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Bulletin
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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

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

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

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Volume XIV

March, 1961

Number 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

NR Aardema, Verna. Otwe; illus. by Elton Fax. Coward-McCann, 1960. 25p.
3-4 Trade ed. \$2; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A simplified retelling of an African folk tale, based on a story called "The Man and the Snake" in Nuer Customs and Folklore (Huffman, Oxford University Press, 1931). Writing style is rather pedestrian, and some of the illustrations are unattractive. Otwe has the power of hearing animals talk, a power given him by a snake whom he had befriended, but his habit of laughing whenever he heard this led Otwe into trouble. After confessing his secret, he fell dead, but the snake brought Otwe back to life and laughter. The motivation of the tale is not apparent: Otwe makes no use of his power, and it is not made clear why he reacts with laughter.

Ad Adam, Barbara. The Big Big Box. Doubleday, 1960. 30p. illus. \$2.
3-5

yrs.

Not outstanding, but a pleasant and simple story about two children who have fun with an enormous carton, a pleasure that children to whom the book is read aloud will almost surely have shared. Mike and Julie use their box as a ship, a house, a school, a fire engine, and a train; when Mike's cat has kittens in the box the premises are declared hers. The illustrations are awkward, but they carry out the text in presenting children in imaginative play.

R Allan, Mabel Esther. Hilary's Summer on Her Own. Watts, 1961. 201p.
7-10 \$2.95.

Hilary was eighteen and about to enter Oxford; for three years she had been living with an aunt who was her only relative. Shy, but determined to have a change, Hilary answered an ad for a summer job: companion and English teacher to three French girls. Her two months in Brittany were more troublesome than she had expected, because all three girls had problems; her summer had a happier aspect than she had ever expected, however, because she fell in love. Good writing style, good characterization, and interesting background. The author is perceptive about family relationships, but the book is slightly weakened by the fact that almost everybody has a problem and by the ending, in which all of the problems are solved.

R Arora, Shirley Lease. "What Then, Raman?"; illus. by Hans Guggenheim.
5-7 Follett, 1960. 176p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.15 net.

A story of India today, written with sympathy in a quite distinctive style. In the story of Raman, the first boy in his village to learn to read, the conflict between the old ways and the new is reflected. Raman has to drop out of school to work, and one of his jobs consists of gathering specimens of native flowers for an American teacher. When he tells the woman how he longs to be a scholar, Raman is asked, "What then?"

But he does not know . . . he wants only to learn. When his sister and his friend tell Raman they want to read, the boy realizes that he wants to share his learning: he wants to teach. Simple, moving, and honest; a good book about Indian life, a perceptive picture of an adolescent boy.

R Asimov, Isaac. The Kingdom of the Sun; illus. with diagrams. Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 160p. \$3.

A comprehensive description of man's cumulation of knowledge about the solar system, written with clarity, ease, and authority. From the theories of early men, the findings of the Greeks and the Babylonians, and the evolution of modern theories and increasingly complex instruments, the text moves to the discoveries of the present century. An index and an extensive table of dates are appended.

R Ayars, James Sterling. Pet Parade; illus. by Elizabeth Donald. Abelard-1-3 Schuman, 1960. 60p. \$2.50.

A very pleasant book, simply and realistically written. Jonathan's brother and sister were grooming their pets for the annual parade, but Jonathan didn't have a pet. He was only six, and still afraid of crawly things, but his great desire to be in the parade gave him courage enough to bring home a turtle and to teach it a trick. He didn't win a prize, but an understanding judge at the Pet Parade gave Jonathan his ribbon; Jonathan was quite content: he had been in the parade, he had a pet that could do a trick, and he had learned not to be afraid of crawly things. The conversation is especially well written; the children are natural; the story moves along with ease.

R Baker, Augusta (Braxton), comp. The Golden Lynx; And other tales; illus. by 4-6 Johannes Troyer. Lippincott, 1960. 160p. \$3.

A compilation of 16 tales selected from the folk literature of Scotland, Poland, Italy, India, and the Scandinavian countries. The stories have been chosen from books out of print; they contain all the familiar elements of durable and universal appeal. A useful collection for independent reading, reading aloud, or storytelling. The majority of the stories are from Lippincott books that have been out of print.

M Barry, Robert E. Next Please. Houghton, 1961. 40p. illus. \$1.95.

K-2

A small read-aloud picture book about Marcel, barber at the Municipal Zoo. Marcel describes the problems he has with some of the animals who come to his shop; comments by the author ("Is there nothing too difficult for Marcel?") are printed in red, a device that seems to have little point in a read-aloud book. A rather slight theme, but there is some humor in the illustrations and some appeal in the ending, in which Marcel goes home to his most difficult customer, Marcellino.

Ad Beckhard, Arthur J. Cancer, Cocaine, and Courage; The Story of Dr. William 7-10 Halsted; by Arthur J. Beckhard and William D. Crane. Messner, 1960. 191p. \$2.95.

A good medical biography. William Halsted was one of the first men in this country to advocate antiseptics in the operating room. As one of the small group of men who tested the anesthetic uses of cocaine by using it themselves, Halsted found that he had become addicted to the drug; he lost three years of practice in his profession while he conquered the addiction. A competent book, although the writing style is not outstanding; the emphasis is on Halsted's work rather than on his personality. The title of the book is somewhat misleading, since only a few pages bear any reference to cancer.

R Black, Irma (Simonton). Big Puppy and Little Puppy; pictures by Theresa K-2 Sherman. Holiday House, 1960. 31p. (Beginning-to-Read Books) \$2.50.

Adapted from "Big Puppy, Small Puppy" in Mitchell and Black's Believe and Make-Believe (Dutton, 1956). Useful for beginning and independent readers and a pleasant tale as well, although mildly purposive. Mother Dog sends her puppies out to see the world: one is unhappy because he is so big, the other because he is so small. The larger pup meets large animals that make him feel small; the little pup meets small creatures who think he is enormous. Both come home satisfied, having learned something about having a sense of proportion and making friends. The book has enough pace to be used for reading aloud to younger children.

R Bond, Michael. A Bear Called Paddington; with drawings by Peggy Fortnum. 4-6 Houghton, 1960. 128p. \$2.50.

A delightfully humorous book, written in bland style and illustrated with beguiling drawings; pleasant to read aloud to children too young for independent reading. First published in England in 1958. A small bear is discovered sitting on his suitcase in a station, and he is taken home by the Brown family and named Paddington because he was found in that station. Paddington is loved by his family, but he is a constant trial to them: if it is possible to get into trouble in any situation, Paddington will do it. This amiable animal is invested with a distinctive personality: he deftly snubs a supercilious salesman, he has pleasant conversations with the local tradespeople when he does the family shopping, he delights his guests by putting on a magic show at his own birthday party. Deft nonsense, this book, and written with restraint.

R Brown, Lloyd A. Map Making: The Art that Became a Science. Little, 1960. 8- 217 p. illus. \$4.75.

A fascinating book, profusely illustrated with diagrams and reproductions of old maps and prints. As ancient man discovered or conjectured facts about his world, the knowledge was recorded in clay tablet and papyrus. The mariners, the philosophers, the scientists and surveyors who have contributed to cartography are described in a broad fashion that makes their work understandable and their background vivid. Separate chapters discuss latitude and longitude; the final chapters describe national surveys, standardization of measurement, the establishment of time zones, and international cooperation. Well-written, well-organized, and informative. An index is appended.

R Brown, Marcia Joan. Tamarindo. Scribner, 1960. 30p. illus. \$2.95. K-2

All activity stopped in the town square when Uncle Neddu announced that he had lost his donkey, Tamarindo; nobody wanted to search for the animal except Peppinedu. Peppinedu gave instructions to his "army" to spread out into different areas—but three small boys and one very small boy can easily be diverted. It was hot, and the boys felt they might as well swim, since they were near the sea; their clothes were taken by some goats, but they did find Tamarindo. All four rode the donkey back to the village, where they were hastily dressed in towels, given improvised decorations, and treated to a festive meal. A pleasant book, with lively illustrations that enhance the story of four very natural little boys who are serious about their make-believe and who are treated with dignity by the adults. Librarians will wish to note that some of the illustrations show the boys swimming au naturel.

R Burt, Olive (Woolley). The Cave of Shouting Silence. Day, 1960. 191p. (Your 5-8 Fair Land Series) \$3.50.

A good novel in the series of books about our national parks, the background here being that of Zion National Park. Caleb Wilson had joined a Mormon expedition to the Virgin River territory (named for his grandfather) so that he could find proof of his right to inherit property in Missouri. By the time he had found proof, Caleb had come to love the region and decided to stay. The story is concerned in large part

with Caleb's friendship with a Paiute Indian boy, a theme that is very well handled both as a story of friendship and as it concerns information about the tribe. A weakness in the writing is in the dialogue: Caleb uses very good English part of the time and in other places uses the speech of an uneducated person. Descriptions of the country are excellent; the ending is gratifyingly realistic: Caleb finds traces of his grandfather's presence, but no legal proof leading to wealth.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Bomber Parade; Headliners in Bomber Plane History. Coward-McCann, 1960. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.25; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A book about bombing aircraft of the United States Air Force. The subtitle does not indicate the limitation of the material; Cooke's Bomber Planes that Made History (Putnam, 1959) describes planes of all countries, for example. Although both books include some of the same models, Bomber Parade gives better coverage of U. S. planes; it does not give as much information as does the Cooke book about each model. The format is like that of other books by this author: each page carries a photograph and a small amount of text (approximately one-third page) that gives statistics about the model pictured. The author's prefatory note gives some background information about the identifying numbering system that has evolved.

R Cooke, David Coxe. Racing Cars that Made History. Putnam, 1960. 72p. 5-9 illus. \$2.50.

The author has selected thirty-odd famous racers famous in Grand Prix history to outline the story of automobile racing. Each page of text is faced by a full-page photograph of the car described; the text discusses technical aspects of the racer, famous races in which the model participated, and information about the races and the drivers. A useful book that describes the development of racers in France, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States.

R Corbett, Scott. The Mailbox Trick; illus. by Paul Galdone. Little, 1961. 103p. 3-6 \$2.95.

A sequel to The Lemonade Trick, picking up the life of that lively boy, Kerby Maxwell, several weeks later. Already agonized by the fact that a small girl cousin is visiting for three weeks, Kerby is truly horrified when he finds that she has mailed three letters he had written just to relieve his feelings. The trouble Kerby then has may not be quite believable, but it is thoroughly enjoyable. The book has humor and vivacity; although the events are nonsensical, the children are quite true to life, especially in their very natural conversation.

NR Cummings, William T. Miss Esta Maude's Secret; story and pictures by W. K-2 T. Cummings. Whittlesey House, 1961. 32p. \$2.50.

A read-aloud picture book about a prim elderly school-teacher who led a sedentary life. Or so everybody thought. Miss Esta Maude had a secret passion: racing; every Friday at midnight she would take her red car out of its hiding place and race along the highways. She rescued a flock of sheep one night, and a sleepy boy another; then she picked up a young couple whose car had broken down and raced them to the hospital—just in time. Miss Esta Maude's double life is not convincingly presented, and the thought that the only result of speeding is a record of good deeds is hardly realistic. The illustrations in color are pedestrian, but those in black and white are effective.

Ad Declaration of Independence. The First Book Edition of the Declaration of Independence; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1960. 25p. \$1.95. ages

Although the text of the document is available from many sources—encyclopedias,

for example—the book will be useful because of ease in handling and because of the attractive format. Large, clear print and good spacing make the text easy to read; the illustrations are strong and effective as drawings, but they do not interpret the text.

R Disraeli, Robert. New Worlds through the Microscope; original ed. (Day, 6-1933) under title: "Seeing the Unseen." Viking, 1960. 175p. illus. \$4. An expanded and revised edition of the 1939 publication under the title Seeing the Unseen, with new photographs added to the many excellent ones retained from the original edition. The first chapters give information about equipment and mounting, using the microscope, and finding and handling specimens. Each section thereafter discusses and illustrates some narrow topic, such as the wings of insects or pollen and seeds. Suggestions for making microscopic examination (within the range of the topic) are made within each section. Well-organized and simply written, a book that will be especially useful for science or nature study units in the classroom but is clear enough to be used by the young person who is working at home with a microscope. The photomicrographs are beautiful as they are instructive.

R Felt, Sue. Hello—Goodbye; Story and pictures by Sue Felt. Doubleday, 1960. K-2 13p. \$2.50.

A read-aloud picture book that tells of moving to a new home. Only Lucy remembers what moving is like, and she tells her little sister Candace about the procedure of "Hello-Goodbye." Alison, the baby, is happy anywhere; Candace and Lucy miss their friends in the new town, but the new friends do turn up. The appeal in the story is not so much in the adjustment to a new situation as in the faithfulness with which the author reproduces the reactions and the speech of the children of different ages. The illustrations show some distortion of the human figure, and they are over-full, but they have the authenticity of familiar details (a book on the rug entitled Curious George) that children enjoy. Simple and pleasant, although some details—such as the babyish mispronunciation of Candace—may appeal to adults rather than to children.

M Fiori, Pacifico. The Wild Horses of Tuscany; tr. from the Italian by H. E. 6-8 Scott; illus. by Q. Nadir. Watts, 1960. 128p. \$2.95.

First published in Italy in 1955 under the title I Ribelli Della Prateria. The story of three boys who live on an estate where horses are bred: Pippo, Vanni, and Bicci are a rebellious trio who get into trouble because they are devoted to three foals. When the advancing German armies commandeer all animals, the boys steal back their horses and hide out in the woods. The three keep their "phantom herd" safe until the armies move on, and are given their favorite horses as a reward. The writing style is—at least in translation—rather heavy; the greater part of the book details minor adventures and has no strong plot line. There is little in the book for readers who are not lovers of horse stories, and the vocabulary is rather difficult for the age group with whom this type of book is most popular.

M Freehof, Lillian B. (Simon). The Savage. Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 191p. \$3. 7-9

A tough gang in the freshman class of the high school called themselves the Savages; some of the senior boys agreed with the principal that the Savages could be helped. Dan Morse, an active and responsible member of the senior class, took Patch Baker as his special assignment. Although the story concerns the whole situation and the problems of all the members of the gang, it stresses the relationship between Patch and Don. The picture of the delinquent boys is candid, but the ending of the book is contrivedly happy and quite sentimental. The author handles adequately the tensions in Patch's family resulting from the fact that all of the mother's affection seems to go to the boy's blind twin sister. The least credible element in the story is the un-

shakable stability, patience, and wisdom of Don; despite provocations by Patch, Don displays the therapeutic acceptance of a sage counselor.

R Fritz, Jean. Brady; illus. by Lynd Ward. Coward-McCann, 1960. 223p.
5-7 \$3.50.

A strong and moving story about a youngster living in the troubled years before the Civil War. Brady Minton was a little embarrassed by his father's anti-slavery zeal: feelings were divided in Pennsylvania, and Brady wasn't sure how he felt. Events and people changed his mind, however, and heightened his feeling of responsibility to the point where the boy showed the initiative and courage of a man. This is not only an excellent period story, but a beautifully developed character study. Brady changes gradually in response to other people, to new interests, to time; he is completely believable. Other characterization is good, and the book has good writing style, good values, and smooth pace.

R Galdone, Paul, illus. Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog; pictures by Paul
3-6 Galdone. Whittlesey House, 1960. 32p. \$2.25.

yrs.

A delightful edition of a favorite nursery rhyme. The text is the original, the illustrations have humor and jaunty style; it is notable that the illustration of "The poor dog was dead." shows an animal enjoying to the fullest his own trick of "playing dead." Each page has one line of text, so that each of the amazing dog's activities is separately pictured.

Ad Gibson, Gertrude Hevener. About Our Weather; illus. by Robert Totten. Mel-
2-3 mont, 1960. 32p. \$1.88.

Through the device of having children in a classroom discuss the weather, the various weather phenomena are briefly explained. Separate sections describe wind, clouds, rain, thunder and lightning, the rainbow, and snow and hail. Explanations are adequate and accurate, with both the children and the teacher trying simple demonstrations to illustrate the points. Because the text does not try to go into more detail than is comprehensible to the reader at a primary level, the book is useful despite the fact that the classroom conversations seem contrived.

NR Gleaves, Suzanne. Tip and Dip; by Suzanne Gleaves and Lael Wertebaker;
1-2 pictures by Adriene Adams. Lippincott, 1960. 64p. \$2.95.

For beginning independent readers, a fanciful story about a little girl who meets two little elvish brothers who inhabit a tree. In rhyming text the girl tells of the prankish behavior of Tip and Dip, of serving tea in the little house inside the tree, of falling amongst the branches, and of rescuing a cat. The book is much too long and repetitious, and the text is very contrived: "The b-b-bump makes me j-j-jump! It is not the cat, I am sure of that. It is not a dog. It is a little, little log!" or "The leaves are green and the branch is brown and Cat can not get up or back or down."

Ad Graves, Robert. Greek Gods and Heroes; illus. by Dimitris Davis. Doubleday,
9-12 1960. 160p. \$2.95.

A witty and sophisticated version of the Greek myths; Mr. Graves states in his prefatory note the opinion that this body of literature is not meant to be solemn, and his writing is crisp and colorful. The stories are told briefly, the preface and the first two chapters (one on the Olympians, one on the lesser gods) giving background information; a comprehensive relative index is appended. Delightfully humorous, but a book limited in use by the fact that the reader needs both familiarity with the material and an appreciation of the sophisticated approach to best enjoy it.

M Green, Mary Moore. About Apples from Orchard to Market; illus. by Henry

2-4 Luhrs. Melmont, 1960. 32p. \$1.88.

Information about apple growing and marketing is presented in a fictionalized framework that seems hardly necessary, since most of the facts are given in dry, unembellished, and often confusing, style. Describes such processes as pruning, irrigation, spraying, and picking. The ending is weakened by a rather pointless two pages that tell of the ways in which the Green family enjoys apples in the form of cider, pies, applesauce, etc.

Ad Gringhuis, Dirk. Rock Oil to Rockets; The Story of Petroleum in America; 4-5 story and pictures by Dirk Gringhuis. Macmillan, 1960. 28p. \$3.

The story of the beginnings and growth of the petroleum industry, from the original use as a medicine and the first well at Titusville in 1859. Production methods and uses of the product are discussed, and drilling machinery is shown in a labelled diagram. An adequate presentation, but the Buehr book on this subject (Oil, Today's Black Magic, Morrow, 1957) is more comprehensive and has many more illustrations and diagrams.

Ad Gullcher, J. M. A Tree Is Born; by J. M. Gullcher and R. H. Noailles. Ster- 5-7 ling, 1960. 100p. illus. (Sterling Nature Series) \$2.50.

Another in the series of books in the biological sciences illustrated by amazing magnified photographs. Describing first the seasonal cycle in all trees, the authors go on to discuss the horse chestnut, the oak, the walnut, and the pine. Photographs are numbered for identification in the text; in beautiful detail they show stages of growth and change in the reproductive process. Especially useful for curricular use in units on nature study or botany. The book is weakened by distracting layout: a running line (in heavy type) at the bottom of each page describes the photographs, while the main body of the text proceeds in independent (but related) continuity.

R Gullot, Rene. Grishka and the Bear; trans. by Gwen Marsh; illus. by Joan 4-7 Kiddell-Monroe. Criterion, 1960. 116p. \$2.75.

An unusual book, in which the author has most successfully evoked the atmosphere of a remote and primitive culture. Grishka is a boy whose tribe lives in Northern Siberia; each year the men go into the mountain to find a black bear to be offered as the annual sacrifice. When the bear that Grishka has raised as a pet becomes old enough to be a sacrificial victim, the boy runs away with the bear. Hunted by the villagers, they are found when Grishka falls into a pit; the boy is saved, the bear wanders disconsolately off into the mountains. Dramatic and convincing, the action of the story is still less important than the whole picture given of the tribal way of life.

R Havighurst, Walter. The First Book of the Oregon Trail; pictures by Helen 4-6 Borten. Watts, 1960. 60p. \$1.95.

Solid with information, a description of the pioneer treks to Oregon that followed the exploratory trip of Lewis and Clark and the frontier experiences of such mountain men as Colter and Glass. Although the writing style is rather dry, the historical material is so dramatic that the text is interesting to read. The accounts of the Lewis and Clark expedition, of the successful journey of the Dawson party, and the tragic fate of the Donner party are all slightly (and successfully) fictionalized. The book concludes with two chapters that discuss Oregon's admission to statehood and the westward travel in subsequent years by stagecoach and railroad. An index is appended.

R Hiller, Glynn. Put Your Best Look Forward. Doubleday, 1960. 162p. illus. 7-10 \$2.50.

A good book on grooming, health, and beauty aids for adolescent girls. The writing style is breezy but not coy; the advice is sensible. The author gives good general

advice on care of hair and complexion, on exercise and diet, on eyes and eye-glasses, on cosmetics and manicures, on posture, and on cultivating a pleasant speaking voice. An extensive calorie chart and an index are appended.

Ad Hughes, Toni. Toni Hughes' Book of Party Favors and Decorations. Dutton, 6-9 1960. 124p. illus. \$3.75.

Material selected from the author's How To Make Shapes in Space and Fun with Shapes in Space. The first chapter discusses materials, tools, and installations (work space); all of the material is simple and inexpensive—scissors, paste, construction paper, paper clips, etc. The chapters describe favors, activities, three-dimensional tricks, decorations, invitations, and a combination for a sample party. The photographs are handsome and the diagrams are clear; the weakness in the illustrative material is in the lack of adequate captions and labels that correspond to the text. For example, a chain of pleated fans is shown in the end-papers . . . in the body of the text this is listed as example C, "Many Pleats Attached in Sequence"; unfortunately, although examples A and B have been diagrammed, there is for C no diagram. The pleats in sequence are shown on the turn of the page—they are photographed rather than diagrammed—they are not labelled as example C. It is such omission of label and step-by-step diagram that makes the book rather difficult to use, although the text is clear, quite simple, and often numbered step-by-step. Because of this weakness, the book (which contains many fresh and attractive designs) is more suitable for an older child than for the youngster age nine designated by the publisher; with adult guidance the fourth or fifth grade child may find it possible to carry out some of the suggestions.

M Jackson, Sally. The Littlest Star; A Story about Ballet; pictured by Dick 1-2 Martin. Reilly and Lee, 1961. 31p. \$2.75.

A book for the beginning independent reader; black and white illustrations that are highly reminiscent of the work of Hilary Knight. Susie goes along to her older sister's ballet school and is given a major role in a recital because a smaller girl is needed. When the performance takes place, nobody gets more applause than Susie. While there is humor in the text and in the illustrations, the story is not convincing; few teachers would ignore their own pupils to give a starring role to a child who is not a member. The text moves from present to past, and back to present, tense for no apparent reason.

NR Jauss, Anne Marie. Under a Green Roof; Animals and Birds of Our Woods. 4-6 Lippincott, 1960. 64p. illus. \$2.95.

A nature study book that contains much information and some helpful illustrations, but is so poorly organized and written in such rambling style that it has little use other than casual browsing. No table of contents is given, no divisions are titled, and no index is included. The author has written about the flora and fauna of wooded areas in various sections of the country; some general information is given and the text then moves on to separate topics. For example, the book begins rather abruptly, "In these northeastern mountain woods live WHITETAIL DEER. Here broadleaf trees are mixed with . . .," and the pages that follow mention, in continuous text, hermit thrush, tussock moth, wood nymph, red newt, gray squirrel, hairy woodpecker, etc. Further confusion is engendered by the fact that there are conflicting references to time: on page six, "Now that it is August . . ." and on page nine, "Now that May has come. . ."

R Joy, Charles R. Getting To Know Israel; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Coward- 4-6 McCann, 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

A useful and informative book; the continuous text is written in straightforward style with only an occasional note of popularized phrasing. Mr. Joy gives good coverage:

history, geography, government, religion, education, language, holidays, recreation, industry, and agriculture. The ferment and the dedication in a new land are evident in the text and in the illustrations, especially the illustrations of the varied Israeli peoples. Included are a map, a pronouncing glossary, brief chart of major dates, and an index.

R Leaf, Munro. The Wishing Pool. Lippincott, 1960. 63p. illus. \$2.75.
2-3

Very pleasant and imaginative nonsense, although the title has little to do with the book, being merely a springboard for the imaginative forays of several children. They talked, while in the pool, about the things they wished would happen. Three episodes describe a knightly rescue, a western rodeo dream-of-glory, and a jet flight to the North Pole. Simple and humorous text that captures the child's outlook.

SpR Le Marchand, Jacques. The Adventures of Ulysses; tr. by E. M. Hatt; illus. 7-9 by André François. Criterion, 1960. 40p. \$3.95.

A satirical approach to the classic tale, in which Hermes reports to the gods on Olympus on various adventures of Ulysses. The gods are rather quarrelsome and quite human in this presentation, and they find the peccadilloes of mortals vastly entertaining. Penelope, for example, has a weepery—all well-kept houses have "parlors for parleying in, drawing rooms for drawing in, playrooms for playing. . . . In Ulysses palace there was a weepery: and it was always occupied." First published in France under the title L'Odysée d'Ulysse, a book that is more for adults than for children but one that may be appreciated by the young people who have both the reading background and sophistication. The illustrations are also sophisticated, stylized, and frequently grotesque. The fact that the book is oversize may discourage readers old enough to manage the vocabulary and appreciate the satirical wit.

R L'Engle, Madeleine. Meet the Austins. Vanguard, 1960. 191p. \$3.
5-8

An unusually good family story, told in convincing style by Vicky, who is twelve. The Austin home is filled with four children, assorted animals, and the sound of good music—and telephone bells, since father is a doctor. Into the happy atmosphere comes a spoiled little girl, recently orphaned; Maggy's advent disrupts almost everyone, but she and the Austins adjust to each other and it is eventually decided that she will go on living with them. The story line is realistic, the characters are nicely differentiated and consistent. It is, however, the family itself that is wonderful: warmth, intelligence, humor, and kindness pervade the Austin atmosphere with no suggestion of sentimentality or precocity.

R Lenski, Lois. When I Grow Up; A Read-and-Sing Book; with music by Clyde 4-6 Robert Bulla. Walck, 1960. 48p. illus. \$2.25.
yrs.

A very pleasant little book, with the lines of text repeated and set to music on each page, and with an illustration on the facing page. The music is simple, and the musical lines continuous. The first part of the book describes all the things a boy might be; the second part of the book is a similar song for a girl. The text can be read aloud without using the music and will stand by itself, but the simple and melodic tunes can be easily learned by a small child.

Ad Levarie, Norma. I Had a Little . . .; illus. by John Wright. Random House, 4-5 1961. 35p. \$1.95.

yrs.

A picture book that plays with rhyming words, illustrated with attractive line drawings in black and white. The rhythm will appeal to children, since the text uses the

same phrase repeatedly: "I had a little skunk and I put it in a hat/ I had a little luck and it turned into . . . (next page) a gnat. I had a little gnat and I put it in a spoon/ I had a little luck and it turned into . . . a baboon." The occasional faulty meter is slightly jarring when the book is read aloud. The element of surprise and the humor in the illustrations have appeal; the ending is weak; the book is a good example of the type of word-play that may well become a game enjoyed by the child who first encounters it here.

R Lionni, Leo. Inch by Inch. Obolensky, 1960. 27p. illus. \$3.50.
3-6
yrs.

An enchanting picture book, with a minimum of text that tells the story of an inch-worm who saves himself from death by proving that he can be useful: he even manages to measure the song of a bird. The illustrations are exquisite: beautiful clear colors, a unity of theme that combines with a variety of techniques, bold yet simple layout with a refreshing use of white space, and an imaginative interpretation of the text. It is regrettable that the illustrations extend to the end papers.

Ad Lorberg, Aileen. Lookout Summer. Lothrop, 1960. 192p. \$3.
7-9

Vickie had signed up for a summer job as a fire-spotter in part because it would give her more time to practice violin. She wasn't sure whether she wanted a musical career or marriage, and hoped being alone might help her decide. She soon found that most of her time was occupied with the chores of her job on the lonely lookout tower, and it was a change to have another girl join her when she sprained her ankle—even if she and Val didn't always get along. The background of the story is interesting, with convincing details about the job and the forest surroundings. Some of the characterization is good, although some of the minor characters are rather stereotyped. The storyline is episodic and never melodramatic, the writing has pace but is fairly pedestrian in style.

R Marokvia, Mireille. Nanette; A French Goat; by Mireille Marokvia and Artur K-2 Marokvia. Lippincott, 1960. 45p. illus. \$3.

Not a picture book, but a very pleasant book to read aloud, with illustrations that are humorous, attractive, and undubitably French. Nanette is sold to a family whose ailing youngest needs goat's milk; even though Nanette gets into trouble the older children love her. While on vacation at grandmother's, Nanette permits one of the children to milk her, and when the old Baron becomes ill, the children take Nanette to the chateau so that the sick man may benefit. He is willing to keep the goat, but Nanette trots home with her family. A gentle story that gives a good picture of the French countryside; Nanette has a definite personality that is established within bounds of realism.

Ad May, Charles Paul. Box Turtle Lives in Armor; illus. by Jane Castle. Holiday House, 1960. 45p. \$2.50.

The habits of a box turtle, with text in narrative (although not fictionalized) form. The writing is rather static, with the divisions having titles that give little guidance: "Box turtle got up and walked on" or "Eggs in the water." In general, the book gives information clearly and accurately, with some related facts about reptiles or about other animals that share the habitat of the box turtle. The book concludes with two pages of advice on keeping a turtle as a pet.

M Miller, Helen Markley. Ski Fast, Ski Long. Doubleday, 1960. 215p. \$2.95.
7-9

Dave Grant had picked a college with an excellent ski team, and he quickly found a

job, a room-mate, and an enemy on the team. The plot is fairly routine: Dave, who works hard and sticks to his training, finds himself in competition with Kirk, who is a star on the ski team, but who is boastful and even dishonest. The chief interest in the book is in the background of ski practice and ski meet.

M Norman, Gertrude. Johnny Appleseed; illus. by James Caraway. Putnam, 2-3 1960. 44p. Trade ed. \$2; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

The story of the gentle man who went about the Ohio Territory planting seeds and caring for apple trees. The text is static and dull; although it may give the reader a favorable impression of Johnny Appleseed, it fails to make him very interesting. The writing is over-simplified to the extent that it is very weak: for example, "Then Johnny saw an Indian. He walked over to him and said, 'I am your friend.' After he said some other things, the Indian went away." The book has minimal use as supplementary material for independent reading.

M Nugent, Ruth. Our Japanese Playmates; The Adventures of Two American 3-4 Children in Japan; illus. by Fusaka Hyuga. Tuttle, 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

A book about Japanese customs and especially about the life of children in present-day Japan, told through the device of having an American family come to live in Tokyo. The writing is quite pedestrian and dull, with occasional unnecessary references to a "Japanese flower shop" or a sign with "Japanese writing." Illustrations are mediocre, with all the faces looking Occidental. The information about the country and its people is of interest, but it is almost obscured by the tedious writing.

R Orbaan, Albert. With Banners Flying; written and illus. by Albert Orbaan. 7- Day, 1960. 191p. \$3.75.

Seven of the most dramatic battles of history are described: Rome's decisive victory over Carthage, the revolt of Arminius against the Roman legions, Hastings, Agincourt, the Ditmarshers rebellion in 1500, Trenton, and Waterloo. With the exception of Ditmarshers rebellion, which is covered in six pages, the battles or campaigns are reported in considerable detail. Well-written and illustrated with battle maps. Each section has a prologue and epilogue in fuller explanation, and a list of sources is appended.

M Orleans, Ilo. The Zoo that Grew; pictures by Harold Berson. Walck, 1960. K-2 47p. \$2.75.

A collection of forty-three poems, approximately half of which have been previously published in children's magazines. Although most of the poetry is pedestrian, there are occasional concepts that are imaginative and there is humor in some of the work. The chief appeal to children to whom the poems may be read aloud will probably be in the word patterns. The illustrations are in black and white; although they occupy too much of the page to be seen to the best effect, they have originality and humor.

R Pine, Tillie S. Air All Around; by Tillie S. Pine and Joseph Levine; illus. by 2-4 Bernice Myers. Whittlesey House, 1960. 48p. \$2.50.

An excellent introduction to the topic, with helpful diagrams and explanations that are clear and simple. In an informal question-and-answer style, the authors discuss various attributes of, and phenomena about, air. Simple home demonstrations are suggested for which no special equipment is needed: the "empty" juice can that can show, when held under water, that it is not empty but is filled with air. From the simple examples, the text moves to larger applications; for example, a simple demonstration shows how air circulates when a window is opened at both top and bottom—and then it is pointed out that warm and cool air move in the same way outdoors to form air-movements of varying speeds.

SpC Rabinowicz, Harry M. The Slave Who Saved the City; And Other Hassidic
8-10 Tales; drawings by Ahron Gelles. Barnes, 1960. 192p. \$2.95.

A collection of thirty-odd brief tales of the marvelous miracles wrought by faith—with a few of the stories being fairy tales as told by Hassidic rabbis. The book is prefaced by a rather florid introduction, and the stories themselves are quite ornate, and are heavy with trite phraseology. Many of the incidents and plots are repetitious, and the combination of repetitive pattern and ornate style indicates that the book will probably have little interest for the average reader but may be of use in a religious education collection.

NR Radlauer, Ruth Shaw. Mothers Are That Way; pictures by Abner Graboff.
4-6 Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 42p. \$2.75.

yrs.

A read-aloud picture book that examines the foibles of mothers, those strange creatures. "Mothers just love clothes—only they don't chew on collars . . ." and the topic of clothes and mothers goes on for a page; or, "Mothers like beds—but in a different way. They don't jump on them. They don't turn somersaults on them. They don't even hide under beds." The text on each page ends with the title line; while mothers are given their due credit for tender loving care, the tenor of the book is that mothers have peculiar tastes and patterns. Although children may find humor in the idea that a mother might hide under a bed or make a picture out of her mashed potatoes, they are not really likely to think mothers are odd for preferring not to do these things.

Ad Roberts, Cliff. The Dot. Watts, 1960. 34p. illus. \$2.95.

4-6

yrs.

The author-illustrator shows in his pictures, and describes in the rhyming text, the ways in which lines, dots, and circles can combine. They form a face—many faces—a family—and their house; the world is composed of many houses and many families, and, although their names differ, the people everywhere are much the same. The style of illustration does not seem best suited to the admirable sentiment of the slight text; the lesson in brotherhood might be more effective if all the faces in the book did not look exactly alike.

R Rogers, Frances. Painted Rock to Printed Page; with drawings by the author.
6-10 Lippincott, 1960. 175p. \$3.50.

A comprehensive and well-written history of writing and printing. The author is especially skilled in explaining the nature of such developments as hieroglyphic writing or the way in which the Greeks altered the Phoenician alphabet. Also excellent is his presentation of the manner in which the available resources (papyrus reed, for example) influenced a development—and of the ways in which a need evoked a new invention or new use. The last chapter describes very clearly the recent improvements in printing processes and the intricacies of the machines in use today. Index is appended.

R Ruchlis, Hyman. The Wonder of Light; A Picture Story of How and Why We
6-10 See; drawings by Alice Hirsh. Harper, 1960. 154p. \$2.95.

A lucidly written book on a many-faceted subject. Mr. Ruchlis writes well; he is skilled at giving simple explanations of complicated material; he has made an excellent choice of photographic illustrations. Some of the aspects of light that are discussed are light energy, refraction, illumination, mirrors, light waves, the spectrum, lenses, and the physiological details of human sight. The writing style has ease with popularization, and there are, throughout the book, problems posed to the reader. Based on photographs, the problems test the reader's powers of observa-

tion and of comprehension of the text; they are fully and interestingly answered.

NR Ryder, Eileen. Horace the Helicopter; illus. by John Ryan. Barnes, 1960.
4-5 47p. \$2.50.
yrs.

First published in England in 1958, a read-aloud book. All the other airplanes in the hangar were unkind to Horace because he was so small, and they very seldom spoke to him. However, when only Horace was able to carry some medicine to a sick child on a ship at sea, all the other planes praised him. In two other episodes, Horace brings food to a snowbound Scottish village and brings Christmas mail to a lonely lighthouse; in the final melodramatic incident, the helicopter saves a baby who has been in an ambulance that is trapped by a landslide. The casual conversation between planes and people is quite unbelievable, and the book has such fallacious concepts as planes being cousins.

Ad Sayles, E. B. Throw Stone; The First American Boy 25,000 Years Ago; by
6-9 E. B. Sayles and Mary Ellen Stevens; illus. by Barton Wright. Reilly and
Lee, 1960. 142p. \$3.75.

The story of a boy whose people were being driven away from their homes by the rigors of the Ice Age. Twenty-five thousand years ago Throw Stone and his father set forth to see if they could find the place to which the game had fled. The father left the boy alone while he went back for his mate, and Throw Stone learned to become a great hunter in the long, lonely days in the wilderness. The book's authenticity of detail is attributable to the fact that one of the authors is an anthropologist. Detail drawings of artifacts are good; the book is weakened somewhat by a repetition of similar incidents.

R Scheele, William Earl. The Mound Builders; written and illus. by William E.
5-8 Scheele. World, 1960. 61p. \$2.50.

A fascinating description of the culture of a primitive people, the Hopewell Indians of the Ohio Valley region. After a general discussion of the kinds of mounds found in the United States and of their distribution, Mr. Scheele describes the study of mounds and artifacts. Now explored with care and analyzed with all the resources of modern archeology, the mounds were for many years subject to the careless digging of amateurs looking for perfectly preserved curios. The most interesting part of the book is that which deals with the Hopewell Mound Builders, for theirs was a highly organized and artistic culture. The illustrations of artifacts and of mound construction are most informative.

M Sherman, Nancy. The Boy Who Ate Flowers; illus. by Nancy Carroll. Platt
K-2 and Munk, 1960. 48p. \$1.95.

A nonsense story about a little boy who, having lost his appetite for ordinary food, discovered that he liked to eat flowers. At Peter's request, his mother sent for a flower-cooking chef from France; Algernon prepared dishes from domestic flowers and imported flowers. But when Algernon brought his great masterpiece of blended flowers to the table, Peter sneezed. And asked for oatmeal. Told in bouncy verse, but illustrated in pedestrian technique. The basic idea has humor, but few children are likely to be interested in the rather extended listing of floral species.

R Shorter, Bani. India's Children; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Viking, 1960. 175p.
7-10 \$3.

Twelve stories are included in this collection, each of them describing the life of an Indian child. There is an interesting variation in the background of the stories: the city school, the farming community in a starvation year, the fishing village, the factory, the cottage industry. Together the tales give a broad picture of life in India to-

day: the role of the government, the conflict between old ways and new, the pattern of family relationships. Because the people described are distinct and vivid and background detail so convincing, the book has great emotional impact even though the writing style is not dramatic.

M Slobodkin, Louis. Nomi and the Lovely Animals. Vanguard, 1960. 28p. illus. 3-5 \$2.50.
yrs.

A very slight theme for the rhyming text, and delightful illustrations. Nomi loves animals: she loves those in the zoo and those on farms. When her mother says Nomi may have an animal if she will pick one that is not too tall for their small house, the little girl spins a fanciful plan for acquiring a whole menagerie. Mother says no, and Nomi remembers that there is a little animal next door; they run over, and there it is: little and clean and gentle, a pussycat. Treatment is a little saccharine.

Ad Stucley, Elizabeth. Family Walk-Up; A Story of the Berners Family; illus. by 7-9 Lawrence Beall Smith. Watts, 1961. 181p. \$2.95.
First published in England under the title Magnolia Buildings, the story of a year in the life of a London tenement family. The characters are distinctive, although some seem overdrawn: tough, cheerful, vulgar Mum (much like Gallico's Mrs. 'Arris)—the adolescent son who has become involved in neighborhood gang warfare—the timid and self-effacing aunt who falls in love and blooms. The book is episodic in structure, but there are changes in the family situation and corresponding changes in the members of the family. An entertaining picture of urban life at an economic level not often used as background in books for young people. Although the author has a tendency to reiterate (far too many times, Auntie Glad is shown creeping silently about the flat) in establishing character, the people are real and the family relationships vividly drawn.

Ad Syrocki, B. John, ed. What Is a Machine; pictures—Gregory Orloff. Benefic, 4-6 1960. 48p. \$1.60.

Describes the six basic machines, showing familiar examples of each and giving some examples of the ways in which two or more of the basic machines may be combined in larger and more complicated machines. The text and the illustrations are simple and specific, although some of the sections seem repetitive. For example, the section on levers of the first class, in which the fulcrum is always between the load and the force, gives three long examples of the arithmetical statement of the relationship between load and force.

R Trease, Geoffrey. Victory at Valmy. Vanguard, 1960. 255p. \$3.
7-10

Against a background of the French Revolution, a young artist who comes from the lower classes tells about his years as a protégé of a wealthy painter. Pierre falls in love with the poor niece of an arrogant aristocrat; after he comes back from battle he asks Pauline to marry him. Despite the fact that the historical material becomes a bit obtrusive toward the end of the book, the story is absorbing because of the drama of the times and the pace of the writing style.

Ad Waber, Bernard. Lorenzo. Houghton, 1961. 47p. illus. \$1.95.
K-2

A small picture book about a small fish named Lorenzo who was more curious than all the other fish in his family—fish with red spots on their tails. Lorenzo, loitering about a sunken ship, was separated from all the others; he swam about, leading a lonely life until the happy moment when he saw a tail with a red spot. A nice touch of humor appears in the ending: Lorenzo has rejoined his family, and the reader is

asked if he can single out the hero; the next page shows the school of absolutely identical fish, one of which is circled. The illustrations, in black and white with touches of red, have a reiteration that is well suited to the humor of the story and the stress on family resemblance.

NR Wehen, Joy DeWeese. Stranger at Golden Hill. Duell, 1961. 182p. \$3.50.
7-9

A melodramatic love story. Melinda Marshall is the daughter of an old and wealthy California family; she meets a handsome young Englishman who has come to find proof of his ancestry so that he can save his English estate. One mysterious incident after another occurs: a sinister Chinese figure warns Melinda, a hooded man crouches over the car, Melinda and Robin are followed by a narcotics agent. There is a stereotype Negro cook named Petunia, a Southern belle, and an inordinate amount of interlarded California history presented as conversation.

M Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins). Herbert's Homework; illus. by Kurt Werth.
5-6 Knopf, 1960. 150p. \$2.75.

Herbert is an extroverted seventh grade boy who has a running feud with his teacher; amongst the episodes about Herbert's struggles is one in which his generous uncle has sent the boy an electronic homework machine. There are also a purple pencil that can't write wrong answers, electrified roller skates, and oats that make hair turn green. The extravagance of the action doesn't quite come off, and the principal character is almost a caricature. The author has a lively writing style and a good sense of humor; these attributes give the book some appeal, although it does not compare with Jerry's Charge Account, her earlier book, in which the plot and the characterization are more restrained.

M Wolcott, Carolyn Muller. God Made Me To Grow; pictures by Meg Wohlberg.
K-2 Abingdon, 1960. 23p. \$1.25.

Bobbie's mother talks to him about growing, telling him that it is part of God's plan. She reminds him about planting the seeds that now are flowers, about how small their pets were when first acquired, about how much Bobbie himself has grown. They also talk about the fact that having new skills and learning to share are ways of growing; the book presents too many concepts for the age of the audience. The writing style is rather dull, the illustrations are adequate but not impressive; the book may prove useful in a religious education collection.

M Woodward, Hildegard. The House on Grandfather's Hill. Scribner, 1961.
K-2 32p. illus. \$2.95.

A read-aloud picture book that describes the excavation of a site and the construction of a house, with emphasis on the machines used in the building process. The text combines description of progress with interspersed conversation or comments by a boy observer; the two facets never merge into a unified story. Mediocre writing, with illustrations that overflow the pages. In both the story and the illustrations, the chief interest is in the machinery, which seems rather elaborate for the excavation and construction of a private dwelling.

NR Zaidenberg, Arthur. How To Draw Cartoons. Vanguard, 1959. 61p. illus.
5-7 \$3.

Although the suggestions for drawing details in cartoon style may afford information or entertainment to some readers, the book will not teach the neophyte to be a cartoonist. The author first defines, rather arbitrarily, the three kinds of "funny ideas"; whether one agrees with him or not, creative wit cannot be taught. The main part of the book dissects each facial feature (or feet . . . or hair) and illustrates different ways of drawing these. To such complicated matters as action

and composition Mr. Zaidenberg devotes a page of text each; the superficial treatment indicates that the book will be of minimal value as instructional material.

Reading for Parents

- Arbuthnot, May Hill. "Books—a Family Bond." National Parent-Teacher, November, 1960, pp. 12-14.
- Free Library of Philadelphia. Find Me a Book I Can Read. A list for independent reading in the first and second grades. Single copies free on request if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Available from the library, Office of Work with Children, Logan Square, Philadelphia 3, Pa.
- Fine, Benjamin. How To Get the Best Education for Your Child. Putnam, 1959. 256 p. \$3.95.
- Frank, Josette. Your Child's Reading Today. Rev. ed. Doubleday, 1960. 391p. \$3.95.
- Gudridge, Beatrice M. How To Help Your Child Learn. National Education Association, Department of Elementary School Principals, 1201 16th St. N.W., Washington 6, D.C. 1960. 40p. \$.50.
- Jones, Jessie Orton. The Spiritual Education of Our Children. Viking, 1960. 124p. \$2.50.
- Landau, Elliott D. Creative Parent-Teacher Conferences. Utah Education Association, 312 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. 1960. 37p. \$.50.
- National Education Association. Will Your Child Get a Quality Education? NEA, Quality Education, 1201 16th St. N.W., Washington 6, D.C. Free.
- Seuss, Dr. "Dr. Seuss Talks to Parents." Parents Magazine, November, 1960, pp. 44-45 and 135-37.
- Strang, Ruth. Helping Your Gifted Child. Dutton, 1960. 270p. \$4.50.

