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PRODUCTION NOTE

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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R    Recommended

Ad   Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.

M    Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR   Not recommended

SpC  Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR  A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

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

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New Titles for Children and Young People

R Acheson, Patricia C. The Supreme Court; America’s Judicial Heritage. Dodd, 10-1961. 270p. illus. $3.75.
An intensive examination of the Supreme Court, made in a serious and fairly heavy style. The author writes with interest and competence; the material is well-organized. Mrs. Acheson achieves admirably the goals she sets forth in the preface: to examine the role of the Supreme Court in the nation’s history, to survey the political and economic origins of some of the cases it has decided, and to evaluate the impact of those cases. Not a book for the browsing reader, this will be one that is most valuable to the serious student of American history. Appended are the Constitution, a list of judges of the Supreme Court arranged by presidential appointment, a list of sources for cases cited in the book, and an appendix in which case citations are italicized.

For beginning independent readers, a simply written book about the senses. The illustrations are lovely, and with light humor they capture a child’s delight as he sniffs a flower and his bliss as, with eyes closed, he licks an ice cream cone. While readers will be already familiar with some of the facts established by the text, they will probably become more conscious of the fact that different senses combine in varied ways dependent on the activity at hand.

M Allen, Hazel. Up From the Sea Came an Island; illus. by Marilyn Miller. 3-5 Scribner, 1962. 43p. $2.75.
The story of an island’s formation is preceded and followed by fictional passages about a boy named Keoki who came, years ago, with a fleet of double-canoes. The combination of descriptive and fictional sections is not successful; the factual material interrupts the story-line and the fiction serves no purpose in what is intended as an informational book. The information given is accurate, but the book gives little that is not better expressed in Selsam’s Birth of an Island (Harper, 1959).

Another fine volume in a series distinguished for careful research, curricular use, handsome format, and good writing style. The text describes the relations between Mexico and the United States from the time of the waning of Spanish power in the New World to the end of the Mexican War in 1848. Profusely and handsomely illustrated, this twelfth book in the series has appended—as do the preceding volumes—a bibliography, a reading list, an index, and a list of picture credits.

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Fifteen stories about phantom ships or about ghostly people who had been involved in marine tragedies. Each of the tales includes testimony by witnesses or from documents, some of this being the result of the author's interrogation of people involved. The objectivity of this technique makes more effective the dramatic nature of the anecdotes; the collection is useful although it is weakened by the writing style, which is stolid—occasionally turgid.

The story of a small girl in Thailand, told with great simplicity and having considerable charm despite a rather static quality. Miss Moon was given a paper flower by an old man who had a paper-flower tree; she planted a bead that was on the flower, convinced that it would grow. Everybody explained to her that a bead cannot grow, but Miss Moon had faith. A year later, the old man came back with a show troupe; he reminded the child that he had made no promises about the seed. But next morning the old man was gone and there outside her window was Miss Moon's paper-flower tree. Attractive illustrations give vividly the Thai background to a pleasant read-aloud story.

Attractively illustrated, a good book for beginning independent readers. Little Runner is enchanted by a rite of the New Year in which masked boys engage in an Iroquois version of trick or treat. Little Runner tries hard to persuade his mother that dire consequences will befall if he doesn't get some maple sugar. Mother plays along with this, and the last page shows Little Runner and his small brother happily gorging as they sit by the fire. The exchange between mother and child has gentle humor and understanding; an added appeal in the writing is the device of cumulation used by Little Runner as he attempts bribery. The book gives some facts about Iroquois culture as a bonus; text and illustration are nicely matched.

The author, a professor of Oriental languages, has divided this collection of retellings into stories about beginnings of time, stories of ghosts and fairies, and a series of tales about Aunt Piety, her children, and the wizard Eggborn—all sorcerers. The style of the retellings is ponderous but adequate, with the chief weakness of dialogue that does not seem particularly Oriental: for example, "I know very well who it is," said the captain. He turned to address the flock, "Mr. Taoist," he said, "I do urge you to come along with me. The Duke, my master, is waiting to welcome you." With editing, the tales can be used as a source for storytelling.

A good science book for beginning independent readers, in which the author successfully establishes a few basic facts with lucidity and with no digression. At the end of the book, the facts that have been learned are recapitulated. Some of the illustrations, although handsome, are ornamental rather than informative; one illustration seems slightly obscure. In the simplicity of presentation and in the limitation of concepts, this is one of the best books in the series.
A book which has, unfortunately, so many weaknesses that the information on an im-
portant topic is almost obscured. The text uses several techniques, the first of which
is a three-page lyrical listing, reading in part, "I am UNICEF. I am many people, I
am many things. I am millions of mothers and children who need help . . . I am a
cup of milk . . . I am a tablet to stop leprosy . . . I am Greek, Danish, Swedish and
Panamanian." Then follows a prose description of the work of UNICEF: speaking of
diseases, "The goal is to wipe out a gang of them . . . The gang operates in every
part of the world, but it is meanest in the tropics. . . ." The text then uses some
notes from the diary of a Mexican doctor, a letter from a Moroccan earthquake vic-
tim, etc. to dramatize some UNICEF activities. Charts illustrating costs and uses
are useful; appended are three pages excerpted from the UNICEF statement of prin-
ciples and purposes, and an index.

Ad Cavanah, Frances. Adventure in Courage; The Story of Theodore Roosevelt;
A good biography written in rather bland style, with a warmth that never becomes
adulation. Roosevelt's childhood and family life are particularly vividly described;
the courageous boy emerges as a very real personality. The text centers on Roose-
velt's life from the age of eight to the time of his succession to the Presidency when
McKinley died. Illustrations are mediocre in technique.

K-2 28p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.03 net.
A read-aloud picture book that has little originality of theme, but has a modicum of
humor in the writing. At several points in the story there are illogical developments
which might be humorous if more pointed, but have little point when treated blandly.
When the Captain went off, he left his only timepiece with his wife and son—a watch
impervious to being dropped or wet. His family lost the watch and were discommoded;
the watch went from bird to animal to fish, all of whom decided it wasn't necessary
for them to tell time; eventually the Captain found the watch in a fish he was eating.
Attractive pictures, pedestrian story.

3-5 $2.75.
Having moved to a new house and being in a new school made Pete all the more anx-
ious to get a pup; instead he came home with a large dog named Mishmash. Mish
was friendly—too friendly; he ate food from the table, walked into people's homes,
knocked down deliverymen with his greetings. Finally, sadly, Pete admitted to him-
self that Mish was too much trouble, so he left the dog on a doorstep. Happily, the
person who got the dog by mistake turned out to want just that kind of dog; since the
new owner was Pete's much-admired teacher it was a successful outcome all around.
Written with light humor, this is an entertaining story with good family relations and
delightful classroom scenes. The book is weakened by the many incidents about
Mishmash's ploys, too similar for variety and not quite believable.

R Cottrell, Leonard. Land of the Two Rivers; illus. by Richard Powers. World,
8-1962. 127p. $3.50.
A description of the civilization that began five thousand years ago when nomads
first settled in the Tigris-Euphrates valley. The text explores the history and cul-
ture of the Mesopotamian world up to the defeat of Belshazzar and the conquering of
Babylon by Cyrus the Great. The writing style is rather heavy but not dull; quotations
from monuments and tablets, and from the Bible, are smoothly incorporated into the
text. Illustrations are handsome; appended are a chronological chart showing Meso-
potamian development against the background of concurrent world events, a reading
list, and a combined index and glossary.

Ad Curren, Polly. This Is a Road; illus. by Kelly Oechsli. Follett, 1961. 32p.
2-4 Trade ed. $1.50; Library ed. $1.59 net.
A description of the changes in a road from the time the Indians used an old animal
trail as a path, to the time that the concrete road of modern days is being replaced
by a four-lane highway. It is unfortunate that the writing is dull, because the book
will be useful as supplementary curricular material, especially in the way that the
text relates needs to changes.

R Davis, Russell G. The Choctaw Code; by Russell G. Davis and Brent K.
A strong and moving book about a man with deep ethical convictions. Unusual in set-
ting and in its unity of construction, this is the story of the friendship between a
white boy of fifteen and an Indian man, Jim. Jim was sentenced to die; by the Choc-
taw mores, he refused to accept the pardon he knew he could have obtained. Jim had
a year of freedom, and he spent much of it giving to young Tom Baxter all of the
training as a woodsman and hunter that he could. No happy ending here to weaken
the character that has been built up; Jim shows his young friend a model of honor
and of courage in addition to the material evidences of his friendship. Excellent char-
acterization, a sympathetic and dignified treatment of the Choctaw nation and its
problems.

7-9 Pat McGill, a shabby lad from Ireland, was not treated well by his wealthy relatives,
the Barrows; but Janey, the girl who lived next door and baby-sat for the Barrows,
thought Pat the nicest boy she'd met. Together the two hunted for the valuable George
Washington buttons that had disappeared, with suspicion falling on Pat. The buttons
were found, Pat was cleared; to the embarrassment of his relatives, Pat was discov-
ered to be a very wealthy young man who had hidden the fact so that he would be liked
for himself alone. The plot evolves by a rather dated formula; characterization is
stock.

6-9 $3.75.
A useful and comprehensive book about fishing in fresh or salt water. A chapter on—
for example—salt water fish is amplified by separate chapters on salt water bait,
salt water lures, and the making of salt water lures. Information about equipment,
including the making and care of equipment, is explicit; illustrations are clear. The
text gives advice on technique; an extensive index is appended.

M Evans, Eva (Knox). Home is a Very Special Place; illus. by Millard McGee.
4-6 Capitol, 1962. 91p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.99 net.
A book about family life, cooperative behavior, and human relationships. The advice
is common-sense, the psychological bases sound, the informal writing treats famil-
lar situations with humor; unfortunately, the book does not quite come off success-
fully. It seems too long for the intended audience; it is marred by garrulity and rep-
etition. For the level of audience for whom the direct and chatty style is appropriate,
there are too many overtones of rather complex psychological and anthropological
ideas.
A most useful and interesting book, profusely illustrated by carefully detailed and extensively captioned drawings. The first section of the book comprises ten double-page spread maps that show changes in civilizations and patterns of expansion in the ancient world. Brief summaries add to the usefulness of this section. The major part of the text uses the same time division as do the maps; the rather informal writing is packed with vivid details of daily life as well as lives of great men. A reading list and an unusually good index are appended.

Fourteen short stories, all of which were published first in magazines during the past fifteen years, all of them concerned with young girl's job. Most of the stories are about a girl's first job; most of the stories have some love interest. The writing varies from adequate to pedestrian in quality; most of the plots are realistic, most of the characterization is shallow.

A read-aloud book with a verse text that describes some of the animals whose protective coloration makes them hard to see; the soft and attractive illustrations are printed on palest green. The text carries through the seasons of the year, as a small girl conveys her enjoyment of the outdoor world. Rhyme and rhythm are good; text and illustrations are well-matched.

Ad Foster, Doris Van Liew. A Pocketful of Seasons; illus. by Talivaldis Stubis. Lothrop, 1961. 33p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.75 net.
Very attractively illustrated, a read-aloud book about the seasons. The text gives some impressions of each season and describes, at each time of year, a small boy named Andy who is gathering for his pocket collection small seasonal treasures . . . a nut, a pebble, a flower, etc. The writing is quiet and adequate, although the changes from present tense in referring to the season to past tense in referring to Andy are a bit obtrusive, since the text is continuous.

NR Fox, Charles Philip. Mr. Stripes the Gopher; story and photographs by Charles Philip Fox. Reilly and Lee, 1962. 28p. (Easy to Read Photo Series). $2.75.
The photographs are the best part of this oversize book for beginning independent readers. The text gives information about the habits of gophers, but it is poorly written and seems to be adapted to the photographs: for example, accompanying a picture of a fox (alone) is the text that refers to the fact that Mr. Stripes sees the fox, but the fox does not see Mr. Stripes. The text has an occasional jarring change of tense: "The big bird is a hawk. He eats gophers. The gophers were afraid. They stood still."

An exciting account of Frémont's expedition of 1848, told in lively narrative style and centering on the role of fourteen-year-old Ted McNabb, whose uncle had taken the boy along. The story, based on letters and journals of members of the expedition, is vivid in its description of the bitter cold, the encounters with Indians, and the well-delineated colorful characters. Some of the passages about encounters with buffalo and some of the descriptions of the outdoor scenes are remarkably evocative without being overwritten or lurid.

Few of the pages in this book carry any text; a child is sent on an errand by his mother, and his background is shown in the illustrations, filled with signs of all kinds. The signs of stores and streets are drawn in varied sizes and styles; although the words themselves are—many of them—too difficult for beginning readers, the book will be useful as supplementary material for a curricular unit on neighborhood and community life. The most useful aspect of the book is that it capitalizes on actual pre-reading experiences of importance to children.


A rather pedestrian and purposive story about the formation of a Brownie troop, with sentimental overtones. Although her best friend, Karen, was in the troop, Babs didn't want to give up her riding; then she became sulky because Karen was so friendly with Holly, who was confined to a wheelchair. The story ends with everybody on good terms, and with Holly well and planning to join the Brownie troop. The story has good developmental values, but the plot is only a thin device for information about Brownie practices; the book will serve as additional material for Girl Scout Week.

Ad Hammond, Winifred G. *Rice; Food for a Hungry World*; illus. with photographs. 5-7 Coward-McCann, 1961. 160p. $3.50.

A book that explores many facets of one of the most important of the world's crops. The author describes ancient and modern methods of planting, diverse methods of harvesting and distribution, and problems and solutions in rice production. Medical research and some of the folklore and religious beliefs about rice are also discussed. Photographs are clear; an index is appended. The text is weakened by poor organization of the material, and by the fictionalized incidents about Mr. Brown, Mrs. Ahmad, Mr. Tanaka, etc.


A delightful book for beginning independent readers, with beguiling and humorous illustrations. Problem: what to give mother for her birthday? Small Peter takes his still smaller brother Davy to the shops to find something for ten cents. Their excursions are realistic, Davy's behavior is entertaining, and the conversation captures remarkably the ingenuous childlike attitude.


A read-aloud book meant as an introduction to geography; the text seems too extensive for the age level, since it goes on from the analogy between the-child-in-the-bed-in-the-room to the-town-in-the-state-in-the-country and thence to such topics as rivers, islands, continents, countries, etc. Occasional references imply a knowledge probably not held at this level: for example, in discussing the fact that an island can be any size, the example given is "... Islands come in every size from as big as Newfoundland or England to tiny islands just big enough to sit down on." Some of the stylized illustrations are very attractive but not always informative: a double-page spread picture of an old sailing vessel adds little to the text about seas, oceans, and lakes.

Ad Hodges, Margaret. *A Club Against Keats*; illus. by Rick Schreiter. Dial, 1962. 4-5 64p. $2.75.

Annoyed by the teasing of Keats, the boy next door, the five girls having a meeting
decided to have an anti-Keats club. As they planned their play "Cinderella," the girls found they needed a boy's help with sets... then, little by little, Keats was working on props, script, tickets—he even took a part. He refused an invitation to join the club, but his grateful friends renamed their group "The Keats Club." The story gets off to a slow start, but gains pace; the details of a do-it-yourself production of "Cinderella" are lightly humorous, realistic, and—perhaps by unobtrusive intent—quite useful.

R Honour, Alal. Secrets of Minos; Sir Arthur Evans' Discoveries at Crete; illus. 7-9 with photographs and line drawings. Whittlesey House, 1961. 189p. $3.25. A very good biography of the man whose work in Crete came after he had won a reputation as an expert on the Balkans and had served as Honorable Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford. After years of excursion trips to Greece and Crete, Evans began work on a dig at Knossos in 1900; expecting that the work might take a year, he then spent forty years in excavating a site the importance and magnitude of which even he had never dreamed. Although the emphasis in the book is on the archeological milestone of unveiling the Minoan culture, the author gives enough material about Evans' personal life so that book has balance. A section of interesting photographs is bound into the book; an index is appended.

R Hough, Richard Alexander, ed. Great Auto Races; illus. with photographs and 9-9 maps. Harper, 1961. 197p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.19 net. An anthology of selected material about international automobile racing; some of the material is written by drivers, some of the selections have been excerpted from previously published material. The quality of the writing is variable, but the subject is invariably dramatic. There are enough statistics and technical details in the book to indicate that the best audience is the already-interested race fan. Historical notes and official records are included, a section of photographs is bound into the book, and an index is appended.

M Johnson, Winifred. Londi. Westminster, 1962. 176p. $2.95. 7-9 Making friends at a new school wasn't as hard as Londi had thought it would be; she and Jean, another sophomore, had immediate rapport. She found Casey, Jean's brother, the most attractive boy on the scene even though he was often surly or in trouble. This is a fairly patterned novel of adjustment to a new school and new peer group. Londi has the usual adolescent problems of competition from other girls, making decisions about whether or not to neck and to go steady, being a good sport toward a tennis rival who is a poor sport. She contributes toward Casey's adjustment, but only to a credible extent. There is imbalance in Londi's story because there is little reference to her school work; the familial situation is touched on, but the emphasis is on dates, friendships, and tennis.

M Kendall, Lace. The Secret Lions; illus. by Douglas Howland. Coward-McCann, 1962. 45p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.52 net. Orphaned on a California hillside, Young Lion was left to forage for himself. Once, hungry, he ventured into the valley below and was almost shot. One day he met a young lioness and they mated and raised a family. The text seems somewhat overextended, since it treats chiefly of the lion's experiences in finding food. There is one apparent contradiction in the book: "When they (hunters) went away, Young Lion was the only mountain lion left." and "The other young lion (his mate) crouched low too." Good background, but the book is too static as narrative, and does not give comprehensive enough treatment as informational material.
R Kirchgessner, Maria. *High Challenge*; tr. from the German by Joyce Emerson. Harcourt, 1962. 287p. $3.50.
First published in Germany in 1957, a junior novel about four girls in high school who have as a project the rehabilitation of an abandoned mountain hut. The girls seek for ways in which to earn money enough to repair and furnish their retreat, and each of them has her own method and her own problems. The characters are nicely differentiated, the solutions are realistic; the author has been particularly skillful in constructing a story which moves back and forth from episodes about each girl alone to episodes that concern the whole group. The translation is unusually good: fluent and idiomatic.

Two children living in a wealthy English Manor house spend the day impatiently waiting for an audience with Queen Elizabeth. Like the delightful *One Day in Ancient Rome*, the book is in second person; it has, also, the wonderfully detailed and intricate line drawings of Mr. Snyder, and the writing uses the same technique of incorporation of unfamiliar words in a context that makes them quite easily comprehensible. The result is not quite as gratifying here as in the previous book, perhaps because the use of Latin there demanded simplicity of context; at any rate, the text here seems rather heavily saturated with ornate language.

NR Knight, David C. *Science ABC*; pictures by Gustav Schrotter. Watts, 1962. 54p. 5-7 yrs. $1.50.
A very small book that combines the letters of the alphabet with a rather random selection of some science material and some informational material that is not scientific. The read-aloud factual material is on one page, a pedestrian illustration on the facing page; each page of text gives the letter and capitalizes that letter whenever it occurs at the beginning of a word on the page. For example, "B is a Bridge/ Engineers Build Bridges Big and strong. Bridges lead over rivers and Bays." It is confusing when the text capitalizes other letters, as it does for N: "N is Newspapers/ People read Newspapers/ To find out what's New. Newspapers are Printed On Printing Presses."

A read-aloud book in a vein of light-hearted nonsense, describing a day in the life of a busy doctor. Dr. Dick has the hiccups, and each patient he visits tries his own home remedy; he goes to the hospital in an ambulance, cures himself, and goes off to a new patient. Slight but amusing.

An entertaining read-aloud book that describes some sounds in a child's day, with a page of rhyming text facing a page of illustration, alternating with a double-page spread on which appear the noises appropriate to that point in the story. From the sound of John's alarm clock shattering the quiet to the quiet (a repetition of text) of the night, there is the appeal of familiar daily events. The pages representing noises are well done: even the child who cannot read will see the point of the huge black letters when the page is turned, startling as is the sound of an alarm.

A well-organized and well-written book about the evolution of animal species, including the human. The author, a high-school teacher of biology and physics, writes with simplicity and lucidity; without digressing he makes illuminating comments; for example, in discussing the adaptation and survival of primates he says, "Powerful long legs for fast running are useful only in open country. Intelligent cooperation is useful anywhere." An extensive relative index is appended.


A paperback collection of jokes, cartoons, anecdotes, puns, limericks, etcetera; some of the material is divided into such forms, some sections are related to a situation, such as classroom or driving. There is very little in the book that is anything but the most obvious low-grade humor; the book seems better fitted for the middle-grade child than for the adolescent for whom it is intended.


Ten favorite nursery tales, retold competently. The illustrations are adequate, but neither text nor illustrations are unusual. Included in the volume are "Jack and the Beanstalk," "The Three Bears," "Cinderella," "The Golden Goose," "Little Red Riding Hood," "The Sleeping Beauty," "Tom Tit Tot," "Puss in Boots," "Tom Thumb," and "The Three Little Pigs." Although the components of such a collection are available in many other collections and other versions, the book will be useful where additional copies are needed. This edition may also be used by older children for independent reading.


A small read-aloud book, attractively illustrated by Blegvad’s distinctive line drawings. In flowing and rhythmic prose, a child ponders imaginatively some of the small things he finds and their infinite possibilities. A feather—a key—a rubber band—an old box. The writing is gentle and evocative; it has a static quality that is partly due to the fact that there is little variation in the treatment.


A rather cursory review of the development of automobiles; the first half of the book traces the history of models and improvements from the first car (possibly) made in the eighteenth century, to the domestic and foreign cars of today; the second part of the book describes different kinds of races and racing cars. Each page of text (one or two paragraphs) has an illustration on the facing page. The writing is adequate, although it gives not a great deal of information and occasionally digresses. There is no index or table of contents. The book does not attempt to be comprehensive, but to highlight changes; there is too little text for the automobile fan, and the most useful part of the book will probably be the photographs.

R Margolis, Ellen.  *Idy the Fox-Chasing Cow and Other Stories*; illus. by Kurt Werth. World, 1962. 64p. $2.95.

Seven local tales from the Ohio region, with a preface by the author that lists sources for the retellings. Most of the folktales are of the "noodle" variety; the humor and the folk dialect make the collection useful as a source for storytelling; dialogue is especially good.
M Marino, Dorothy (Bronson). *Buzzy Bear and the Rainbow*. Watts, 1962. 31p. 4-6 yrs. illus. $2.95.

A read-aloud picture book about the impulsive cub who almost ran away from home in *Buzzy Bear Goes South*. Here he is told by a bird that there is supposed to be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow; his father points out that they don't need gold, and several animals en route remind him that this is only a fable. Finally Buzzy fills his container with "gold," appearing at the dinner table with a welcome pot of honey. Slight in content and rather slow of pace, with a rather worn plot; there may be some confusion caused by the fact that each time Buzzy gets to the spot where he saw the end of the rainbow, he sees that it is somewhere else.


In narrative framework, a description of the life cycle and living habits of the kangaroo rat. Skippy was one of a litter of three; by the time he was old enough to mate, the other two had fallen victim to desert enemies. When his mother left the castle (a complicated series of burrows in the sand) Skippy, after a period of living alone, found a queen. The fictionalization is used sparingly; information about other forms of animal life in the desert is introduced unobtrusively; illustrations are good. The book is weak only in its writing style, which is rather dry and slow-paced.


With limited vocabulary for beginning independent readers, a slight story about a quiet man who had a quiet parrot. A small boy taught the parrot to talk and he was delighted when he was given the parrot, since it had now become too noisy for Mr. Bumble, the owner. The illustrations are not outstanding, but have some vivacity; the text is rather abrupt in style and inconsequential in plot but has some humor.


Nacho, an Argentine boy of eleven, wanted to be a gaucho just like the grandfather with whom he lived; grandfather, however, thought that the day of the gaucho was over as the pampas became more populated. Nacho had made a pet of a small burrowing rodent, Jovita; when the wheat crop was destroyed by the vizcachas (the rodents), Nacho found in Jovita's burrow enough in jewelry to be sent away to go to school. Good background, but with little action, a contrived ending, and a static quality in the writing style; Nacho and his grandfather are interesting because of their situation, but they are given little individual personality.


An excellent biography: objective in tone, comprehensive in scope, and well-organized. The forceful personality of Roosevelt is vividly evoked; his shortcomings are described with candor and his vigor with restraint; other people in his life—both personal and political—are treated with equal perception. The author succeeds in capturing the atmosphere of some of the periods of background: the quiet ease of inherited wealth of the large Roosevelt clan, the turmoil of Tammany fights, the bitterness of the depression, and the tension of the war years during both world wars. A bibliography and an index are appended.

A story of ninth-century Vikings, with most of the action set in Denmark. Beorn, heir to his father's throne, is an arrogant boy of twelve; he is taught humility by an older warrior. His Irish captive, Ness, who is his own age, rejoices when Beorn is humbled—not with hostility but with affection for the master who has become her friend. A devout Christian, Ness is happy when, after Beorn and his outcast followers have migrated to Ireland, the lad embraces Christianity. The background is convincing, the plot is developed with pace and suspense. Characterization is good; the writing is smooth, but a little heavy.

An oversize book in handsome format, containing a dozen tales; the illustrations are elaborate and some are attractive, but many of the characters in the pictures do not really look Chinese. The book is heavy enough to be hard to handle, and there are no sources given for the stories. The quality of the translation is quite pedestrian, and the book does not compare favorably with the volumes by Lim and Carpenter.

R Poole, Lynn. Weird and Wonderful Ants; by Lynn and Gray Poole; illus. by 6-9 R. F. Peterson. Obolensky, 1961. 118p. $3.50.
A good book on the ubiquitous insects with marvelously intricate behavior patterns and highly specialized skills. The authors discuss first the anatomy of the ant and the structure of the colony; most of the chapter division is by specialized function: bankers (honey hoarders), herders, fighters, etc. Although the straightforward writing is rather dry, the material itself is so colorful that the restraint is an asset.

An absorbing book, informative and lively; the writing is candid and objective, the many illustrations are clearly reproduced. Appended are a chronological list of events in Dickens' life, a series of notes on the pictures within the book, and an index of names. The book would be valuable for the illustrations alone; it would be a wonderfully stimulating biography were it without illustration.

A biography of Ben-Gurion that gives good information about the subject and about the state of Israel, but is weakened by an awkward writing style: the text seems to be written down to the audience and is abrupt—often choppy—in construction. The forceful personality and the dedication of the biographee emerge quite vividly, although the treatment of him by the author is somewhat adulatory. Much of the value of the book lies in the history it gives of the events preceding the formation of the state of Israel and of the military and economic problems that ensued; the book follows Ben Gurion's career up to 1958 and the celebration of Israel's tenth anniversary. This may be a useful book for slow readers in high school, where the need for sources for biography reports exists.

A read-aloud picture book with a good theme, rather slow-moving but light in quality. A woman decided to throw out all the old junk in her house; passersby picked up one article after another: some small girls took the pickle jars to use as vases, an old woman took the cups to use for growing chives on her window-sill, even the stuffing from an old cushion was used by a bird for lining its nest. The woman wondered where her junk had gone, but she didn't give it too much thought, just went on
living happily in her clean house. A good idea, but a weak ending; there is a misuse of color to create design on one double-page spread in which the text refers to three children using purple paint, but the illustrations show the girls working with other colors.

M Stanovsky, Vladislav, ed. The Fairy Tale Tree: Stories from all over the 4-6 World; retold by Vladislav Stanovsky and Jan Vladislav; tr. by Jean Layton; illus. by Stanislav Kolibal. Putnam, 1961. 452p. $4.95. A profusely illustrated collection of 180 stories from all over the world; the source (national) is quoted in a listing at the back of the book. Neither in this list nor on the page of the text are authors cited. The list is misleadingly labeled "index" whereas it is actually a table of contents; there is no alphabetical index. The writing style is, at any rate in translation—quite pedestrian—so that there is little of value to compensate for the deficiencies of the arrangement of material.

NR Stearns, Monroe. Albert and his Adventures; based on a story by Marlene K-2 Reidel; pictures by Marlene Reidel. Bobbs-Merrill, 1961. 32p. $3.50. Retold in verse from a story written in German by Marlene Reidel, an oversize read-aloud picture book. Albert, an only child, plays by himself and daydreams. He observes nature, he has unlikely adventures amid the believable ones. The rhyming is faulty and contrived, the metre jarringly awkward. An example: "Especially since, when he goes to school/ The other children ridicule/ Him so for his dreamy ways, he/ Cries because they name him 'Daze-y.'" An example of contrivance and poor rhyming "Many a time when he least expected,/ He suddenly found himself project-ed/ Like a missile intercontinental,/ For the goat thought Albert nonessential./ And this time, Albert's interruption/ Sent the goat into fierce eruption."

NR Steiner, Stan. The Last Horse; with paintings by Beatien Yazz. Macmillan, 2-3 1961. 71p. $3. A long and rather meandering story of a small Navajo boy and his horse. Little No Feather's father had long resisted progress and was laughed at by the uncles because he preferred horses to trucks. When he finally gave in and bought a pick-up, he told his son they would get rid of the boy's beloved old horse. Little No Feather ran away, but came back after his horse had saved the boy's life by killing a mountain lion. All was forgiven and father decided to use both horse and truck. The book opens with a description of some school experiences, a subject then dropped for the real theme. There is an interpolated section on wild horses and how they were tamed. The combination of such digression and choppy writing style is unfortunate; the book is further weakened by the attribution of near-human mental processes to the horse.

M Strong, Charles Stanley. The King Ram. Day, 1961. 192p. (Your Fair Land 6-8 Series). $3.50. A story of wild life and of game poachers set in Mt. McKinley National Park; a book that is weaker than others in the series of books about our national parks. There is some value in the information given about wild life in Alaska, but the fictional framework of the story seems contrived and forced. Gib Rodman and Ethel Callan are adolescents who become involved with poachers who are after Dall sheep; the orphan ram they have rescued at one point saves them—held at gunpoint by a poacher—by rushing the poacher on command. An author's note giving information about the park area is appended.

A junior novel about an adolescent girl who had difficulty in conforming to socially acceptable patterns because she felt rejected by her parents. A good artist, Dulcy was happy when she was encouraged by the art teacher at a private school; she had dreaded the change after expulsion from public school. She was again expelled because of a misdemeanor. Then Dulcy fell in love during vacation; again her own behavior brought disappointment. Only after her date was killed in an accident did Dulcy mature. Her new insight is gained too rapidly to be realistic, and it is stated at the end of the story, so that there is no corroboration of a change. While there is some interest in the presentation of an adolescent with a pattern of hostility, the development of the plot is not far from formula, and the writing is fragmented by episodic treatment.

R Thayer, Jane. Andy's Square Blue Animal; pictures by Meg Wohlberg. Morrow, 1962. 48p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.78 net. First published in 1954 as a magazine story entitled "Andy's Secret Animal." The very large print will facilitate independent reading for some second-graders, but the book will probably be used chiefly for reading aloud to younger children. It is delightful treatment of a child's imaginative play and a mother's imaginative handling of her child. Andy, having declared he saw a square blue animal, is obliged to elaborate on the theme when his mother goes him one better; she teases him into inventing details until he believes that she knows of some real square blue creature. When mother sees that he has become slightly uneasy, she gently puts things right.

Ad Thompson, Vivian Laubach. The Horse That Liked Sandwiches; illus. by Aliki. 2-3 Putnam, 1962. 43p. (See and Read Storybooks). Trade ed. $2.; Library ed. $2.19 net. For beginning independent readers, and usable for reading aloud to younger children, a rather slight nonsense story. After getting his owner into trouble with several people because of his preference for sandwiches, Mario—a quite engaging horse—ate the lunch of the Police Chief even as the complaints against him were being investigated. His owner promised reparations, satisfying everybody; in an ending that is weak because it is nonsequential, Mario pulls a wagonload of children to a picnic, where he gets all the sandwiches he wants. Illustrations are gay and attractive, with facing pages alternating color and black and white. The writing has a light and lively humor.

R Trask, Margaret Pope. Three for Treasure; illus. by Paul Frame. Crowell, 3-5 1962. 115p. $2.75. A very pleasant story written in an easy style, with realistic plot and characters. Danny and Lissa were dismayed to find six-year-old Martin at the farm when they went to visit their grandparents. But Martin turned out to be a rather nice little boy, and Lissa shared her birthday with him after he helped her out of a tight spot. The treasure of the title is an old doll and a tea set which the children dig up on directions from the former owner. No mystery, no melodrama—just three children having a normal, happy vacation.

M Ungerer, Tomi. The Three Robbers. Atheneum, 1962. 36p. illus. $3.50. K-2 An oversize read-aloud picture book with slight text and handsome illustrations. Three robbers preyed on carriages (there is no setting of time in the text) and stored their loot in a mountain cave. One day the carriage held nothing but a little girl named Tiffany, so they took her. When she saw their riches, Tiffany asked "What is all this for?" The robbers choked, spluttered, and reformed; they gathered up abandoned children and bought a castle for them. The children grew up, married, built houses around the castle, and established a village. The story is weakened by the rapidity of
the contrast between the slow pace of events in the first part of the book and the rapid survey of events in the second part is quite jarring. Some of the illustrations are gloomy, some are humorous, and some are startlingly bold and effective.

Ad Varley, Dimitry. The Whirly Bird; illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Knopf, K-2 1961. 28p. $3. Beautifully illustrated by drawings that are accurate in detail and soft in technique, a read-aloud book about a baby robin. Save for the fact that the robins are accredited with human thoughts and with language, the details of the story are realistic. A baby robin falls from the nest; he is found and cared for gently by a little girl. When the bird is strong enough, the girl helps him take flight. Accustomed to fly straight up by repeated attempts to escape from his carton, the robin flies, like a helicopter—straight up even when he is free.

M Wakeman, Norman Hammond. Wonders of the World Between the Tides; illus. 5-7 with photographs by the author. Dodd, 1961. 63p. $2.95. A book about the forms of marine life found in tidal areas, with a text that gives a considerable amount of accurate information but has several weaknesses. The material is loosely organized; there is an occasional arch interpolation ("These are long words, but if you go at them slowly and sort of chant them, you will find that it is fun to be able to roll them off your tongue. You will impress your friends no end, too!"); and the author deviates in some instances from the subject by discussing deep-sea creatures like the sperm whale. Photographic reproduction is of variable quality. An index is appended.

R Warner, Edythe Records. The Tigers of Como Zoo; written and illus. by 4-7 Edythe Records Warner. Viking, 1961. 93p. $2.50. Meticulously illustrated, a story about the litter of three Siberian tigers born at the St. Paul zoo; the three males were kept alive after several other litters had died, and the description of the patient and devoted care of the cubs by zoo personnel is impressive. The writing style is straightforward, but is permeated with such appreciation of incident and such an affection for animals that it has a great deal of vitality despite its restraint.

Ad Watson, Aldren Auld. My Garden Grows; written and illus. by Aldren A. Watson. Viking, 1962. 32p. $2.50. yrs. A description of the plants in a vegetable garden, told in first person in a narrative framework. The book gives quite a bit of information about plants and planting, and the illustrations are precise and informative. The writing is rather informal but a bit heavy in content for reading aloud to small children; for children old enough to read the book independently, the occasional jocose note seems a bit arch.

M Wood, James Playsted. The Elephant in the Barn; pictures by Leonard Kessler. Harper, K-2 1961. 115p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net. A fanciful book about an elephant who belonged to a family with three small children; the story is episodic in treatment, three of the six of the chapters having been previously published in a magazine as short stories. There is some humor in the characterization of the elephant, who is self-satisfied and rather arrogant in his conversation, but the writing seems self-conscious, drawn out, and quite dull for reading aloud.
Useful information, and well-organized. The illustrations are pedestrian in technique, but supplement the material in the text quite adequately. The book is weakened by the rather dull and choppy writing style. The customs and living patterns of Pacific Northwest Indians are described by a schoolgirl living on a reservation on the Pacific coast; not until the close of the book is there a reference to the Chinook language, references up to that point being rather general. The strong aspect of the book is in the completely accepting attitude of the child; she is proud of, and interested in, her heritage. She is quite simply an American and an Indian.

Keery's family had little money, so he shouldn't have expected a horse for his tenth birthday, but he did. What he received was a dollar. After much exploration of possibilities, he bought baby ducklings for his little brother; some time later he traded the ducks for his long-desired horse. Good writing style, and excellent relationships within a warm and realistic family. The delineation of the main characters is very good, but some of the minor characters are exaggeratedly overdrawn. The weakest aspect of the book is in the plot development, which depends for its successful outcome on the fact that Keery's offer of "ten bucks" is mistakenly heard as "ten ducks." The gypsies who make the trade are unsympathetically portrayed, save for the fact that one of them is understanding about Keery's desire to save the one duck that has become his pet.

Another in the series of art instruction books; again a volume which elaborates on a few ideas and is not truly instructive. Mr. Zaidenberg makes some suggestions to the amateur artist about concentrating on form and eliminating some detail, on getting "birdlike" qualities into drawing. The instructions are inadequate; the book is composed chiefly of many pages of drawings by the author-artist and some text that is non-instructive for art work, such as two pages of general information about reptiles. The vague and general nature of the instruction is typified by such comments as "These fierce, predatory tigers of the sea called sharks are full of sinuous grace as they rush through the waters. Draw the sinister menace at the same time as you draw their long beautiful lines." or, writing of the wings of birds, "Their lightness and flexibility, as well as their surprising strength, allow for these varied uses. Try to indicate those virtues in your drawings of wings."

A read-aloud picture book, illustrated with lively but ornate pictures. The hero of this animal fantasy is a young octopus; the details of the rather slight story are excessively unrealistic, but do not achieve the effect of fanciful humor with any success. Jeremiah's mother has lost eight oranges from her bag of groceries, and the little octopus goes off to recover the property. He stops to play ball with some woodchucks, sees a bear juggling, etc., picking up oranges in each place. A little girl suggests that he roll home, since all eight arms are holding oranges. So he does. Of all the many unnatural details in the story (Jeremiah riding a dolphin in swimsuit and cap, the bear smoking a cigar, an octopus drinking orange juice) the most obtrusive is the repeated one—in text and illustration—that shows two of the eight octopus arms separated from the other six by position, so that they are used as are human arms and hands.
Ad Zim, Herbert Spencer. *The Universe*; illus. by Gustav Schrotter. Morrow, 4-6 1961. 64p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.78 net.

In continuous text, a profusely illustrated book about the universe. The first part of the text reviews the ideas that were held by various peoples in early theorizing about the nature of the universe, and of modern discoveries in astronomy. Throughout the text, the author notes the increasingly large and complex instruments that are used in obtaining knowledge about the universe. Because of the nature of the material, the scope of subject, and the lack of division in the text, the book seems heavy and turgid in presentation. There is, however, a great deal of accurate and interesting information given.


Corky and Pete have won in a contest a free ride in a space ship, and their trip with a dog and cat is the basis for a story about the first children to ride in outer space. Not presented in the style of a fantasy, the idea of children sent out alone is too improbable to be palatable; the scientific details are rather haphazard, with such phenomena as weightlessness, inertia, re-entry, etc. unexplained. Illustrations are mediocre; the book has too little plot to be a good story and too little information to be a good first space book.


His sister Jane had read the story of the three bears to Jack so many times that he knew the book by heart. What he wanted was to see real bears, alive. His Uncle Dan promised to take the children to a national park in the summer, and after months of waiting, the three went off. In all they saw ten bears. The story gives some information, it has good familial relationships, and there is an occasional touch of humor. However, the plot is slight and seems over-extended, and the writing style is rather laborious and pedestrian.

M Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). *The Man with the Purple Eyes*; illus. by Joe Laster. Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 60p. $2.50.

A fanciful story about a small girl who loves flowers, and about her meeting with a man whose gift of a seed saves the life of Anna's sick father by the magical emanation of the bloom. Father tells Anna the legend of the god of the wildflowers; when he is well they move back to the country and Anna plants a sprig of the flower which, overnight, covers the hillside so that a lavender light is reflected into the room. For the most part, the vocabulary in this story is not difficult, but the appeal would be greater to younger children; some of the passages are very long and the writing is slightly precious. A serious weakness in the story is that it makes too much of the drabness of the city.
Reading for Parents


Childhood Education. March 1962 issue on the theme of "Living With Books."


Fisher, Margery. Intent Upon Reading. Watts, 1962. 332p. $4.95. A 20% discount has been announced in the Calendar of the Children's Book Council if remittance is enclosed with order.


Hanson, Earl. "Let's Use Common Sense to End the Reading War." NEA Journal, February 1962, pp. 41-44.


Parent's Magazine. February 1962 issue devoted to the subject of education.


