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
SpG  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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New Titles for Children and Young People

In a continuous text, a fairly comprehensive treatment of the topics related to shadows. Some of the aspects discussed are shadows of the earth and of the moon, shadows of the moon, sundials, and some of the uses of shadows in measuring distance. Also described are uses in photography and X-ray procedures, playing with shadows (finger pictures and shadow plays); and the effect of shade on plants and animals. Interesting and adequate, but not as useful as Kettelkamp's *Shadows* (Morrow, 1957) which is divided into chapters and therefore has a table of contents. A somewhat random word list of thirteen words or terms is appended.

A moving story about a young girl who, in love with an older man, realizes that marriage would not be the best choice for either—and in renouncing her love, grows up. The story of Karin is told against the background of a small German town during the last days of the war and the beginning of the occupation. Perceptive and honest writing, especially sensitive in its portrayal of human relationships.

M  Betinna.  *Paolo and Panetto*.  Watts, 1961.  31p.  illus.  $4.95.  3-5
An oversize book, beautifully illustrated, that tells the story of a poor little rich boy in Milan. Paolo was thoroughly spoiled and very high strung. One night he slipped out of the house and had an adventure that made him much more mature: he met Pan and they had a wonderful night playing together. At the close of the book Paolo's nurse assures him that he has been dreaming; if he has, the change in him is illogical—if he has not been dreaming (that is, if the author's intent is that the adventure be a fantasy) there is a severe disparity between the two parts of the story. The book has much latent content that is quite sophisticated for the child who is young enough to enjoy the fanciful, and the format is too juvenile (as is the protagonist) for the older reader who might appreciate the concepts. Paneletto (Pan) is drawn as a boy with horns but—an inconsistency—without a cloven hoof.

Johnny and his parents had just moved to Still River, but they had made no friends and were lonely. Johnny liked Hank Snow, but Hank's bullying friend Fred kept Johnny at a distance. The flood changed everything: Johnny's mother took care of Mrs. Snow and some of the other neighbors, Johnny and Hank spent the day together as volunteer workers. Together the two boys rescued an old man, together they...
were on a television show with the Governor... Johnny fought it out with Fred and he even invited a girl home for dinner. The author has created quite vividly the picture of a small town in a state of emergency, but the story itself is strangely unconvincing: on the one hand, the boys have so much activity during one day that their exploits are not believable, and on the other hand, it is not realistic to have one day—even such a day—make such a drastic change in the feelings of Johnny and his mother.

R Bragdon, Lillian J. *The Land and People of France.* Lippincott, 1960. 125p. 7-10 illus. (Portraits of the Nations Series) $2.95. Rewritten from the original title, *The Land of Joan of Arc* (Stokes, 1939), this is a book solid with information and written in a straightforward style with occasional humorous remarks. After a first chapter describing France geographically, the author gives a long and detailed history of the land from the days of the first migrant tribes to the end of the Franco-Prussian War. Eight chapters are then devoted to various sections of the country, and the last two chapters bring the historical material up to date. No map is included; a brief index is appended.

R Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. *What Makes Day and Night;* pictures by Helen Borton. Crowell, 1961. 36p. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Series) Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.35 net. Simply written, with no confusing extraneous material, an explanation of the revolution of the earth and the consequent changes from light to dark. Most of the illustrations are helpful in augmenting the text, but one or two are not perfectly clear. The short sentences, logical sequence of statements, and the recapitulation combine to make this an excellent science book for beginning independent readers.

Ad Brenner, Barbara. *Barto Takes the Subway;* photographs by Sy Katzoff. 3-4 Knopf, 1961. 43p. $2.50. The story of a small boy's first subway ride; half of the page space is illustrated by photographs of Barto and his older sister, Julie. The text describes the subway in simple terms and gives, in easy style, the typical small-boy reaction to a new experience—including his effort to change the sign above his head from "Local" to "Express." The first page of the book notes that Barto has come from Puerto Rico only a year ago, and asks "What's it like for Barto, living in a big city?"... the text really does not answer that question, nor does it concern Barto's adjustment; however, it implies that he has adapted happily to the change. The detailed description of a subway will not be of equal interest to all readers, and the text is not strong, but the writing style is pleasant and there is an affective psychology in the depiction of Barto as just a boy: he is not a foreigner, but a youngster who happens to come from Puerto Rico rather than South Dakota or Kansas.

R Browin, Frances William. *Looking for Orlando.* Criterion, 1961. 159p. 7-10 $3.50. An excellent novel about a Quaker community during the period before the Civil War. Sam Chase, who has been living in the south for several years, comes to visit the farm of his grandparents in Pennsylvania. Sam has become imbued with southern attitudes, and he and his grandparents are in discord until Sam shows that his views have changed when he hides a runaway slave, Orlando. While the change in Sam (and in his friend Wes, who is hunting for Orlando) is a bit too quick for credibility, the book is otherwise completely convincing, with good characterization, good writing style, and a clear portrayal of the division of feeling in the states north of the border and, especially, within the Society of Friends.

M Brunhoff, Laurent de. *Serafina the Giraffe;* story and pictures by Laurent
3-5


A read-aloud picture book. Serafina’s parents put her on a train so that she can go visit her grandmother, who loves her dearly. Serafina meets all her old friends: Patrick the rabbit, Hugo the kangaroo, Beryl the frog, and Ernest the crocodile. They all climb to a tall observation platform, and Beryl falls off and is hospitalized; she recovers in time for grandmother’s birthday celebration. The lemon cake the children have baked is burned, but they have a bakery cake, pineapple soda, presents, and songs. The happy day ends. Although the adventures are compiled of the sort of in-and-out-of-trouble incidents that children find appealing, the individual animals have no character. There is no humor in the writing style, so that enjoyment is dependent on incongruity rather than light nonsense.

M Buell, Ellen Lewis, ed. A Treasury of Little Golden Books; 48 of the Best-Loved Stories for the Very Young; selected and edited by Ellen Lewis. Buell. Golden Press, 1960. 155p. illus. (Golden Books) $3.95. An oversize book that contains forty-eight previously published Little Golden Books, each having the original illustrations; selection has been from books published during a twenty-year span. Many of the stories are durable read-aloud favorites; the quality is variable, although the selection is generally good. The compilation, useful though it may be for reading aloud, cannot give the child one of the pleasures of the original books: that of having a small, expendable, inexpensive book to handle himself.

R Burger, Carl. All about Fish; written and illus. by Carl Burger. Random 5-8 House, 1960. 138p. $1.95. Written with an easy informality that communicates the author’s interest in his topic. The illustrations are good, and are identified in the index by the use of italics. Topics covered are classification of fish, their evolution, tall fish tales, freshwater and saltwater fish, fish as food, pets of sport, fish that travel to spawn, and fish of the coral reefs. A list of suggestions for further reading is appended, as is an index.

M Caldwell, John Cope. Our Neighbors in Africa; by John C. Caldwell and Elsie F. Caldwell; illus. by Heidi Ogawa. Day, 1961. 48p. Trade ed. $2; Library ed. $2.19. An introductory view of Africa, superficial in coverage but written with a sympathetic attitude toward the struggles of emergent peoples. The authors touch on geographical, political, cultural, and economic aspects of Africa. The writing is dry, with occasional phrases that are poorly written: "Until Columbus found America, people from Europe did not know much about Africa." is subsequently explained, but is a confusing introductory remark. Some of the photographs are in need of captions and the drawn illustrations are of pedestrian calibre. The authors have appended a section entitled "This Page Is for Your Teacher" in which information is given that seems inappropriately elementary: "The climate of Africa varies greatly. . . . While most Africans are illiterate, poor, disease-ridden, and superstitious, there are highly educated Africans."

Ad Cassell, Sylvia E. Indoor Games and Activities; with 55 drawings by Sylvia S. Cassell. Harper, 1960. 115p. $2.75. The activities described here include cooking and science demonstrations as well as the usual games and handicrafts. Instructions in some instances might well include the participation of an adult—or mention safety measures—since they include use of an oven, making jam, using ammonia in an "experiment." The writing style is occasionally informal to the extent of cuteness: "After your ingredients are in the jar, screw the lid on tight, shake it up like a pup with a new rubber mouse." For
the most part, the suggestions given are in simple style, adequate, and requiring inexpensive materials. Divided into sections on art projects, puzzles, cooking, games, science projects, crafts, and a brief chapter on miscellaneous projects. An index is appended.


Although the title does not so indicate, the material is chiefly centered about the machinery used in modern medical practice. The text gives a wealth of information, but has so many weaknesses that the book fails to give the comprehensive picture that might make it of interest to the general reader; to the young person fascinated by medicine, it will have some value. The text employs terms of chemistry and physics that demand background in these disciplines; the book is profusely illustrated by diagrams and photographs, but many of the diagrams have no labels, many of the great number of photographs of machines are not self-explanatory, and some of the illustrative material is poorly placed in relation to the text. There is no index or glossary; the table of contents is variable in clarity: "The miracle of drugs" indicates the nature of the chapter contents, but "At odds of a million to one" does not. Topics covered are physiology (briefly), the circulatory system, x-ray, the heart, antisepsis and immunity, drugs, artificial parts, electricity in medicine, the conquest of pain, and the modern surgery. In all of the chapters, emphasis in both text and illustration is on the machinery used in the field under discussion.


Three orphaned children run away from their cruel uncle to New York, where they lodge in a theatrical boarding house. Set in the middle of the 19th century, the book is of interest chiefly as a period story; the adult characters are almost all overdrawn, the children themselves being quite natural. The youngsters have some difficult experiences, but the book ends with a new home with an elderly couple and opportunities for education—a rather pat ending. Good pace in the writing, and humor; these and the period background sustain the story rather than the development of events.


Another book about the Hadley children, with the story told by Peter, who is fifteen. Hearing the old story that there is a treasure in the Tower of London, buried since the seventeenth century, the indefatigable three decide to spend their vacation time investigating. They become involved with an orphaned delinquent, Sydney Street, who shows great promise as a sculptor. The plot develops two themes: the rounding up of some young hoodlums with whom Sydney has been associating, and the discovery by the Hadleys of Sydney's identity, as he had been found (an unidentified infant) after a blitz. The thieves are captured, Sydney is discovered to be apprenticed to his own grandfather, and there is no tower treasure. Although the children are improbably astute, persistent, and successful, there is an undeniable appeal in the character of Sydney and his colorful (if sordid) life. The plot is not believable, but the story has pace and some quite vivid characters.


A sentimental and rather old-fashioned novel about a shy and awkward girl; poor and orphaned, Valentine had come to a small Southern town with her aunt—and she didn't like it at all. When she took a job as a baby-sitter, Valentine's life changed. She succumbed completely to the charm of the large Thorne family: lively Jackie,
her charge, and his gentle mother; Uncle John, with whom she fell in love; Aunt Maud, who showed courage and kindness as she lay on her deathbed. Val even made friends and acquired a beau, as she began to feel appreciated and self-confident. Although the atmosphere is heavy with a rather self-conscious sweetness, the characters come alive. Valentine changes in remarkably quick fashion, but she is a believable person—a bit like Rebecca Randall by the end of the book; the plot is relatively unimportant in the book, since it is more a vignette of southern life than anything else.

A book to read aloud, illustrated by woodcuts, some in color and some in black and white. The book is rather slight, pleasant in style but quite static. Written in first person, the text describes some of the pleasures afforded by the sun: the fun of playing with shadows, the smell of grass in the sun, the feeling of warm sand, etc. At the close of the book, the child who is speaking quotes her own song to the sun: it is genuinely childlike but makes a weak ending. The illustrations are quite sophisticated in technique: for this age group, the fact that the child's face is sometimes one color and sometimes another may be confusing, for example.

Illustrated with photographs of modern Paris and with reproductions of old prints. The author devotes the first four chapters of the book to a description of Paris today, the sights of the city and the people who live there. This section is somewhat weakened by an excess of directional detail: "You go around the back... After that, walk about the island... At the very point of the island... You can keep going down river... If you go steadily uphill... On a nearby corner... You will be going uphill... Along the other side... Walking uphill again..." is one sequence of first sentences of paragraphs. The text goes back, after the first section, to a chronological account of the development of the city, most interesting material being given; here again, the book is burdened by detail, much of which is French—rather than Parisian—history. Writing style is adequate, and a brief index is appended.

Little Joan, finding that she has lost her paintbox at school, goes off—carrying her doll Betsy—to retrieve it. The school is empty and a little frightening, so Joan decides to leave as soon as possible; but she finds that she is locked in. She throws Betsy out the window, hoping that the sight of the doll will inform somebody that she is inside; her parents, who have been searching for their lost child, come to school and see Betsy, agreeing that the doll was brave to "jump" out the window. Any child old enough to display Joan's calm would not be likely to attribute the initiative to a toy; another weakness in the story is the carelessness, at home and at school, that would permit such a situation to obtain.

K-2
Another delightful tall tale about the giant yellow dog, Otto. Here the author goes back to the days when Otto was a puppy and needed more space than the little French town could provide, so Otto and his master sailed for Africa where there was room for big animals. With dignified simplicity the absurd episode of Otto's bravery in vanquishing a tribe of one hundred and seventy fierce men is told: he ran around them so fast that he created a tornado and landed them, dizzy and defeated, in a huge sandpile.

The story of Nell's sixth birthday, when she was in bed with a cold. A series of gift-bearing visitors cheered her, and when Daddy brought home a puppy, Nell decided that this was the happiest birthday ever. While there is some value in the idea that it is possible to enjoy oneself even when ill and abed, there is little substance to the book otherwise. The visitors are improbable: few children merit gifts from the mailman or the policeman, few girls are delighted by guns. The rhyme in which the story is told is most uneven, and there is no humor in the writing. Early in the story, there is a jarring change from present to past tense, although the action is in sequence.


A brief prefatory section about butterflies and moths is followed by a series of descriptions of the metamorphoses of variant forms. The text is clear and detailed, relating always to the magnificent series of photographs that show the stages of change in the evolution of butterfly from egg. The book unfortunately comes to an end in abrupt fashion: the writing just stops...


A sequel to *Gone-Away Lake*, and one that is equally entertaining. The Blake family buys one of the old houses at Gone-Away and they have an exciting time opening and exploring the house, which has been abandoned for decades. The characterization is consistent and vivid, the atmosphere delightful; if the house yields a not-quite-believable hoard of valuable antique furniture and jewelry, it seems acceptable in the context of a delightful daydream-come-true.


A book that covers the history of fire-fighting equipment in cursory fashion, with startling illustrations in red, massive and almost overpowering. Each illustration is on a double-page spread, with a few lines of text on one of the pages. Some of the writing is pedestrian: "Nearly everybody became a little sad when the Gasoline engine replaced the horse."—most of the text is however, factual if dry in style. For the young child who is very interested in fire engines, a variety in illustration or some added detail would make the book more useful. *The Big Fire* by Olds (Houghton, 1945) covers much of the same material and gives additional information in text and illustration.


A story in three parts. The first describes the camping trip that Chuck takes with his Uncle Bill: Chuck is hopelessly accident-prone, and after several other mishaps, he goes fishing and catches a gosling in the line. The second part of the book describes the life of the gosling up to the point where he becomes entangled with the line—this section is told as a conjectured story by Uncle Bill. The last part of the book tells of the long wait that Chuck has until the day when he can go back to the lake and look for the gosling, now banded and grown. The first section is sympathetic and humorous, the second is beautifully written, and the third part satisfactorily integrates and concludes the others. An unusual book, valuable as a nature study and most realistic in the description of the boy. The illustrations in black and white...
are handsome, especially those of the wild life near the lake.

R Gatti, Ellen. The New Africa; by Ellen and Attilio Gatti; illus. with photographs by the authors and others. Scribner, 1960. 213p. $3.95. Well-written, comprehensive, and profusely illustrated with excellent photographs. The authors, whose expeditions to Africa enable them to write with the color and detail of first-hand observers, wrote this book to replace their now outdated Here Is Africa. In discussing each country, the Gattis give some background of history, resources, and cultural patterns, but the emphasis is on the way of life today, the political changes that are taking place, the leaders and their policies. Candid and often humorous, the book is both perceptive and authoritative. Topographical and political maps, each double-page, are included; an index is appended.

NR Gay, Zhenya. I'm Tired of Lions; written and illus. by Zhenya Gay. Viking, 3-5 1961. 31p. $2.50. A slight story in a read-aloud picture book. Leo, a small lion cub, was dissatisfied at being a lion. He even lost his appetite, and he tried to convince his mother that he might change to some other kind of animal. His mother was very patient with him, and when she called him to come and look at his reflection in a puddle, he thought it was another (and wonderful) animal, and was convinced that it was nice to be a lion. Looking forward to adult life, Leo decided that he wasn't tired of lions—and now the happiest lion cub in the world is Leo. The moral is worthy, if obtrusively stated; illustrations are repetitious; the slightness of the plot is not compensated for by humor or by nature lore; and the resolution of the plot is untenable.

Geisel. See LeSieg.

R Godden, Rumer. Miss Happiness and Miss Flower; with drawings by Jean Primrose. Viking, 1961. 82p. $3. A charming story about a Japanese doll-house, built with loving care, that changed materially the life of a little girl whose project it was. Sent from India to live with her English cousins, Nona was shy and unhappy; in the process of building a doll house that was exactly right for two Japanese dolls, she found herself gaining courage and making friends with those people whose help she enlisted. Beautifully written, with the added appeal of meticulous planning of a perfected miniature and with perceptive interpretation of the relationships among the children in the story. Footnotes are in very simple terms, giving information about Japanese customs; diagrams of the doll-house plans are included.

Ad Govan, Christine (Noble). Willow Landing; illus. by Mary Stevens. World, 4-6 1961. 190p. $2.95. A pleasant story about a hoydenish little girl and her family, set at the turn of the century in a small town on the Mississippi. There is no over-all plot development, but a series of linked episodes based on Nelly's love of animals, the ploys that are the despair of her feminine relatives, and the search for a frizzly chicken to replace one eaten by one of Nelly's many cats. This is a good period story with convincing detail of locale as well as time; the weakness is in the inclusion of so many set characters: the jolly uncle, the bad boy, the showboat captain, the river-folk, the Chinese grocer, the French shrimpers, etc.

M Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Dentist; pictures by Irma Wilde. Childrens Press, 1960. 32p. $2. Johnny gets to the dentist for a check-up, has one cavity filled, plays Spaceman in the dentist's chair, and decides that he want to be a dentist when he grows up. He
finds out why it is important to take care of baby teeth, and he makes some posters for his little sister about proper diet and dental hygiene. Dull writing, with the crucial point glossed over; the text moves from the fact that Dr. Brown shows Johnny his drill to the filling of the cavity. Since most children are apprehensive about drilling, the text neither assuages the experienced nor prepares the inexperienced. There is some minimal value in the fact that the dentist is presented as a kind and patient man, and in the fact that the author points out the need for taking care of first teeth.

A read-aloud picture book about Waldo, a poor youth who had trouble with his five little pigs; he agreed to sell them to a farmer for twenty-five crowns. En route, Ena, Meena, Mina, Mo and Benjamin got into one trouble after another for which Waldo had to pay. He had only five crowns left, but he bought a new coat which so impressed the Miller that he gave Waldo permission to marry his daughter. For a wedding present the Miller gave the couple the five pigs. A rambling story, written in pedestrian style and with little humor. The illustrations tend to quaintness; there is a little girl in modern dress and a man on a bicycle, so there is no reason for Waldo to be drawn in an old-fashioned long-tailed frock coat.

A picture book based on imaginative play, in which the characters are the five fingers (drawn as faces painted on the fingers of a glove) on the hand of a clown. As an example, the thumb is named O'Tooley and the little finger is Tink. O'Tooley calls Tink to come listen to a secret "But instead he tries to give her a kiss! The others are furious. Only O'Tooley can kiss Tink—they can't." The investment of personality seems strained and complicated for a small child, and the impression of the book may well prove more confusing than creatively stimulating. Although the book has possibilities for the direction by an adult of finger play, the book is limited by the facts that not every adult can direct such an activity and that the book has no suggestions for making hand puppets.

M Holmes, Marjorie. Follow Your Dream. Westminster, 1961. 188p. $2.95. 7-9
Tracey had never wanted to be anything but a veterinarian, so she was thrilled when she was offered a summer job in an animal hospital. Against the background of veterinary practice is a round-robin of unrequited love: Dud, the boy next door, loves Tracey who loves Whit, who loves the beautiful Diane, who wins away from Tracey her old friend Jeff, who had been a side interest. Fairly pedestrian, but mitigated by the fact that Tracey does not have the instant-success found in so many career books; she has some small triumphs at the hospital and she makes some mistakes. In a book based on career interest, it is unfortunate to see a scientific term (brucellosis) misspelled.

While this is a good science book for beginning independent readers, it is not as effective as others in the series as science per se. The weakness here is that the text deals with something quite specific, but neither text nor illustrations would enable the reader to make positive identification of a sandpiper. In other respects the book achieves the apparent pattern of the series: it is brief, accurate, and simply written. It uses repetition and recapitulation, and the text has some passages that diverge
from the subject but create effective atmosphere: "The sea smells salty. The sun is warm. It is the beach. It is summer."

A fanciful read-aloud picture book that describes the life of a farming merman, kind-hearted and contented. He harnessed his seahorses, and used the cultivator to tend his sea lettuce and sea beans; he saved little fish and lobsters caught in the traps set by humans, and he had a beautiful flower garden of sea lilies and sea anemones. The text uses, and the illustrations depict, actual marine life although these are not drawn to scale. The story would be more effective as a fantasy were the farmer not a shirt-sleeved, straw-hatted human figure, using manufactured tools, sitting in a rocking chair, etc. It is because he is so human that the rather static text is not convincing; the fact that names of actual fish and plants are used is, in this context, confusing, since the book is neither convincing fantasy nor dependable scientific material.

The unusual setting of a desert trailer camp forms the background for the story of a teen-age girl. Christy's parents have given up their home and business to get her away from an unwholesome set of friends. Christy, thinking that the move is necessary because of her father's health, is at first rebellious and unhappy. She becomes involved with the people in the camp, she falls in love, and she begins to understand and communicate with her parents. Nothing glamorous here, nothing melodramatic—far from the formula love story. The people and the background are convincing, real and powerful; occasionally their lives are depressing, yet there is nothing sordid in the story. One of the characters is a little too wise and too patient: Burnett, who appears as a mysterious figure, touches the lives of the others, and hitch-hikes off again. Otherwise characterization is restrained, and the relationships within Christy's family are especially well-drawn.

An excellent first science book for beginning independent readers. Large print, plenty of white space, and information given with simplicity implement the appropriate level of sentence length and vocabulary difficulty. Illustrations are attractive, and the author gives no extraneous facts; the text describes the way that a seed grows into a plant and gives step-by-step instruction for a home demonstration.

R  Langton, Jane.  The Majesty of Grace; written and illus. by Jane Langton.  3-5  Harper, 1961.  190p.  Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.84 net.
A most entertaining story about a highly imaginative child. Grace, putting two and two together, convinces herself that she is rightful heir to the throne of England; she continues, in all her fantasies, to think very kindly of the people who are her "parents." Grace has a hard time, though, because her family is living through the depression and the rightful heir has to suffer embarrassing privations. A good story of the depression years, a good family story, and a charming study of the youngster who is careless, sensitive and imaginative.

A nonsense tale with rhyming text limited to seventy-five words, illustrated in car-
toon style. For the beginning independent reader; the text has humor, although the repetitive use of words becomes a bit dull. The story concerns three animals who pile apples on their heads one at a time, while engaging in various unlikely activities. Chased by irate bears (it is not clear why the bears take such exception to the performance unless one assumes that it is their refrigerator that has been raided), the playboys run into an applecart and everybody on the scene ends with ten apples atop. The author is, of course, the popular Dr. Seuss, LeSieg being his real name spelled backward.


First published in Sweden in 1953, a book about a Swedish girl who goes to Paris with her best friend and her fiancé. Kati tells her own story: she and Lennart marry in Paris, and they and Eva explore with relish the delights of Paris. They meet another Swedish visitor, and Peter attaches himself hopefully to Eva. Back in Stockholm, Kati describes the progress of the love affair between Eva and Peter, and she tells of her own joy at becoming a mother. The author presents Kati as a volatile, impetuous, and romantic young girl; as Kati tells the story, she becomes a little wearing in her ingenuous role. The writing is somewhat static, and the ending (Kati's thoughts about and to her newborn son) is quite saccharine.

Ad Livingston, Myra Cohn. I'm Hiding; illus. by Eril Blegvad. Harcourt, 1961. 4-7 26p. $1.95.

A small book of poems, engagingly illustrated, to read aloud to the young child. Although the pages bear no titles, each page describes the sensations felt by a child when hiding in a new place. Written in the first person, the verse is free, flowing and simple; the images are evocative and the whole effect muted in a manner that is admirably suited to the topic. This, on the other hand, gives a sameness to the pages, so that the book has a repetitive and static quality.


Originally published in Germany in 1958 under the title Die Sonne; text of this oversize picture book has been adapted for this edition. The illustrations are brilliant with color, stylized and bold—distracting because of the fact that the wealth of color and detail overfill most of the illustrated pages. The story of the sun is told by a rooster, and the sun is presented as a young girl who lives in a tower chamber; she emerges and—for example—tells Cousin Rain where he can find the key that can set free Mr. Thunder and Mr. Lightning. After Cousin Rain has done damage, Miss Sun shine gives the keys into the keeping of her closest friend, Old Man Moon. Fanciful, and perhaps told in folk style, the story would have merit; as a read-aloud book, the idea is rather strained with poor nature concepts rather than being an imaginative interpretation.

M Memling, Carl, ad. The Dennis the Menace Storybook; based on the character created by Hank Ketcham and adapted by Carl Memling from the television scripts written by William Crowley; illus. by Lee Holley. Random House, 1960. 60p. $1.95.

Illustrated in cartoon style, an oversize book in which each of the seven chapters describe a new ploy of the familiar obstreperous character, Dennis. While the children who are already acquainted with this enfant terrible, despite the wordiness may enjoy the humor of the situation, the adaptation does not give the same effect as does a visual presentation.

A story about the adjustment of a dozen sixth grade children and their inexperienced teacher to each other and to their makeshift classroom in an overcrowded school. Most of the children have problems that are reflected in their attitudes toward classmates and studies . . . the teacher has problems with her pupils and with her own defensive behavior. As they work to improve their room and to help plans for a new school, most of the problems are solved. The children are definitively drawn, and their behavior is believable, but the book is weakened by the fact that all of the many problems are so neatly solved: Miss Clark learns that she has been too strict, Mike learns not to be a bully, Sue learns to work in less haste, etc. The story is saved from mediocrity by the fact that the children are real; and the rather purposive plot is saved from mediocrity by the pace and humor of the writing, but the writing and the characterization are rather sophisticated for the audience.

NR Neurath, Marie. *Man-Made Moons*. Lothrop, 1961. 36p. illus. $2. 5-6

A book about man-made satellites that gives superficial coverage to many topics, to each of which is devoted one or two pages. Each topic is handled with a small amount of text and with an illustration that is often unclear and needs labeling. Examples of topics that are inadequately explained by a single page (and often in a single paragraph): Measuring the Swift Rays of Space, Aiming the "Moon" to Hit a Target, or The Earth's Magnetic Pull in Space.


With the growing interest in early language study, and with the increasing demand for Russian language study, this book is useful; it is, however, weakened by several factors to the extent that it has but minimal use. First, the explanatory key uses a vocabulary that indicates a maturity for which the format is too juvenile; second, the key is not clear in its phrasing; third, the use of geographical information about Russia on each page is not consonant with the purpose of an alphabet book. It seems clear that the book would serve if used as supplementary material under the guidance of a teacher, but its deficiencies limit use.


A collection of twelve brief stories about famous sports personalities: most of these originally were published in magazines, and some few in books, between the years 1949 and 1959. Some of the material is biographical, but most of the stories refer only to the professional prowess of the subjects. The choices seem fairly random, and the writing styles of the authors vary from mediocrity to lively competence. Useful as additional material to a collection.


A read-aloud picture book with highly stylized illustrations. Edward longed for a horse, but since he lived in a tall apartment building, couldn't have one. His friend the fireman knew of a white horse, so Edward went looking for it. He found it in front of his door, so he took it in the lobby; the man who owned the horse said Edward couldn't have the horse but could have rides on the vegetable wagon the horse was pulling. So Edward went riding everywhere on the red painted wagon. A slight story with not enough humor to be entertaining nonsense, and with little in the writing that is effective in either plot or characterization. There are frequent rhymes
(some internal) in the sentences, although the writing is not in rhyme, and this proves mildly obtrusive.

M Rose, Elizabeth. **Old Winkle and the Seagulls**; pictures by Gerald Rose. 
A read-aloud picture book about an old fisherman who was laughed at by the men who used new boats and modern methods of fishing; Old Winkle was laughed at, also, because he wasted time feeding the gulls. When fish disappeared from the waters, all the town suffered; a gull showed Old Winkle where there was an enormous school of fish; he kindly told the others; the town was saved and everybody was grateful to Old Winkle. A rather pedestrian story, with the denouement dependent on the idea that modern methods are ineffective. Some of the illustrations in color are attractive, while those in black and white tend to be distractingly busy.

R Schealer, John M. **The Sycamore Warrior; A Mystery of Ancient Egypt**; illus. 6-9 by Elaine Joan Altman. Dutton, 1960. 180p. $3.50.
Two archeologists in Egypt find a wooden figure that is older by many centuries than the other articles in the tomb . . . and the story of the carved sycamore warrior emerges. First, it plays a part in court intrigue in the Old Kingdom, and in the second part of the book the sycamore warrior is involved in the affairs of a lower-class family. In each case, a boy is the protagonist. Written with pace, good background detail and vivid characterization.

Ad Seredy, Kate. **A Brand-New Uncle**; written and illus. by Kate Seredy. Viking, 6-8 1961. 143p. $3.
The story of an elderly couple who adopt an orphan. The Smiths packed up and disappeared because they felt overwhelmed by their seven children and eleven grandchildren, all of whom lived with the Smiths. They found that they missed taking care of others; in fact, they were in complete agreement that the rebellious Butch they met in their travels should be taken out of his training school and brought home as a new uncle for all the grandchildren. The plot is not quite believable, the writing style is good and the attitudes of the Smiths warm and appealing. Although the action concerns a boy, the story will probably be enjoyed more by girls; some aspects of the writing have an appeal for adults that may escape young readers.

Seuss. See LeSieg.

Ad Siddiqui, Ashraf. **Toontoony Pie; And Other Tales from Pakistan**; by Ashraf 4-6 Siddiqui and Marilyn Lorch; illus. by Jan Fairservis. World, 1961. 157p. $3.50.
A collection of twenty-two folk tales from the Punjab and Bengal—now East and West Pakistan. Some of the tales have appeared in print; most of the others are retellings from oral sources. Mr. Siddiqui is director of the Folklore Research Center of East Pakistan. The style of the retellings falls something short of the best folk literature style, having a slightly self-conscious quality and a tendency towardornateness, but the tales are lively, varied, and with all of the appealing attributes of this genre. The literary quality is not as high as that of the Tales of the Punjab and without the spirit of Jataka Tales, but useful.

R Snyder, Louis L. **Hitler and Nazism**. Watts, 1961. 182p. illus. $1.95.
A comprehensive and powerful description of Hitler and other Nazi leaders, written by an historian who was in Germany during the years 1928-1930 and who predicted, in 1932, Hitler's rise to power. Dr. Snyder maintains, in his writing, an objectivity that breaks down only occasionally: he accords Hitler his due when that is possible,
stating that he "proved himself a brave and able soldier." or "He loved music and he liked to play with children" ... yet there are descriptive phrases that include coloration, such as "Rudolf Hess was a stiff, dark-haired, beetle-browed man with dark, staring eyes." On the whole, the book is a powerful indictment of the man and his regime; the total impression is of history recorded with vivid writing, authoritative accuracy and understanding, and a driving zeal for the whole truth.

M Starbird, Kaye. *Speaking of Cows; And Other Poems*; pictures by Rita Fava. 3-5 Lippincott, 1960. 70p. $2.95.
Thirty poems (four of which were previously published in *Humpty Dumpty Magazine*) about people and animals. Some of the rhymes have humor, some have imagery or a fresh phrasing, but the majority are rather heavily coy. Some of the poems are appropriate for young readers: "The Apple Elf" or "The Tooth Fairies"; others have concepts that are more sophisticated: "Mrs. Snell," for example.

Ad Steiner, Charlotte. *Timmy Needs a Thinking Cap*. Macmillan, 1961. 26p. 3-5 illus. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $3.00 net.
A read-aloud book about a small boy whose dearest wish was granted, in part by his own efforts. Timmy wanted a donkey, but he never got the right card in his cereal box; on his mother's advice, he put on his thinking cap to find a way to earn money —and he did find a way. He rented his father's binoculars to people in the park, bought many cereal boxes, and eventually found a card with a donkey. So Timmy got his donkey and he and all the other children enjoyed riding. The illustrations show a child who is really too young to be running a solo business operation in a park, but the story is mildly constructive and Timmy's early unsuccessful efforts are treated with light humor.

A delightful story about two small mice who are selected for the job of belling the house cat. Asa and Rambo steal a belled collar, but in fleeing from a cat, they find themselves aboard ship; disembarking in a strange land, they encounter a tiger. They bell his tail and find that he is a friendly beast, but when they get back home they never tell the story, knowing that they would not be believed. Although told with simplicity, this is a sophisticated story: the scenes in which the mice hold meetings have subtle references to human foibles (the role of the Steering Committee) which may not be appreciated by young readers. The subtleties are, however, never obtrusive, and there is much that is more broadly humorous. Illustrations and layout are most attractive, and the quality of the story is another testament to the author's versatility.

Anny Miles tells her own story in this excellent novel about the love of a girl of fifteen for an older man. Deeply smitten by the young writer who is staying at her mother's boarding house, Anny is desolate when she realizes that Michael is in love with her mother, a pretty young widow. A brief last chapter recapitulates events five years later, by which time Anny's mother has remarried and Anny herself is in love with Jeff. Perceptive writing, with nicely delineated characters and a sensitive relationship between mother and daughter.

M Talmadge, Marian. *This Is the Air Force Academy*; by Marian Talmadge and 6- Iris Gilmore; illus. with photographs. Dodd, 1961. 95p. $2.75.
An introduction to the operation of the Air Force Academy is made through the de-
vice of having a civilian visitor tour the Academy with a friend who is a cadet. The authors give quite complete information about the institution and the training program; photographs are profuse and informative, if a bit slick; an index is appended. The book is, unfortunately, written in an artificial manner: the two friends, brightly interested, hold interminable conversations that are clearly a device for giving factual information. The result is that the Air Force Academy loses dignity, since the book reads like a sales brochure; a better book on the topic is Engeman's U.S. Air Force Academy (Lothrop, 1957).

A slight book for reading aloud. An elf, having had a taste of blueberry pie, tries very hard to do good deeds for the humans of the household so that he may again have a treat. They don't know who is making beds and washing dishes until they see small footprints near a cherry pie... then they know it was an elf. The elf leaves a message by making cherry-juice tracks; he asks for blueberry pie, they make him one, he eats and leaves a message of thanks. Static writing and little humor.

This first volume of a projected series contains ten profiles of men who have had major roles in space research, development and exploration. The ten men listed are Ehricke, Goddard, Schriever, Stapp, Tsolkovsky, Van Allen, von Braun, von Kármán, von Neumann, and Yeager. Interesting material, with emphasis on the work of each subject, rather than on his personal life. The book is topical and useful, but weakened by the turgid style of writing—heavy and quite ornate. References are cited at the end of each section, and an extensive index is appended.

A sequel to Viking's Dawn and The Road to Miklagard, which told of the adventures of Harald Sigurdson as a young man. Now a farmer and head of a family, Harald sets out with his men on their longship seeking to revenge the plundering of his home. The Viking Chief never returns, and the book describes in fascinating and convincing detail the long years that the Vikings spend in a new land, where they live with Eskimos and later with various Indian tribes. A vividly written and exciting book.

A read-aloud picture book about a dog that suffered from feelings of rejection. Demi found it very hard living in the same house with a baby, because his actions were always misinterpreted—even when he kindly dug up his best bone and brought it to the playpen. One day the baby crawled over to Demi when he was lying near the brook, and the baby's mother praised Demi because she thought he was keeping the baby away from the water. Soon Demi decided that being a baby sitter wasn't bad at all. A slight story, attractively illustrated; it is doubtful that the audience for the book will get all the nuances of humor in the writing.

A third novel about Chris Godfrey, a third trip into space. The Russians are vying with an allied group to land the first man on the moon; Chris and Serge get there at the same time. Although rivals, each saves the life of the other and they return
to earth together; their mission achieves an accord between all scientists. Not an
unusual science fiction story, but written with suspense and of great topical inter-
est. The book is weakened by the cardboard characters, both Russian and English.

Ad Watson, Jane (Werner). Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Reptiles; illus. by
Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.99 net.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated and using an effective devise to indicate
time spans: a time-line forms a running border at the bottom of all pages, each
Age in a different color, each divided by bars that denote passage of a million
years, and many having small labeled figures that give examples of the animals of
the period. The text is well-organized and informal in style. The book closes with
a section on finding and preserving fossil remains; a combined index and guide to
pronunciation is appended. Not as authoritative a book as is Scheele's Prehistoric
Animals (World, 1954), but easier for the younger reader or the slow reader to
use.


An absorbing novel about a European war orphan who comes to live with an English
family. The oldest of the Clare children, Laurence, accepts Teresa; Anna is jealous,
finding the poised newcomer a rival; small Ben adores her. Due to a series of
unexpected events, the children are left alone and the Clares find that they must
deal by themselves with the fact that Teresa has been stealing. The problem is
treated with candor and sympathy, all of the characters behaving with a consistency
that is impressive and grows out of the very perceptive way in which the author has
developed their personalities. Despite the fact that a few of the characters seem ex-
aggerated (the precocious Ben, the introspective John Meneott) the book is remark-
able as a picture of relationships among children; it gives, also, a most vivid pic-
ture of the Cornish coast and people in a small community.


An unusual subject—the preservation of a narrow gauge railway—gives focus to a
well-written story. Robert, whose father is engineer on the line that serves a Welsh
quarry, is dismayed at the prospect of the line closing down; he and his friend Dilys
therefore organize for survival of the Honeysuckle Line. The action is well-paced,
the characterization excellent; the writing style is lively, vivid with humor and with
local color.

Ad Wise, William. The House with the Red Roof; illus. by Jo Polseno. Putnam,

A rather pedestrian story about moving to a new home, useful as supplementary
material for beginning independent readers, but static in style. Jimmy liked every-
thing about the house with the red roof: the trees and flowers, his own room, his
friends and the swing where they all played. Then they moved, leaving behind their
sick dog; Jimmy didn't like their new house at all. Little by little the new surround-
ings and new friends became familiar, until the new house with the brown roof
seemed just as nice as the old house with the red roof. When father came home one
day with Sandy, the dog, Jimmy was completely content.

Ad Wright, Anna Maria Rose. Laughing Gulls; illus. by Ursula Koering. Hough-
ton, 1960. 147p. $2.50.

A sequel to The Horse Marines, with the Tyler children and several others becom-
ing involved with summer visitors to the shore community. Hostilities between the
two groups are settled by a race between crews of oddly assorted boats. The writing has pace and humor, but the book is weakened by the fact that some of the characterization is exaggerated, and by the fact that there are so many characters, some of them peripheral. For example, quite incidental to the main story line is one of the boys' involvement with two small hospital patients and their mother and hospital personnel; the situation is good and the relationships are good, but they do not affect the story line and could almost have been a separate story.


Selected writing from approximately a dozen books on medical subjects are comprised in this collection, divided under the topics "The Great Beginnings," "Unseen Enemies," "Surgical Adventures," and "Adventures in the Modern World." Some of the material is autobiographical, some biographical, some descriptive. Good material, with variation enough to interest the general reader and with the sort of medical detail that will make the book irresistible to the reader who has a special interest in medical writing.


Capably written, comprehensive, and well-illustrated. A first chapter traces the history of rockets from their invention in China in 1200 A.D. to the present day; the authors give clear definitions of the terms "rockets," "missiles," and "satellites" and point out the differences among them. The text gives detailed descriptions of important missiles in the United States and in other countries, discussing also the future of space exploration. Appended are a glossary of terms, a glossary of U.S. rockets and guided missiles, a chart of satellite launchings and deep-space probes (chronological) and an index; all of these are extensive, so that the book is a useful ready-reference source.


An oversize book of photographs with quite contrived text, the photographs having as their chief subjects two enchanting kittens. Mew tells Purr four stories about kittens and other animals, and then both sleepy kittens go to sleep. Pedestrian writing, beautiful photographs.
Bibliographies

The publications listed on this page are available from the sources cited; they are not available from the University of Chicago Press.


"Books for Retarded Readers." Alma Lundeen and Margaret Pendergrass. Illinois Libraries, April 1961, pp. 271-87. Titles listed are from primary grades through high school; books are classified by both reading level and interest level.


