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



*February 1962 · Vol. XV · No. 6*

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

February, 1962

Number 6

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

- R     American Heritage Magazine. *The California Gold Rush*; by the editors of  
7-     American Heritage Magazine; narrative by Ralph K. Andrist. *American  
Heritage*, 1961. 153p. illus. (*American Heritage Junior Library Series.*)  
Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Another excellent volume in the impressive series of books on various aspects of the American historical scene. Daguerrotypes and old prints are profusely and handsomely reproduced to illustrate the dramatic story of the gold rush. Fascinating material, organized by such topics as the boom towns, the effect of the gold rush on San Francisco, the overseas route to California, rough justice in the camps, etc. An index, a bibliography and a reading list, and a listing of picture credits are appended.

- R     American Heritage Magazine. *The Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony*; by the edi-  
7-     tors of American Heritage Magazine; narrative by Feenie Ziner; in con-  
sultation with George F. Willison. *American Heritage*, 1961. 153p. (*Amer-  
ican Heritage Junior Library Series.*) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79  
net.

A fine presentation of the background for, and the history of, the Pilgrim revolt and migration. Especially good in its detailed explanation of the religious turmoil that obtained in England, the text moves carefully through the years in Holland and the preparation for the voyage to the New World. The problems of the Plymouth Colony, the men who were instrumental in its development, the relationships with Indians, with England, and with sister colonies are vividly described. The illustrations are profuse and, as in the other books in this series, the quality of reproduction (especially of portraits) is unusual. An index, a brief reading list, a bibliography, and a list of credits for the pictures are appended.

- R     Ames, Gerald. *The Giant Golden Book of Biology*; An Introduction to the Sci-  
6-10   ence of Life; by Gerald Ames and Rose Wyler; illus. by Charles Harper.  
Golden Press, 1961. 99p. (*Giant Golden Books.*) Trade ed. \$3.95; Li-  
brary ed. \$3.99 net.

An oversize book, profusely and handsomely illustrated. Some of the drawings, because of a stylized technique, are impressionistic rather than realistic, but none of the illustrations give erroneous impressions. The scope of the book is comprehensive, the vocabulary as simplified as is consistent with full and scientific explanation; for example, the pseudopod of the amoeba is referred to only as a false foot, and ecological situations are described without the use of the word itself. The organization of material is good, the approach is straightforward. Because so much material is covered, no topic is explored deeply; human reproduction is covered in one page, mutation in less. The book gives, however, a broad and accurate review of biological knowledge for one unacquainted with the field. An index is appended.

R Andersen, Hans Christian. Thumbelina; tr. by R. P. Keigwin; illus. by  
3-5 Adrienne Adams. Scribner, 1961. 56p. \$3.50.

An enchantingly illustrated edition of the classic fairy tale. The soft, bright tones and delicate lines of the pictures are completely appropriate for the gentle story of the tiny creature, born in a tulip bud, who became queen of all flowers.

R Arnold, Pauline. Clothes and Cloth; America's Apparel Business; by Pauline  
8- Arnold and Percival White; illus. by Paul Davis. Holiday House, 1961.  
355p. \$4.50.

A comprehensive, detailed report on the clothing business, extensively indexed and written in a crisp but straightforward style that is neither formal nor popularized. An interesting first section discusses the reasons clothes are worn, national costumes and the influences upon them (such as climate and tradition), and the factors that affect the American pattern. The second part of the book describes developments in manufacturing and in the labor market, including labor organization; the next section discusses fashion. Succeeding sections deal with raw materials, with the actual processes of manufacture, and with vocational opportunities in the clothing industry. In a brief final portion of this most useful book, the authors predict some of the future changes in manufacturing, informality in fashion, and world-wide conformity of dress.

R Ball, Zachary. Kep. Holiday House, 1961. 207p. \$2.95.  
7-10

Having lost his mother, Kep was completely and tragically bereft when he shot his father accidentally while hunting. Reluctantly he agreed to the minister's suggestion that he be adopted by a couple in another town who had lost their only child. But Kep found that his new mother was morbidly preserving her sorrow and would have nothing to do with him; he missed the outdoor life he'd known and he was unhappy at school. Befriended by an understanding older man who was the town pariah, Kep patiently accepted the situation, which changed only when his illness drove his foster mother to realize that she had come to love the boy despite herself. A moving and perceptive book, although a bit sentimental; the denouement verges on melodrama but is acceptable psychologically because the mother had been through the crisis of fatal illness with her own child.

NR Barker, Melvern J. Shipshape Boy. Scribner, 1961. 30p. illus. \$2.95.  
K-2

A read-aloud picture book with pedestrian illustrations. Little Tom wanted a dog, and was told by his father, the tugboat captain, that he could have one when he was "shipshape." One day the captain of a towed liner looked over the tug, and gave little Tom a puppy that had stowed away; father said he could keep the dog because he was now a shipshape boy. The definition of shipshape is orderly, and it may confuse children to hear that it means "to know all about boats." The story is slight, the ending is pat, the style is static. Since the book is not fanciful, it strains credulity to have a small boy steering the tugboat as it moves through the harbor to tow the liner.

R Beeler, Nelson Frederick. Experiments in Sound; illus. by George Giusti.  
6-10 Crowell, 1961. 130p. \$2.95.

Straightforward in style and authoritatively written, a good book about acoustics; included in the text are many suggestions for home demonstrations and simple experiments. Chapters deal with such topics as the way sound travels, the Doppler effect, musical instruments, sound absorption, musical chords and mathematics. Illustrations are adequate, the index is very good, and a brief list of suggestions for further reading is included.

R Belting, Natalia Maree. Elves and Ellefolk; Tales of the Little People; illus. 4-6 by Gordon Laite. Holt, 1961. 94p. \$3.

An excellent retelling of fifteen folk tales, each from a different country and all of them about Little People, although the names for the creatures differ. The writing has true folk flavor, with the phrasing subtly adapted to the national origin. A useful source for story telling as well as for reading aloud.

R Belting, Natalia Maree. The Long-Tailed Bear; And Other Indian Legends; 2-4 illus. by Louis F. Cary. Bobbs-Merrill, 1961. 96p. \$2.95.

A collection of animal legends, retold from the folklore of many Indian tribes. Each of the brief twenty-two stories has a note on the tribal source; each tribe is identified in a sentence or two in the author's listing preceding the text. Short sentences and large print are appropriate for the intended audience, yet the folk style is maintained. A very good collection, useful as a source for storytelling. A brief bibliography is appended, citing titles for more information about the Indian tribes.

Ad Berna, Paul. The Knights of King Midas; illus. by Brian Wildsmith. Pantheon 6-8 Books, 1961. 190p. \$3.

Published in France in 1958 under the title Millionnaires en Herbe, and retaining vitality and sophistication in translation. An imaginative and precocious gang of children in a small coastal town bend their efforts toward raising a large sum of money; the wealth is to be used to put up cottages for a group of old people who will otherwise be evicted from the site they love. The children's tenacity and their various adventures are not completely believable—especially the handy quiz show that comes just before the deadline, and in which one of the boys wins over a million francs—but the story has enough pace, flavor, and humor to compensate for this.

M Best, Herbert. Bright Hunter of the Skies; illus. by Bernarda Bryson. 6-9 Macmillan, 1961. 164p. \$3.50.

A book about falconry, with only the slightest of plots as a vehicle for detailed information about that art. The first chapter describes an incident in which his skill at falconry saves Frederick II from assassination; the remainder of the book tells of a waif whose skill at training and flying birds eventually lead him to the Emperor's castle; at the close of the book Jan meets the Emperor and becomes a royal falconer. Interesting as the material about falconry is, it is not well organized; the story line is weak; the book would be stronger were the fictional framework omitted or given more importance.

R Bloch, Marie Halun. The Dollhouse Story; pictures by Walter Erhard. Walck, 3-5 1961. 63p. Trade ed. \$3.00; Library ed. \$2.25 net.

A delightful story about a dollhouse family; Papa, Trilby, and Mrs. Pumpnickel are neglected because their owner is too old to play with them. Their lives are made unpleasant by Cat, who upsets their belongings when he crawls through their home. Trilby, leaving the dollhouse for the first time, is found in the garden; realizing that her dolls are unused, Ellen gives the dollhouse to Jane, her younger cousin, and the book closes with an entertaining episode in which Jane pretends a party with her new acquisitions. Written in a light and humorous style, the story is particularly successful in keeping the fantasy world of the talking toys apart from the realistic level when people enter the scene.

R Borden, Charles A. South Sea Islands. Macrae, 1961. 256p. illus. \$4.50. 9-

A detailed, informative, and well-written book. The first chapter, giving background material on the peoples of the South Seas, gives a broad picture; succeeding chapters on large areas such as French Oceania are divided into sections on separate islands

or groups of small islands. Mr. Borden writes with authority and with understanding of political and cultural aspects of the South Sea peoples; the book has the vivid details and evocation of atmosphere that come only from personal observation. A factual summary and an excellent index are appended.

Ad Buehr, Walter. The Birth of a Liner; illus. by the author. Little, 1961. 119p. 7-10 \$3.

A good book about the construction of a modern ocean liner, with alluring details about the comfort and efficiency of the accommodations. Mr. Buehr follows the planning and building of one ship—the Delftdam—through to the testing, the maiden voyage, and the imposing sample menu. The writing is variable: in some places there are succeeding paragraphs of dry statistics; in some passages the style is simple and direct description; here and there are passages that smack faintly of the commercial brochure. The index is adequate, as are the illustrations; two double-spread pages of deck diagrams are on so small a scale as to be of little value. Despite the weaknesses, the book is both useful and interesting; to the shipmad, it will probably be irresistible to the last detail of cubic feet of dry cargo space.

R Burnett, Constance (Buel). Captain John Ericsson: Father of the "Monitor." 7- Vanguard, 1960. 255p. \$3.

An excellent biography of the Swedish-American engineer who invented the "Monitor," one contribution of many in a long and brilliant career. Accepted in boyhood into the Mechanical Corps of the Swedish Navy, Ericsson was being paid for his work on the Göta Canal before he was fifteen. After serving in the army, Ericsson went to England and thence to America; over the years he worked on inventions in every field of his profession, including the construction of solar engines. The material in the book is well-organized and authoritative; the writing style is lively, the characters are vivid. A bibliography is appended.

R Campion, Nardi (Reeder). Patrick Henry; Firebrand of the Revolution; illus. 7-10 by Victor Mays. Little, 1961. 261p. \$3.75.

A lively biography about the carefree boy who taught himself law after he was married and who went on to a distinguished career and national prominence. Detailed, candid, and well-researched, the book makes the revolutionary scene vivid. A list of sources and an index are appended.

Ad Candland, Douglas K. Exploring Behavior; An Introduction to Psychology; by 10- Douglas K. Candland and James F. Campbell. Basic, 1961. 179p. illus. (Science and Discovery Series.) \$4.50.

Two psychologists describe the field of experimental psychology in a serious and rather heavy book, with many suggestions for the reader who is interested in simple home experiments and in further research. After defining the discipline and outlining methodology, the text discusses, in separate chapters, such phenomena as conditioning, memory, learned needs and drives, remembering names, and public opinion polling. The writing style is verbose in a technical sense, dry, and business-like. Short reading lists are given at the end of most of the chapters, and several indexes (mostly to do with information for the reader who wishes to pursue independent investigation), and an index are appended.

Ad Cavanna, Betty. The First Book of Wild Flowers; pictures by Page Cary. 5-9 Watts, 1961. 68p. \$1.95.

Competently written, with good general information preceding the material on the flowers themselves. Miss Cavanna explains, briefly and simply, evolution and classification; she describes floral parts and methods of reproduction. The text is divided into such areas as seasonal plants, poisonous plants, wild flower nicknames, edi-

ble plants, etc. The book closes with suggestions for starting a wildflower garden and a list of state wild flowers; a short reading list and an index are appended. Common and scientific names are given for each flower, and the descriptive paragraphs are succinctly informative. The one weakness of the book is in the fact that the illustrations (precise and accurate) are in black and white rather than in color, and are therefore less useful for the purpose of identification.

Ad Cavanah, Frances. Jenny Lind and Her Listening Cat; illus. by Paul Frame.  
3-5 Vanguard, 1961. 158p. \$2.95.

The story of Jenny Lind's childhood, based on actual events. Jenny at eight was sent by her mother to stay with a childless couple and there she acquired her first pet, a kitten to whom she often sang. Heard by the maid of a dancer at the Royal Opera House, the child was brought to sing for experts and was given professional training, making her debut as Agatha in Der Frei-Schütz at the age of seventeen. A gentle story, slightly sentimental but quite convincing; Jenny's often unhappy relationship with her mother is not glossed over; the one aspect of the family situation that is not made clear is the role of Jenny's father, whose absence is not really explained. The simplicity of the writing style and the division of text into quite short sections facilitate reading ease.

Ad Cheney, Cora. Rendezvous in Singapore; by Cora Cheney and Ben Partridge;  
5-6 illus. by Paul Galdone. Knopf, 1961. 111p. \$2.75.

A mystery story in which Link, a boy of fifteen, becomes involved with jewel thieves while waiting for his father to arrive at their Singapore hotel. Although the ending is rather lurid and Link's ingenuity and courage are a bit beyond the bounds of credibility, the story is well constructed and the background convincing. The writing style is smooth, and the beginning of the book presents a lively and realistic family picture. Were the format of the book less juvenile, it would be appropriate for somewhat older readers, since the protagonist is fifteen and the vocabulary not too simplified.

R Coolidge, Olivia E. Caesar's Gallic War. Houghton, 1961. 245p. illus. \$3.50.  
7-

Written as a companion piece to Caesar's Commentaries, a history told through the memories of Octavius, one of Caesar's officers. Although written in first person, the book has little about the narrator in it, but the device serves well to make the writing vivid and credible. Brief explanatory passages link the narrative sections, historical details are authoritative, military accounts are lucid, and the characters come alive. Solid and straightforward writing, appropriate for the period and the people; an excellent book.

R Coy, Harold. Engineers and What They Do. Watts, 1961. 186p. \$3.95.  
7-10

A competently written book about the engineering profession, useful for vocational guidance and giving a good picture of the scope and variety of engineering. The first chapters, which discuss engineering schools and job opportunities, give a great deal of information; the writing here has a somewhat popularized tone that is not found in the more sedate chapters that follow. The major part of the book is devoted to a description of the special fields within the profession. An extensive index is appended, as is a very good list of sources for career pamphlets in the field.

M Crampton, Gertrude. The Large and Growly Bear; illus. by John Miller.  
3-5 Golden Press, 1961. 30p. (Golden Beginning Readers.) Trade ed. \$1.;  
yrs. Library ed. \$1.49 net.

A brief read-aloud story about a bear who was determined to frighten somebody, but who had little success. The rabbits told him not now, they were too busy hopping, and

the moles said they were too busy making tunnels halfway to China to be frightened. Finally he was frightened when he saw another large and growly bear as he looked in the river. Slight, unoriginal, but the calm insouciance of the smaller animals may amuse small listeners. The ending of the book is weakened by the fact that the bear indicates that he knew the reflection was himself.

Ad Davis, Lavinia (Riker). Clown Dog. Doubleday, 1961. 61p. illus. \$2.75.  
3-4

A rather slow-moving story about a third-grade boy and his poodle. Clown Dog, back from the hospital after an injury, had forgotten all his tricks, and Joel had planned to participate in the circus that was to be given in his new neighborhood. Clown Dog was sneered at by the two brothers who were putting on the show, but they were later impressed when the poodle tracked down a deserted fawn; so Joel was in the circus with his dog and his fawn. There are no great weaknesses in the writing, but it is static in style and fairly routine in plot; the only unusual aspect of the book is that Joel is pictured wearing glasses.

Ad Dawson, Mitchell. The Queen of Trent; illus. by Charles Keeping. Abelard-5-6 Schuman, 1961. 172p. \$3.

The story of a brother and sister who run off to seek the Heart of England, not old enough to understand quite what that is. Stowing away on the barge belonging to their friend Ted's father, Nora and Simon are discovered and the three set ashore. The background of canal life is fascinating and the characters are vivid, although some are overdrawn. The plot becomes increasingly contrived, as the three children are kidnapped by a villain who has stolen the only samples of a new alloy to be used in computer manufacture—an alloy that, coincidentally, has been invented by Nora and Simon's father. The book has style and color, but is limited for American children by phonetic dialect; it is limited also by the fact that the small print and fairly heavy vocabulary indicate older readers than those who would be interested in protagonists as young as Nora, Simon and Ted.

R De la Mare, Walter John. Peacock Pie; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Knopf, 3-8 1961. 117p. \$3.

A handsome edition of the poems that were first published as a collection in 1913. Varied in subject, with some poems of great beauty and others of delicate humor, this is an excellent book for reading aloud as well as for independent reading. The illustrations are delightful in themselves and are beautifully appropriate in matching the mood of the poems.

R Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. The Boys' Sherlock Holmes; new and enlarged edition; arranged with introduction by Howard Haycraft. Harper, 1961. 524p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

First published in 1936, a new edition that contains some original material (A Study in Scarlet, The Sign of the Four, some factual material about the author and about the man who served as a model for the detective, and some additional material (The Hound of the Baskervilles) and a new selection of short stories). The introduction by the editor is very good, and the book an excellent one for introducing Sherlock Holmes to young people.

M Dreifus, Miriam W. Timmy Gets His Horse; illus. by Dorothy Teichman. 1-2 Putnam, 1961. 44p. (See and Read Storybooks.) Trade ed. \$2.; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

For beginning independent readers, the story of a boy who wanted only one present for his seventh birthday: a horse. His parents said Timmy was too young, but when they saw how well he had taken care of the tired horse he'd found in the woods, they

agreed that Timmy was old enough to have and ride a horse. A realistic story except for the very contrived accident of the horse in the woods: the one thing Timmy wanted, the one state in which the animal needed help, and the fact that the horse belonged to a man who had moved away and who said Timmy could keep the horse. The author has avoided the problem of expense by this device, but the story is weakened.

Ad Eberle, Irmengarde. Benjamin Franklin; Man of Science; pictures by Henry S. Gillette. Watts, 1961. 145p. \$1.95.

An adequately written biography, objective in attitude but weakened by a stilted quality in the writing, especially in the conversational passages. Factually accurate and comprehensive in treatment, but not as well written as Judson's Benjamin Franklin (Follett, 1957). An index is appended.

R Epstein, Samual. The First Book of the Ocean; by Sam and Beryl Epstein; 5-7 Pictures by Walter Buehr. Watts, 1961. 72p. \$1.95.

A good introduction to the subject, comprehensive in scope and succinct in treatment. The authors discuss waves, tides, and the different kinds of currents; the ocean floor and the instruments that measure it are explained with clarity. Marine plants are described briefly, marine animals more extensively; ocean exploration and the devices used for this are described and illustrated. A final section proposes some of the future developments of marine resources for food, minerals, irrigation, and sources of energy. An index is appended. Useful material for slow readers above seventh grade.

M Evans, Katherine. Raphael's Cat. Bobbs-Merrill, 1961. 34p. illus. \$3.50. K-2

A read-aloud story about a small Mexican boy who took his cat, Oreana, to be blessed by the priest on St. Anthony's Day. Raphael's mother made dresses for tourists, and Raphael shined shoes of tourists, so it was quite a project to save enough centavos to adorn Oreana. Oreana disappeared, returning on St. Anthony's Day with six kittens, so they were all put in a basket and blessed. A slight story written in rather pedestrian style; the Mexican background gives the book some value, but the tourist angle seems overstressed—it is the tourists who offer to get Raphael another kitten, rather than friends or neighbors. The illustrations are bright in orange and yellow, but are not outstanding in technique.

NR Fern, Eugene. What's He Been Up To Now?; written and illus. by Eugene Fern. 3-5 Dial, 1961. 32p. \$2.95.

yrs.

A picture book about Reginald, a small and curious elephant who fell in a Deep Hole because he was watching a butterfly. His mother tried to pull him out and got stuck herself, then his father came to the rescue with some friends; they got out of the Deep Hole but all landed in the river. The illustrations are light and bright but not outstanding in technique; the story is slight and unoriginal.

Ad Gannett, Ruth Stiles. Katie and the Sad Noise; pictures by Ellis Simmons. 2-3 Random House, 1961. 59p. (Easy-to-Read Books.) \$1.95.

Written with a light touch, the story of a little girl who went hunting for a sad noise she had heard in the night. Worried, her father visited Katie's teacher, but she'd heard a noise too . . . then Katie's mother did . . . then Daddy found some tracks. Eventually the ragman's horse led Katie and everybody else in town to a solution of the mystery. Verging on the tall tale, but saved by humor; a good first mystery story for primary independent readers, with natural conversation and a building of suspense.

M Gemmill, Jane Brown. The Little Bear and the Princess; illus. by Carol

2-3 Barker. Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 61p. \$2.50.

The story of a small bear cub, found by a trapper and sent to the London Zoo. One day the cub, Nikki, was taken to Windsor Castle to play with the little Princess and her brother; he seemed so lonely back at the zoo that the keeper found another bear cub to be his playmate. A slight and occasionally saccharine story based on a real event; the day with the Princess is the least appealing part of the book, being coy and fanciful. The mitigating aspect of the story is in the antics of the cub; the author describes Nikki in a way that makes him lively and appealing.

Ad Gilmore, Edith Spacil. Stepping Stones to Love. Westminster, 1961. 191p.  
7-10 \$2.95.

The story of Jane Greene, adolescent member of a Quaker community of today. Jane is resentful at giving up her home for rental income, brooding about her mother's death and the advent of a stepmother, and unhappy about her appearance. Her love for her cousin Pete and her admiration for his mother bring Jane to more confidence, more understanding of others, and more cooperative behavior. Characterization is good, writing style adequate, values excellent. The book is weakened by an all-problems-solved happy ending; it is also burdened by a factor which is at the same time an appeal: the story contains a great deal of detailed consideration of the Quaker faith, an interesting background but probably one of which there is too extensive a treatment for the general reader.

NR Gleaves, Suzanne. Mercy Percy; by Suzanne Gleaves and Lael Wertenbaker;  
3-5 pictures by Jane Miller. Lippincott, 1961. 62p. \$2.95.  
yrs.

A small boy describes his activities, periodically punctuated by his mother's question, "Mercy, Percy, what are you up to now?" . . . to which the answer is always a bland, "Nothing." The text is rather meandering, and the pattern of rhyming introduces lines that are irrelevant: for example, "I run and I run and I see a hen. And then/ I get a pain in my legs/ And want some eggs." One element of the book that will probably appeal to children is the repeated-dilemma humor.

R Golden, Grace (Blaisdall); Seven Dancing Dolls; illus. by David Stone. Bobbs-  
4-5 Merrill, 1961. 96p. \$2.95.

Set in Poland in 1830, the story of Princess Wanda, eight years old, who was given a set of tiny dolls, each of which she named with special care. One doll disappeared, turning up in a mailed package. The package had been sent by a former guest, and his apology was in the form of music: Chopin's "Waltz of the Seven Dancing Dolls." The background of the story is most interesting, and the style and characters are good; the book is weakened slightly by the device of introducing bits of Polish history as the dolls are being named.

Ad Green, Erma. Let's Go to a Steel Mill; illus. by Robert Bartram. Putnam,  
4-6 1961. 48p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$1.86 net.

A good addition to the series, although the writing is rather stolid; the book gives detailed information about each of the processes used in making steel. Illustrations are of pedestrian calibre but most of the drawings are clearly enough detailed to augment the text. The book describes the coke oven and blast furnace, the three kinds of furnaces that convert iron to steel, and the basic forms into which the steel is cast. A glossary is appended.

M Harvey, Tad. The Quest of Michael Faraday; illus. by Lee J. Ames. Garden  
6-9 City, 1961. 56p. \$2.50.

An oversize book about the contributions made by Faraday to man's knowledge of electricity. The illustrations are inadequate and their captions are particularly poor:

"With a sulphur globe and an iron shaft, Otto von Guericke built first 'electrical machine.'" or, in explaining the relationship between electrolysis and voltaic battery, a caption that concludes, "So voltaic battery is electrolysis, but backwards." The book gives detailed information about Faraday's theories and experiments, stated clearly but in a rather dull style and severely hampered by the illustrations, some of which are merely ornamental and many of which are not labeled. The book has a rather abrupt ending; a one-page index is appended.

SpC Hug, Fritz. The Story of Our Lord; by Fritz and Margaret Hug. Random K-2 House, 1961. 48p. illus. \$3.95.

A picture book version of the life of Jesus, first published in Switzerland in 1960. The illustrations are variable, some of the pages having strength and simplicity while others are overfilled and quite distracting. The text seems variable also; some passages are simple in vocabulary and concept, others are difficult for a read-aloud audience; the format is juvenile for the child old enough to read the book independently. The authors have added some sentimental touches that seem inappropriate: the child Jesus is described as often running across the sand to play around the pyramids with his little donkey, a desert fox, a camel, a lamb, and a bird. "In the background the Sphinx watched them playing." A book best suited for inclusion in a religious education collection.

NR Hunter, Evan. The Wonderful Button; illus. by Quentin Blake. Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 39p. \$2.75.

A read-aloud picture book with a slight story based on the idea that a child is pure in heart. An unhappy king had a wonderful jeweled button; all of his people envied him and he knew that nobody really cared for him. One small boy, a child who loved nature, met the king one day. He did not envy the king, he played with him and gave him his own little cape. He used the button for a fishing lure, and when the king got back without his button, all the people saw him as he was for the first time, and everybody was happy. The writing is heavy with deeper significance that adds nothing to the trite plot and sentimental padding.

R Hutchins, Carleen Maley. Life's Key—DNA; A Biological Adventure into the 9- Unknown; illus. with 27 photographs and drawings. Coward-McCann, 1961. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

An exciting book about the structure and function (insofar as it is known) of the giant molecule that transmits hereditary characteristics and that directs the formation of proteins. The author's explanations are clear, precise, and as simple as they can be when discussing a subject so complex. Photographs and diagrams are good, the material is well-organized and administered in easy doses. The text gives the chemistry and geometry of DNA, explains the function in passing on hereditary characteristics and what happens in mutation, and describes the investigations of DNA's role in protein structure and protein synthesis. Instructions for making a DNA model are included, and bibliography is appended.

Ad Johnson, James Ralph. Anyone Can Live Off the Land; illus. by Edward Shenton. Longmans, 1961. 121p. \$2.95.

A compilation of advice for those who are forced to survive in the wilderness; packed with information, but less useful than it might be if, for example, the many plants mentioned were illustrated so that they might be identified. Clearly the audience that will actually use the information is limited, yet the book is interesting enough in the facts it gives about nature to appeal to many general readers; there is a perennial lure in the Crusoe challenge. Chapters discuss such topics as fishing without tackle, staying warm in the wilderness, poisonous plants and wildlife, how to keep from getting lost, how to make utensils, etc.

NR Johnson, Ryerson. The Monkey and the Wild, Wild Wind; pictures by Lois K-2 Lignell. Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 40p. \$2.75.

A rather attenuated animal story that points a moral about cooperative behavior. Seven animals, trapped in a cave by a strong wind, dislike each other because each is different . . . except the monkey. Undismayed by their aloofness, he gets the others to play with him. When they are out of the cave and another wind comes up, the monkey is caught outside; he is saved by the others forming a chain to rescue him. The writing has little humor or vitality, the plot is obtrusively purposive, and the crayon illustrations are pedestrian.

Ad Kirn, Ann. Two Pesos for Catalina; written and illus. by Ann Kirn. Rand K-2 McNally, 1962. 55p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.95 net.

The story of a small Mexican girl who was given two pesos by a tourist as a reward for returning a lost bracelet. Enchanted by her wealth, Catalina goes to market with her parents and shops around, finally deciding on her first (and very fancy) pair of shoes, with the leftover centavos spent on candy for the friends at home. The repetition of Catalina's happy chanting of "Two pesos for Catalina. Two pesos for Catalina to spend." is realistic, but somehow has a note of gloating. A slight but pleasant story, with the warmth of the text echoed in the magenta and browns of the handsome stylized illustrations.

Ad Konttinen, Aili. Kirsti Comes Home; illus. by Faith Jaques. Coward-McCann, 5-7 1961. 192p. \$2.75.

Published in Finland in 1959 under the title Inkeri Polasi Ruotsista. The story of a small child who had been sent from Finland to Sweden during the war; attached to her foster parents, Kirsti was lost when she was sent back to her family. Too small for school and knowing no Finnish, used to being alone and now in a family of seven, used to comfort and now experiencing rough farm life, Kirsti wanted only to have her Swedish mother come take her away. By the time Mummy came, almost a year later, the child had adapted completely, accepted her real mother, and refused to go. A very warm story, and realistic in the description of family life: Kirsti's older brothers and sisters scrap and Mother loses her temper. Kirsti is won, not by sweetness and light, but by patience, familiarity and some of the attractions of farm life such as small animals. The fact that the protagonist is a very young child may limit the interest of older readers.

Ad Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Cousin Melinda; written and illus. by Eleanor 2-4 Frances Lattimore. Morrow, 1961. 128p. \$2.75.

With only an older sister, Cousin Melinda was not used to the casual and often rowdy life of the cousins she was visiting. June, just her age, had hoped that Melinda would be happy, but the visit wasn't a success; when Melinda's doll disappeared she packed her suitcase, prepared to go home. But the doll was found, the visitor became adjusted, and the two little cousins became best friends. The children in the story are realistic, and their relationships—although described with simplicity—are perceptively seen. The story is mild and pleasant, but rather slow-moving.

M Mariana. Miss Flora McFlimsey's Valentine. Lothrop, 1962. 43p. illus. 5-7 Trade ed. \$2.00; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

yrs.

A read-aloud story about a doll and some animals. Miss Flora remembered that a former Little Girl had had a valentine, and decided to send some to her animal friends; she sent them by Pookoo the cat, who stuffed them in a tree-trunk. A post-office was set up, and valentines were distributed; Pookoo generously gave his to a forgotten rabbit and as a last surprise, left one for Miss Flora. Stilted in style, sentimental and old-fashioned, but with some alleviating touches of humor.

R Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Miney and the Blessing; illus. by Dorothy Bayley  
3-5 Morse. Macmillan, 1961. 157p. \$2.57.

The story of a farm family in the Civil War years. Miney Glossbrenner was only nine, but she yearned to do things more responsible and daring than she was allowed. The blessing she sought was driving to town herself to do the family trading; when her father went off to war, Miney had a chance to show her mettle and gain her wish. Characterization and values are good, the period background is nicely detailed, and the book is well constructed for the audience level: a sustaining theme, but a story broken into fairly brief episodic sections.

R Miller, Helen Markley. The Long Valley. Doubleday, 1961. 284p. \$2.95.  
7-9

A good junior novel about Idaho pioneers in 1888. Coming to Long Valley to homestead, the Eagle family experienced for the first time the raging blizzards and crop-killing frosts: they also found beauty in the land and unstinting friendliness from their fellow settlers. Marny, who at seventeen had been the woman of the house for six years, knew she loved John Treadwell but found it hard to believe that her family could get along without her. Only when she realized that her younger sister could cope (as she herself had at eleven), did Marny decide to marry. Not an outstanding book, but restrained in story line and incident: for example, when a young neighbor is having a baby, only Marny and another girl are available to help—in many pioneer stories the protagonist carries on alone and heroically, but here Marny is sent out to the barn when the midwife arrives. Characterization is consistent, writing style has pace.

M Miller, Mary Britton. Listen - the Birds; poems by Mary Britton Miller; draw-  
4-6 ings by Evaline Ness. Pantheon Books, 1961. 46p. \$3.

Twenty-odd poems, each about a different bird, written chiefly in free verse, although some of the selections have rhyme. Despite an occasional vivid phrase, the poems on the whole give an effect of contrivance: sometimes this seems to be to achieve rhyming, as in a poem about the cardinal, "His pretty young wife/ Is modest and pale/ And dressed in gray,/ And as all pretty women/ Like to be chic/ She tricks herself out/ With a very pink beak." and sometimes the jarring note appears to be for shock value, as in "The Northern Shrike," "The terrible shrike/ Will murder you/ And hang you up/ On a thorn or a spike/ By your little dead heads/ And tear you to shreds." The illustrations are handsome in technique although a bit distracting on some pages.

Ad Moscow, Alvin. City at Sea; photographs by Edward Margolin. Putnam, 1962.  
5-8 95p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

A description of the liner S. S. Independence, with good photographic illustration and a clear cutaway diagram of the ship. Chapters discuss the details of the sailing, safety regulations, navigation and power, and passenger accommodations and services. One chapter describes the captain of the ship, giving interesting information about his duties, but perhaps giving too much detail about Captain Switzer personally. The book closes with a description of docking at the first port of call; a glossary and an index are appended. Good material, very dry writing style.

M Neavles, Janet. Beyond the Mist Lies Thule; illus. by Arthur Zaidenberg.  
7-9 Barnes, 1961. 216p. \$2.95.

An adventure story about two young people of ancient Britain, Hugh and Mari, who are captured and sold into slavery, escape from a Phoenician galley, and swim ashore to a Greek colony. Eventually they get back to Britain and are reunited with the family they had thought killed in a raid. The writing style is fairly pedestrian, the characterization flat; it is in the details of ancient cultures that interest is sustained. Unfortu-

nately, the author has included so many informational details that they are obtrusive.

Ad Norling, Josephine (Stearns). Pogo's Jet Ride; pictures by Ernest Norling.  
3-5 Holt, 1961. 55p. \$2.50.

An addition to the series of books in which John and his dog, Pogo, encounter different aspects of agriculture or industry. The first part of the book describes a visit to a plant where jet planes are being manufactured, a good diagram of plane parts being included; the second part of the book describes John's ride in a jet, during part of which he visits the flight deck and learns how parts of the plane function. Simply written, with no obtrusion on the factual material by the fictional framework, but rather stolid in style.

NR Palazzo, Tony. An Elephant Alphabet. Duell, 1961. 54p. illus. \$2.95.  
3-5 yrs.

An oversize alphabet book with a verse on one page, incorporating the letter, and a full-page illustration facing it. For the most part, the full-page picture shows the elephant, while on the facing page is an illustration of the letter-word. For example, "G is for grass . . ." has a small drawing of grass. It is therefore puzzling to find a reversal of this used only once: "A is for Africa" shows the full-page illustration of an African warrior in full regalia. Some of the words may be confusing—on one page there is a mammoth rather than an elephant; some of the concepts may be confusing—the ear shown with the letter "E" is an ear of corn; and it seems somewhat confusing to have some of the letters used for objects (M for mammoth, O for Old Bet) and some for activities (Q for quenching, U for useful).

R Parker, Edgar. Stuff and Nonsense. Pantheon Books, 1961. 32p. illus. \$3.  
5-7

Delightfully illustrated, eight long nonsense poems about animals. The rhyme and rhythm are good, the fanciful humor is gay; the use of words is deft and sophisticated. A good book to read aloud to children who might find the vocabulary difficult. For example, "The Happy Prisoner" is a poem about a salamander who so enjoyed his damp prison that he broke the morale of the entire court. The King, asking about happy noises from the dungeon, is answered by his soldiers: "'Tis the prisoner," they replied./ Seems he's very satisfied./ Seems the scoundrel, bad and base,/ Is unmindful of disgrace./ Reprimanding/ Notwithstanding, Fact is that he likes the place."

NR Ramirez, Carolyn. Small as a Raisin Big as the World; pictures by Carl  
3-5 Ramirez. Harvey House, 1961. 45p. \$2.75.  
yrs.

A picture book designed to present the concept of relativity in sizes, beginning with a page of text in which the size of type-face is used to correspond with the descriptive adjectives, ranging from enormous (large, heavy print) to wee small (in print that is barely legible). The text cites several examples in each category: the sky is enormous, a skyscraper is very big, a car is big; a chair is mediumsize, a kitten is little, and a raisin is a wee small thing. With the notable exception of the school, most of the objects illustrated will be familiar to small children, but the illustrations (of variable quality) do not show comparative sizes and could pave the way for misconceptions.

R Riedman, Sarah Regal. Trailblazer of American Science; The Life of Joseph  
8 Henry; illus. with photographs and diagrams. Rand McNally, 1961. 224p.  
\$3.50.

An objective and detailed biography of the American scientist who invented the first

electromagnet, helped Samuel Morse, and was for many years the administrator of the Smithsonian Institution. During his stay there, Henry continued his experimental work, devoted much attention to government problems during the Civil War Years, and repeatedly refused lucrative positions in major universities to stay at the Smithsonian. Well researched and dignified in style, the book gives a vivid impression of the scientist and of the ferment of scientific and inventive progress in the middle years of the nineteenth century. The author, in describing Henry's work, is careful to give background that clarifies the principle and establishes the work in the context of the body of scientific achievement. An excellent relative index is appended.

Ad Robinson, Charles Alexander. The First Book of Ancient Egypt; pictures by 5-7 Lili Réthi. Watts, 1961. 61p. \$1.95.

A good introduction to the culture of ancient Egypt, with a continuous text broken only by topic headings; adequately illustrated and indexed, the book is informative and well-organized. It is weakened slightly by an occasional careless phrase: for example, in describing the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone, the author says, "Champollion . . . saw at once that the language was Coptic. He read it right off, and his translation was just like the Greek text in the bottom panel." It was actually the result of long effort on Champollion's part before the Egyptian writing was analyzed, but one does not gain this impression. There is also an occasional generalization: "The Egyptians, whether rich or poor, seem to have had an exceptionally happy home life."

NR Rock, Nova. The Hat; pictures by Mary Brooks. Warne, 1960. 27p. \$2.50.  
4-5 yrs.

A picture book about a small boy whose parents worked on a banana plantation and who had a large hat made of banana leaves. Left to his own devices, Bobo played about by himself; seeing a tree boa coiled above a baby, Bobo threw his hat and ran for help. When Bobo came back with adults, Mr. Tree Boa sat, "all smiling and happy, and looking very handsome, wearing Bobo's beautiful hat." He had, in his excitement, also tied himself into a knot. Bobo's mother made him another hat, twice as big as the old one. A shoddy book, poor in the concepts of safety, poor in nature concepts, patronizing in attitude toward the happy banana-gathering natives. After the rescue, for example, "The baby was picked up and patted very firmly on his little torn trousers; then they all went singing back to breakfast." No mention of why the baby was left alone at a distance. The illustrations are quite pedestrian.

Ad Russell, Solveig Paulson. Sugaring Time; pictures by George Daly. Abingdon, 3-5 1961. 48p. \$2.

A book about maple sugaring, with a first section that purports to tell how maple sugar was discovered accidentally by an Indian squaw. The second, and major, portion of the text describes the methods used in collecting and preparing the sap for syrup or candy. Illustrations add little information, and the book is weakened by the fictionalized first part. A glossary and brief index are appended, also a one-page bibliography. Quite interesting material but quite dry treatment.

R Schatz, Letta. When Will My Birthday Be?; pictures by Richard Bergere.  
3-6 McGraw-Hill, 1962. 31p. \$2.50.  
yrs.

A very pleasant picture book, easy in style and nicely unified. Both birthdays and seasonal changes are of interest to the intended audience, and they are here combined in neat fashion. The casual simplicity of the illustrations is appropriate to the text. Benjie, who has just had a birthday, wants to know when his birthday will be. His parents tell him that next spring, when there are blossoms on the apple tree, he

will have another birthday, so Benjie watches the tree as the seasons pass. So he learns the cycle of the year, and he also finds that he can reach the lowest branch now and climb the tree.

Ad Scott, Paul. Eliza and the Indian War Pony; by Paul and Beryl Scott. Lothrop, 4-6 1961. 172p. \$3.

Eliza Spaulding was one of the first white children born in the region that is now Idaho; this is the fictionalized story of part of her childhood. Brought up with Indians, Eliza was sent away by her missionary parents because she was assimilating too many of the ways of the Nez Perces Indians. One of the few people spared by a Cayuse raid, Eliza acted as interpreter through some tragic days before she was reunited with her family. The background material is convincing, the story dramatic; the book is weakened somewhat by the tendency to stereotypical characters: Eliza's patient mother, staunch, jolly Dr. Whitman, malevolent Cayuse Joe Lewis. Despite the fact that some of the Indian characters are stereotyped, the treatment of Indians is quite objective throughout the story.

Ad Shields, Rita. Cecelia's Locket; illus. by Clotilde Embree Funk. Longmans, 5-7 1961. 148p. \$2.95.

Another turn-of-the-century story by this author, again set in San Francisco. The book handles with perception the problem of a child who refuses to accept her stepmother, the latter also having difficulty in adjusting. Cecelia has been told that she may wear the locket left by her mother "when she had earned it . . ." and at the close of the book, in a rather sentimental Christmas scene during which Cecelia and her stepmother are at last in rapport, Cici gets her locket. The strength of the book is in the realistic portrayal of the relationship between Cici and her stepmother: the guarded hostility that becomes so habitual that each is self-conscious about making overtures and breaking the pattern. Much of the story has to do with a large, warm, noisy and musical Italian-American family; sympathetically portrayed, yet Mama Mia and Uncle Aldo are somewhat stereotyped. Much of the characterization is excellent and the details of period and locale are good, but the book is weakened by sentimentality.

R Tyndall, John. Faraday as a Discoverer; introduction and notes by Keith Gordon Irwin; illus. with diagrams. Crowell, 1961. 213p. \$2.75.

A republication of the fifth edition of 1893, with the author's preface written for that edition; the introduction by Mr. Irwin gives excellent material about both Tyndall and Faraday. The text is based on Tyndall's memorial discourse on "Faraday as Scientist and Man," given four months after Faraday's death in 1867. As a friend and as a colleague, Tyndall was well qualified to give, as he did, a vivid picture of the man and a lucid description of his research activities.

R Voight, Virginia Frances. The Girl From Johnnycake Hill; illus. by William 5-8 A. McCaffery. Prentice-Hall, 1961. 217p. \$3.50.

Set in Connecticut in 1780, a pleasant period story for girls. Rebecca and her mother move to an inherited farm in the western part of the state; they have trouble with a surly neighbor and make a friend of the lad who is bound out to him. The mystery of a long-lost hoard of Continental money is explained in a realistic fashion: the box is found, but the money has been destroyed by mice. Also settled with no melodrama is the dispute between settlers and Scaticook Indians about land ownership. The writing style is easy, characterization adequate, historical details unobtrusive.

Ad Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. Secret of the Tiger's Eye; illus. by Richard Horwitz. 5-7 Westminster, 1961. 208p. \$2.95.

A mystery story in which the background and the characters are more interesting

than the mystery itself. Benita visits a great-aunt in Capetown while her father is collecting material for a new book; accompanying them is Joel, whose mother had suggested he go along, much to Benita's dismay. The plot: a tiger rug has hidden in it a key to a box in a cave; in the box is a long-lost emerald and diamond diadem. Routine plot, but the book has value for the adjustment Benita makes to her enemy Joel, and even more for the attitude (chiefly as seen through Benita's eyes) toward apartheid and racial equality.

NR Will. Billy the Kid; by Will and Nicolas. Harcourt, 1961. 28p. illus. Trade K-2 ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.66 net.

A picture book about a kid who was looking for something: he didn't know what. Going about the farm, Billy met various other animals and was then led by a farm boy to the stall of a fractious new horse. The two animals made friends, the horse quieted down, and Billy knew that he had found the thing he was looking for: a friend. A slight story in which much of the text meanders along with little relationship to the plot. Illustrations are sophisticated and rather distracting.

Ad Wise, William. The Cowboy Surprise; pictures by Paul Galdone. Putnam, 1-2 1961. 47p. (See and Read Storybooks.) Trade ed. \$2.; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A story with controlled vocabulary and a nicely unified construction. Mike and Sally are the only two children in their classroom who wear glasses, and they both dislike their glasses because everybody makes fun of them. When a cowboy star comes to town, all the children are surprised to find that he wears glasses, too. After that nobody makes fun of Mike and Sally. There is humor in the writing, and satisfaction in the ending of the story; there seems, however, to be too much stress on the teasing—most children adjust to wearing glasses and their schoolmates usually accept it as quite natural.

Ad Wood, James Playsted. The Queen's Most Honorable Pirate; pictures by Leonard Everett Fisher. Harper, 1961. 184p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.79 net.

The first-person story of Davy Purviance, set in the Elizabethan period; historical figures like Drake and Raleigh appear in the book. Son of an Irish pirate, Davy is captured; he is brought up in the home of an English admiral and sent to Oxford. On Drake's advice, Davy studies marine law, sails with Drake against the Spaniards, and is knighted by the Queen. Davy becomes Queen's Justice, inherits the estates of the English grandfather who had been his bitter enemy, weds the daughter of his benefactor, saves the life of his childhood playmate. The writing style is florid, slowing the story somewhat despite the drama of the plot; however, the interest of historical detail and the appeal of piratical characters and sea battles give the book value as an adventure story.

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## Reading for Teachers

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