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*Bulletin*  
*of*  
*the*  
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*for*  
*Children's*  
*Books*



*March 1962 • Vol. XV • No. 7*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## 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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XV

March, 1962

Number 7

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

M Agle, Nan (Hayden). Makon and the Dauphin; illus. by Robert Frankenberg.  
4-6 Scribner, 1961. 126p. \$2.95.

Based on a real event, the story of an Indian boy of ten, Makon, who was seized and taken to France by explorers in the sixteenth century. Kept outdoors in a bear cage, Makon fell ill and was rescued and cared for by the Dauphin, Francis. Although he enjoyed some aspects of his life with the royal family, Makon asked to be sent back to the New World; his wish was granted. While there is a modicum of interest in the situation and the background, the writing is static and pedestrian. The language aspect is poorly handled: for example, the Frenchman who captures Makon speaks to the boy as they embark, "Vite! Step lively, boy. In with you." Since Makon understands not a word and since Jac is presumably talking French there seems no reason to use one word of French while the rest of the speech is in English. Another rather obtrusive weakness is the introduction of irrelevant incidents.

M Aistrop, Jack Bentley. Enjoying Nature's Marvels. Vanguard, 1961. 207p.  
7-10 illus. \$3.

A book about unusual animal forms or animal behavior, written in pedestrian style. While the information given is interesting and the author communicates his enthusiastic appreciation, the information is available elsewhere and the writing is weakened by occasional irrelevancies. Chapters are about such topics as Australasian marvels, animals that kill snakes, bees, ants, marvels of adaptation, and marine mammals. Sixteen pages of photographs are bound into the center of the book; an index is appended.

M Alexander, Anne. Boats and Ships; From A to Z; illus. by Will Huntington.  
3-5 Rand McNally, 1961. 58p. \$2.75.

A book whose title may be misleading, since it is not comprehensive, nor intended to be. The author describes briefly one ship or boat for each letter of the alphabet, and an illustration fills out the double page. Some of the craft shown are new, some old; some boats are less familiar—the quoddy or the xebec—and some as familiar as rowboat or barge. Illustrations and text are adequate, but the alphabetical device has limited the material; there seems no reason to use it as a way of organizing informational material. No mention of canoe, freighter, iceboat, motorboat, etc. No index or table of contents; unpagged.

R American Heritage Magazine. Trappers and Mountain Men; by the editors of  
6-9 American Heritage Magazine; narrative by Evan Jones; in consultation  
with Dale L. Morgan. American Heritage, 1961. 153p. illus. (American  
Heritage Junior Library Series). Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

A detailed account of the fur trade in North America, rather dry in narrative style,

but well-organized. The subject itself is fascinating; the book has the same profusion of illustrative material that is in other volumes in this excellent series. Portraits, reproductions of old prints, and many fine maps are included; a bibliography, a list of picture credits, and an index are appended. The text begins with first explorers and fur trappers: French, Dutch, and British; it concludes with a description of the Russian posts in Alaska and California, and the settlement of the boundary dispute over Oregon with Great Britain in 1847. The central portion of the book will probably be of greatest interest to many readers, since it includes—in its description of the westward movement and the hunters of the mountains—some of the most popular heroes of the old west: Fink, Carson, Fremont, Bridger. The author stresses the particular importance of beaver, for which there was a constant and an urgent demand; it is an additional asset that the book will give the reader a realization of the importance that an economic factor can have on history and international relations.

NR Ashley, Audrey Zinser. The Biggest House; story and pictures by Audrey  
5-6 Zinser Ashley. Steck, 1961. 40p. \$1.75.  
yrs.

Harry H. House Mouse decided to find the biggest house in the city; after exploring it, he realized that the house he was in was actually a museum and therefore had no kitchen. Having overheard the statement that the museum needed a burglar alarm, Harry investigated a noise that sounded like burglars. The museum director, seeing evidence that a mouse had frightened the men away, brought cheese, so Harry never had to go out for a meal again. Reminiscent of Freeman's Norman the Doorman (Viking, 1959) but more contrived and with little humor. The illustrations are unobjectionable but pedestrian.

Ad Beatty, Hetty Burlingame. Moorland Pony; written and illus. by Hetty Burlin-  
K-2 game Beatty. Houghton, 1961. 40p. \$3.

A read-aloud story, pleasant but static in style, realistic save for a few phrases in the story that attribute improbable mental ability to the pony—for example, "Each week he waited impatiently for Sunday to come again." The members of an American family—living near Dartmoor—picnic regularly on the moors and become very fond of one pony which they feed. Followed by the pony, the family decides to buy him; they take him back home with them. Illustrations are somewhat busy at close range, but are excellent for displaying to a group.

Ad Beatty, Patricia. Bonanza Girl; illus. by Liz Dauber. Morrow, 1962. 224p.  
5-7 \$2.95.

A story of the Idaho Territory in the 1880's, when mining camp communities mushroomed as gold or silver was found. Widowed Mrs. Scott goes to Eagle City hoping to teach school; she finds it more profitable to run a restaurant with the help of a brawny Swedish woman, and all the desperadoes in town meekly park their guns and watch their language to enjoy home cooking. The story is told by Ann Katie Scott, age thirteen, and the first person presentation is quite convincing. The atmosphere and period details are good, and the author is pleasantly candid about people and customs in a rough mining community. The writing is weakened by some fairly stock characterization and perhaps too many elaborations of plot at the close of the book: an avalanche that kills the Bad Man, a lucky strike that enriches the family, a double wedding for Mama and Helga, etc.

R Brown, Beth, ed. The Wonderful World of Cats; compiled by Beth Brown; pic-  
4-6 tures by Leonard Shortall. Harper, 1961. 208p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library  
ed. \$3.79 net.

R Brown, Beth, ed. The Wonderful World of Dogs; compiled by Beth Brown; pic-

5-7       tures by Leonard Shortall. Harper, 1961. 261p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Companion volumes of short stories and excerpts from books; twenty stories about cats and fifteen stories about dogs. The selections are of excellent quality, the illustrations are attractive, the type size large. Some of the stories are retelling of familiar favorites, and the authors represented are outstanding: Kipling, Carroll, DeJong, Carlson, Coatsworth, MacKellar, etc. The material in The Wonderful World of Dogs is somewhat more difficult than in the first title. The selections are varied, and the books should be equally valuable in a library collection or for home enjoyment.

R       Brown, Margaret Wise. On Christmas Eve; illus. by Beni Montresor. Scott, 4-7       1961. 44p. \$3.50.  
yrs.

A beautiful book that captures the feeling of delicious anticipation felt by children who are celebrating Christmas—or of a child in any culture or of any religion who knows that the coming hours will bring wonder. The text is quiet yet it catches the bated-breath quality of quietness that precedes excitement. The format is handsome, the illustrations are beautiful and make marvelous use of space; text and illustrations are felicitously in accord.

R       Brown, Myra (Berry). Somebody's Pup; pictures by Dorothy Marino. Watts, 4-6       1961. 54p. \$1.95.  
yrs.

Engaging because of its simplicity and realism, the story of a boy and a puppy. Stevie found the pup in his yard, and brought it in the house to clean and feed. His parents sent him out to see if the owner could be found, and Stevie let his friends pet the dog—one pet per friend. When the owner did turn up, he said that the puppy was one of a litter of five, so Stevie was given the dog for his very own. The writing is lightly humorous, and the author introduces several pointers on the care of pets with gentle unobtrusiveness.

R       Budd, Lillian. Tekla's Easter; pictures by Genia. Rand McNally, 1962. 56p. 3-4       Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.95 net.

A charming story of Easter customs in Sweden, with illustrations that are distinguished, gay, and perfectly appropriate for the text. Tekla, age eight, makes straw witches for the auction that is always held just before Easter to benefit the school lunch program. On Easter Eve she dresses as a witch; on Easter Sunday she rides from her island on the church boat to the mainland service; the family celebrates at home in traditional fashion. The writing style is good, although not distinguished; the details of Swedish custom are interesting in both text and illustration; the story has just enough about Tekla as a person—especially in her feelings toward her little sister—to make it the story of a little girl rather than the story of Easter only.

R       Burnford, Sheila (Every). The Incredible Journey; illus. by Carl Burger. Little, 7-       1961. 145p. \$3.75.

A beautifully written book. Three house pets, staying with a friend of the family while their owners were abroad, disappeared into the Canadian wilderness, and in completely credible and powerful detail the author describes their long trek toward their old home. An old bull terrier, a young Labrador retriever, and a Siamese cat are in alliance against all the dangers of the wilds, against all the human obstacles, against any threat to one of the three in their migration. Each of the animals is indelibly real, and the reunion with the family that thought them lost is deeply moving. The writing style is remarkable, the action suspenseful.

Ad Calhoun, Mary Huiskamp. Cowboy Cal and the Outlaw; illus. by Frank Nicholas. 3-5 Morrow, 1961. 48p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.60 net.

A cowboy tall-tale, written in a breezy and colloquial style. Despite the humor, the story seems over-extended as Cowboy Cal suffers one setback after another. Having had a wild horse run off with his prize possession, a cherished saddle, Cal gave chase on an old horse that stepped in a hole and ran off; then he was treed by a steer, so he rode it. Finally he caught the outlaw horse with his lariat, tamed him and rode him back to the corral.

R Call, Hughie (Florence). Peter's Moose; illus. by Robert MacLean. Viking, 4-6 1961. 185p. \$3.

The story of a boy's love for a pet that he knew he could not keep. Found when he was a baby, Silly was so tame that he was loved by all the children in Peter's country school. Except one child . . . the newcomer, Olga, who used a fear of Silly to express her hostility. Peter had been warned that his moose might become dangerous when he grew big, and he knew that Silly might go off to forest. The author has created a memorable animal characterization; Silly's story ends realistically. The children and adults are sharply individual; while motivation and human relationships are not obtrusive, they are consistently used in relation to plot development.

Ad Cameron, Eleanor. The Mysterious Christmas Shell; illus. by Beth and Joe 4-6 Krush. Little, 1961. 184p. \$3.25.

A sequel to The Terrible Churnadryne, with the same setting as well as the same major characters. Tom and Jennifer, paying a Christmas visit to Grandmother at Redwood Cove, find Aunts Vicky and Millie with a problem. They are hoping to find a lost will that will permit nearby land to become state property. With only a few days to save the property from being turned into a housing development, Tom and Jennifer proceed to unravel some fairly complicated clues. There is enough contrivance to weaken the book somewhat, but the characters and dialogue are good, the descriptions of locale are vividly evocative, and the writing style is crisp and lively.

R Child Study Association of America, comp. Read to Me Again; illus. by Garry 3-6 MacKenzie. Crowell, 1961. 140p. \$2.50.  
yrs.

A collection of thirty-six stories and verses for reading aloud to the very young. A well-chosen assortment; some of the selections are durable favorites by authors like Flack, Zolotow, and Margaret Wise Brown. The illustrations, in black and white, are undistinguished, but adequate. A useful book for library, nursery school, and home collections.

Ad Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Mr. Piper's Bus; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, 2-4 1961. 92p. \$3.

A little drawn out, but satisfying: one problem, a search, and a neat solution. Mr. Piper, who had been lonely, began collecting animals. His landlady objected, so he bought an old bus, took time off, and went into the country to find a home for all his pets. The story demonstrates kindness to animals, Mr. Piper is a sympathetic character, and the writing has some humor but little pace. The ending is gratifying but very pat: Mr. Piper finds a small abandoned house in a community where the children need a school bus.

R Coit, Margaret L. The Fight for Union. Houghton, 1961. 136p. illus. \$3.  
8-

An excellent book about the years before the Civil War: the issues, the compromises, the men and the debates, the background events and the common people. The author gives vivid pictures of some of the great men of the period, especially of Clay,

Jackson, Houston, and John Brown, with whose death the volume ends. The writing style has both dignity and vitality; the attitude is objective and the material authoritative. The book is illustrated with photographic reproductions of portraits; a relative index is appended.

R Dhotre, Damoo. Wild Animal Man; by Damoo Dhotre as told to Richard Tap-  
5-9 linger. Little, 1961. 154p. illus. \$3.50.

A fascinating book, the story of an animal trainer's career. Damoo Dhotre came of a circus family in India and began his own training at the age of nine: acrobatic work, bicycle riding, training wild animals. The trainer for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, Damoo tells his story through Mr. Taplinger; the writing style is brisk and colloquial. The material is exciting, many of the incidents filled with danger and suspense. Photographs (not always clearly reproduced) are interesting.

R Earle, Olive Lydia. Camels and Llamas; written and illus. by Olive L. Earle.  
4-6 Morrow, 1961. 64p. \$2.75.

Excellent informational writing: well-organized material in a clear and straightforward presentation; appropriate vocabulary, good type-size, realistic and detailed illustrations. There are a few illustrations that are extraneous—for example, the fact that camel-bones are sold for puppies to chew on is accompanied by a drawing of a beguiling puppy. The author describes the appearance and habits of various species of camels and writes at less length about llamas, guanacos, vicunas, and alpacas.

NR Estoril, Jean. Drina Dances in Italy. Vanguard, 1961. 192p. \$3.  
6-8

A sequel to Ballet for Drina; Drina, now fourteen, is back at her old ballet school in London. Invited to Italy by the grandmother she has never seen, Drina is apprehensive until she learns that her school's company will be performing there. While in Genoa, Drina substitutes for a dancer who is ill, and receives commendation in a review of the ballet. The book is unhappily burdened by too many characters, too many small sub-plots, too many detailed descriptions of excursions or performances. The writing style is turgid and the characterizations are shallow.

NR Evatt, Harriet. You Can't Keep a Squirrel on the Ground; written and illus. by  
K-2 Harriet Evatt. Bobbs-Merrill, 1961. 47p. \$2.95.

An oversize book for reading aloud. Near a family of Indians lived two friends, a squirrel and a moose. The squirrel, whose nest was always being blown down by the wind, was unhappy when he heard the humans were not leaving their cabin for the winter. He was wont to stay there in the cold weather; he was also worried because his friend the moose would be cold. The animals held a council but couldn't solve the problem; it was solved by grandmother. She knitted a huge sweater for the moose and it had a pocket for the squirrel. Illustrations are coy in attitude and awkward in technique; the story is digressive and overlong; the writing is pedestrian.

NR Fisher, David. Tilly Ballooning; written and drawn by David Fisher. Abelard-  
2-3 Schuman, 1961. 40p. \$2.75.

An extravagant tall tale about a strong-minded child who didn't have money enough for a balloon ride at a fairground, so she stole the balloon. While in the air, she rescued a flyer whose parachute had failed to open; despite the protests of the owner of the balloon, Tilly was hailed as a heroine. Illustrations are cartoon-style, and background color makes reading difficult on some pages. Tilly has her fortune told by a Madame Zora who loses her accent ("Gross my palm mit silver") after her first few lines, and who "was nice but definitely foreign." The story—and Tilly as a character—lack humor, possibly because the exaggeration is so intensive.

M Geijerstam, Brita af. Mia-Pia; words and music by Brita af Geijerstam; tr. 4-5 by Richard Oldenburg; illus. by Ilon Wikland. Bobbs-Merrill, 1961. 94p. \$2.95.

Translated from the Swedish, a book about a girl of seven. Each chapter deals with a separate episode; about a dozen sets of lyrics are included in the body of the text, words and music being printed at the back of the book. Most of the episodes in the book are about Mia-Pia in school, or playing with her four-year-old brother. There is a sweetness about the relationship between the brother and sister (and between mother and daughter) that is sometimes appealing although occasionally it verges on the saccharine. The weakness of the book is in the fact that much of the humor is based on the sort of behavior or conversation that adults find charming but that seem perfectly in order to children themselves.

R Gérin, Winifred. The Young Fanny Burney. Nelson, 1961. 131p. illus. \$3.50. 7-

A lively biographical story of the young girl whose first published work was a landmark in the early development of the novel. The book gives a vivid picture of the large Burney family, sharply characterized; it gives an excellent background of literary London in the eighteenth century; it gives, above all, a moving description of Fanny Burney as a writer and as a person. The book covers only the span of time between the writing of Evalina and the revelation to a stunned London that the author of the anonymously written best-seller was a shy young woman of twenty-five.

Ad Gipson, Fred Benjamin. Savage Sam; decorations by Carl Burger. Harper, 7-9 1962. 215p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

Savage Sam is the son of Old Yeller, and his prowess on the trail is instrumental in the happy outcome of a grim and difficult attempt to rescue two children who are Indian captives. The story is told by Travis, age sixteen, and set in Texas in 1870. Travis, his precocious brother Arliss, age six, and a girl of thirteen are ambushed by an Apache tribe. Travis gets away eventually, meets the pursuing settlers, and together they overtake and kill the Indians. The story has pace, suspense, and color; the writing style is easy and colloquial. The Indians are cruel and savage, and there is no minimizing of unpleasant detail in the book: Little Arliss, for example, is at one point resisting his captor, and he bites off and swallows the Indian's ear.

NR Gottlieb, Suzanne. What Is Red? illus. by Vladimir Bobri. Lothrop, 1961. 3-5 18p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net. yrs.

A read-aloud picture book about colors, with two pages devoted to each color. While there are several instances in which familiar objects are cited, so that children who are learning to identify colors can associate them, there are enough instances of confusing use to negate the value of the book. For example, red. The first page shows an apple, but the whole facing page has a red background and an orange sun, with the text reading, "The sky is red at sunset as Jonny walks home through the wood." The next page: "What is purple?" shows a violet, but makes a misleading statement, "Spring flowers are purple." The facing page has a violet background, and shows Jonny under a tree, with white flowers in his hand; the text reads, "Jonny picks some violets."

Ad Graves, Robert. The Penny Fiddle; Poems for Children; illus. by Edward 5-7 Ardizzone; Doubleday, 1961. 62p. \$2.50.

Twenty-three of his poems selected by the author for children; illustrations are delicate and old-fashioned drawings in Ardizzone's distinctive style. The quality of the selections is variable: some are brief and jocular, some are long and serious; some, like "The Bedpost" or "A Boy in Church" seem much more appropriate for a young

reader than poems like the gently brooding "In the Wilderness" or the poignant love poem "The Hills of May."

M Hample, Stoo. Mr. Nobody and the Umbrella Bug. Harper, 1962. 42p. illus. K-2 Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

A bug with a built-in umbrella encounters a small rain that turns out to be the tears of an invisible man. Mr. Nobody is sitting on a park bench having his Wednesday cry because nobody talks to him. Or likes him. So they talk and the friendship blossoms. The story and the illustrations have a nonsensical quality that children enjoy: Mr. Nobody admits proudly to being the one who put the stripes on tigers. He promises to visit the Umbrella Bug's house every day . . . "And if nobody is there—you will know it's Me!" The word play is at a level that is too high for the picture-book audience.

R Hays, Wilma Pitchford. Abe Lincoln's Birthday; illus. by Peter Burchard. 3-5 Coward-McCann, 1961. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.68 net.

A fictionalized description of the way in which Abraham Lincoln spent the day on his twelfth birthday. The tempo of the writing is quiet and uneventful, but the author gives a very clear impression of Lincoln's personality and of the family activities. Some of the family's past history is incorporated into the story; the illustrations—like the text—give both the pioneer background and a good picturing of the boy himself: tall, gangling, kind, and courageous.

R Hewett, Anita. The Tale of the Turnip; drawn by Margery Gill. Whittlesey K-2 House, 1961. 31p. \$2.50.

An attractively illustrated read-aloud version of an old folk-tale, with a simplicity of style and a repetition of phrasing that is appropriate for the story. In a little house on a hill lived an old couple, their grandchild, a cat, and a mouse. One of the turnips that grandfather planted grew to enormous size; repeated tries at pulling the enormous vegetable from the ground availed nothing until the little mouse added his strength to the others, and then all were able to feast together.

Ad Hoban, Russell C. The Song in My Drum; pictures by Lillian Hoban. Harper, 3-5 1962. 30p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.  
yrs.

Simplicity in illustration echoes the quality of candor in the text of a beguiling book about a small brother and sister at imaginative play. The text consists of the remarks of the two children and captures the childlike idiom. "You bumped me." "No. You bumped me. I stopped and you didn't stop." The story has interspersed in the dialogue phonetic drum noises: "Bup didy bup." or "Bum bum bum. Boom." which are rather a distraction.

M Hurd, Edith (Thacher). Stop Stop; pictures by Clement Hurd. Harper, 1961. 1-2 64p. (I Can Read Books). Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

For beginning independent readers, another story about Miss Mugs, an elderly babysitter. Here, having offered to take Suzie to the zoo, Miss Mugs goes into a frenzy of cleaning: she washes the dishes, Suzie, the dog, the kitchen floor, and the cat. After falling off a ladder while reaching for a dirty curtain, Miss Mugs is ready; en route she criticizes a window-washer, at the zoo she criticizes the dirt on the animals. Then an elephant sprays her, and Miss Mugs decides it is time for fun, so she and Suzie have a ride on a merry-go-round. Although the element of exaggeration is one that children enjoy, it is carried to an extreme here, being less humorous in a realistic situation than it would be were the story fanciful. There seems no reason to have Miss Mugs shown in the illustrations in an old-fashioned floor-length dress.

R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. This Crowded Planet; illus. by Mildred Waltrip.

7-10 Whittlesey House, 1961. 159p. \$3.

A timely book about the population explosion and the ramifications and implications of the component problems. The three major divisions of the text describe possible solutions to these problems under the headings "Look to the Earth," "Look to the Sea," and "Look to the Sky." Under the second topic, as an example, are discussed the investigations of fertilization of sterile areas, harvesting plankton, mining salt, extracting magnesium, drilling for oil, distilling salt water, and obtaining power from marine sources. Clearly written, straightforward in approach. Sources of further information are cited at the back of the book, as are several titles for additional reading. An index is appended.

Ad Johnson, Eleanor Noyes. Buffington Castle; illus. by Charles Geer. Duell, 4-6 1962. 149p. \$3.50.

A good family story, brisk in style and a bit sentimental in development. When father's firm moves, the six Burnhams (with another one on the way) need a home; they find a large house to which the title is not clear; they love the house and hope to buy it. The children become involved with a mysterious small boy who turns out to be a missing heir; the Burnhams win the heart of the boy's grandfather, a crusty Admiral, and become owners of the house and guardians of the small boy. Not unusual in plot, but well written, with good characterization and particularly good family relationships and relationships between children and adults outside the family.

R Johnston, Johanna. Thomas Jefferson, His Many Talents; illus. by Richard 6-9 Bergere. Dodd, 1961. 160p. \$3.50.

An excellent book about the many interests and abilities of the amazingly versatile statesman; the author gives only enough material about Jefferson's political life to balance and fill in the depiction of Jefferson the universal man. Very well organized under such topics as "Architect and Builder" or "Scientist and Naturalist," the book is informative, well written, and very handsomely illustrated. A chronology, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

NR Juster, Norton. The Phantom Tollbooth; illus. by Jules Feiffer. Random House, 6-8 1961. 255p. \$3.95.

An intensive and extensive fantasy, heavily burdened with contrivance and whimsy. Milo, a boy who receives a surprise package which, when put together, is a toll-booth, goes off in a toy automobile on a tour of an imaginary country. Examples of his encounters: a huge bee who is a Spelling Bee, a light meal that is all lights and a square meal all squares; two compilers of noises are Dr. Dischord and his apprentice Dynne, and a watchdog has the body of an alarm clock. The book has a Bunyan-like device (the demons on the Mountains of Ignorance are named Gross Exaggeration and Threadbare Excuse) and the writing is saturated with plays on words, especially puns. The illustrations by Feiffer will appeal to his many young admirers.

M Kenyon, Raymond G. I Can Learn About Calculators and Computers; with drawings by the author. Harper, 1961. 112p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.79 net.

A book that describes numbering systems, explains the developments in computer construction and in the functioning of computers, and gives directions for making calculators and computers—from a simple abacus to an analogue computer. The author, although he writes with the competence of familiarity, has an occasional sentence that may be confusing: for example, "The square of a number is the product of some smaller number multiplied by itself." Illustrations (there are many) are clearly drawn but are not always adequately labeled. The instructions in the last part of the book are quite clear, step-by-step directions, but the text and the diagrams are so placed that leafing back and forth is necessary. The constructions are rather complicated: both

the materials and parts used (a potentiometer, for example) and the level of electricity, carpentry, etc. demand that the reader has quite a bit of background and ability.

Ad Kessler, Ethel. Do Baby Bears Sit in Chairs?; by Ethel and Leonard Kessler. 3-5 Dougleday, 1961. 32p. illus. \$2.50.

yrs.

Light, slight, and amusing; this is the sort of picture book that small children can easily remember and "read" because of repeated pattern and illustrations that duplicate the text. Pattern: "Do baby bears sit in chairs, comb their hair, wear underwear? NO! But they roll down the hill, just as I do." The possibilities considered in the pattern (Kangaroos reading news, or father cats swinging baseball bats) become slightly dulled by repetition but are the type of nonsense humor that will appeal. The illustrations are not unusual in technique but have a liveliness that suits the text.

R Lauritzen, Jonreed. The Legend of Billy Bluesage; illus. by Edward Chavez. 6-9 Little, 1961. 218p. \$3.50.

An unusual story with a remarkable central character and a sustained evocation of atmosphere, of vast open country. Billy is a legend, a boy who had been raised by Indians and roamed the wilderness by himself. A tale had grown about Billy's appearance when travelers were in danger, so the Spanish train going from Santa Fe to California is hopeful that Billy may appear. Especially the lad Ciro yearns to see the wild boy . . . and Ciro comes to know Billy well. Billy Bluesage, at the close of the book, has helped the Spaniards escape from attacking Indians, and he rides off into the hills, a mystical figure to the end.

Ad L'Engle, Madeleine. A Wrinkle in Time. Ariel, 1962. 211p. \$3.25.

6-9

A science fantasy that incorporates the concepts of time travel, extra-sensory perception, and inhabited planets in outer space. Meg Murry, her small brother Charles, and older friend Calvin are spirited by three extra-terrestrial beings to another world where they find Meg's long-absent father; all return—after fantastic and dangerous experiences—safely home. The plot is involved and extended, weakening a story that, were it more unified, would be quite absorbing. Characterization is good, details of some of the episodes are freshly imaginative, and the writing style is excellent.

R Lens, Sidney. Working Men: The Story of Labor; illus. by David Collier. Putnam, 1961. 191p. \$2.95.

Detailed and comprehensive in coverage, a book about labor in this country and especially about the labor unions. As in Shippen's This Union Cause (Harper, 1958) the book begins with colonial times: the slave, the apprentice, the craftsman, and the beginning of the factory system. Although not as well written as the Shippen account, Working Men gives more details of recent labor history, including the investigations of the McLellan Committee. A glossary and an index are appended.

NR Lobel, Arnold. A Zoo for Mister Muster. Harper, 1962. 28p. illus. Trade 4-6 ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

yrs.

A slight read-aloud picture book about a man who went to the zoo every day. Mr. Muster loved all the animals and they all loved him; one day, when he had stayed home because of bad weather, all the animals came to his apartment. The elephant had stolen the keeper's key. When the keeper came with the police to get his animals, he had to offer Mr. Muster a job as assistant before the animals would go back. There is in the text (and the illustrations) an element of humor in the impossible situation

of a whole zoo crowded into an apartment, but the humor is too thin to compensate for the extension of plot and the rather plodding writing style.

M Lonergan, Joy. A Pretend ABC; pictures by Irene Murray. Watts, 1962. 52p. 4-6 yrs. \$1.95.

An alphabet book in which each page describes imaginative play: for example, "Pretend I am an ELEPHANT in a circus. Here I come with big, heavy steps. I wave my trunk at the children. The band plays and I stand on my hind legs. Someone gives me a peanut for being such a good elephant." On each page facing the text are lighthearted drawings that show the child at play. An engaging book, and one that will probably stimulate the imagination of children to whom it is read. As an alphabet book, it is possible that the amount of text on each page—and the choice of the word representing the letter in some cases as N for North Wind or G for gardener—will detract from the association process. The illustrations show both the child and her imaginative concept, which may confuse young children.

Ad McCaig, Robert J. That Nester Kid; with drawings by Joseph Papin. Scribner, 5-8 yrs. 1961. 192p. \$2.95.

Set in Montana in 1896, the story of an orphaned boy of fifteen whose father had been a homesteader, or nester. Billy felt that he shouldn't stay on at Rafter K ranch, so he took a job in the town livery stable; having found out that a gang of horse thieves was planning a raid, Billy tried to stop it. Wounded while escaping from the head of the gang, Billy was taken in again at Rafter K; this time it was agreed that he would stay on and go back to school. Not unusual in plot, but written in lively style; Billy's prowess as a detective is kept within the bounds of credibility. One aspect of the story that adds to the worth of the book is the presentation of some of the rural characters as literate: Billy can't see why a cowboy is enjoying Puddn'head Wilson but sees that he is; he is surprised to find that the owner of the livery stable not only supports theatrical troupers, but can shrewdly advise that Ibsen is too heavy and that "East Lynne" isn't good enough.

M Marks, Mickey Klar. What Can I Buy? illus. by Alikei. Dial, 1962. 32p. \$2.50. 4-6 yrs.

A rather slight book, illustrated by attractive line drawings in black, white, and red. The text is in rhymed couplets with good rhythm and with only an occasional rhyme that seems contrived. A little boy is given a quarter by his uncle and told not to spend it all in one place. He debates all the various possibilities; he finally buys himself a top, some penny candy for his mother and brother. Then he spends the last penny in a slot machine for gum for his uncle, and goes home feeling very pleased that he hasn't spent all the money in one place. Not an unusual theme, but the light, simple treatment and the illustrations are appealing.

R Martin, Patricia Miles. The Rice Bowl Pet; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Crow-K-2 ell, 1962. 30p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.36 net.

A very pleasant story to read aloud, with illustrations that give the flavor of the San Francisco setting and are in warm red and orange tones—with a few pages that are just a bit overfilled. Ah Jim lived in an apartment too small for a large pet, but his mother had said he might have a pet if he could find one small enough to fit in his rice bowl. So, bowl in hand, he went hunting. His brothers teased, people on the cable car laughed at him. He saw just what he wanted—a tiny dog, but not quite tiny enough; he dirtied the window of the pet shop so badly that he felt sorry and offered to wash it. To his joy, the shop owner gave him a very tiny puppy that just fit the bowl. A good picture of a Chinese-American family, although there seems no reason

why the text should state that, in the American school, "He spoke English without an accent." Since nothing in the book indicates Ah Jim to be other than American-born there seems no reason that he should have an accent. The ending is delightful: it is clear that his mother and older brothers know the puppy will grow too big for the rice bowl, but he has complied with specifications, and the amusement of his family (sans comment) will be shared by the audience.

R Matsuno, Masako. Taro and the Tōfu; illus. by Kazue Mizumura. World, 1962. 2-3 26p. \$3.

A charming story, with attractive illustrations that give vivid impressions of everyday scenes in Japan today. Taro had volunteered to get the tofu, or bean curd, for the evening meal; when he found that the old tofu seller had given him too much change, the boy was tempted to say nothing. He thought of all the candy he could buy; he thought of how worried the old man might be. And he went back . . . and he felt happy. The simplicity with which the story is told makes the moral gently unobtrusive but very clear.

Ad Meadowcroft, Enid (La Monte). Land of the Free; illus. by Lee J. Ames. 4-5 Crowell, 1961. 151p. \$3.50.

A good overview of United States history from the voyage of Columbus through the second world war. The writing is simple, and the large type is appropriate for the reading level of the intended audience. The writing is objective; the weakness in the book is that there is so much material covered that the author has had, of necessity, to move rather abruptly from one topic to another. For example, after a page of text about Robert Fulton and the steamboat, ending, ". . . a monster which walked on the water, belching fire and smoke" the next paragraph begins, "By this time the Americans were having trouble with England again." A bibliography and an index are appended.

R Meyer, Edith Patterson. Pirate Queen; The Story of Ireland's Grania O'Malley 8-10 in the Days of Queen Elizabeth. Little, 1961. 244p. illus. \$3.50.

An interesting historical novel based on the life of a colorful woman who was voted chieftain of her clan when she was eighteen. Grania O'Malley ruled her people; bore children to her Irish husband who was killed after six happy years, wed the English administrator to become Lady Burke, sailed and fought with her raiding crew. In her later years she visited Queen Elizabeth to plead for Ireland's cause. There is so much flamboyance and drama in Grania's life that the book seems almost too long, despite the fact that each episode is interesting. The author has done a remarkable job of research and a remarkable job of creating a vivid character; she also gives a good picture of the ferment of the Elizabethan age and of the seldom-described situation in Ireland during that age.

Ad Newman, Joseph S. One Summer Day; drawings by Sheila Greenwald. World, 3-5 1962. 20p. \$2.50.  
yrs.

Light and pleasant, but not unusual in theme or treatment, a read-aloud book of light verse. In the summer, a very young man's fancy turns to thoughts of what he'd buy if he had free rein in a supermarket. Just as the accumulation becomes burdensome, he wakes from the dream. The illustrations echo the light humor of the text, and seem most attractive at the beginning of the book—perhaps because this is the most spontaneous part of the text: "One summer day I had nothing to do and nothing to look at very new. I said all my picture books over by heart And took a few of my toys apart. I dug a hole in the ground with a spoon. And waited for morning to turn into noon."

M Ogle, Ed. Getting to Know the Arctic; illus. by Robert Patterson. Coward-4-6 McCann, 1961. 64p. \$2.50.

A book about the Arctic regions, with most of the text devoted to the Eskimos and shorter sections to the people of Greenland and Lapland. The author gives a great deal of information, and there is an occasional passage that has the color that stems from personal observation. The book is weakened, however, by several examples of careless writing: for example, when ". . . it gets as hot as 70 degrees above zero. People who live there think that is terribly hot. They take off their shirts and fan themselves." While some additional material is covered, most of the information in the text is to be found in Bleeker's The Eskimo (Morrow, 1959) in a better written presentation. The index is fairly superficial: one entry is made, for example, for "Aklavik," which is cited once as a town from which a particular child comes.

M Paschal, Nancy. No More Good-bys. Westminster, 1962. 189p. \$2.95. 7-9

Bonnie goes to visit the grandfather she has never seen; he had cut off her father for marrying beneath him and only circumstances of need had made her mother consent to the visit. New clothes, lessons in etiquette, and all the advantages of wealth were, Bonnie found, most enjoyable. When she had to choose between mother and grandfather, she chose mother and poverty. The saccharine ending weakens the book: everybody comes to live with a reformed grandfather and all problems are solved. Nevertheless, there are some excellent values in the story: Bonnie is a sturdy and stable character, and her feelings about people are sensibly based on their worth, rather than their position or their use to her. The writing style is fairly pedestrian, but the concepts of loyalty and integrity compensate for the superficialities of the writing.

Ad Place, Marion (Templton). Our Earth: Geology and Geologists; illus. by Robert Bartram. Putnam, 1961. 191p. (Science Survey Books.) \$2.95.

An interesting book about geology, with the text chiefly organized into accounts of the explorations and theories of pioneering geologists. The first section describes some of the theories held in the ancient world; the last section is devoted to geological explorations in the United States. The writing style is adequate, but the book is weakened by the fact that (as it is organized) there is some amount of duplication. Also because of the organization, the emphasis on discoveries and theories has resulted in an uneven examination of geologic phenomena: only a brief reference to moraines, no listing in the index of faulting. A bibliography, brief glossary, and an index are appended.

R Price, Christine. Made in the Middle Ages; written and illus. by Christine 6- Price. Dutton, 1962. 118p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.64 net.

A book about the products of artists and craftsmen of the Middle Ages, profusely and beautifully illustrated. The placement and labeling of the illustrations are gratifyingly precise. After some brief prefatory remarks about the craftsmen of the period, the text is divided into two sections: things made for the castle, and things made for the church. The writing is perfectly straightforward, but the author communicates her appreciation for the art of this period as well as her care and competence in collecting and organizing material.

M Radlauer, Ruth Shaw. Good Times Drawing Lines; illus. by the author. Mel-1-3 mont, 1961. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

A book intended only to encourage children to have fun and to stimulate their imagination. Taken as such, it succeeds only moderately, since it uses just multiple examples and these are not always given with care. One page, for instance, says "This line can be a mouse or a house.," but the two outlines are not the same. The book

makes one very good suggestion: that it isn't necessary to draw every detail, but only enough to suggest the subject.

R Ridle, Julia Brown. Hog Wild!; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Harper, 1961. 5-7 232p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.79 net.

A well-written story of a farm lad in Idaho at the turn of the century. Joss is determined that in some way he will earn the \$500 needed for his father's operation; he decides to join the annual hog drive and sell at top price. But there has been a drop in the market, and Joss—after a troublesome trip—has to find a new way. He gambles on the talents of his city cousin's roping skill, and he makes it. Except for one villainous character, characterization is very good; it is a pleasant deviation from the familiar pattern to have Joss accept immediately the shy and mannerly little cousin at whom the other rural boys scoff. The plot has unity and suspense; the dialogue is natural.

R Riedman, Sarah Regal. Masters of the Scalpel; The Story of Surgery; illus. 8- with 60 photographs. Rand McNally, 1962. 320p. \$4.25.

An interesting book about some of the great men who made surgical history. The first chapter describes a televised heart operation; the author then gives some background of surgical practices in ancient times; the major part of the text is organized by chapters on individual or team contributions to improved surgery. Some biographical material is included in each case, but emphasis is on the surgical detail. Closing chapters describe some of the new techniques, new equipment, and new services such as the Eye Bank and the Tissue Bank. The writing style is crisp, authoritative, and straightforward. An extensive index is appended.

M Savitt, Sam. There was a Horse; written and illus. by Sam Savitt. Dial, 1961. 5-6 96p. \$2.75.

A boy of seventeen tells his own story about the horse he bought and trained. Nervous at his first appearance in the hunt field, the grey horse did badly; in their first horse show, both mount and rider were injured. Then the boy learns that his horse had once ridden in the Maryland Hunt Cup, and he determines to work harder and retrain his animal. They enter the Maryland Hunt Cup race and win. The format of the book is rather juvenile for the approach of the story, which is heavy and detailed about training procedure. The story line is quite routine, and the book will probably be of little appeal to those readers who have no particular interest in horses.

R Spier, Peter, illus. The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night; An Old Song; illus. by K-2 Peter Spier. Doubleday, 1961. 40p. \$2.95.

A delightful picture book version of the familiar folk song. The illustrations alternate: a double page spread in full color, and facing pages of black-and-white drawings. One line is printed large across the bottom of each page, and the music is included at the back of the book. The illustrations are lively, crowded with gay detail, and drawn in a distinctively individual style. Although independent readers in grades three and four can appreciate the illustrative details, younger children will probably be the larger audience for enjoying the words and music with adult guidance.

R Sutcliff, Rosemary. Dawn Wind; illus. by Charles Keeping. Walck, 1962. 241p. 7-10 Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$2.81 net.

A story of sixth-century Britain and the years after the Saxon victory at Aquae Sulis. Owain is fourteen; wounded and orphaned, he gives himself as a thrall to the Saxon Beornwulf to save the life of another British waif, Regina. After years of thralldom, Owain earns freedom and joins the warriors whose campaigns will pave the way to a united country. An exciting story with vivid characterizations and—as in all of Miss Sutcliff's historical novels—a marvelously convincing re-creation of a period.

M Thompson, Frances B. About Miss Sue, the Nurse; illus. by James David Johnson. Melmont, 1961. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

A book that describes some of the duties of a nurse in the children's ward of a hospital, with the first few pages giving information about the training of nurses and some facts about a hospital. The writing style is quite stilted, and the treatment is rather superficial. Only a few of the illustrations give information, and this is especially noticeable on a page that faces some text that refers to cranking up the bed: that action is not pictured, so that the text may well be confusing to the child who has never seen a hospital bed.

Ad Trez, Denise. The Magic Paintbox; by Denise and Alain Trez. World, 1962. K-2 28p. illus. \$3.

Although the theme of imaginary animals drawn by a child and coming to life is not new, it is treated here with a gay simplicity that is engaging. Dorothée, who has only one pet—a cat—satisfies her love for animals by painting them all over the walls of the garage. After several incidents with the animals participating (a ride on a winged dinosaur, an enormous green mouse that gives chase) Dorothée is distressed when her menagerie becomes quarrelsome. But a rain washes them all away in a puddle of paint. Light nonsense, gay crayon drawings.

NR Van Horn, Grace. Little Red Rooster; illus. by Sheila Perry. Abelard-Schuman, 1962. 31p. \$2.50.  
yrs.

Little red rooster's job was waking the farmer, but one morning he decided not to crow until later in the day. The farmer and his family flew about in confusion, making mistakes in their haste (the farmer's wife put the pigs' feed on the table and her husband's breakfast in the pen); all the animals were angry at the rooster, and the farmer decided to buy an alarm clock. But next morning the rooster crowed loudly, so the farmer decided not to buy an alarm clock. While the story may suggest the ideas that each of us must do his job and that one can learn from a mistake, the ideas seem lost in the slightness of the story. Were the writing humorous, the frantic behavior of the humans could be appreciated, but it seems here only foolish. It is possible that even to a small child it might seem logical for a family to use an alarm clock even if they have a rooster that crows.

NR Voight, Virginia Frances. Treasure of Hemlock Mountain. Funk and Wagnalls, 7-9 1961. 182p. \$2.95.

Charlene, very pretty and quite conceited, resents going to Maine with her father because she will miss a chance to audition as singer for a dance band. Charlene falls in love with another girl's steady and she uses all her friends with considerable dishonesty. The fact that she recognizes her defects and makes an effort, at the close of the story, to start afresh is the one positive value of the book. It is otherwise quite superficial and most contrived in story line: the culminating episode finds Charlene alone on a mountain where she finds truth, is discovered by the beloved uncle who had for three years been thought dead, and finds that she has stumbled on the long-lost, long-sought amethyst mine.

Ad Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. When Love Speaks. Whittlesey House, 1961. 221p. 7-9 \$3.50.

Miranda, a drama student at Carnegie Tech, enrolls for the summer at the American Shakespeare Festival Academy. She learns a great deal about her own limitations and potentialities while she is learning her craft; she makes professional progress; she falls in love. While the situations are trite, the values are good: in particular, the relationship between Miranda and another student who is a better actress but a person of little integrity. The background details of theater lore are authentic and interesting.

R Weil, Lisl. Mimi. Houghton, 1961. 48p. illus. \$3.  
K-2

A read-aloud story, set in Marseilles, about a small girl who admired her two uncles and wanted to follow their career—police work. While shopping one day, Mimi saw some parcels snatched and gave chase . . . but the culprit proved to be a chauffeur. Mimi became resigned to the fact that a girl probably couldn't be a policeman when her cooking skill solved a restaurant crisis and her Bouillabaisse was loudly praised. Both the text and the illustrations are light, gay, and delightfully French.

R Wibberley, Leonard. Treegate's Raiders. Ariel, 1962. 218p. \$3.25.  
6-9

Fourth in a series of books about the American Revolution, and possibly the most exciting story. Peter Treegate goes recruiting amongst the Scottish settlers in the Carolina mountains, and his problem is getting men to forget clan loyalties and clan feuds and to unite as Americans. The book has wonderfully detailed and vivid battle scenes; it ends with the defeat of Cornwallis and touches very briefly on the match between Treegate and the daughter of that doughty character (hero of the preceding volume, Sea Captain from Salem) Peace of God Manly. United States history comes alive in a story replete with suspense and adventure.

SpC Willard, Barbara. If All the Swords in England; illus. by Robert M. Sax.  
6-9 Doubleday, 1961. 190p. (Clarion Books.) \$1.95.

A fictionalized version of the struggles between Thomas Becket and Henry II, one of the best in a series of books about Catholic history. The story is told in the framework of a fictional device in which twin brothers are separated, each going to serve one of the protagonists. Although the author writes vividly of the emotional and theological conflicts, she centers interest on the characters involved in court or abbey, giving little that will evoke the atmosphere or events of England and France in the twelfth century.

R Young, Rosamond McPherson. Boss Ket; A Life of Charles F. Kettering; decorations by Allan Thomas. Longmans, 1961. 210p. \$3.50.  
7-

A very good biography of the modest and persistent inventor, Charles Kettering, whose awards and honorary degrees are listed in four appended pages. Boss Ket invented the electric cash register and the automobile self-starter, among other things. The author gives a vivid picture of Kettering's personality; she also gives colorful bits of background detail that show the events and the tempo of the early years of the century. The style of writing is casual and smooth, the descriptions of the inventions themselves are lucid. A bibliography is appended.

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