 1958. 287p. \$2.95.

A new edition of the biography of Joseph Jefferson, first published in 1945. Photographs of the actor and of old play bills are included, as well as reproductions of engravings of Jefferson in some of his famous roles. In a lively fictionalized version, Jefferson's career is interestingly described, and the background of the times is often incorporated to broaden the scope of the book. A weakness of this biography is the style, which is profuse with exclamation points and an exclamatory attitude.

Ad Malvern, Gladys. Rhoda of Cyprus. Macrae, 1958. 190p. \$2.75.
8-10

Rhoda, who had been living with her grandmother in Cyprus, was reunited with her family in Jerusalem. She was dismayed to find that her wealthy family had given up their possessions to join the Christian community. Anxious to dissociate herself from the queer sect, Rhoda became betrothed to the son of the high priest, but found that she was increasingly impressed by the quiet faith and communal devotion of the Believers. Impressed, too, by the struggles of the disciples, Rhoda knew at last that she, too, was a Believer; she parted from her fiance and admitted her love for David, a member of the sect. Good characterization and a believable conversion make more vivid the story of the early days of Christianity.

NR Marks, John, tr. Spanish Fairy Tales; retold in English; illus. by Roberta 5-7 Moynihan. Knopf, 1958. 181p. \$3.

Ten Spanish fables and legends which are, according to the publisher, translated for the first time. Included is a story called "The Broken Box" which was better told in Irving's *The Alhambra* as "Legend of the Moor's Legacy." Rather heavy reading, since the book has long, solid descriptive passages. The translation does not give the authentic quality of folk literature and the vocabulary is quite difficult.

M Mason, Miriam Evangeline. A Small Farm for Andy; pictures by Vee Guthrie. 2-4 Macmillan, 1958. 138p. \$2.75.

Andy is a noisy, irrepressible little boy, the middle child of five, the owner of fourteen guns, and the despair of his loving parents. Andy has an invisible friend named Peeker with whom he converses. One of the neighbors, exasperated by Andy's noise, gives Andy a farm, and here he visits with the tenant farmers and finds a runaway elephant trapped in an abandoned cellar. Not a plausible story or a credible cast, but there is some humor in Andy's perennial mishaps and some appeal in his reaction to the charms of farm life.

M Meader, Stephen Warren. The Commodore's Cup; illus. by Don Sibley. 6-8 Harcourt, 1958. 192p. \$2.95.

In his first season as skipper of his own boat, a Comet, Luke Cramer made a name for himself as a smart and skillful sailor, even winning the coveted Commodore's Cup race. The story is only moderately interesting, due to Luke's almost unqualified success in every aspect of his life—sailing, job, girl friend, overcoming a rival; the latter three sub-plots contribute little by way of action or characterization. He himself emerges as a normal, likable boy, level-headed and with a great love for sailing

and the outdoors, but not as a distinctive personality. Though the descriptions of races are good, the author's use of sailing terminology seems rather self-conscious and so over-detailed in some places as to impede even a reader familiar with boats and sailing techniques. In spite of this and its lack of depth, the book will be interesting to sailing fans.

M Montgomery, Rutherford George. The Silver Hills; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. World, 1958. 213p. \$3.

A story of the Nevada silver rush in the 1860's. When Darcy Hardy arrived in Virginia City, a mining boom town, she found her father living in a boarding house and working for his ex-partner. It developed that Matt Deering had swindled Mr. Hardy; due in part to Darcy's scheming, another swindle was prevented and her father's fortunes restored. Even young Jimmie Deering, learning that his father had dishonest intentions, joined forces with the Hardys. Conventional plot and too-picturesque characters, in a book that is redeemed to some extent by the interest of the boom-town background.

R Montgomery, Rutherford George. Whitetail; The Story of a Prairie Dog; illus. by Marie Nonnast. World, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

The life cycle of the prairie dog is told in the description of a year in Whitetail's life. The ingenious many-chambered burrows and the way in which individual burrows and mounds form a community, the method of group protection used in the dog towns, and the enemies with whom the prairie dogs cope are described. Information about mating, eating, and communication is brought into the story of Whitetail in an unobtrusive way. Interesting material and well presented.

M Murray, Marian. Children of the Big Top. Little, 1958. 146p. \$3.50.

True stories of some boys and girls who are children of circus performers, illustrated with photographs demonstrating the various skills of the youngsters as they perform. The information about circus life is not unavailable elsewhere, but it is of some interest. Each family is described in a chatty informal style, with anecdotal and conversational devices as variation. The focus of the book—the training of children in circus families—is therefore diffused in extraneous "human-interest" dressing.

Ad Musgrave, Florence. Like a Red, Red Rose; illus. by Mary Stevens. Hastings House, 1958. 178p. \$3.

The story of Toni Meyer, who is in junior high school and is experiencing all the normal problems of adolescence. There is little movement in the book: all Toni's difficulties are neatly taken care of—she learns how to set her standards with her peers, she tolerates her family, she finds a hobby (photography)—but they are settled in a meandering pace which is realistic but makes rather dull reading. A colorless book despite the author's competent and sincere approach.

NR Neurath, Marie. Between Earth and Sky. Sterling, 1958. 36p. \$2.

3-4 Meant as a primer for the explanation of some phenomena of weather, light, and precipitation, this book fails to achieve that stated purpose. Organization of material is poor, explanations are inadequate or terms are not explained at all. Descriptions are scanty for the many phenomena included, some of which are the aurora borealis, the eye of a hurricane, waterspouts, tornadoes, rainbows, sunsets, clouds, meteorites, thunder, and lightning. Illustrations contribute little to clarification.

NR Neurath, Marie. The Deep Sea. Sterling, 1958. 36p. \$2.

3-4

Information about inhabitants of the sea, presented in a haphazard arrangement of no discernible order. Most of the information concerns the predatory habits of marine creatures, and some of those described are not, as the jacket blurb would indicate, residents of the lower depths at all. Illustrations are unattractive in dulled colors.

Ad Newell, Hope. Mary Ellis, Student Nurse. Harper, 1958. 196p. \$2.75.
7-9

A second story about Mary Ellis (A Cap for Mary Ellis), a young Negro girl who is doing her nurses' training at Woodycrest Memorial Hospital. Mary Ellis is now in her second year and is having her turn at being Big Sister to a new girl. As in the earlier book, the characterizations seem patterned to this genre of story, but the situations are realistically handled and the book gives an interesting picture of life in a fairly exclusive nursing school. The roles of the few Negro members of the hospital staff are described with candor and restraint. The chief weakness of the book is a tendency to include convenient and coincidental plot developments.

R Norton, Mary. The Borrowers Afloat; illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, 4-6 1959. 191p. \$2.75.

Another charming book about the miniature folk who exist by borrowing from human beings. Pod, Homily, and Arriety, finding that they are uncomfortable in the position of poor relations, decide to leave the cottage where they have been taking refuge with relatives and go in search of a new home. Guided by Spiller, the young borrower of whom Arriety is growing rather fond, the family takes an exciting trip through the drains to the river. Their temporary stay in a kettle is disrupted by a flood that carries them to new dangers, from which Spiller rescues them in the nick of time. While some passages are repetitive, the style, the humor, and the loving execution of imaginative detail make this book, like the other stories of the little people, a refreshing experience.

R Paxton, Glenn G. The Coast Guard; From Civilian to Coast Guardsman; illus. 9- by Frederick Worles. Viking, 1958. 181p. (Armed Services Library) \$2.

A useful book for those who are considering this branch of the Armed Services, and an interesting presentation of information for any reader. The six enlistment programs are explained; the training and service areas are described, with some of the true and dramatic episodes in Coast Guard history enlivening the description; the history of this oldest seagoing service is told. The program of the Coast Guard Academy and of the Coast Guard Reserve program are briefly outlined. All of the books in this series (The Armed Services Library) are useful; The Coast Guard stands out as a volume in which the enthusiasm for the service arm is all the more effective because it is restrained rather than laudatory.

R Picard, Barbara Leonie. German Hero-Sagas and Folk Tales; illus. by Joan 4-6 Kiddell-Monroe. Walck, 1958. 197p. (Oxford Myths and Legends Series) \$3.50.

A distinctive collection of stories retold in a style that is simple and dignified. The first section of the book relates some legends of the Teutonic heroes and invests them with vigor and excitement. The second part of the book is composed of traditional folk tales, including some familiar material, such as a version of the Pied Piper and one tale about Till Eulenspiegel.

M Pine, Tillie S. and Levine, Joseph. The Chinese Knew; illus. by Ezra Jack 3-5 Keats. Whittlesey House, 1958. 31p. \$2.50.

Many of the discoveries and inventions of the Chinese people of long ago are used in some form today: for each thing the Chinese knew, the comparable modern practice is described and a simple experiment suggested for the reader. As an example of the pattern: the Chinese knew the abacus—whereas we use adding machines—the reader

is shown how to make his own abacus. Some of the text has little pertinence: i.e., the use of the wheel can be related to other cultures than the early Chinese. Much of the material is better related, however, and the suggested experiments are simple and useful.

R Podendorf, Illa. The True Book of Rocks and Minerals; pictures by George Rhoads. Childrens Press, 1958. 48p. \$2.

Simplified introductory material, illustrated in color and in black and white. The author discusses the ways in which the different kinds of rock are formed, giving examples of each kind; she describes the fossil imprints and explains some of the clues to the past that are hidden in the rocks. The last page of the book lists "Important Things To Know about Rocks" in a summary of the text.

Ad Pritchett, Lulita Crawford. The Cabin at Medicine Springs; illus. by Anthony D'Adamo. Watts, 1958. 195p. \$2.95.

The peaceful life of the Crawford family was upset by the rising of the Ute Indians in 1879, and further troubled by the loss of the letter in which was the money to certify their claim to the land at Medicine Springs. The picture of pioneer life in the West is convincing and the atmosphere of isolation and impending danger holds the reader's interest. The plot is rather less convincing, since flood and fire are added to the other hazards at Medicine Springs. The letter is retrieved after it has fallen in the river, washed against some branches, been found by an animal and chewed (but with little damage), stored in a hollow trunk, and found by one of the children.

M Rosenfield, Bernard. Let's Go to the Capitol; illus. by Gustav Schrotter. Putnam, 1959. 48p. \$1.95.

60. An imaginary visit to the Capitol building is described in a book that does not seem to have a clear purpose. There is no history of the building, yet the text and illustrations bog down in small architectural details; there is no plan of the structure given, yet much of the text is devoted to stairways, wings, and other aspects difficult to visualize; there is no presentation of the legislative process, yet the descriptions of Senate and House are not comprehensible without background. Despite its inadequacies, the book presents some details of architecture and decoration that will give the reader who has not seen the building an idea of its style, size, and layout.

Ad Sakade, Florence, ed. Japanese Children's Favorite Stories; illus. by Yoshisuke Kurosaki. Tuttle, 1958. 120p. \$3.50.

A revision of the 1953 edition, from which ten stories have been chosen; ten more traditional stories have been added. Illustrations are new in this edition (some in black and white and some in color) and are most attractive in modern Japanese style. Although many of the tales are to be found in other collections of Japanese folk literature, the simplicity and flavor of the versions presented here make this collection well worth having.

R Scheele, William Earl. Ancient Elephants. World, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

3-5 Since the time of the last dinosaurs, elephants have roamed the world; for 70 million years the descendants of Moerithium, the earliest elephant, have evolved in many varying forms. The author discusses some of the 600 types of ancient elephants and explains the way in which fossil remains are identified and classified, and how it is possible to trace the migration of the herds. Mr. Scheele concludes with a discussion of mammoths and mastodons. This is good informational writing: simple, direct, and pertinent.

R Schneider, Leo. Lifeline: The Story of Your Circulatory System; illus. by Jere

5-7 Donovan. Harcourt, 1958. 127p. \$2.95.

Informally and enthusiastically, the author describes the marvelous and intricate human circulatory system. Especially illuminating is the way in which he goes beyond an explanation of the functioning of the heart to explain how the organ in humans compares with simpler coronary organs. The composition of blood, the needs that different parts of blood meet, and the role played by blood in resisting disease are told in a simple and lucid manner. The men of science who have contributed to knowledge of the circulatory system are briefly mentioned, and an interesting concluding section tells of blood banks and blood types.

Ad Shippen, Katherine Binney. Andrew Carnegie and the Age of Steel; illus. with 5-7 photographs and with line drawings by Ernest Kurt Barth. Random House, 1958. 183p. (A Landmark Book) \$1.95.

A fictionalized biography of Andrew Carnegie that begins with a very brief picture of his boyhood in Scotland before the Carnegie family emigrated to the United States. The emphasis is on Carnegie's achievements in the business world and on the disposition, after retirement, of his enormous wealth. Hard work, successful investments, acumen, and integrity made Andrew Carnegie a multimillionaire, but they are not the ingredients of an exciting book. Even the author's style, which usually provides absorbing reading, seems subdued.

R Singh, Reginald Lal and Lownsbey, Eloise. Gift of the Forest; illus. by Anne 3-5 Vaughan. Longmans, 1958. 296p. \$3.75.

A reissue, originally published in 1942, this is the story of Bim, a small Indian boy who takes as a pet the tiger cub found in the jungle. An absorbing tale of rural life in India, written in distinguished style and timeless in its values of kindness and sympathy, and of familial love.

R Sootin, Laura. Let's Go to the Zoo; illus. by Robert Doremus. Putnam, 1959. 3-5 48p. \$1.95.

An interesting presentation of behind-the-scenes activities at a zoo. The indoor and outdoor homes for animals, the ways in which the animals are moved and the devices for the protection of visitors are explained. The enormous task of the zoo kitchens in preparing all the special food needed, the work of the keepers in feeding and cleaning their charges, and the little-known zoo hospital and zoo nursery are described. The work of the curator is mentioned briefly. Many of the illustrations augment the text, but some are, in their technique and arrangement on the page, distracting to the eye.

R Steiner, Charlotte. Terry Writes a Letter. Macmillan, 1958. 29p. \$2.50. 3-5 yrs.

Mrs. Steiner tells of the many games that Terry and her best friend, Ted, played together, and of the ways in which they shared their belongings. When Ted moved away, he let Terry keep his rabbit as well as her own. Terry wanted to write Ted about the baby rabbits and about all the many things she had been doing since he left, so she "wrote" a letter. The close of the book shows Ted enjoying the page of drawings that Terry has sent. The book depicts many small pleasures that a child can recognize, and he will probably enjoy matching Terry's drawings with the illustrations of those scenes on the preceding pages. Simple pink and blue pictures lend appeal to the story in spite of monotonous color and faces.

NR Stevenson, Augusta. Virginia Dare; Mystery Girl; illus. by Harry Hanson Lees. 3-4 Bobbs-Merrill, 1958. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans) \$1.95. When Sir Walter Raleigh's "Lost Colony" at Roanoke disappeared, no trace was ever found of the settlers, and Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World,

was among the missing. This is a tale that pictures Virginia's life as it might have been had she been taken to live with the Chowanoc Indians. Renamed White Flower, the child grows up happily adjusted to the Indian tribe with whom she lives. White Flower excels at all activities and becomes a favorite of the Chief's family; the daughter of the Medicine Man becomes jealous and tries to get White Flower in trouble, but justice prevails and White Flower's innocence is proved. The Medicine Man and his child are cast out of the tribe forthwith. White Flower is as unreal as a cardboard figure, and the story itself is equally stiff and artificial.

Ad Stever, Dorothy Voorhies. The Freight Yard; illus. by Robert Bartram.
2-3 Melmont, 1958. 32p. \$2.

Information about freight trains and the operation of a freight yard, presented in simple, pedestrian style. Illustrations are not captioned, or presented in diagram form, so that some details are not fully explained.

R Thomas, Henry. Thomas Alva Edison; illus. by Andre Le Blanc. Putnam,
5-7 1958. 128p. (Lives To Remember) \$2.

An excellent biography, in which Edison's work is animatedly described and in which his vigorous and forceful personality emerges clearly. A balanced portrayal; a well-written book.

Ad Tor, Regina. Getting To Know Greece; illus. by Don Lambo. Coward-McCann,
4-6 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

A description of the life in Greece today; in the city of Athens, the port of Piraeus, the island of Crete and the villages of coastland and mountain territory. Information about industries and exports, schools and holidays, family life and national history is given in informal style, the one weakness of which is a tendency toward generalizations. The contributions of ancient Greece to today's world are given due recognition. Index, bibliography and a chronological list of dates (each one page long) are appended.

R Wiederhold, Hermann. Your Pony Book; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Greene,
4-7 1958. 135p. \$3.50.

A most useful and comprehensive book, clearly written and accurately illustrated. Information includes details of purchase and care, training in preparation for riding, quarters and equipment, the techniques of riding and control of the pony's behavior, trick training and exhibiting, breeding and foaling, and the symptoms of illness. A glossary and index are appended to a book that is handsome as well as handy.

M Will and Nicolas. The Magic Feather Duster. Harcourt, 1958. 40p. \$3.25.
K-2

A tale about four brothers who coveted the feather duster belonging to an old woman who lived in a house built on stilts. The duster, with its magic powers, was asked for by the brothers; the old woman sent them on a quest: as in all tried-and-true folk tales, the kind and gentle youngest brother won the duster. The tale is an imitation of folk literature that does not quite succeed. Illustrations are striking, but distracting.

M Williams, Frances Leigh. The Shawnee Tomahawk; A True Story of an Ameri-
6-8 ican Frontier Boy 1784-1797; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Holt, 1958. 189p.
\$3.

A tale, based on a true story, of a boy who is captured during a Shawnee raid in Virginia in 1784. First he is made a slave to an old Indian woman and later sold to a French-Canadian trader; eventually he is reunited with one of his sisters, who was also in bondage in Canada, and they return to Virginia. The amount of fictionalization and the lack of documentation make the book unacceptable as a true account, and the lack of real plot and convincing characterization keep it from having much appeal as

fiction. There is some interest in the subject, however, and some information on life in the Shawnee village.

NR Wolverton, Ethel Traugh. Gold at Hunter's Point; decorations by Clotilde 6-8 Embree Funk. Longmans, 1958. 177p. \$2.75.

Even after ten years, many people in Hunter's Point still blamed Karen Blake's father for the fire which had shut down the local copper mine and caused great unemployment. As a mining engineer, he suspected that the report of gold in Hunter's Point was merely a swindler's trick, but hesitated to say anything, since he was distrusted and since people were so eager to believe that they would all become rich. When Karen tried to warn her friends, they all turned against her, and the Blake family was ostracized. Finally Mr. Blake's suspicions were proved correct, but not before four or five people were lost in a blizzard, first hunting the criminals, and then rescuing each other. The mystery is poorly constructed, many of the incidents are unrealistic and melodramatic, and the characters seem to lack any consistent motivations or opinions.

R Wriston, Hildreth Tyler. Putt-Putt Skipper; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Ariel, 5-7 1958. 223p. \$3.

Skip was boat-crazy; when he reached the age of twelve and his father decided that he was old enough to use the family outboard by himself, Skip was delighted. Nobody else at the lake was impressed, however; everybody was intrigued by the homemade houseboat that Gene Martineau was building. Left out of the high school group when Gene decided his passengers must be thirteen, Skip solaced himself by practicing Morse code with a young cousin. When the houseboat was set adrift and Skip helped rescue it, he was admitted to the inner circle—but he found that he still enjoyed being skipper of his own little boat. A convincing story about realistic people, written with movement and facility.

R Zim, Herbert Spencer. Shooting Stars; illus. by Gustav Schrotter. Morrow, 3-5 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

A simplified explanation of meteors and meteorites: how they enter the earth's atmosphere, how they differ from each other, how men observe them and what is known and not yet known about shooting stars. Some of the famous meteor showers that have occurred are described, as are the astronomical phenomena that are demonstrably related to meteors.

NR Ziner, Feenie. The Little Sailor's Big Pet; illus. by Leslie Steven. Parnassus, 4-6 1958. 40p. \$2.75.

yrs.

Picture book in blue, black and white; some of the stylized illustrations are handsome, but many fill the page and are distracting, as is the variation of type size and placement. The text tells of Rudy, a little sailor in a very small boat. Rudy had been looking for a pet; a dog, a cat, and a mouse had all refused him politely and in rhyme—the only rhyme, since the narration and Rudy's conversation are in prose. Rudy found that he was on the back of a whale who was most friendly, so he engaged to become her watchguard while she became his big pet.

Ad Zistel, Era. Orphan, a Raccoon; illus. by Seymour Fleishman. Rand McNally, 5-7 1958. 80p. \$2.50.

The story of a small and loving raccoon that made his home with a family, adjusting to cat, dog, and people. Although a true experience, Orphan's stay with the author is described in third person, thus avoiding the sentimentality that often creeps into accounts of family pets. Accurate observation, good writing style, and appealing illustrations combine to make an interesting book, weakened to some extent by occasionally imputing to Orphan the emotions of a human being.

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Reading for Teachers

- Barclay, Dorothy. Understanding the City Child: A Book for Parents. Watts, 1959. 288p. \$4.95.
- Dybwad, Gunnar. "Family Life in a Changing World." Children, pp. 3-9. January-February, 1959.
- Fenner, Phyllis, Ed. Something Shared: Children and Books. Day, 1959. 192p. \$4.50.
- Goodman, Mary Ellen. A Primer for Parents. Ant-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, 1959. 32p. The League, 515 Madison Ave., New York 22. Pamphlet on good human relations.
- Hughes, Marie and Sanchez, George. Learning a New Language. Association for Childhood Education International, 1958. 32p. \$.75. The Association, 1200 15th St. N.W., Washington, D.C.
- Hymes, James. Before the Child Reads. Row, Peterson, 1958. 96p. \$2.
- Jefferson, Benjamin. "Some Relationships between Parents' and Children's Preferences in Juvenile Literature." Elementary School Journal, pp. 212-218. January, 1958.
- Lohrer, Alice. "Guideposts to Children's Books." Elementary English, pp. 215-220. April, 1958.
- Los Angeles County Public Library. The Family Read Together. The Library, 322 S. Broadway, Los Angeles 13. An annotated reading list for parents and children.
- Stauffer, Russell G. "The Relationship between Reading and Spelling." Education, pp. 206-210. December, 1958.
- U. S. Children's Bureau. Research Relating to Children. Clearing House for Research in Child Life, Bulletin #7, 1958. 148p. \$1. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

