ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
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.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

*   *   *

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. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

Cover drawing adapted with permission of the Grolier Society from an illustration by Erika Weihs.
New Titles for Children and Young People

M Agle, Nan (Hayden). Constance the Honeybee; illus. by Richard Q. Yardley. 2-4 Winston, 1959. 38p. $2.50.
Constance lived in Leyden, where the colony of bees to which she belonged was kept by an English Puritan boy. When the Puritans embarked on the Speedwell to sail to America, the hive of bees was taken along; when the Speedwell proved not seaworthy, Constance led a swarm that stowed away on the Mayflower. So the honeybees came to America. The book incorporates some interesting information about bees, but the writing is mediocre except for this, and the cartoon-style illustrations are unattractive and are not well suited to the text.

A companion volume to The World of Carbon; the two together cover the field of organic chemistry. This book also will probably prove most useful to the high school (or beginning college) chemistry student who wants to supplement his reading. A preliminary section discusses molecular structure and some related compounds containing carbon—that is, some of the most familiar combinations. After this review, Mr. Asimov writes with his usual zest and clarity about the range of nitrogen-containing organics. In discussing the research being done, the author gives innumerable examples of applications more or less familiar to the lay reader; medical uses and industrial uses. Footnotes are plentiful, index extensive.

1-3 The story of Nu Dang, a small Siamese boy who had an unusual kite which was his dearest possession. One day the kite floated away and Nu Dang hunted everywhere for it, finally finding it when he had given up and gone home. The text is simple and affords, as Nu Dang searches, opportunity for information about Siam. The illustrations also are informative and are striking in their unusual use of color, although they may confuse the smaller child who cannot identify the many unfamiliar details.

R Baruch, Dorothy (Walter). I Would Like To Be a Pony; And Other Wishes; pictures by Mary Chalmers. Harper, 1959. 32p. $2.
4-6 A delightful selection of poems in each of which a child tells what he would like to be, and why. The poetry is light and gay, using many nonsense words; some of the ideas expressed are far from nonsensical. Adults, too, may recognize the desire to be a prickly procupine when someone tells them to do something that they find unappealing. The illustrations are a happy complement to the rhythmic and gentle verse.
M Baumann, Hans. *Jackie the Pit Pony*; illus. by Ulrik Schramm. Watts, 1959. 3-4 52p. $3.95.

Jackie was a small Steppe horse, and he didn't like being out of the sun and working in the coal pit, although he liked the Andermanns, who owned him, and adored their little daughter Monny. Jackie was often uncooperative—until the day that he was trapped by a rockslide (brought on by his ill-tempered stamping) and realized how much he needed the people who loved and rescued him. The personification of the pony is not convincing and the style of writing, which occasionally is rather poetic, does not seem suitable for the story. Frequent tense changes are confusing. This book does not achieve the standards of Baumann's books for older readers (*Sons of Steppe, The Caves of the Great Hunters*). First published in 1957 in German under the title *Hänschen in der Grube*. Illustrations are attractive in bright and clear colors.


An excellent account of the history of Finland and of conditions there today. Finland's relationships with the countries about her, as Mr. Berry describes them, give illuminating aspects of the complexities of the European political scene. The people and the language; the arts, architecture, and industries; the national literature and the national heroes; the Lapps and their culture are vividly portrayed. An interesting chapter is devoted to the *Kalevala* and to the reputation of the Finn as a magician. The subject matter is absorbing, and the fresh and effortless writing style enhances the appeal.


Another story about Tizz, the pony owned by Don and Tracy Hill. Don decides to earn money for Scout equipment by using Tizz for posing with children. The Hill family emerges as worthy but rather dull, and little happens to engage the reader's attention; the story ambles amiably along. Tracy's adjustment to her disappointment about a boy who doesn't respond to her affection is a positive value of the book, although this episode is unduly stressed for this age reader.


7-9

Andrea Dawson's life has been built around sports, and preferably highly competitive sports. When a bad skiing accident forces her to give up participation in games demanding the use of knee muscles, she turns to the newly discovered sport of fold boating. The story is primarily concerned with a trip down the Lodore Canyon and of Andy's re-evaluation of herself. There is a slight love element to give added appeal. The unusual subject compensates for the somewhat stereotyped characters and plot.


K-2

Every girl at school had a pony tail but Susan—her hair was too short and she was very unhappy. She forgot all about her hair, however, when she fell ill; for weeks Susan needed two nurses, she ate hardly at all, and she had dreadful nightmares. One night she had a marvelous dream of having a pony tail so long that it trailed the floor, and when she woke Susan found she was much better. When she came downstairs for the first time at her seventh birthday party, Susan had a pony tail at last. While the story of a wish come true has some appeal, the writing is not up to the author's usual standard. The description of Susan's nightmares is harshly realistic, and there may be some misconception on the part of the reader about the causal relationship between the happy dream and the subsequent recovery.

R Clark, Ann (Nolan). *A Santo for Pasqualita*; illus. by Mary Villarejo. Viking,
A delightful book: story, illustrations and typography are happily blended. Pasqualita is taken from the orphanage by an elderly couple to be their grandchild. Her grandfather is a Santero—a carver of saints; he is looking for a model so that he may carve a San Pasqual for Pasqualita, so that she may have a Patron Saint to carry as other people do. Pasqualita tells her own story, and the trust and love that she expresses are completely natural and convincing. The literary style has a fragility and a lyric quality that will appeal to a limited group of readers; and the book may, like other books by this author, perhaps be best introduced by being read aloud. The illustrations are enchanting.

M Clark, Billy C. Riverboy; illus. by Seymour Fleishman. Putnam, 1958. 159p. 3-5 $3.

Bard's idol was old Dan Tuckett, wise in the ways of the river; he was fond, too, of Captain Bozer, skipper of a river tugboat. Bard followed loyally Dan Tuckett's belief that the new flood wall that was proposed for their town was an abomination. Bard's mother, however, agreed with all the townspeople that the wall was necessary for protection. Bard went through some very unhappy times before the matter was settled and old Dan Tuckett was resigned to progress. While Tuckett is an interesting character, he is rather unappealing: a stubborn old man who invites the sympathy of a small boy and makes him suffer for the conflict. (Bard cries at least eight times.) Yet the relationship of a small boy and an old man has appeal. There is a brooding quality about the writing that is mildly depressing, although this same quality evokes a reflective pleasure when it is concerned with the details of birds, trees, and river.

R Clark, Roger W. Ride the White Tiger; with illus. by Kim. Little, 1959. 208p. 7-10 $3.

A story based on the life of a Korean boy (the adopted son of the author) during the war years. Lee had the responsibility of caring for his pregnant mother and his younger brother when his father was captured by the Communists in Seoul. They escaped to grandmother's farm, but Lee felt that he must participate in the war effort; he learned English and was used as an agent by the U. S. Army intelligence office. A moving tale, told with a frankness that is poignant rather than harsh. Especially well described are Lee's relationships with his aunt and his mother, and the boy's conflicts as he moves from filial obedience to adult independence.

M Coates, Belle. That Colt Fireplug; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Scribner, 1958. 2-4 56p. $2.50.

When Tim and Beth first saw the colt, he lay forlornly on the bottom of the horse trader's trailer, looking not at all like the scion of a long line of fire horses. But Tim wanted him and paid five dollars for him. Fireplug didn't compare with the colts that were being raised as riding horses, so Tim was prepared when his father said that Fireplug would have to be sold when the family was having financial difficulties. Fireplug redeemed himself when he galloped around the edge of a brush fire, carrying Tim to a telephone, after he had given an alarm about the fire to Tim's family. An average horse story that is a variation of the ugly duckling theme, written in pedestrian style.

R Colbert, Edwin Harris. Millions of Years Ago; Prehistoric Life in North America; illus. by Margaret M. Colbert. Crowell, 1959. 153p. $2.75.

A description of the life forms on the North American continent in the days of the early fishes and in the periods when the waters and the land were successively occupied by dinosaurs and mammals. The author, professor of vertebrate paleontology at Columbia University, writes first of the work of the fossil hunter and of the techniques used in finding, recovering, and preserving fossil remains. Prehistoric animal life is vividly described in a narrative technique that pictures typical scenes of various pe-
Illustrations are handsome, but some are so dark as to make identification difficult.


Susie was missing at suppertime, so Mother sent Bobby to look for her; when he didn’t come back, Annie went to find her brother and sister. Finally, Mother herself went looking for the three children, and she found them at last in the barn. Enchanted by the new kittens there, they had all forgotten about supper. And so did Mother. Small children will enjoy the repetitive pattern of each person’s search—first the chicken coop, then the playhouse, and so on to the barn. Rather a slow-moving story, in a slight but pleasant picture book.

R Corbett, Scott. *Tree House Island*; illus. by Gordon Hansen. Little, 1959. 5-7 184p. $3.

When two men who announced themselves as ornithologists came to Goose Island, the natives were very impressed. The Professor and the Doctor gave a talk to the Bird Study Club, explaining that they were renting Tree House Island and needed privacy and quiet for their work. Two fifteen-year-old boys were suspicious, and, on investigation, found that the Professor and Doc were digging. For buried treasure? A young artist helped the boys find the clues that linked the men to an old case of murder and robbery. An exciting adventure story, fast-paced and frequently humorous. Characters are credible, the boys in the tale being especially lively and sympathetic.


An unusual and interesting oversize book containing 40 full color maps in global projection; these are photographs of models in relief and are remarkably clear. The first section of the book is devoted to a history of cartography and is illustrated by many old maps. The middle—and largest—section is divided by large areas, most often a continent, illustrated by the aforementioned shadow relief maps. Few internal boundaries are shown on these, the purpose of the book being the consideration of parts of the world as they form one world. The final part of the book discusses the instruments used by geographers and cartographers, and the investigation that are going on in sea, air, and land. The small amount of text that accompanies each relief map in the center section of the atlas relates the region industrially and politically to its geographical location, its topography, and its natural resources.


A small book that emphasizes the need for individuals to differ and a satisfaction in the fact that differences exist. Mrs. Doss reminds her readers that the differences were planned by God so that there would be the beauty of variety that exists in plants and animals. The purpose is excellent, but there is no discernible organization and the paucity of the language makes it difficult to sustain reader interest. The book may have use in religious education collections.


Many readers will recognize the family of twelve adopted children of varying races and backgrounds, who have been described in other books by their mother, the author. Here the story of adoption is told by Elaine, who with her sister Diane was chosen for adoption when Mr. and Mrs. Doss saw the photographs of the girls. Elaine describes her life in Hawaii, and her adjustment to family life and sibling jealousy. Illustrated
by many photographs of the twelve children, this is a sentimental and moralistic presentation even though it is about a real family. The value of the book lies in its firm reiteration of the brotherhood of man. Might have usefulness as discussion group material and should be considered for religious education collections.

Three stories in folktale style: "The Big Jump," "Something New," and "The Wish Sack." Although the action in each story moves forward smoothly, the events are not well clarified. For example, in the last story some of the action hinges on a boy escaping with the Wish Sack from the palace of a bad king; all that is needed is a wish to be elsewhere, but there is a long escape sequence in which the boy carries the sack about with him. There are humorous aspects to the tales that are appealing; the controlled vocabulary and the brevity of the stories make the book useful.

The author, a school principal, discusses the benefits of schooling and tells very briefly of the early schools in this country. Next are described the facilities of present day schools, the kinds of schools that exist, and the things that are learned in school: such things as working alone, working with others, learning to think straight or learning about our country. The many ways of learning are described at the end of the book, as are some of the teaching aids: field trips, films and radio programs, or experiments. Some of the statements are misleading: i.e., "But we learn best in school where we now have pleasant buildings of which we can be proud." Some of the information seems superfluous for the child who can read the book and is presumably familiar with schools. On the whole, the presentation of such a large topic in this condensed and simplified treatment is adequate, but too much is attempted.

NR Estoril, Jean. Ballet for Drina. Vanguard, 1958. 192p. $3. 6-8
All Drina wanted was ballet, but the grandmother with whom she lived had forbidden the girl to study dancing when they moved to London. Drina had been a very good pupil in the ballet school in their small town and she was lonely in London; when a dancer who lived in the same block of flats offered Drina lessons, the girl accepted without telling her grandmother about it. The teacher told grandmother at last that Drina had real promise and must be trained; the older woman revealed that her disapproval had been based on the fact that Drina's mother, who had died young, was one of the world's great ballet artists and that her life had not been happy. The secret seems an artificial device to give some reason for the obstacles in Drina's path, without which there would be no story line. There is little character development in the book, which is somewhat narrowly confined to dance training.

An introduction to geology by a member of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Topics covered are soil, grass, forest, crops, rocks, rain, sun, brush, wildlife, minerals, oil, the ocean, and conservation. Treatment is very scanty, writing style pedestrian, and the photographs are not always illustrative. The information is accurate, but there is little in the book that is not available in other sources where the presentation is more interesting.

Ad Fribourg, Marjorie G. Benkei the Boy-Giant; illus. by Irv Docktor. Sterling, 4-6 1958. 45p. $2.50.
A version of the centuries-old Japanese legend of the boy giant who made many mis-
takes in his desire to show how strong he was. Not until bested by the quick wit of Prince Yoshitsune was Benkei humbled; he learned to use his strength wisely and became a warrior and a counselor at the court of the Prince. Adequate writing, although not outstanding. There are several instances of unusual transliterated spelling: Benkei's mother is named O'Hei.

NR Friedman, Rose. Dan Dooley's Lucky Star; illus. by Vana Earle. Abingdon, 2-3 1958. 46p. $1.75
Dan's family was moving from a house to an apartment, and Dan had to find a good home for his dog, Lucky Star, because dogs weren't allowed in the apartment building. Dan asked the grocer—he had a monkey, but he wanted a cat; Dan asked the barber—he had goldfish, but he wanted a parrot. Et cetera. Dan eventually got all the pets traded about: dog, cat, parrot, monkey, goldfish, pigeon. The caretaker of the park, to whom Dan had given Lucky Star, turned out to be the janitor of the apartment building into which the Dooleys were moving, so Dan and his dog were not going to be separated after all. A contrived and rather dull story, not always credible.

NR Grannan, Mary. This Is Maggie Muggins; illus. by Bernard Zalusky. Pennington, 3-4 1959. 60p. $2.95.
Maggie Muggins is a little girl to whom fantastic things happen: she is invited to come up and polish the nose of the man in the moon with silver polish so that he can go to a party given by the stars, she loses her ring and finds that it has been borrowed by Mr. Bee for his wedding, she finds that her turtle's lost shell is being used as a stage by Mrs. Cricket, et cetera. The events distort the laws of nature and they are devoid of humor. Maggie Muggins is a character on a Canadian children's television program. The writing style is very coy, exclamatory, and stiff.

M Gray, Patsey. 4-H Filly; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Coward-McCann, 1958. 4-6 256p. $3.
Sandy was anxious to have her filly, Dove, win a prize at the horse show so that the prize money could be used to keep the family's ranch from being sold. Left alone to run the ranch temporarily, Sandy was helped by the 4-H Club advisor and by her friend Rosie; both girls benefited from the situation and assumed responsibility. When somebody offered to buy Dove, Sandy reluctantly agreed, since the money was needed to save the ranch. When her parents returned, they were appreciative of Sandy's sacrifice, but its value is diminished for the reader by the fact that Rosie's parents (who felt that Sandy had been a good example for their child) bought Dove as a surprise for Sandy. A pat ending to a markedly purposive story, written in pedestrian style.

NR Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Doctor; illus. by Frances Eckhart. Childrens Press, 1958. 31p. $2.
The twins, Jim and Jane, go to a doctor for a checkup before going to camp. Jim gets a shot because he has ear trouble that needs to be cleared. When Jim says he wants to be a doctor, a medical training program is described. While the twins are at camp, Jane decides that she wants to be a doctor too. The book gives a very superficial explanation of a medical program, the illustration of "many kinds of doctors" includes a veterinarian and a dentist, and the style of writing is lifeless. Presumably related to the fact that Jim has some kind of ear trouble, one full-page drawing is devoted to the parts of the ear—no other anatomical illustration is included.

Donny felt strange in his new surroundings until he joined the Cub Scouts; but then he became friends with Mike, who had teased Donny when he first came to the new school. The book is devoted chiefly to episodic treatment of Cub Scout activities, and would be
of little interest to a boy who was not a member or interested in joining the Cub Scouts. Writing style is dull, limiting appeal.

Ad  Hader, Berta (Hoerner) and Elmer.  Little Chip of Willow Hill.  Macmillan, 2-3 1958. 47p. illus. $3.
Useful for nature study. Little Chip becomes aware that life about him is changing as the autumn approaches; with his mother, the baby chipmunk watches the frog shed his skin and the turtle retire for the winter, and he learns what is good to eat and what animals are his natural enemies. The chipmunks watch a fire on Willow Hill, and the mother tells her little one that when spring comes, grass and glowers will cover the burned hill. Although narrated as a story, the book has no story line beyond the event of the fire; it is really a tour of observation. Pleasantly told but not unusual.

K-2
The story of a small Japanese boy, Toru, who had to spend the summer helping his father in the rice paddies while all his classmates were working on the summer project of collecting insects. Toru did find one large and beautiful tombo—a dragonfly—which he brought to school in the fall. His tombo was pronounced the best summer project, and his teacher pointed out that the choice was made, at least in part, because Toru had worked all summer without complaining. The story is nice for reading aloud to small children and has just the right amount of suspense, but there is a mildly sanctimonious air to Toru. He is the only child who works while the others play, and he is rewarded by the teacher for virtue rather than for the task she had assigned.

8-10
Brought up in the household where Mary Stuart was imprisoned, Arbella Stuart was aware that the life of a queen was fraught with trouble. As cousin to Queen Elizabeth, Arbella was a possible successor to the throne; as Elizabeth's rival for the love of the Earl of Essex, Arbella was enough of a threat to be banished from court. For many years, Arbella lived in enforced retreat; after Essex died, she married William Seymour. Seymour was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and an escape plan that failed resulted in Arbella's imprisonment and Seymour's exile. Arbella Seymour died a prisoner in the Tower. A romanticized historical novel written in rather elaborate style. The complicated intrigues and counterplots of English history provide drama enough to make interesting reading, although a sixteenth century atmosphere is not convincingly evoked.

Ad  Hays, Wilma Pitchford.  The Little Horse That Raced a Train; with pictures by Wesley Dennis.  Little, 1959. 33p. $2.75.
The story of a boy and a horse in the Rocky Mountains. Elmer, riding the school train, realized that a little horse was racing the train, and he named her Lightning; during a snowstorm Lightning was marooned on a high boulder surrounded by deep snow. Elmer asked the local paper to publish an appeal to help the little horse, and the result was that food was dropped by helicopter. After the snow was gone, Lightning came down; she followed Elmer home, so it was decided that she should be his horse. While this is not as good as the author's historical writing, it is a pleasant and fairly easy horse story.

M  Heppner, Elizabeth P.  Palace under the Sea; drawings by H. Lawrence Hoffman.  6-8 Macmillan, 1959. 178p. $2.75.
Tracy Scott had brought his skin-diving equipment to Turkey, and he found ample opportunity to use it in hunting for a lost Minoan palace in the Aegean. The girl next door,
Lale, and her teacher, the Hodja (both of whom spoke idiomatic English) admitted him to their secret archeological discoveries very readily although Tracy had been very rude to Lale when they first met. The Hodja is presented as a learned man with almost magical powers, who spends most of his time with Lale and Tracy. Their discoveries of palace treasures are quite unbelievable, especially in the context of undersea dangers in the melodramatic last episode in which Tracy's life line is cut and he is trapped in a cavern. The plot is unbelievable and the characters superficial; there is some interest in the authentic information given about the background, which is modern Turkey, and in the information about past cultures of the Aegean region.

Ad


Short stories, fairy tales, poetry and excerpts from books are included in this collection of material about witches. Some of the authors and editors represented are Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sigrid Undset, the brothers Grimm, Oscar Wilde, Rachel Field, and Eleanor Farjeon. Selection has been made with discrimination, but much of the material is available in most libraries in the sources from which it has been drawn. In view of the appeal of the subject matter the book will probably be useful as an addition to collections of which these perennial favorites are a part.


For the beginning reader, an engaging book about a small boy, told in the first person. Refused mother's knitting wool or the line from father's fishing pole, the boy goes to a dump and collects an enormous ball of string. Some of the weird contraptions he ties together lead him to grief, but the perfect use for his string comes when he has a cold and must stay in bed. With great relish, the boy describes the ways in which almost every article he owns can be manipulated by strings while he sits in bed, monarch of all he surveys. A controlled vocabulary of 212 words is used with humor and originality.

Holland, Marion. The Secret Horse. Little, 1959. 154p. $3.

Disappointed that she couldn't go to camp, Nickie was prepared for an empty summer: no friends, no horses to ride. Reluctantly she agreed to choose a kitten at the Animal Shelter, and there she saw a horse—a horse that nobody wanted. Nickie and Gall, who was visiting next door, stole the horse and hid him in the barn of the Olds property next door. The girls had a wonderful summer: they worked to earn money for the horse's food, they enjoyed caring for him and they became good friends. Alas, crochety old Mr. Olds (a very stereotyped gentleman) came home and blustered, but when he heard the whole story, he melted. He had had a daughter who loved horses when she was small. So he gave permission for the use of the barn and even offered part of his big house to Gall's family to rent, so Gall would not have to move away from her new friend. The ending is very contrived, but the author writes with vivacity and humor. Family relationships are described well.

Hope, Anne. Umphy Elephant, Window Cleaner; illus. by Elizabeth Hammond. 4-6 Warne, 1958. 28p. $1.25.

Umphy Elephant rode a tricycle carrying his window-cleaning equipment; he rang the bell with his trunk and people came out of their houses to ask him to wash their windows. He sprayed the water on with his trunk and got the windows sparkling clean. One lady was very pleased and gave him sixpence. So Umphy went home to the caravan where he lived alone and cooked himself an egg. A quite tedious story in which, except for the trunk, the elephant might as well be any other animal or be human.

A description of village life in French Equatorial Africa, in which a mythical (but typical) rural community is used. The way of life of the villagers, and their reactions to the culture of the white men and to the younger tribesmen who advocate change, is told in rather pedestrian style. The tone is occasionally a little superior toward the natives, but the author's intentions are clearly kindly. Some of the photographs used have little relevance to the text.


Mabel was put into an outdoor tank at Marineland after she had been taken out of the ocean; but the tank was too small, Mabel couldn't get her top fin out of the sun, and it became sunburned. Even when her fin had been healed, Mabel wasn't happy, so the men moved her carefully to a larger tank. Here she was happy and that made everybody at Marineland happy. A slight and unimpressive story, the chief use of which lies in its supplementing of material available for beginning readers.


Liang was a fisherman who lived in a houseboat on the vier. He had three daughters and one son, Small Liang, who was learning to be a fisherman also. Small Liang was learning how to fish by casting a net, and when he caught a very large fish his family was very proud. Part of his money was used to buy a yellow bird to replace the pet bird that had been stolen. A pleasant story of river life in China in days past. While there are small incidents in the book, the chief appeal is the picture of everyday life in an unfamiliar setting rather than in plot.


A book with controlled vocabulary for the beginning reader; useful in supplementing social studies units for the primary grades. Peter and his schoolmates were dismayed to hear that their favorite school-crossing policeman, Officer Green, was to be transferred. Officer Green, knowing that the youngsters had petitioned to keep him, took Peter on his rounds so that the boy might see why a policeman was needed elsewhere. When the transfer took place, all the children were delighted to find that the new crossing guard was Mrs. Green. Events are interesting; the use of the controlled vocabulary is unimaginative.


A collection of very brief poems, many consisting of only four lines. Some of the imagery is as delicate and as evocative as that of *Whispers,* the author's previous book, but there are several poems that are dull. While this collection does not maintain the standard of *Whispers,* there are many appealing poems, imaginative and gay, and some which read aloud especially well.


A fictionalized account of the years of service given by Cornelia Hancock to those in need. When the Civil War began, Cornelia was a young woman living in a Quaker community which disapproved of her decision to go to the battlefield as a nurse. Despite many obstacles, Cornelia managed to get to the front, where she was an effective force; after the war she devoted her considerable abilities to caring for Negro freedmen and
to teaching school. Subsequently Cornelia Hancock became active in social work, and
during her years in Philadelphia was interested in slum clearance, adequate housing,
and children's aid. The style of writing is rather sedate, but the appeals of the sub-
ject and of the historical background make absorbing reading.

Ad

Montgomery, Rutherford George. **Tim's Mountain**; illus. by Julian de Miskey.
4-6
World, 1959. 219p. $2.95.

Little Tim lived in a mountainside cabin with his uncle, Big Tim; both were content
with their easy life and the boy especially loved the wild creatures about him. What
Little Tim didn't like was going to school, and he wasn't too pleased at Big Tim's af-
fection for the school teacher. Big Tim found his nephew's pet raccoon a nuisance and
sold the animal, but when it became clear how much upset the boy was, Big Tim helped
get the pet back. While the pace of the book is slow, the descriptions of the flora and
fauna of the mountain country are interesting, and the characters are unusual. The
aversion to education of both the Tims is not an excellent example for the reader, but
it is consistent.

Ad

Moore, Lilian. **Once Upon a Holiday**; illus. by Gioia Flammenghi. Abindgon,
K-3
1959. 96p. $2.50.

Eight short stories and four poems that were originally published in **Humpty Dumpty's
Magazine for Little Children.** Each is related to a different holiday and most of the
selections are imaginative and good-humored; they are delightfully illustrated. The
stories vary: some are about personified animals, others about very natural children
and one or two are quite sentimental. Easy to read and well suited to classroom use.

NR

Moynihan, Roberta. **Futility the Tapir.** Viking, 1959. 52p. $2.
4-6

A picture book about a phlegmatic tapir who tries to get up and finds that it is too
great an effort. Futility the tapir talks to herself as she stirs: "Missed! Must have
lost my balance... Flat again! Tried too hard that time... This is ridiculous. Is
it worth it?... What an exhausting day!" The pictures are in black and white, rather
repetitive; a few of them are in attractive silhouette. There is no action in the story
and the little humor inherent in the situation is lost by being drawn out.

NR

Palazzo, Tony. **Tales of Don Quixote and His Friends.** Garden City Books, 1958.
2-3
87p. $2.95.

A retelling of Cervantes' masterpiece in which all the humor, charm, style, and wis-
dom of the original are lost. Don Quixote, referred to familiarly as Don, used as
though it were a given name, becomes merely a foolish man on a horse; his adven-
tures are contrived and his fancies are artifice; all of the pungent and penetrating
quality of Cervantes is absent and there is nothing to replace it.

Ad

2-4

A romantic fantasy about five animal friends who went to visit the king; having heard
that only noblemen would obtain an audience, the squirrel adopted the title of the Duke
of Sycamore, and in appropriate dress the five went to the castle to call. His Majesty,
the lion, became so fond of new friends that he proposed a return visit. The Duke of
Sycamore was obliged to pretend that the vacant castle of a bear was his home. After
the king's visit was over, the bear was so touched by the story of the Duke that he in-
vited all five animals to live with him. And they all lived happily ever after. Illustra-
tions are black and white, sentimental and rather ornate drawings of animals. Rou-
tine plot, but nice writing style; good for reading aloud, and useful for creative dra-
matics.
M Patchett, Mary Osborne Elwyn. **Send for Johnny Danger; The Amazing Adventures of Captain Danger and His Crew on the Moon.** Whittlesey House, 1958. 174p. $2.50.

An adventure story about the first men to make a rocket trip to the moon. Captain Johnny Danger takes with him David, the son of the spaceship designer. After a disastrous landing, the five earthmen are captured by Martians, who are on the moon to observe activities on earth. Johnny Danger risks Martian wrath by refusing to let the boy go to Mars; David is then kidnapped and put on a robot-controlled ship bound for Mars. Johnny Danger comes to the rescue, saves David, and the earthmen escape to their rocket by using the robots to help them. Run of the mill science fantasy.

Ad Paull, Grace A. **Come to the City.** Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 40p. $2.75. 3-6 yrs.

A book about New York City that gives, in its gay and busy illustrations, a vivid impression of the thronged streets and the diverse entertainments of a great metropolis. The information will, however, be useful chiefly for the reader who is visiting—or who has visited—New York, since it describes such local attractions as the Statue of Liberty, Chinatown, the United Nations buildings and the ferry. Some of the pages might be more specific about the places to which they refer; for example, a page which invites the reader to see men who lived long ago—and also some dinosaurs—makes no reference to a museum. Some adult guidance is indicated.


A useful book to answer the younger child's questions about space and space flight. Problems considered are the nature of space and of outer space, travelling in space that has air in it and the way rockets travel in outer space, the nature of a satellite, and the possibilities of future travel in outer space. While the simplified explanations are, in themselves, excellent, some of the physical principles on which space vehicles operate are not explored.


The little river started when snow and ice melted, far up in the mountains. The birds and the animals it met told the river which way to go, and eventually it met a lake. The river flowed into a city, surprising the residents; they diverted its flow with a culvert, which annoyed the little river and it set out to find the sea. The river laughed in glee when it found that it could be part of the sea and still be in all the other places it had visited at the same time. The book may confuse the reader in its conception of the element of choice ("No more cities . . . it's the sea for me") or in the concept of ubiquity ("it could come and go from the forest to the sea"). Illustrations will be useful in developing environmental concepts.

R Robertson, Keith. **The Navy; From Civilian to Sailor;** illus. by Charles Geer. Viking, 1958. (Armed Services Library) $2.

The author considers the relative advantages of draft and enlistment, and describes some of the pleasant aspects of life in the United States Navy. Naval history and a report on the "New Navy" follows a section on the training of recruits. A useful chapter is that which treats of laws governing military obligations; succeeding chapters discuss training programs, officer's commissions, pay, leaves, security, and other practical considerations. This is one of the best volumes in the excellent series, the Armed Services Library.
NR Ropner, Pamela. The Golden Impala; illus. by Ralph Thompson. Criterion, 6-8 1958. 159p. $3.25.
An adventure story set in South Africa. Peter Ward, whose father is the Warden of
the Taluki Game Reserve, has mysteriously been chosen as the deliverer of the im-
pala. Some enemy force has been threatening the herds so that they are seeking the
protection of the Reserve land. One almost legendary golden impala has appeared
several times and Peter, when he risks his life to save the beautiful animal, saves
the species. The enemy, a group of vicious men who have stolen a professor's for-
formula for making artificial pearls using a secretion from the horns of the impala,
kidnap Peter. The boy is rescued, but the evil leader of the kidnappers loses his life
in a stampede of the impala. Lurid plot, stock characters, and elements of mysticism
combine to form a melodramatic book.

R Rothschild, Alice. Bad Trouble in Miss Alcorn's Class; illus. by Irwin Rosen-
An unusual book. This is the story of a second-grade class in which somebody is pil-
fering, and the author deals with the problem and its solution with skill. The children
and the classroom situation are realistic and appealing; the teacher is described
with sympathy and appreciation. Motivation, problem, and solution are presented with
restraint; the story moves along smoothly; despite the seriousness of the events
there is a gentle humor that is most engaging.

4-6
Written to help the child understand himself and those around him, this book discus-
se genetics, reproduction, acquired characteristics, the roles of boys and girls, fam-
ily relationships, and attitudes toward racial, national, and individual differences in
people. Although there is a good balance between specific facts and general informa-
tion, and despite the accuracy of the information given, the book is weakened by sev-
eral flaws. Text and illustrations both have, in places, a jarring flippancy; also, for
the age group that will read the book it might have been better to use accurate termi-
nology—for example, "dominant genes" rather than "bossy genes." One section on
genetic differences between the sexes as related to health is quite liable to give rise
to apprehension in boys.

R Schlein, Miriam. The Raggle-Taggle Fellow; illus. by Harvey Weiss. Abelard-
2-4 Schuman, 1959. 64p. $2.95.
A charming story with a folktaile quality. Dick's two older brothers were respectable
citizens, but he was a wandering minstrel. Dick's father told him that if music was
really a trade, the next musical pilgrimage ought to produce three things of worth;
off went Dick to get three things of worth. He came back with the gratitude of a moth-
er whose sick child he had helped, with the life of an old man whose life he had saved
and with love for a girl. Dick's father wisely realized that these were things of more
value than the tangible assets he had expected. So Dick married the girl and he became
a professional musician; whenever they wanted to wander they dressed in their raggle-
taggle clothes and went off. Good writing style and a pervasive gentle love for mankind
give substance to the appealing tale.

7-9
Kerry Flannigan was known to baseball fans as a player who played tricks on the mem-
ers of opposing teams. When Kerry suffered a rib injury and was unable to play ball,
he was offered a job as manager of a Class B team. Again Kerry's crude tactics made
him known as a manager who would do anything to win. When the team began to play
badly and when Kerry realized that the townspeople disliked and disapproved of him,
he decided that there was something wrong with his tactics. By degrees his relationships with people improved and his team played better baseball. Good baseball but not much more. Kerry's motivation for changed behavior is an interest in winning games and furthering his own career; there is no suggestion that he wanted to change because his behavior was unethical.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). *Birth of an Island*; pictures by Winifred Lubell. 3-5 Harper, 1959. 48p. $2.50.
The evolution of a volcanic island is described in text that, despite its simplicity, communicates a sense of excitement at the wonder of natural processes. For years after the island erupted, there was no life; slowly a soil was built up, slowly one variety of plant after another took root; slowly some varied forms of animal life came to the island. In describing one island, the patterns of all islands are reflected—in the action of the elements, the migration of life forms and the differentiation of isolated species. Illustrations are striking, using one or two vibrant colors with bold black and white.

A delightful and easy book for the beginning reader, combining simple text and clearly presented scientific information. In expanding his botanical knowledge, small Benjy discovers that there are groups of plants that are related, that seeds reproduce their kind, and that seeds are distributed in many ways. Illustrations show old-fashioned costumes for which there is no apparent reason.

5-7 Written by a college history teacher, this is a book the emphasis of which is political. The history of Russia before the revolution is very briefly given and the struggle for power by various revolutionary groups is described. A modicum of attention is given to Russian agriculture, industry, arts, and religion. Major attention is devoted to the structure of the Communist party, its leaders and its policies and practices. In a section headed "Communist jargon" the author defines some terms; for example, "Communists do not hesitate to use words to express exactly the opposite of what they mean..." Socialist construction. This is a high-sounding phrase supposed to imply that the Communists are building a glorious new society... Peace. This is the most popular slogan in the Soviet Union." The section on education states that "the Communists do not hesitate to turn facts upside down and twist the meaning of words." This is an analysis of the Russian scene which is more an examination of Communism than a description of the country and its people. There is little description of the people themselves—their customs, their holidays, or their regional diversity. Some of the many photographs fill this gap; others are old pictures that are not illustrative.

M Stanford, Donald K. *Ski Town*; illus. by Stan Campbell. Funk & Wagnalls, 7-9 1958. 212p. $2.95.
The lives of some of the residents of Bullet, Colorado and of some of its visitors are affected by their encounters together and their interest in skiing. Sarge Pryor, a former ski instructor in the Army, comes to Bullet to begin his career; he finds a job and a girl. A sullen adolescent, Richard, finds new interest in sport and, with growing self respect, a growing cooperation with others. A spoiled local youth and his arrogant father are put in their place by some of the "unimportant" people. Interesting background, but the story line is needlessly diffuse and the characters are rather rigidly typed.
3-6 yrs.
Kiki was a very imaginative little girl who liked to act out the fairy tales that Mother read to her, but her friend Karl always spoiled the pretending by joking. One day the teacher read the story of Snow White and announced that it would be given as a play. Kiki hoped for a star role but found that only the older children would have big parts; she enjoyed being one of the flowers, however. And she worked to help Karl learn his role as a dwarf. When time for the performance came, Karl had stagefright and hid, so Kiki took his part and did so well that she was called for a bow. Kiki was, at last, an actress. A most appealing story—Kiki’s desire to star will be understood by most children, and her acceptance of a minor role is exemplary. Useful as a possible stimulus for creative play.

An honest and moving book. Mary Jane is one of a small group of Negro children who are in the first integrated class in the junior high school of a southern town, and she faces hostility with courage, although she is at times frightened and despairing. With hesitation she responds to the overtures of friendship made by Sally, a white classmate; painfully she learns that even with Sally’s good will, the friendship cannot progress as rapidly as both girls would wish. Eventually Mary Jane is accepted on her own merit; one of the lessons she has learned about prejudice is that she, too, has a tendency to label. While Mary Jane’s integration is successful, the author has carefully avoided either an unrealistic complete capitulation on the part of her fellow citizens or a melodramatic event that makes the girl a heroine. Mary Jane is a nice girl, but quite ordinary; she rises to courage in a time of crisis. Perhaps the one factor that is not ordinary is the influence of Mary Jane’s grandfather; he is not just a farmer, but a biology teacher who has taught at the state agricultural college. Written in a straightforward style, the people and the events in this distinguished book have a powerful emotional impact.

Emmett loved pigs: pictures of pigs, books about pigs, toy pigs filled his room. All he wanted was a pig. But Emmett lived in a city apartment, so there was no way to give him his heart’s desire until his parents thought of the idea of buying a pig that would be kept on a farm but would belong to Emmett. It was love at first sight, and the piglet was promptly named King Emmett; Emmett went home and dreamed of his very own pig and he told everybody he met the wonderful news. A charming story, tender and humorous; illustrations are perfectly matched to the style of the text. Large print, short sentences and division into two chapters facilitate easy reading; the story itself will be enjoyed by adults who read it aloud to small children. A happy addition to the books for independent beginning readers.

A story of the War of 1812. Lex Landon, age 14, wanted to join the fighting forces when the British were sailing up the river toward Baltimore. Lex saw the burning of Washington, and he scuttled his own boat when he got back to his home in Alexandria, rather than have the British take her. Lex took part in some of the battle of the Chesapeake, making friends with a Lieutenant Key; woven into Lex’s story is the story of the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner." Not outstanding, but a better than average war story.
R  Trez, Denise and Alain. **Circus in the Jungle.** World, 1958. 36p. $3.
K-2
Pat and Virginia play a game that Virginia has invented about a magic jungle. On this happy and nonsensical trip, the children with their dog Banana meet flowered panthers, three-humped camels, and polyglot parrots. Finally the animals have a circus; when Virginia decides that they all ought to go back to Paris for another performance, the whole island that holds the magic jungle is towed by spouting whales. A brashly exaggerated story with bright and busy cartoon-style illustrations.

K-1
A rather belabored effort to explore environmental concepts. Many examples of the location of objects are given, but the tangible and the abstract are both included, which may confuse the small child; i.e., "a thought is in the head" and "tick-tock is in the clock" are not in the same category as a sock on a foot or a shell on the shore. A second confusion exists between the actual and the imaginary. The book is overlong, and the conclusion—that only God is everywhere—is so little integrated with the rest of the book that, as it is here presented, it loses its effectiveness by being an abrupt ending.

2-3
Bobby Brown's parents were amused when Bobby pretended to be some of his favorite characters from stories—but the humor wore off, especially when Bobby told Aunt Hilda that it was Jack Horner speaking on the telephone. Mr. and Mrs. Brown tried (unsuccessfully) to get Bobby to answer to his own name, but the boy didn't really learn the need for this until he was lost. Illustrations show Bobby in his assumed roles. The controlled vocabulary of 204 words has been tested for second grade use, and may be useful for slow third grade readers.

R  Weiss, Harvey. **Paper, Ink, and Roller; Print-Making for Beginners.** Scott, 1958. 64p. $3.50.
4-
A handsome book in text and illustration, and an excellent instructional guide to the techniques of print-making. Materials recommended are easily obtainable, explanations are clear, and the author encourages the reader to try his own ideas. Techniques described are press, transfer, potato, stencil, cardboard, and linoleum printing. Some of the more complicated methods of printing are described (not given as instruction, but as interesting information) in a concluding section. These include woodcuts, silk screen, lithography, etching, and engraving.

Ad Weiss, Harvey. **Paul's Horse Herman.** Putnam, 1958. 72p. $2.50.
2-4
Paul had always wanted a horse, but he hadn't planned on an old and perpetually sleepy horse like Herman. Paul and his friends, Jessica and John Thomas, had a little trouble with Herman—he followed them into a store and upset the canned goods, and he was prone to sleep just when transportation was needed. The children went on a picnic and boated to an island, capsizing en route and getting back by holding Herman's tail as he swam. A rather contrived story but humorous. As shown in the illustrations, one of the children is a Negro, and the fact that this is taken quite for granted and not mentioned in the text is a pleasant aspect of the book.

7-9
Another episode in Cherry's life as a nurse—this time as an investigator of the background of a patient who is suffering from amnesia. The untangling of the clues given
by the patient in therapy sessions is the major part of the book; the medical discus-
sion of amnesia is a minor part; there is only enough reference to Cherry's personal
life to tie the chapters together. The conversations among members of the hospital
staff as they discuss their patient do give some information about amnesia, but they
don't read like natural conversation when the doctor tells the nurse facts that are
primary medical knowledge. This book has the same weaknesses as the many other
titles in the series: superficial characterization, trite writing and improbable plot.

K-2
The groundhog dutifully arose on February 2 so that the people who were waiting for
him wouldn't be disappointed, but it was a tiresome proceeding and he was pleased to
trade the shadow to a fox for some hay. The fox took the shadow to the weatherman,
but he refused to buy it: he said that was all nonsense and he was a scientist. So the
fox ran off, leaving the shadow to make its own way back to the groundhog. By this
time the groundhog had found out that he missed his shadow, and they were happily re-
united. Too much is made of slight material, and the personified shadow is con-
fusing.

Ad Witten, Herbert. Escape from the Shawnees; illus. by Lorence F. Bjorklund.
4-6 Follett, 1958. 189p. $3.
Eleven-year-old Whit Martin had not distinguished himself as a hunter, so he was es-
pecially pleased when he was asked to go along on a hunt by an expert, Gabe Stoner.
Gabe was wounded and the two were taken captive by Indians; they escaped and after
a bitter and hazardous journey, reached a fort. Whit had saved both their lives by his
prowess in hunting for the food without which they could not have continued. Not out-
standing writing, but a good tale of life in the Kentucky wilderness.

Ad Wolfe, Louis. Let's Go to a Planetarium; illus. by Beatrice Burke. Putnam,
3-4 1958. 47p. $1.95.
Describes the exhibits and services at a planetarium, and explains the machinery used
in the dome. Celestial bodies, the solar system, earth's seasons and other astronomi-
cal phenomena and objects are discussed. Gives an adequate picture of a planetarium,
although some of the illustrations are rather confusing and the text has scattered
through it some irrelevant comments; i.e., "There may be so many people looking at
the exhibit that you have trouble getting close enough to see."

Ad Ylla, illus. Animal Babies; story by Arthur Gregor; designed by Luc Bouchage.
An oversize book of photographs of animal babies and their mothers. Some of the ani-
mals are zoo specimens and some are more familiar domesticated animals. The pho-
tographs are most enjoyable, but the text seems to be contrived as a necessary accom-
paniment, though a small amount of information is incorporated into the extended cap-
tions. The large size photographs will make the book useful in a classroom situation.

Ad Zemach, Harvey. Small Boy Is Listening; illus. by Margot Zemach. Houghton,
2-3 1959. 30p. $2.75.
Peter's uncle brought him a new harmonica and the boy tried to make up a new and
wonderful tune. He went about listening to the sounds of Vienna—the horses in the
Spanish circus, the calls of the market and the splashing of the fountains. He went to
the cafes and the opera, to the Prater and into the city's traffic. Then Peter had his
own tune, and everybody listened while he played his song of Vienna. The interest is
too local for general appeal and the search for a song (an interest that is not shared
by many children) is too obviously a vehicle for the Viennese tour. Illustrations in
pink, black, and white are attractive.
Bibliographies

Best Books for Children. R. R. Bowker Company. 190p. $2. Paperbound. Bowker, New York, 1959. Books are listed by three grade groups and by some special subjects and are indexed by author, title, and illustrator. 40% discount for five or more copies.


Children's Books for $1.25 or Less. Association for Childhood Education International. 36p. $.75. Evaluated by a committee of the Association and available from their headquarters at 1200 15th St. N.W., Suite 300, Washington 5, D. C.


Senior Booklist. Current books chosen by the Secondary Education Board. 49p. $.50. March, 1959. Division is by subject or type of literature; reviews are written for students in grades 9-12. Grade and Dewey Decimal Classification Number are suggested.

Stories: A List of Stories to Tell and to Read Aloud. Augusta Baker, compiler. 5th ed. rev. New York Public Library. $1. Three subject indexes; one section lists out of print books.