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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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Volume XVI

October, 1962

Number 2

New Titles for Children and Young People

R Adams, Ben. The Last Frontier; A Short History of Alaska; illus. by George
7- Ahgupuk. Hill and Wang, 1961. 181p. \$3.50.

A good history of Alaska, illustrated by an Eskimo artist and prefaced by a double-page map and a first chapter that gives a quick survey of the climate, geography, and the peoples. The writing is solid in style and matter-of-fact in approach; statistical material is appended; the book concludes with a rather extensive divided bibliography and an index. An excellent book for supplementary curricular use.

Ad Alberts, Frances Jacobs. A Gift for Genghis Khan; illus. by Raffaello Busoni.
5-6 Whittlesey House, 1961. 112p. \$2.75.

Attractively illustrated, a story of a Mongol boy who had been orphaned in a tribal raid. Found by the Khan's hunting party, Mujil was sent to a Horse Post House, where he helped care for the ponies and helped prepare the gear of the post riders. Hearing that the Khan was to visit, Mujil despaired of finding a gift for him as all the others were doing. Not until he was before the magnificent figure of Genghis Khan did the boy realize that he could give himself, and he pledged to his leader his service when he was grown. The plot is slight, but the unusual background is interesting; the characters are convincing, although they are not drawn in depth.

R American Heritage Magazine. Cowboys and Cattle Country; by the editors of
7- American Heritage Magazine; narr. by Don Ward. American Heritage,
1962. 153p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series.) Trade
ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

An interesting book on one of the most popular aspects of America's heritage; well-written and colorful. The first chapter describes a lesser-known cowboy, the vaquero of Mexico and California. The author describes the westward move, the struggles between the range men and the farmers, the rustler and the law, the life of the cowboy: all of the dramatic aspects familiar to most readers. Incorporated into the text are anecdotes about famous western figures. The final chapter describes the west today and discusses some of the western influences in the arts and in entertainment. The appended index uses bold face type to indicate pages on which illustrations or maps appear; a list of picture credits, a bibliography, and a brief list of suggestions for further reading are included.

Ad American Heritage Magazine. Great Days of the Circus; by the editors of
6-9 American Heritage; narr. by Freeman Hubbard; in consultation with
Leonard V. Farley. American Heritage, 1962. 153p. illus. (American
Heritage Junior Library Series.) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

A survey of the circus in the United States, with the first two chapters giving background, the next two describing the careers of Barnum and Bailey and of the Ring-

lings. The remaining chapters are topical: animal acts, clowns, trapeze artists, etc. Despite the perennial attraction of the subject and the interesting photographs, the book loses some impact because the author strains for effect: some of the captions for illustrations seem unnecessary—for example, ". . . the faintly smiling, formally dressed acrobats in this 1898 Forepaugh and Sells poster all have the look of department store mannequins." While much of the material in the book is interesting and some of the anecdotes amusing, the organization of text within the chapters is variable. The chapter on animal acts, for example, discusses elephants at length, but gives only brief mention of some of the other animals; it gives almost no information about training techniques; and it occasionally moves abruptly from one topic or anecdote to another. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

R Baker, Laura Nelson. Somebody, Somewhere. Knopf, 1962. 179p. \$3.
7-10

Diana had just moved, but her feelings about junior year in a new school were anticipatory rather than apprehensive. She made some new friends rather quickly, but was bothered by an old boy friend: Chick was unhappy and rebellious, and Diana felt both resentment and pity for him. She stopped seeing Chick, but went to his aid when he was picked up by the police; her family didn't really like Chick's mother, but they were former friends and neighbors and they tried to help the boy. The book gives a good picture of the relationship between the delinquent and the stable adolescent; the attitudes toward Diana's typical problems about loyalty to other girls, going steady, etc. are good. One of the pleasant relationships pictured is that of Diana's family to a spinster aunt who lives with them: she is drawn with neither acidity nor sentimentality, but as just a member of the family.

M Bank-Jensen, Thea. Play with Paper. Macmillan, 1962. 48p. illus. Trade
6- ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.16 net.

First published in Denmark under the title Leg Med Papir, a book of instructions, with photographs and diagrams, for making objects of paper; few supplies other than paper and scissors are required. Some of the objects suggested are simple to make, others fairly difficult; the instructions and diagrams vary in clarity. There are some models of very specific objects; while some of the models are examples of a type of paper play, and can be used to stimulate individual creativity. The text seems to be addressed to adults: "As very young children sometimes have difficulty keeping track of all the pieces, it may be best for them to paste as they cut." or, "As a rule small children go about this without restraint." However, some of the text is more appropriate for children than for adults: "Here is an easy way to furnish your doll house." On the whole, the book is probably best used by adults who are working with children.

R Baum, Arline. One Bright Monday Morning; by Arline and Joseph Baum.
3-7 Random House, 1962. 34p. illus. \$2.50.
yrs.

A gaily illustrated picture book that combines a counting lesson (up to seven), the days of the week, and a slight but pleasant spring story. The text has the appeals of rhythm and cumulation, with the added fun of a mild suspense at the turn of the page. "One bright Monday morning while on my way to school—I saw 1 blade of green grass growing near a little blue pool." Page by page, the days pass, the weather varies, the birds and flowers increase; at the next Monday, "I saw . . ." and the by-now familiar pattern erupts into state of excitement, with huge letters in colors, "GRASS . . . growing! FLOWERS . . . blooming!"

R Baumann, Hans. I Marched with Hannibal; tr. by Katharine Potts; illus. by Ulrik
7-10 Schramm. Walck, 1962. 226p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

An impressive book, with a wealth of historical detail that gives both color and authority to the fiction. The story of a small boy who became an elephant boy and travelled with Hannibal across the Alps is set within a story, the device used being that of the protagonist telling his story, as an old man, to two children. The marches and the battle scenes are vivid, the people come alive, the writing has pace and unity. Maps and a chronological table are included.

M Berg, Leila. A Box for Benny; illus. by Jillian Willett. Bobbs-Merrill, 1961. 3-5 94p. \$2.95.

The story of a small boy who lived in a Jewish neighborhood in Manchester, England; Fern Street was a community of poor people, and it was therefore a real problem for Benny when he wanted a shoebox so that he could play one of the traditional spring games. The ragman gave Benny a balloon for an old sweater, and told him that his box would come—that to get his wish, Benny must always give something in exchange. A series of exchanges (with the shoebox acquired at the end of the book) follows; through this device the author gives a picture of the Jewish community. Some of the characters are interesting, some flat; a convincing atmosphere is created, but the book is weakened by slow pace.

Ad Bixby, William. The Race to the South Pole. Longmans, 1961. 215p. \$3.25. 7-

A book that describes, in separate sections, the voyages of Shackleton and Amundsen and the two voyages of Scott. The text is written in a rather heavy style; material is well organized. A list of suggestions for further reading is appended, but the book is neither illustrated nor indexed. Although the information is good and the writing adequate, the book will probably be less useful than Frank's Ice Island (Crowell, 1957) or Sullivan's White Land of Adventure (Whittlesey, 1957). Both are more extensive in coverage, have good maps and photographs, and are indexed.

Ad Bolton, Carole. Reunion in December. Morrow, 1962. 220p. \$2.95. 6-9

Eileen, grieving for her father, was resentful when she and her mother went to visit the family from whom he had been estranged. She was even more resentful when she realized that her mother was being courted by her Uncle Jason's colleague, Fred. Slowly, and with resistance to the idea of anyone substituting for her father, Eileen's understanding grew. It was helped by her sympathy for her taciturn grandmother, her affection for Jeff, the distant cousin visiting in the house, and by a new awareness of the role that Fred could play in making a happier life for her mother. Not an unusual plot, but a restrained handling of complex emotions, and some very honest characterization of both adults and adult-child relationships.

R Bond, Michael. More about Paddington; with drawings by Peggy Fortnum. 4-6 Houghton, 1962. 128p. \$2.50.

A third book about the ingenuous bear who lives with a London family; the Browns are resigned to the fact that Paddington is always in trouble, and always—somehow—gets out of it undamaged. As in the two previous books, each adventure is described in a separate chapter, so that the story is suited nicely to reading aloud. The bland humor of the fanciful treated matter-of-factly is no less evident in this volume, but the episodic treatment gives a feeling of repetition to the reader who has already met Paddington.

M Boutelle, Edith W. The Astronaut Witch; illus. by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt. K-2 Barnes, 1962. 24p. \$2.95.

The story of Genevieve is told in rhyme; the other witches warned Genevieve that she must lose weight or not participate in the annual Race to the moon. A lover of

pastry, Genevieve had put on too many pounds for safe broomstick travel. She wandered onto a launching site, got to the moon, found craters filled with pastry, returned to win the race, and was feted for being the first astrowitch. There are bits of humor, but not a sustained humorous mood in the story; it moves rather laboriously, due in part to contrived rhyming. The illustrations are unattractive; Genevieve is pictured as a buxom, blond-pigtailed fräulein.

M Brod, Ruth. How Would You Act?; by Ruth and Stan Brod. Rand McNally, 4-6 1962. 24p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.75 net. yrs.

A book of nonsense couplets illustrated by bold, stylized pictures. The pictures are distracting on most pages, both in the amount of page-space that is filled and in the use of vibrant colors. The text asks, "How would you act if you were an owl? I'd hoot and I'd howl." "How would you act if you were a porcupine? I'd stiffen my spines and dine on a vine." The rhyming frequently seems most contrived, and the metre is often faulty. The book may perhaps serve to stimulate rhyming word-play, but there is little intrinsic humor in the text.

Ad Bromhall, Winifred. Middle Matilda; written and illus. by Winifred Bromhall. 4-6 Knopf, 1962. 30p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.19 net. yrs.

A read-aloud book about a little girl whose dress disappeared. As the middle child in a family of nine, Matilda always wore dresses that had belonged to her four older sisters; she was delighted when her godmother gave her a new dress to wear to a friend's birthday party. The dress disappeared, was hunted for, was found by a little boy who went to see why all the animals were gathered around a tree into which the dress had been blown by the wind. So Matilda went to the party in her new dress, had a lovely time, and decided that night that the best thing of all was being Middle Matilda. The subject will hold interest for little girls, but the story is rather slow-moving. Relationships are good, but the plot is slight and the ending of the story a bit flat; there is a brief reference to Matilda's position as middle child, which—although it is used in the title—is not emphasized in the story.

R Bruckner, Karl. Viva Mexico; tr. by Stella Humphries. Roy, 1962. 190p. 8- illus. \$3.25.

A story of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, written with vivid detail; the plot is tight-knit, the story has suspense, and the characters are colorful. This is not a survey of the whole revolutionary movement, but of the events in one area. While the characterization tends to stereotypes, there is some usefulness in having characters who are symbolic of the oppressors and the oppressed. The protagonist, Miguel Garcia, is the dispossessed son of a wealthy family who has become a leader of the people; trapped by brutal Don Rodrigo, Miguel is rescued by Juanito, a lad with courage and imagination. Their adventures culminate in a marshalling of forces to overthrow the local garrison, where they win new followers. The book gives a moving picture of the misery of the peons, of the feudal and oppressive structure of the hacienda-overseer system that led to rebellion.

R Chubb, Thomas Caldecot. Slavic Peoples; illus. by W. T. Mars. World, 1962. 7- 128p. \$3.50.

A fine addition to the series of books about major world cultures. The author describes the evolution of the prehistoric Indo-European group that settled in the lands north of the Carpathians and discusses the early cultural traits. When, in the third century, the Slavic migrations began, there emerged five predominantly Slavic states; an overview of each state during the Middle Ages shows the confusion and fusion of cultural patterns, the submerging of states and the renaissance of some of them, the

cross-fertilization of tribes and national groups. Mr. Chubb concludes his survey with a brief discussion of some of the Slavic peoples today and of some of the great Slavs of recent and contemporary times. The book gives, in addition to the information about its title topic, a wonderful sense of the broad historical picture, especially of the diffusion of cultures and knowledge, and of the intricacies of language development. A chronological chart of world events correlated with Slavic history is appended, as are a good relative index and a list of suggestions for further reading.

Ad Conklin, Gladys. We Like Bugs; pictures by Artur Marokvia. Holiday House, K-2 1962. 24p. \$2.95.

A read-aloud book with a simple text in first person, illustrated by pictures that are good for purposes of identification. The text is rather loosely organized—the grasshopper is referred to twice, some pages apart—with no division into topics. The book may stimulate an interest in bugs; it will make children conscious of the variety of species and of the fact that most of them are harmless. However, there are a few places in the text that may be confusing ("Each eye is thousands of eyes and sees everything at once." is not explained.) or may lead to the wrong conception (In re the tiger beetle, "It bites like a tiger, and so we let it go.").

NR Coombs, Patricia. Dorrie's Magic; written and illus. by Patricia Coombs. 2-4 Lothrop, 1962. 48p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

Dorrie was a small and untidy witch who went into the attic to do some magic on her own while her mother was shopping for a party. One catastrophe after another: by the time her mother came home, the food was cold, the cook had turned into a horse, everything in the house had turned blue, and Dorrie's room was literally upside down. Mother and Dorrie agreed that there was no magic way to clean your room, it took time and work. Dorrie's mischief undone, the party went on, and Dorrie went to bed, planning to clean her room the next day. The prim reminder about tidy rooms seems out of place, and the small story line is attenuated. The story gets off to a nice start, but bogs down in the middle with magic-gone-wrong, and is weakened at the close by a rather dreary party scene in which the guests have odd names (Squig, Dinger, Mr. Obs) and make inconsequential conversation.

R Crimmins, James C. Nicholas; The Boy Who Wanted To Be Santa Claus; pictures by William Barron. Lippincott, 1962. 30p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.95 net.

A pleasant Christmas story to read aloud; it will be as acceptable to the child who believes in Santa Claus as it will to the one who does not. Nicholas had chosen his career, and he practiced being Santa Claus to the continued annoyance of his family. His sister, for example, didn't like her nylons used for practice stuffing. When he came down the chimney at a family gathering at his grandfather's, all the family laughed; Gramps took Nicholas aside and explained that there really was only one Santa Claus, but there were so many children that Santa had taken on men of good heart as assistants.

NR Cushman, Jerome. Marvella's Hobby; illus. by Prue Theobalds. Abelard-K-2 Schuman, 1962. 59p. \$2.50.

A nonsense story about a cow whose hobby was a freight train; every morning and night Marvella waited in a corner of the pasture so that she could moo when Number 10 tooted. When, one day, no train came, Marvella was disconsolate and gave no milk; she ran away from the vet and took off down the track. Finding that the bridge was down, she mooed and stood immovable, stopping—and saving—the train from plunging into the rainswollen creek. The story seems too long and detailed for the slight theme; the humor doesn't quite come off; the ending is anticlimactic. Illustrations are not unusual.

R Daley, Arthur. Kings of the Home Run. Putnam, 1962. 253p. illus. \$3.50.
6-9

A useful and well-written book by a sportswriter for the New York Times. An introductory chapter is followed by descriptions of the prowess and the personalities of twenty great players from Ruth to Maris. An appendix gives a page of records for each man; an index is appended; each section has a photograph of the subject. The book will be useful to a wider range of readers than the six to ninth grade for checking of records. The book is written in a colorful and breezy style; game descriptions are expectedly excellent, and the author does a remarkable job of evoking personality in brief selections.

M Dorian, Marguerite. The Alligator's Toothache. Lothrop, 1962. 36p. illus.
K-2 Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A fanciful read-aloud story about Alli, who was sent off by the zoo director to see a dentist. Finding he was on the wrong bus, Alli went home with a friendly boy who happened to be the dentist's son. The boy told his mother the next morning that he'd had an alligator overnight, but she didn't believe him. The boy took Alli to his father's office, where it developed that the trouble was due to a wisdom tooth; the happy alligator then went back to the zoo. Although the story seems over-extended, it has occasional bits of humor and warmth; the writing has a pleasant simplicity, but the plot and its development are very weak.

Ad Eyerly, Jeannette. More than a Summer Love. Lippincott, 1962. 188p. \$3.50.
7-9

Casey had expected to spend a summer working in New York; instead she went to a small town to stay with her grandmother during a family emergency. She found that her job as stringer on a small-town paper was fun; she was accidentally responsible for catching an embezzler and she discovered the identity of an old movie queen; she met two boys, one of whom dazzled her briefly, after which she fell truly in love with the other. Not an unusual situation or plot, but the values are excellent, the characters are believable and well-differentiated, and the writing is competent.

Ad Faber, Nancy W. Cathy at the Crossroads; illus. by Howard Simon. Lippincott, 1962. 191p. \$3.50.

Cathy was furiously resentful when her father married Barbara, and for a long time she resisted Barbara's patient understanding. Little by little, Cathy was won by Barbara's love; she found that her friends in sixth grade liked her stepmother, and when Barbara became ill, Cathy realized that she had come to think of her as a mother. Then Cathy was put to a test—some of Barbara's occasional unexplained absences had been due to the fact that she had had a retarded child during her first marriage. Cathy had to decide whether she wanted Anne to live with them, and she decided that she did, having learned from Anne's mother the joy of being wanted and loved. Although the story has some sentimental incidents, the emotional relationships are, for the most part, handled with restraint and perception. The author is especially sensitive to the nuances of group dynamics: the shifting allegiances within the circle of sixth grade girls as their loyalties or small jealousies affect each other. The handling of the problem of the retarded child is such as to encourage understanding in readers.

NR Fisher, Leonard Everett. A Head Full of Hats; story and pictures by Leonard
K-2 Everett Fisher. Dial, 1962. 30p. \$3.25.

Alfie had a closet full of derbies, but decided he needed a more important hat; he tried on various others, but they were too big, too small, made him seasick (because he went to sea) etc. Depending on the hat. So Alfie went back to derbies, giving away all but one which he wore all day and all night and in which he now felt important.

The slightest of themes expanded into a pointless story which seems so artificial a vehicle that the small amount of humor in some of the illustrations is whelmed. The strong style of this excellent illustrator is not suited to the fanciful read-aloud text.

NR Flora, James. Kangaroo for Christmas; story and pictures by James Flora. K-2 Harcourt, 1962. 29p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.16 net.

A read-aloud picture book which, although it has references to the holiday at the beginning and the end of the story, is not really a Christmas story. On the day before Christmas, Kathryn opens a box out of which jumps a live kangaroo; she decides to ride it to Grandmother's, and gets into one scrape after another as the kangaroo hops into somebody's house, exits out a window, or bounces into a toy store, landing on roller skates, etc. Grandma drives them back in her electric automobile, and the exhausted kangaroo lies down on the couch to rest. The nonsense is exaggerated to the point of dulling what humor is inherent in the situation; the illustrations are distractingly page-filling; the writing style is rather flat: "Daddy poured warm water on Adelaide's feet and melted the taffy. Adelaide hopped into the house and lay down on the couch with her feet in the air. Her feet hurt. She was tired."

R Friermood, Elisabeth Hamilton. Ballad of Calamity Creek. Doubleday, 1962. 7-10 214p. \$2.95.

A good period story, set in Kentucky at the turn of the century. Ann Todd, resenting the fact that her father will only send her to college for one year, goes down to the new Stoney Hill School to teach; she finds that she is doing as much learning as teaching, for she becomes fascinated by the customs and crafts of the mountain people. The book has a love interest and some minor sub-plots, but the chief interest is in the language and the ballads of the people, their cultural traditions (which are described with respect), and the longing for education that makes the school a community project that is supported by the dedicated zeal of the natives. Good background, good values, good writing style.

R Guillot, Rene. Fofana; tr. by Barbara Seccombe; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. 7-9 Criterion Books, 1962. 146p. \$3.

A French school-boy, Jean Luc, goes to live with his father in the African bush country; a native boy, Fofana, becomes his close friend. The major part of the story is devoted to reminiscences of his adventures with Fofana, as told by Jean Luc; there is no plot-line. The writing is romantic, vivid in its evocation of the remote forests and the animals and people of the Lobi tribe; Fofana is a strong character, a boy of courage and dignity, whose relationships with animals is invested with a mystical rapport. The friendship between the boys is beautifully conceived; the book is one of the best by this author.

R Gurko, Miriam. Restless Spirit; The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay. Crowell, 8- 1962. 271p. \$3.50.

A mature and objective biography that includes many quotations from Millay's writings, most of the citations being given when they are relevant to some facet of her personality or to an analysis of her poetry. The author integrates smoothly the biographical material and a vivid picture of the literary and artistic circles in which the poet moved. She writes discerningly of a complex personality and she examines with appreciation and understanding Millay's work and its place in modern poetry. An excellent book, with a good index and an extensive bibliography.

NR Hale, Linda. The Glorious Christmas Soup Party; written and illus. by Linda K-2 Hale. Viking, 1962. 38p. Trade ed. \$1.75; Library ed. \$2.06 net.

On Christmas Day, the naughty Mouse children ate all the bacon pie, which caused their mother to smack them and burst into tears, because she had nothing to give

her guests. However, as each guest arrived, his contribution was added to a big kettle—Young Rabbit brought a cabbage, Quiet Cat brought sausage, Friendly Dog brought a large, meaty bone. All declared that the resultant soup was the best they had ever had; Cat played his mandolin and Pig his harmonica and they all danced and sang. Slight plot, little humor, static style.

M Hendrich, Paula. Baby in the Schoolroom; illus. by Meg Wohlberg. Lothrop, 3-4 1962. 27p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

Rather slight, but with some appeal for girls; the book has no plot, but describes a classroom situation based on a true incident in the author's past. In a Private School for Refined Young Ladies, the third-grade class was taught by a young widow who brought her baby to school every day. Captivated by Christiann, the girls were very refined, because they knew their teacher would be dismissed if they were not well-behaved. One day the baby was very mischievous, and she finally disappeared; when her mother found Christiann being given a horsey-ride by the strict principal, she knew that her child's occasional obstreperousness would be forgiven. The illustrations, in black and white with soft pink and green, are appropriately Victorian.

R Hoban, Russell C. London Men and English Men; by Russell and Lillian Hoban. K-2 Harper, 1962. 30p. illus. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

An amusing book to read aloud, giving the conversation of three small children playing in the early morning. A brother and sister go on a pretend journey to a distant land, equipped with hats and a balloon; they wake their baby sister first and take her along, although she has to be appeased frequently. Sample text: "No whales.—That's right. No whales. So ha ha ha. We're playing golf now.—All right for you.—What do you mean all right for me? Drink your tea." The authors capture completely the quality of children's speech; although this has an appeal for adults that cannot be shared by children, there is for children the appeal of a familiar procedure of imaginative play and a most appropriate level of humor in the conversation.

M Hope-Simpson, Jacynth. The Great Fire; illus. by Pat Marriott. Dutton, 1962. 3-5 128p. \$2.95.

The story of two children who meet during the great fire of London in 1666. Jeremy, an orphaned baker's boy, is wrongfully accused of starting the fire; he meets Susannah, who is planning to run away to sea and invites Jeremy to join her. After various adventures during the days of the fire, Susannah is reunited with her family and Jeremy becomes a protege of the Duke of York, whose life he had saved. The background of London and the drama of the fire are exciting, although some of the period details are obtrusively introduced. The conversation is often stilted: for example, there is a rumor in the excited crowd that Jeremy has started the fire, and the wine merchant's wife says, "I always said I didn't trust Jeremy's face." "He must be a terrible boy." her husband responds.

Ad Jaffe, Rona. The Last of the Wizards; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Simon and 3-4 Schuster, 1961. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.99 net.

A fanciful story about a boy of today who outwits a wizard; given the traditional three wishes, Peter asks as his third wish for ten wishes more, then on the tenth wish for ten wishes more, etcetera. Disgusted, the wizard departs, and Peter is left with a huge accumulation of weird and wonderful belongings. Amusing, but the catalog of wishes becomes a bit repetitive and the ending seems anticlimactic. The writing style is good, the illustrations are attractive, and there is some pleasant humor in the character of the wizard, who deplores modern times and his falling powers, especially when he wishes for three bright torches to warm them as they travel to the moon. What appears in the sky, to fly along beside them, is an electric heater.

- M Jeanes, Charlotte. Water and the Thirsty Land; by Charlotte Jeanes and
4-5 Raymond Carlson. Follett, 1961. 32p. illus. (Nature-Adventure Books.)
Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.70 net.

An oversize book in a series each of which "covers an interesting facet of America's great southwest land," and which is published in cooperation with Arizona Highways magazine. The book is limited by the superficiality of treatment, rather than by the geographical restriction. Handsome full-page color photographs from the magazine are often more decorative than they are informative. The writing in the text is adequate in style, but gives far less information than most of the books written on the subjects of the water cycle or conservation of water for agricultural or industrial purposes. A one-page pronouncing glossary for some of the terms used in the text is appended.

- R Johnson, Gerald White. The Supreme Court; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher.
5-8 Morrow, 1962. 127p. \$2.95.

A remarkably explicit book about the Supreme Court, written in a style that is informal and has a conversational ease, yet is perfectly dignified. Mr. Johnson describes the role of the Supreme Court, its importance and its power, its place in our system of government, and its effect on the lives of ordinary citizens. In discussing the history of the Supreme Court, the author stresses the contributions of two Chief Justices—Taney and Marshall—in the building of a strong governmental agency. The book concludes with a discussion of the role of the Court (and of policies of the Court and about it) in the years since the Civil War, including the problem of segregation. A list of all the Justices who have served in the Supreme Court and an index are appended.

- Ad Klein, Leonore. Mud! Mud! Mud!; illus. by George Wiggins. Knopf, 1962.
3-6 27p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.99 net.
yrs.

A slight picture book, but amusing; the author deftly exploits a simple theme. She describes the special activities that each of several children enjoys with mud. When a dry spell comes, the children miss their favorite occupation; at length they realize that they can make their own mud and they go back happily to their accustomed play. The writing has a light touch that is well-suited to a read-aloud book: "Dorothy Twigbee, another girl, was crazy about mud. Dorothy Twigbee put her hands into the mud—way, way down. Then she pulled up her fingers all covered with mud. And there was Dorothy Twigbee with—MUD GLOVES! (Very pretty.)" The illustrations are appropriately lively.

- M Kraus, Robert. The Trouble with Spider. Harper, 1962. 32p. illus. Trade
4-6 ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.
yrs.

A read-aloud book, light in tone and slight in content, with lively cartoon-like illustrations. The story is told by Fly, who explains that Ladybug is his friend and Spider his enemy. When Spider becomes ill, Fly doses him to recovery, and the grateful Spider invites the friends to a cup of tea. Told that his web is too sticky, Spider looks for a new home; while house-hunting, the three ward off an attack by a bird. Then they go to Fly's house, with Fly carrying the chair and suitcase of his new friend Spider.

- M Kravetz, Nathan. A Horse of Another Color; illus. by Susan Perl. Little,
2-4 1962. 58p. \$2.95.

A young artist strikes a blow for individual expression in the story of Henry, who painted horses any color he pleased. The other children were baffled, and so was the teacher; the school principal and the school counselor questioned Henry. Clearly

a normal boy. Then Henry's blue horse won the prize at a school exhibit, and after that—even though they didn't understand it—his classmates accepted Henry's idiosyncrasy. While adults may feel that it would have been preferable to have the adults in the story be more understanding, children may enjoy Henry's obduracy and, had there been no criticism, there would be no story. The illustrations are gay, some humorous; it is possible that some readers will question the drawings—clearly crayoned—that are referred to as being done with paint and brush. The adult criticism on which the plot is built seems overdone, even if one accepts the fact that it is meant humorously rather than being a realistic appraisal of educators; they make much ado about very little.

Ad Ladd, Elizabeth Crossgrove. A Mystery for Meg; illus. by Mary Stevens.
4-6 Morrow, 1962. 189p. \$2.75.

A sequel to Meg of Heron's Neck; Meg goes with her brother Allen to Pigeon Island, where he and another man have been hired to get the only house on the island in shape for the new owner. Meg is instrumental (to a credible extent) in solving the mystery of a locked room and in trapping the owner, who has been stowing away stolen antiques in the locked room. Good background, adequate story-line; the characterization is, for the most part, good, although two of the adult characters (the owner and Allen's colleague) seem overdrawn. The pace of the story is a bit slow.

R Langton, Jane. The Diamond in the Window; with illus. by Erik Blegvad. Har-
5-7 per, 1962. 242p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

An unusual handling of a fanciful theme. Eleanor and Edward Hall discover an attic room, and are told that an aunt and uncle who had used it in the past have disappeared; with them has disappeared an Indian prince who was betrothed to the aunt with whom Edward and Eleanor live. In a series of shared dreams, the children solve a mystery and bring back (with an almost-logical explanation of events) the three missing people, now appropriately older. The dream sequence can be appreciated best by the unusually sensitive reader for their sophistication and latent content; there is, however, nothing confusing for the average reader. The story is set in Concord, and there are many references in the book to New England authors, especially the Transcendentalists. One character, Uncle Fred, is a rarity in books for children: he is daft, a former scholar and a gentle and harmless man whose peculiarities are accepted with affection and whose disjointed but learned ramblings are so enjoyable that the reader may regret his return to sanity at the close of the book.

R Lauber, Patricia. Your Body; And How It Works; drawings by Stephen Rogers
3-5 Peck; photographs by Florence Burns. Random House, 1962. 77p. (Easy-
To-Read Books.) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

An excellent book on human physiology and morphology for the middle-grades reader. The explanations are lucid, accurate, and simply stated; illustrations are well-placed and adequately labelled, although not all of the drawings are instructive. The writing is straightforward, but rather informal, and the author gives each topic enough coverage without being technical or fulsome. An index is appended.

Ad Lerner, Marguerite Rush. Red Man, White Man, African Chief; The Story of
4-6 Skin Color; illus. by George Overlie. Medical Books for Children, 1961.
29p. \$2.75.

An explanation of pigmentation in human beings; prefaced by a discussion of pigmentation in all living things, with a direct scientific approach and couched in simple language. The author, a dermatologist, concludes with an explanation of the theory that dark-skinned peoples probably had a higher survival rate in hot countries, and that "the skin color of our ancestors who lived thousands of years ago has been passed down to us who live today." There is no discussion of hereditary character-

istics, which would make the quoted statement more clear but would, on the other hand, introduce another topic into a text that is nicely unified. The book includes a ten-word glossary that seems extraneous, since the same ten words are explained within the body of the text. The book concludes with a brief note to parents and teachers on the biochemistry of skin color that might have been printed separately, since it is difficult in vocabulary and may discourage the child who has read the book and is curious about the appended material. The book can be used by a parent or teacher with younger children.

M Life Magazine. *The Life Treasury of American Folklore*; by the editors of
6- Life; with paintings by James Lewicki. Golden Press, 1961. 348p.
Trade ed. \$12.50; Library ed. \$9.98 net.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated by elaborate—and often impressive—full-color paintings. The book is divided into areas such as the explorers, the Indians, the colonists, modern folklore, etc. Some of the material is from well-known authors, much of it is abbreviated or adapted, a considerable portion is given with no source quoted. The first section has some selections that seem to be out of place in a book of American folklore: for example, a full-page painting is used to illustrate a three-paragraph article on the islands of the Amazons, with an explanatory note that concludes, "There were several tales of an Amazon Island in the New World. The story which follows is one that Columbus heard, and believed." The three paragraphs do not constitute a story, but describe the Amazonian's life. The book contains two good map-paintings: one, a map of myths of early America, and, two, a large foldout regional guide to American folklore, with the citations included in the combined glossary and index that is the most valuable part of the book. Acknowledgments are made by a page-number listing of those selections that have sources given; a bibliography divided by sections is appended.

Ad McDonnell, Lois Eddy. *Stevie's Other Eyes*; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Friend-
2-4 ship Press, 1962. 127p. Paper ed. \$1.75; Cloth ed. \$2.95.

A good book about a blind child, interesting for the information it gives about techniques of learning, excellent for giving a young reader an understanding of the problems of blind children, but weakened as a story by the patently purposive situations. It is unfortunate that the protagonist is six years old, since the book will be read independently by children older than six; the text has a stilted quality that is emphasized when read aloud, so that reading aloud to small children seems inadvisable. The dearth of material on this subject means that the book will be very useful, and for children who are blind, or for sighted children who associate with a blind child, the book will have great value despite the inadequacies of style.

Ad McFall, Christie. *Maps Mean Adventure*; written and illus. by Christie
6- McFall. Dodd, 1961. 128p. \$3.

An interesting book about different kinds of maps, with some historical material about the development of cartography. Profusely illustrated, but illustrations are not always adequately captioned or well-placed. The book is probably most useful in the extensive citing of map symbols for many types of mapping: weather maps, topographic maps, nautical charts, comparative projections, etc. The book gives more varied information about maps than Brown's *Map Making* (Little, Brown, 1960) which is better written and indexed, but emphasizes historical material. It is weak in the writing style, which is choppy, in the segmented organization of topics, and in poor placement of some of the drawings.

Ad MacLean, Alistair. *Lawrence of Arabia*; illus. by Gil Walker. Random House,
7-9 1962. 177p. (Landmark Books.) \$1.95.

Not a complete biography, but a detailed description of Lawrence's years of service

in Arabia, with two first chapters to give background. The material is dramatic and the writing style is dramatic; the book is weakened by such partisan remarks as, "The slow, plodding, hidebound military minds of the day continually irritated his brilliant intelligence . . ." or "He was as enduring, as immune to pain and thirst and exhaustion as the iron men who traveled by his side." A list of suggestions for further reading and a good index are appended.

Ad Manning, Rosemary. The Dragon's Quest; illus. by Constance Marshall.
4-6 Doubleday, 1962. 182p. \$2.50.

A sequel to Green Smoke and Dragon in Danger, in which a highly personable dragon was the secret playmate of a little girl, and in which the friendship between Susan and R. Dragon was delightfully described. This book is a sequel only in a sense—it is prefaced by a note to Susan from the dragon, explaining that he has left her a book about his own adventures at the court of King Arthur. The writing has humor, and the style is good, but the story is a bit too elaborate. The book lacks the element that gave interest to its predecessors—the bland charm of a fanciful creature introduced matter-of-factly into the contemporary scene.

NR Marcus, Rebecca B. Science in the Bathtub; pictures by Jo Polseno. Watts,
K-2 1961. 24p. \$1.50.

A small read-aloud book that explains some of the phenomena of which some aspects are observable during a bath; the connection between topics is rather tenuous. The text discusses the water cycle, water usage, the forms of water, formation of waves, soap and soap bubbles, water disposal, and the question of what makes things float. The information is accurate and the style of presentation is simple, but there is far too much material covered in superficial fashion for the book to be useful. The complex topic of the water cycle is covered, for example, in six paragraphs of five or six brief sentences each.

SpC Marmur, Mildred, tr. Japanese Fairy Tales; illus. by Benvenuti. Golden
4-6 Press, 1961. 66p. (Giant Golden Books.) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed.
\$4.99 net.

An oversize book, profusely and beautifully illustrated, in which nine tales are translated; the source from which the translation was made is not cited. The lovely paintings would enhance any art collection, but the tales have little value. Such stories as "The Dancing Teapot" and "The Sparrow Whose Tongue Was Cut Out" deviate in many respects from such classic versions as those of Yoshiko Uchida, and the writing style is not unusual. That there has been some adaptation in addition to translation from the original language version is indicated by the opening of the first fairy tale: "This is the story of Tom Thumb. Not the Tom Thumb that you know, but a Tom Thumb with long black hair and sparkling, almond-shaped eyes. Because, you see, this Tom Thumb is Japanese. . . ." A book that can be used for art appreciation.

M Miller, Alice P. The Little Store on the Corner; illus. by John Lawrence.
K-2 Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 31p. \$2.50.

A slight read-aloud book about Mr. Tinklepaugh's store, a favorite haunt of the children who were given extra-scoop ice cream cones, full-measure sacks of peanuts, etc. When the owner's son took over the store, his scanty servings led to a loss of trade; seeing a "Going Out of Business" sign, the children decided to show young Mr. Tinklepaugh how to run the store. When his father came back, the young man said that he's learned how to make ice cream cones from small Billy. His father said it wasn't hard, "All you have to do is remember how you liked it when you were a little boy." A rather nice ending to a slightly dull story, although the basic theme will probably appeal to children. The illustrations are rather distracting, especially

in the use of color: on one page showing a group of children, the faces are variously white, red, yellow, and blue.

R Mirsky, Reba Paeff. Nomusa and the New Magic; illus. by W. T. Mars.
5-7 Follett, 1962. 190p. \$3.50.

A sequel to Thirty-One Brothers and Sisters; now Nomusa leaves her Zulu village and goes to live with the nurse, Buselapi, so that she can study nursing. In love with Damasi, Nomusa is sad because he doesn't want her to be a nurse or to be educated beyond his reach. Nomusa is overjoyed when, at Buselapi's wedding later, she meets Damasi and finds that he has begun attendance at the Agricultural School for Africans. The book is impressive in the dignified way it presents the tribal culture and in the understanding which the author shows—through Buselapi and Nomusa—of the need to integrate the best of old and new. Fascinating in background detail of the Zulu life, and completely convincing in the creation of characters so real that the reader can identify with all the universalities while appreciating all the differences.

SpC Montresor, Beni. House of Flowers, House of Stars. Knopf, 1962. 35p. illus.
K-2 Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.39 net.

A read-aloud picture book with illustrations that are ornate, stylized, often lovely, occasionally humorous. Some of the pages have details that are difficult to see because of the way in which colors are used; some illustrations incorporate comments in cartoon style. The text is an odd compilation of brief tales and descriptions of realistic or imaginary houses. Some of the text has a latent content that will be missed by children; some seems devised to permit inclusion of illustrations. The writing varies: it is sometimes lightly humorous, sometimes mystical, sometimes heavily whimsical. There is, for example, a one-page story about a mouse who built a house of cheese, but "After that first experiment, the bizarre idea of making houses of cheese was completely abandoned." This is followed by a page that is almost filled by the drawing of the fantastic headdress of a small snail. The text reads, "Once a lady snail, wanting to be more beautiful than her friends, had some improvements made in her house. But after the alterations, she became so changed that not even her fiance recognized her, and so she never married." Both the vocabulary and the concepts are sophisticated for the intended audience, and the book will probably be most useful in an art collection, since the illustrations have beauty and originality of style.

R Mowat, Farley. Owls in the Family; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. Little,
5-7 1962. 107p. \$2.95.

The author reminisces about his boyhood experiences with two owls that were added to his extensive and unusual (thirty gophers, for instance) collection of pets. With humor and affection, Mr. Mowat describes the acquisition of Wol and Weeps, owlets who developed distinctive personalities. Wol is fiercely independent and mischievous, Weeps a timid bird who never did learn to fly, and who liked to cuddle up to the family dog for comfort. The writing style is lively and breezy, with only an occasional note of cuteness—as, for example, in an incident in which a teacher is attacked by a mother owl and then takes a long drink of "cold tea" from his canteen.

Ad Parker, Richard. Almost Lost; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Nelson, 1962.
4-6 107p. \$2.95.

First published in England under the title More Snakes than Ladders, the story of two children who have a series of adventures trying to get to their grandmother's home in another town. Under the mistaken impression that their mother is in jail (wrongly accused of shoplifting) Mary and Jimmy start hiking for Weymouth, avoiding the police, acquiring a dog, getting involved with an excursion group, and finally being spotted by an older boy who has read about their disappearance in the news-

paper. The incidents in which the children are involved are all believable, but they go on for rather a long time; the writing style is adequate, some of the incidents and some of the characterizations are humorous.

Ad Pauli, Hertha Ernestine. America's First Christmas; pictures by Fritz
3-4 Kredel. Washburn, 1962. 24p. \$3.

A story about Columbus and his men, based on the journal written by Columbus. Left at the helm on Christmas Eve, little Pedro, a ship-boy, grounded the Santa Maria on a coral reef. Natives took pity on the sailors and helped them save the ship's stores; the crew were given dinner and gifts, and Columbus decided to leave some of the men on that island. In honor of the day, he named this first settlement La Navidad. An interesting story, but written in rather dull style; illustrations are of pedestrian quality.

R Poole, Lynn. Carbon-14; And Other Science Methods that Date the Past; by
6- Lynn and Gray Poole; illus. by P. A. Hutchison. Whittlesey House, 1961.
160p. \$3.50.

A most interesting book about some of the new techniques used by scientists in many fields, and about some of the recent research and discoveries implemented by these techniques. The methods described in addition to carbon-14 dating are obsidian hydration, thermoluminescence and archeomagnetism. The writing style is matter-of-fact but not dull, the illustrations are of variable quality. A list of radio-carbon laboratories and an index are appended.

R Radau, Hanns. Illampu; Adventure in the Andes; tr. by Lotte Bullock; illus.
6-9 by Heiner Rothfuchs. Abelard-Schuman, 1962. 160p. \$3.

First published in Germany in 1958, the story of a Bolivian Indian boy who hunts his lost llama in the mountains. Juan is the son of a herdsman; simple people living circumscribed lives, the Aymara Indians are not even aware of their own past: they do not know that their annual dance to the Virgin is just as it was centuries ago, when it was a dance to appease Mother Earth. On his lonely and dangerous hunt for his lost Illampu, Juan meets an elderly white man; for the first time in his life, the boy finds a gringo who can be a friend, who is interested in his people, who knows far more than does Juan about the old Incas and their customs that still live in the Bolivian culture. This is a good adventure story, but it is even more valuable in the creating of the life of Bolivian Indians in a wonderfully convincing and complete picture.

NR Rey, Hans Augusto. Elizabite; Adventures of a Carnivorous Plant. Harper,
K-2 1962. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A read-aloud picture book about a carnivorous plant; in fact, a hostile carnivorous plant named Elizabite, who bit the botanist who dug her up. Once potted at home, she attacked the dog who stole her frankfurter, bit the maid, etc. Later, chained to a kennel, she caught a thief; then she became a favorite at the zoo, where she lived in a cage next to the lion, surrounded by her offspring and admired by visitors. Small listeners may be amused by the mischief wrought by Elizabite, but they are hardly likely to have enough background to separate fact and fancy, and may well be confused by the introduction of a botanical curiosity that really exists but not as presented in the book.

M Sanders, Ann. The Library Mice; illus. by Eugene Fern. Ariel, 1962. 43p.
K-2 \$3.50.

The library mice had a pleasant life, with food left over from various meetings and intellectual stimulation always on hand. Their problem was the library cat, and the difficult job of belling the cat was made possible by the youngest mouse; Charlene

had some of the drugstore mice give her some sleeping medicine. Ann, the poetical mouse, composed a new song for the occasion. A mildly humorous read-aloud book; many of the references to library programs or to books will have more meaning for adults than for children: for example, in the illustrations, a wounded mouse is shown lying limply on a copy of Forensic Medicine, the cat-disposal planners are shown with The Power of Wishful Thinking and The Creative Process in the background.

M Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out about Houses; by Martha and Charles Shapp; 2-3 pictures by Peter Costanza. Watts, 1962. 42p. \$1.95.

A book that comments on the many different kinds of homes that exist; easy to read, a bit dull, adequately illustrated, and useful chiefly for its concept that there are reasons for some of the differences among houses. The authors note that the resources of the locality will influence building materials, that function may determine construction (as in the easily-portable tent of a nomad), and that housing varies according to safety needs (the house on stilts is protected from a rise in a river). Some of the text, however, seems of less value as information, since it merely points out superficial differences, such as the fact that some roofs are pointed and some flat, or that some people live in big houses and some in small.

M Slobodkin, Louis. The Three-Seated Spaceship; The Latest Model of the Space-3-5 ship under the Apple Tree. Macmillan, 1962. 128p. illus. \$3.

A third book about Eddie and his friend from outer space, Marty. In Marty's invisible space ship the boys go to London, with Eddie's grandmother as unwitting passenger. Grandmother persists through all their adventures in thinking that she is in a dream; since the story is a long succession of fanciful adventures, this device strains credulity even in a fantasy. After visiting the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, a department store, etc., Grandmother is still explaining that she will leave England when her dream is over. There is some humor in the writing, but it wears thin; the book is weakened by some awkward handling of dialect (Cockney "height" for "eight") and by some comments by Grandmother that play with spelling: "We'll see it in a jiffy, they said, on the banks of the Tems . . . I guess they mean the Thames River. You know how Englishmen talk." or "Remember Hiawatha, Eddie . . . 'On the shores of Gitchy Goomy'?"

R Stein, Ralph. The Treasury of the Automobile; special photography by Thomas 7- H. Burnside. Golden Press, 1961. 248p. \$14.95.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated by photographs (many in full color), by the automobile editor of This Week Magazine. The material, chronologically arranged, covers automobile history from the fire chariots of the eighteenth century to cars of the present, and touches briefly on some of the possibilities of future changes. The text is written in a lively, informal style; there are many personal anecdotes, and there is a fond humor in the writing: "The automobile of the Nineties was a horror on wheels. The brave eccentric who owned one happily put up with its crankiness if the beastly thing would only run." The photographs are magnificent; a brief bibliography and an index are appended.

M Steiner, Charlotte. I Am Andy; written and illus. by Charlotte Steiner. Knopf, 5-7 1961. 26p. \$1.95.
yrs.

A book with no text, but consisting of a series of picture frames (five or six), each set within two facing pages. Each set tells a small story, and carries a title; most of the drawings are clear. For example, one set of pictures is called "Andy Goes Fishing" and shows Andy setting off with fishing equipment, then registering joy as he gets a strike that proves to be a piggy-bank. He goes to a fish store, and in the last frame he walks homeward carrying a fish. There are some picture-stories that

stray from reality (two trees planted by Andy grow so fast that when he wakes from a nap in a hammock slung between the trees he is many feet off ground-level). Since there is no text to hint of humor or fancy, there may be some confusion in the mind of the "reader" about the interpretation of the pictures. One title—"Andy Plays George Washington"—requires knowledge of the tree-chopping legend to be understood.

M Tudor, Tasha. Pumpkin Moonshine. Walck, 1962. 33p. illus. \$2.75.
4-6 yrs.

A reissue, in larger format, of a 1938 publication. A small, quaintly pretty drawing faces each page of text; the story is brief and simple. Sylvie Ann picked a large pumpkin, which rolled downhill, frightening some of the farm animals and knocking over Mr. Hemmelskamp. Sylvie Ann apologized all around; her grandfather carved a face on the pumpkin and that night they watched to see "how terrified passersby would be at the sight of this fierce pumpkin moonshine." Sylvie Ann saved the seeds and planted them. Slight, static, mildly humorous.

Ad Untermeyer, Louis. The Kitten Who Barked; illus. by Lilian Obligado. Golden K-2 Press, 1962. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.99; Library ed. \$2.99 net.

A read-aloud picture book about a puppy brought into a home where there were five cats, by an author who has a dog and five cats. The story is simple in construction, humorous in tone, slightly sentimental in its attitude toward animals, slightly sophisticated in the vocabulary used, and engagingly illustrated. The author describes the personality of each cat; each reacts in quite consistent fashion when a small Yorkshire terrier joins the family. Cleo, the motherly cat, adopts Puck, who tries to please her by being an obedient kitten; not until he is surprised into barking does Puck realize he is a dog. Despite the coy note interjected by the attribution of thoughts and dialogue more human than feline (or canine), the story communicates to good effect a love for animals and an appreciation of their personalities.

R Unwin, Nora Spicer. Two Too Many; story and pictures by Nora S. Unwin. K-3 McKay, 1962. 56p. \$2.95.

A read-aloud Hallowe'en fantasy about two small black kittens named Two and Too Many. Wandering in the woods, the kittens are admitted to the home of a witch by her black cat Blackington, who acts as majordomo, cook, and broom pilot. Inadvertently Two and Too Many are involved in the Hallowe'en ride; frightened at first, they enjoy the excitement and the pranks. When their own witch wins the annual race over the moon, the kittens get part of the credit for her victory, so they are taken in as permanent members of the household. Some of the dialogue seems strained, although it is, on the whole, sprightly. For example, "Kipper, flipper, sounds exciting!" or "Scroopy scrimpings! Never thought I'd see you two again." Although one description of the witch verges on the gruesome, this is a good Hallowe'en story, with interesting cat characters, lively writing style, and some imaginative ideas.

R Willard, Barbara. Duck on a Pond; illus. by Mary Rose Hardy. Watts, 1962. 6-8 175p. \$2.95.

Although Tim lived in a suburb of London, his absorbing interest was in nature study—particularly in ducks. When Jane, his friend next door, noticed a wounded duck in the common pond nearby, she and Tim smuggled the bird into Tim's bedroom. Fearing that the beautiful bird might have its wings clipped, the children cared for it until it was well enough to be taken to a wild life sanctuary. The story line is firm, the nature study fascinating; in addition, the characterization in the book is sharply perceptive and the relationships between the children and between children and adults is realistic and perspicacious.

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