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Bulletin
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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

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

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XVI

March, 1963

Number 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Ambrose, Kenneth. The Story of Peter Cronheim; illus. by Elisabeth Grant.
5-7 Duell, 1962. 159p. \$2.95.

Based on some of the author's own experiences as a boy in Stettin, the story of a Jewish boy in Germany in 1932. Apprehensive about the growing strength of the Nazi party, Peter's family is dismayed but not despairing when the Nazis come to power. Peter sees his father give up a law practice—a friend disappears—the Jewish shops are boycotted. The Cronheims seize the chance, afforded by meeting a British naval officer, of sending Peter to school in England. The experiences of the Jewish community are moving, the story of Nazi persecution is candid; the author makes it clear that there were many Germans who abjured the party policy. The book has two weaknesses: the historical material is given in great detail, with an intensity that would probably be of greater interest to older readers than the audience for a book about a boy of thirteen. The second weakness is in the ending of the book: the fortunate and fortuitous appearance of Lieutenant Taylor, his sponsoring of Peter as an emigrant, and the heavy (and just slightly smug) lauding of the British. Taylor, visiting the Cronheims, says, ". . . I'm an Englishman! It doesn't make any difference to me what your religion is. . . . My father was a clergyman, and he taught me to regard the Jewish people with the highest respect. . . . We are not so keen on titles as you are in this country."

Ad Anckarsvard, Karin. Aunt Vinnie's Invasion; tr. from the Swedish by Annabelle
5-6 MacMillan; illus. by William M. Hutchinson. Harcourt, 1962. 128p. \$2.95.

For the year their parents were to be away, the six Hallensius children came to stay with their Aunt Vinnie. They found her neither a sentimental old lady, nor an eccentric one, but a calm and understanding person who became a friend. The children and Aunt Vinnie are consistently characterized, the episodes of small adventure and misadventure are believable; family relationships are good. The plot of the story lacks unity, however, and the writing is rather static.

Ad Anglund, Joan Walsh. Spring Is a New Beginning. Harcourt, 1963. 26p. illus.
K-2 \$1.95.

A small book, with a slight and lyrical text; a full page of rather sentimental drawing illustrates each few lines of text. "Spring is a new beginning . . . it is a season of young life . . . of nesting birds and crocuses . . . Yellow is its color . . . Then all the world is leafy-tipped and new . . . Then the earth is rich with seedlings." A pleasant text, but one that seems more appropriate for somewhat older children who can appreciate the mood and style of the writing.

M Applegate, Mauree. The First Book of Language and How to Use It; pictures by
4-6 Helen Borten. Watts, 1962. 61p. \$1.95.

The author first describes each of the eight parts of speech, then discusses sentences, phrases, punctuation marks, choice of the right word, writing a story. The style is breezy, with an occasional incidental remark that may be confusing, although the grammatical information is accurate. For example, the author, in discussing adjectives, says, "Adjectives can help us see in color: pink bow, shimmering waves, red and gold sunset." There is too much material covered for a text of such brevity, and the popularized writing style gives way at the close of the book to floridity: "Our language is the story of America itself. It is a glorious mixture from many nations. . . . It is so beautiful a language that it can . . . catch the happiness of a summer day. . . . It is the voice of democracy."

M Berry, William D. Buffalo Land; The Untamed Wilderness of the High Plains
4-6 Frontier; written and illus. by William D. Berry. Macmillan, 1962. 45p.
(Frontier West Books). Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.76 net.

A description of wild life on the Great Plains as it was in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Although the author describes other plains animals and birds, the major part of the text is devoted to a detailed discussion of the buffalo: their habits and habitat, their enemies, and their relegation to wild life refuges. Much of the text is interesting, but it is a continuous text rather loosely based on the year's cycle of the buffalo herds. Information about other plains animals is interpolated; this weak organization of material leads to such jarring transitions as that which follows a paragraph on the buffalo's use of river crossings: "One day spring sounds were heard across the plains." The book does not contain, as the jacket flap states it does, a glossary; a brief list of suggestions for further reading is appended.

R Boys, C. V. Soap Bubbles; Their Colors and the Forces Which Mold Them; in-
8- troduction and notes by Keith Gordon Irwin; original illus. adapted by Robert
Hallock. Crowell, 1962. 280p. \$3.95.

A reprint of the 1911 publication of the Christmas Lectures of Boys, which had added five lectures to the original edition of Soap Bubbles, published in 1890. Mr. Irwin, in his introduction, gives a brief biography of Boys and describes the establishment of the Christmas Lectures. Each lecture describes some physical phenomenon with remarkable lucidity, illustrating the theory with simple demonstrations; the adaptations of the original illustrations are profuse and adequate, but some of the diagrams are unlabeled, necessitating repeated checking with the text. The ingenuity with which Mr. Boys exploited the soap bubble is amazing still, since it is used as a vehicle for discussing capillary action, surface tension, the spectrum. Each lecture relates to bubbles: curvature of soap films, the soap bubble, soap bubbles and ether, composite bubbles, etc.

Ad Brentano, Clemens. Schoolmaster Whackwell's Wonderful Songs; retold by Doris
5-6 Orgel; illus. by Maurice Sendak. Random House, 1962. 88p. Trade ed.
\$3.50; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

A retelling of a German fairy tale, with illustrations that are both grotesque and humorous. This is a rather lengthy variant of the story of the brothers whose combined special gifts achieve the rescue of a princess. Gripsgrabs (climbs by gripping, grabs to steal) scales a cliff, Piffpaff (sound of an arrow) shoots with bow and arrow the raven that is menacing Gripsgrabs, etcetera. The youngest brother, Tirling, very properly wins the princess, splitting his half of the kingdom with the members of his family. The story contains some rhymes of mediocre quality that slow the story, in itself long drawn out. The writing style is quite good and is in the spirit of the genre.

R Brown, Myra (Berry). Ice Cream for Breakfast; pictures by Lawrence Beall
3-6 Smith. Watts, 1963. 54p. \$1.95.
yrs.

A picture book with simple text, simple illustrations, and plenty of white space on the pages. A small girl and her smaller brother make breakfast for their mother on Mother's Day, using ice cream for the coffee when the cat spills the cream. Jenny and Paul also present their mother with two goldfish; Mother is properly appreciative and the children are properly self-congratulatory. The breakfast achievement is realistic: instant orange juice, frozen waffles, and instant coffee. Simple as the story is, it is satisfying; the author happily avoids sentimentality or the sort of cuteness that may appeal to the adult while it bores the child.

NR Browner, Richard. Look Again!; illus. by Emma Landau. Atheneum, 1962.
4-6 27p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.79 net.
yrs.

A picture book with a text that is a repeated pattern: "Look again! What might it be? Ski tracks on a mountainside? What might it be?" is printed against a double-page spread. The next double-page spread: "Look again! What might it be? A house made of blocks? What do you see?" The illustrations are stylized and sophisticated; some of them are handsome, but the visual appeal seems more suitable for adult taste than for the taste of most small children.

M Budney, Blossom. A Cat Can't Count; designed and illus. by William Wondriska.
K-2 Lothrop, 1962. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

A counting book that uses some clever devices and has some clarifying illustrations, but that has, also, some text that seems complicated and some illustrations that are distracting. "What is one? Only me and not much fun. What is two? Me plus you. More fun than one." is simplicity itself; but the child young enough for this may be confused by, "You have to count money to buy things or sell but you don't have to count in order to SPELL. You count dozens of roses or eggs, or buns. You count weight by ounces, pounds, or tons. Inches, feet, and yards tell how wide and how long. Do you need to count to sing a song? Maybe, maybe not." The book can be used for counting practice, but it seems to be not quite right for either the read-aloud or the independent reading audience.

M Ciardi, John. The Wish-Tree; illus. by Louis S. Glanzman. Crowell, 1963.
K-2 93p. (Modern Masters Books for Children). \$1.95.

A read-aloud story illustrated by black and white drawings of variable quality. A small boy goes to bed the night before his sixth birthday, and has a long, fanciful dream that relates to his wish for a puppy and to the fact that his father has told him he would have to find a Wish-Tree. When the boy wakes, he finds on his bed a brown puppy. The story begins with great simplicity, and the dream sequence is introduced smoothly, but it seems drawn-out.

M Clarke, William D. The Young Pathfinder's Book of Oceans, Streams, and Glaciers; ed. by David Halfen; illus. by Hilda Simon. Hart, 1962. 128p. \$3.95.
5-7 The author is a marine biologist and oceanographer, and his text is authoritative, but the material is organized into brief topics with headings, so that the text seems abrupt and poorly organized. In the third section, "Rivers," for example, the first topics (two or three paragraphs each in length) are "The 4,000-mile Nile is the world's longest river," "Arabian engineers built a flood control system 2,000 years ago," "A small model helps engineers tame the Mississippi," and "The mouth of the Amazon River is 150 miles wide." The book has several good maps; illustrations are handsome and accurate but very few are labeled; an index is appended.

Ad Cooke, David Coxe. Dirigibles that Made History. Putnam, 1962. 72p. illus.
6-8 Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

A book that describes the history of the now-obsolete dirigible, with each page of text

being faced by a photograph of a famous ship. There is some continuity in the text, but most of it is in direct reference to the facing picture, giving details of construction and capacity and a description of the flights. Much of the material is inherently dramatic, but the combination of dry and heavily factual writing, poor reproduction in some photographs, and much similarity in many of them, will limit the usefulness of a book dealing with a subject that is of comparatively little interest today.

R Cosgrave, John O'Hara. America Sails the Seas. Houghton, 1962. 95p. illus. 6-9 Trade ed. \$5.; Library ed. \$4.23 net.

A book about American ships from the Indian canoe to a Polaris Missile-launching nuclear submarine. Many of the individual ships famous in American Naval history are described and illustrated; the book has pictures of over 200 ships, with references to illustrations being noted in the index. Diagrams (especially the cutaway diagrams) are especially useful and are well-labeled, although there is some difficulty seeing numbers against the colored background in some diagrams. The text is unbroken by headings, but moves from one topic to the next in a frequently disconcerting way, although the writing itself is smooth enough. The index is combined with a glossary and embellished with silhouettes of different types of sailing vessels. The illustrations will be useful for fourth and fifth grade readers.

R Daugherty, Charles Michael. The Great Archaeologists; illus. by Leonard 7-10 Everett Fisher. Crowell, 1962. 140p. \$3.50.

A survey of most of the well-known archeologists from Winckelmann to Ventris, with brief attention given to each—more on their professional contributions than on their personal lives. Well-written, the book gives a good picture of the scope of discoveries, the development of archeology as a science, and the dedication of the explorers of the past. The illustrations are very handsome; several maps are included. The book does not have the style of Ceram's Gods, Graves and Scholars (Knopf, 1952) or the scope of Samachson's Good Digging (Rand McNally, 1960), but is authoritatively written and is a good introduction to the subject. A good index and a list of suggestions for further reading are appended.

Ad De Borhegyi, Suzanne. Museums; illus. by Leonard Kessler. Holt, 1962. 48p. 3-4 (A Book to Begin On). Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

A survey of museums of all kinds, in a simply written text that describes briefly the history of museums, gives information about the different kinds, and devotes a few pages to the ways in which different types of collections are acquired. There is also brief mention of preparation of exhibits and some of the ancillary activities in museums. Broad in scope and superficial in coverage, but adequate as an introduction to the subject for the level of reader.

M Dolin, Arnold. Great Men of Science; illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Hart, 1962. 7-9 191p. \$2.95.

A collective biography, chronologically arranged, of twenty-six scientists, from Hippocrates to Einstein. The subjects are all rather familiar material, presented here quite briefly, with adequate factual content but in a style that is often florid. The collection may introduce some readers to some of the subjects, but it is superficial in coverage and seems random in selection. Goodyear is included, for example, while Mendel, von Humboldt, and Agassiz are omitted; the Wright brothers are included, and it may be argued that they are not as great men of science as Aristotle, Linnaeus, or Boyle, none of whom is included.

Ad Dow, Emily R. Toys, Toddlers and Tantrums; The Baby Sitter's Book; illus. 7- by the author. Barrows, 1962. 209p. \$3.50.

A useful book, but a somewhat inadequate title, since many of the suggestions are

more useful to parents than to baby sitters: for example, a whole section is devoted to safety measures when driving with children, the text implying that no other adult is in the party. A large portion of the book describes games, projects for the child, stories to read, etcetera. All of the advice given on physical and psychological handling of children is commonsense: what parents expect of a baby sitter, what to do in emergencies, special problems in caring for an infant, questions of discipline or favoritism. The book is not as well written as Moore's Baby Sitter's Guide (Crowell, 1953), and although it has much more material about recreational pastimes, it does not give quite as much practical information—it does not, for example, mention bathing the child or infant, except to suggest learning the mother's way of bathing the infant. Because there is so much recreational material, the book will be useful for young people who work with play groups. The list of books is not authoritative, as exemplified by the citing of St. Exupéry's The Little Prince as a book for the six year old.

R Dupuy, Trevor Nevitt. The First Book Military History of World War II. Euro-
6-9 pean Land Battles 1939-1943. Watts, 1962. 91p. illus. \$1.95.
The First Book Military History of World War II; European Land Battles
1944-1945. Watts, 1962. 83p. illus. \$1.95.

The first two volumes in a planned series of eight, illustrated by photographs and excellent maps. The material is well-organized, the writing style is clear, concise, and serious; the author is objective in attitude, both in reference to the enemy forces and to recognition of the roles of allies. Because of the dignity of approach, the books can be used by older high school students who are slow readers. Each book has an index, each is distinguished by an absence of extraneous philosophizing.

R Edmonds, Walter Dumaux. They Had a Horse; illus. by Douglas Gorsline.
7-10 Dodd, 1962. 60p. \$3.50.

A gentle story, slow and sensitive in nuance. In the Palatine community of New York state, in 1714, a young farmer and his wife yearn to have a horse to help in their work. Young Jacob goes to the other farmers to persuade them to pool resources; they go off to buy a good horse, but return with an old mare in foal. Exhausted after the trip, Jacob sleeps; his wife, who has sacrificed her one precious possession so that the horse could be bought, is sitting, when he wakes, with a newborn foal. A subdued story, but one that convincingly creates the mood and atmosphere of the frontier community of German-born, with strong characterization and good dialogue.

NR Evatt, Harriet. The Mystery of Lonesome Manor; illus. by David Stone. Bobbs-
5-6 Merrill, 1962. 188p. \$3.50.

Despite an interesting French-Canadian background and good family relationships, a weak book. The plot is compounded of familiar ingredients and is heavily contrived. Little Alouette Robinette meets a mysterious Indian who gives her a rare ring which she must keep secret; Alouette finds a duplicate of her ring on the hand of the romantic and beautiful woman who has returned to Lonesome Manor after years of absence (shipwreck, amnesia, foster child Alouette's age, lost lover, etcetera). Alouette is instrumental in restoring the family fortunes and is enthralled when the lost lover appears (helped by the Indian) . . . he is her long-lost cousin Jacques. The lovers are wed, the fortune is found, the ward is adopted, the amnesia is over, and everybody celebrates Christmas.

Ad Facklam, Margery. Whistle for Danger; illus. by W. T. Mars. Rand McNally,
5-6 1962. 128p. \$2.95.

Based on the author's experiences as a volunteer zoo worker while in high school, a story about two youngsters who spend their summer helping the keeper in the reptile house of a zoo. Bill and Corky, knowing the zoo cannot afford to hire help, donate their services and have an interesting summer; interest in their work leads to a

newspaper story, and community support ensues. The book gives much information, but has no story line; the action depends on a series of episodic adventures. While some of the episodes are exciting, the limitation of background makes the story repetitive.

R Fatio, Louise. Red Bantam; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House, 1963.
K-2 32p. \$2.75.

A read-aloud story with bright, attractive illustrations. The theme is an old one: the smallest animal, scorned, who gains prestige by showing his mettle in a crisis. The Bantam egg had been put in with a clutch of larger eggs, and Red Bantam grew to be the smallest rooster in the farmyard, kept by Big Rooster, top of the pecking order, from the hens. Just as he was to be sold over the protest of Madame Dumollet (who thought him beautiful) Red Bantam proved himself by rescuing his favorite hen from a fox. Admired by humans and hens alike, Red Bantam showed gallantry by offering to share with Big Rooster the daily crowing. The touches of Gallic background and the simplicity of writing give flavor to the story.

Ad Fiedler, Jean. The Last Year; by Jean Fiedler and Carol Reuter. McKay, 1962.
7-9 248p. \$3.95.

A junior novel about a high school senior that combines some formula plot and some perceptive writing. Jan is an only child with an overprotective and ambitious mother, and in the course of the year she gently establishes her independence and achieves a better relationship with her mother in a realistic way. She loses the coveted honor of being a commencement speaker; she gives up her chance at a scholarship so that a Negro girl may get it, feeling that Betty—another good student—may lose (if competed against) because she is Negro: she does not tell Betty. The patterned elements are the unstable boy friend who is replaced by the quiet Matt, the somewhat scheming rival, Adele, and the winning of a magazine award for her work on the school paper. Good values in the writing, which is adequate but not distinctive, and excellent teacher-pupil relationships.

M Fisher, Aileen Lucia. I Wonder How, I Wonder Why; illus. by Carol Barker.
K-2 Abelard-Schuman, 1962. 31p. \$2.50.

A collection of poems to read aloud, with illustrations that are busy and mediocre. The pages are somewhat distracting in layout, with some double-page spread illustrations used for two poems, one on each page. The poems are childlike, most of them pleasant but a few rather coy.

M Fleuridas, Ellie. I Learn to Swim; written and illus. by Ellie Fleuridas. Mac-
3-5 millan, 1962. 26p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.58 net.

A read-aloud picture book in which a small boy describes his first lessons with a swimming teacher; most of the text is devoted to games that will make the child feel at ease in the water: playing frog, group splashing, blowing bubbles. Illustrations are pedestrian, but inoffensive; some of the text (otherwise simple) is in language that seems a bit contorted for the very young: "Then my arms like a windmill turn, while I kick my legs (but mind to keep them straight)." The book does have some value in that it communicates the facts that swimming is a - fun, and b - not difficult. The author (a swimming instructor) does not imply that a child may learn to swim by use of this book, and makes no mention of the fact that it is at times necessary to hold one's breath. There is only an oblique reference: "I blow my bubbles and come up for air whenever the need is there."

R Gage, Wilson. Miss Osborne-the-Mop; illus. by Paul Galdone. World, 1963.
4-6 157p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.88 net.

An entertaining fantasy in which two cousins discover, to their delight, that one of

them has the magical ability to make a wished-for object materialize. Jody obligingly produces orange cake and other delicacies, even wishing a motorcycle for her cousin Dill. The two get stuck, however, when Jody brings a mop to life and discovers she has lost her magic. In despair, the children remove the Mop to a cabin in the woods, where she adamantly supervises a clean-up program. Just before Jody's visit ends, she revives her magic powers long enough to change the acidulous Mop back to her inanimate form. The story is nicely unified, with a small group of good characters; the writing has humor and vitality.

R Gregory, Horace. The Crystal Cabinet; An Invitation to Poetry; by Horace
8- Gregory and Marya Zaturenska; wood engravings by Diana Bloomfield.
Holt, 1962. 225p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

A very fine anthology, and a handsome book. Illustrations are attractive and restrained; the selections are printed on separate pages, each followed by the name of the author: all very dignified. The poems have been selected with discrimination, and the volume may well (fulfilling the editorial hope stated in the preface) encourage the reader to move from this anthology to a further acquaintance with some of the poets whose work is included. The editors have avoided, for the most part, poems that are often included in anthologies; the selections are varied in mood, and uniform in being of excellent quality. Appended are an index of first lines, an author index, and a compilation of notes on some of the poems and some of the poets.

M Hartwell, Nancy. Something for Laurie. Holt, 1962. 189p. Trade ed. \$3.; Li-
7-9 brary ed. \$2.96 net.

A fairly patterned junior novel, in which a seventeen year old girl finds many changes in her life stemming from the acquisition of a puppy, Bon Bon. Laurie felt inferior to the rest of her brilliant family, and felt unpopular with boys. One of the most important boys at school became interested in Bon Bon and then Laurie, but Wayne turned out to be a weak person. Through Bon Bon Laurie met a young veterinarian; Don turned out to be a strong person. Laurie began to write, felt more secure, realized she loved Don, and "Maybe -maybe-maybe . . . Her heart sang, putting its own lilting tune to the words that nobody else could hear.", the book ends. The plot development is weak, characters are believable but rather flat, writing style mediocre; the relationships among the members of Laurie's family are sympathetic and they are the most appealing aspect of the book.

R Hautzig, Esther. Let's Make Presents; 100 Gifts for Less Than \$1.00; illus.
5-8 by Ava Morgan. Crowell, 1962. 191p. \$3.50.

A very useful book of suggestions and instructions for making gifts that are simple and inexpensive. The instructions, both in the text and in the diagrams, are clear, with each gift shown in illustration as it looks when completed. The text is divided into sections on gifts for women, for men, for children, and for a family; a final section gives instructions for making a few confections that require only a little use of a stove. An index is appended.

R Hightower, Florence C. Dark House of Woodfield; illus. by Joshua Tolford.
6-9 Houghton, 1962. 233p. \$3.25.

A lively and humorous story of the depression years. Maggie and her brother live at once-splendid Woodfield with their aunt and their grandmother; Maggie loves horses, Buggy breeds butterflies in the study, Aunt Cynthia runs the household, Gran rules Woodfield. Each character is distinctive, and although they all come alive, eccentric and indomitable Gran is unforgettable. Good background, good family relationships, good horse story. The book also has a love story and a bit of mystery; all of these elements are smoothly fused by an easy writing style, and the book is pervaded by sparkling humor.

NR Hollander, John. A Book of Various Owls; pictures by Tomi Ungerer. Norton, 4-5 1963. 35p. Trade ed. \$3.; Library ed. \$2.90 net.

An oversize book in which a page of text is faced by a page of illustration, some of the illustration pages being overfilled and distracting, others being interesting in design or humorous. The author cites, in a few paragraphs, some of the species of owls in Europe and America and lists the word "owl" in various other languages. The remainder of the text is in rhyme and is concerned with imaginary owls: the Jowl Owl, "I know an owl who eats too much/ And never flies about/ He simply sits upon a tree, becoming rather stout . . ." or, the Howl Owl, "I can't care much if what he says is true, Or if his thoughts are beautiful or deep. They're very loud, and hooted at me, too, When all I want to do is go to sleep." There seems no reason to combine the non-sense rhymes with the small amount of information; the humor and vocabulary will be comprehensible to, and are appropriate for, children older than the read-aloud audience who will deign to look at a volume that looks like a picture book.

R Horizon Magazine. Knights of the Crusades; narr. by Jay Williams; in consultation with Margaret B. Freeman. American Heritage, 1962. 153p. illus. 7-12 (Horizon Caravel Books). Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

A well-written history of the Crusades, detailed and comprehensive, straightforward in treatment, but with an occasional delightful wry comment. The author gives enough historical background to afford the reader some perspective. The book has some photographs of sites and statuary, but most of the illustrations are reproductions of tapestries, drawings, manuscripts, etc. of the period. The reproductions are of good quality, they are profuse, many of them are beautiful, and all of them are interesting. An index and a list of suggestions for further reading are appended.

M Jarman, T. L. A Picture History of Italy; illus. by Clarke Hutton. Watts, 1962. 6-8 62p. \$4.95.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated but not really a picture history, since many of the drawings give no information but are simply drawings of landscapes or of group scenes. The text is informative, but it is written in a vitiated style that talks down to the reader: "Julius Caesar was murdered by men who had once been his friends. Shakespeare tells the whole of this story in his play called Julius Caesar." or, describing the painting of the Mona Lisa, ". . . Leonardo had jesters and singers present while he painted, to keep the lady entertained. They saw to it that she did not get tired and start to frown."

Ad Jordan, Hope Dahle. Take Me to My Friend. Lothrop, 1962. 190p. \$3. 7-9

Julie had had her license for a year, but hated driving; an emergency situation made it necessary for her to drive her grandmother from Florida to Wisconsin. Her unwise decision to pick up two students to help drive brought real danger, and Julie found herself trapped by two tough characters who took over the route, took Julie's money, and threatened worse. The book has suspense and pace, good characterization, tight plot. It is weakened by writing style that becomes elaborate now and then, and by a somewhat melodramatic ending.

R Keeshan, Robert. She Loves Me . . . She Loves Me Not; pictures by Maurice K-2 Sendak. Harper, 1963. 28p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A small read-aloud book with a very slight text that is brought to life enchantingly by the engaging Sendak drawings. A small boy has four daisies; a small girl counts the peals of two, the boy counts the petals of the third; the final petal indicating that she loves him, the boy gives the girl the third daisy, which she puts in her hair. All the while two highly emotional cupids hover over the pair, expressing alternately

their joy or despair over the latest turn of events.

Ad Konopnicka, Maria. The Golden Seed; ad. by Catharine Fournier; illus. by
3-4 Janina Domanska. Scribner, 1962. 44p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed.
\$3.31 net.

An adaptation of a Polish folk style tale, illustrated by delicate drawings that have a medieval quality. A king of long ago wished for gold so that his people might buy comforts; an old man gave the king some seeds that would, he said, grow into gold. When the grown plants produced blue flowers and no gold, the angry monarch had the plants uprooted, thrown into water, and beaten. The old man was put into prison, where he bade the jailer's daughter spin and weave the fibers of the plant. The cloth was brought to the king's daughter, and the old man explained that it was linen, and had come from the flax plant. The king admitted that he had been given something better than gold, and that flax was the riches of the poor. The adaptation is slow-paced, written with simplicity; the author does not quite achieve the folk flavor.

M Levine, Rhoda. Arthur; illus. by Everett Aison. Atheneum, 1962. 45p. \$3.25.
K-2

A read-aloud picture book with sophisticated illustrations and attractive layout. The protagonist is a non-conforming, dreamy bird who lingers alone in New York when all the other birds fly south. Arthur has many problems and many adventures; greeted by his returning friends in the spring, Arthur decides he had best be modest and keep his story to himself. The story seems too long for the age group, and has several concepts or uses of words that will not be understood by a small child; some of the aspects of the New York scene will be quite unfamiliar to the rural child. The writing has occasional flashes of humor, but most of the story seems fragmented: Arthur sees an icicle, and makes a rhyme with that word. "I may be a poet, he thought. He pondered this for several days. Then one morning Arthur began to hear new sounds." The text moves in this way from one incident to another, with few passages in which there is smooth transition or continuity.

Ad Livingston, Myra Cohn. I'm Not Me; with illus. by Erik Blegvad. Harcourt,
K-2 1963. 27p. \$1.95.

A read-aloud book about imaginative play, with each daydream pictured on the facing page; the attractive illustrations show clearly that children are playing. For example, a small child is pictured sitting placidly on a rented pony; the text reads, "Whooppeeeeeeee- I'm a two-gun holster cowboy riding my horse on the prairie. I'm a cowboy roping cattle on the range . . . I'm a quick-drawing, fighting cowboy taking a badman to jail . . . etc." The twelve imaginings (each consisting of about a dozen lines) may stimulate imaginative play, but they are so much a familiar occupation that they may well seem a bit dull to the child to whom the book is read aloud.

Ad Lord, Beman. Bats and Balls; pictures by Arnold Spilka. Walck, 1962. 60p.
3-5 \$2.95.

Bob's finger had been broken by a wild pitch in the first game of the season, and he found that he was nervous about being hit again, and afraid to get back in a game. In a conversation with his friend, Doug, Bob found himself reassured by the fact that his timorousness seemed natural to Doug. Now that he didn't have to be ashamed of being afraid, Bob came back happily to rejoin the team. A slight story with good values, a bit slow-moving but realistic.

R McCord, David Thompson Watson. Take Sky; More Rhymes of the Never Was
4-6 and Always Is; drawings by Henry B. Kane. Little, 1962. 107p. \$3.50.
A book of poems, pleasant for independent reading or for reading aloud to younger children. The poetry is rhythmic and imaginative; it has simplicity and humor. A

few of the selections are nonsense humor, several of them play happily with words and sounds. One or two serious poems have some lovely lines, as does "The Leaves": "Down flutters every leaf, after twirl and spin, Deleted, spare, and thin In multiple retreat, Feet rustle them. We rake and burn them for the sake of dwelling in their smoke." The illustrations are imaginative in conception and delicate in execution.

NR McClelland, Hugh. The Magic Lasso; written and illus. by Hugh McClelland. K-2 St. Martin's, 1963. 38p. \$2.50.

A read-aloud fantasy of small-boy derring-do. The little cowboy, overworked, wins fame when he uses for a lasso the ravelings from a (magic) carpet given him by a hobo to whom he had been kind. After capturing an outlaw band, the boy loses his lasso because it is eaten by a moth . . . but he is henceforward accepted by the cowboys as one of them. The story is unoriginal and the comic strip illustrations are extremely unattractive.

SpC MacGregor-Hastie, Roy. Pope John XXIII. Criterion Books, 1962. 126p. 6-9 illus. \$3.

A re-edited and expanded version of the title originally published in Great Britain. A detailed and rather adulatory biography that describes the childhood of Angelo Roncalli, the years of serving as priest, archbishop, and cardinal before elevation to the papacy; the text was written before the Ecumenical Council convened but refers to its imminence. Because of the detailed treatment and the adulatory tone, the book seems more suitable for use in religious education programs than in a general collection.

M McMillan, Polly Miller. Little Lamb's Curls; illus. by Tāivaldis Stubis. 3-5 Lothrop, 1962. 23p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net. yrs.

A read-aloud picture book with rhyming text and slightly busy illustrations. A small lamb, frisking about, feels too warm in the summer heat, and is relieved when he is shorn. His curls are sent off to be washed, combed, carded, woven, and spun: "It's a blanket now, and it's just for you. It's far far away from the daisy dew, But it's really a present from that little sheep To keep you warm while you're fast asleep." The text is a bit dull and a bit coy in places, but it has some usefulness in giving small children some idea of where a familiar object originated.

M McNulty, Faith. When a Boy Wakes Up in the Morning; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Knopf, 1962. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.19 net. yrs.

A read-aloud picture book that has a slight text and pictures that are judicious in the use of space and color. The story describes the early-morning activities of a small boy in his room; Jamie has been told by his mother to be quiet and not to waken his parents. Jamie feels lonely. He feels hungry. He makes some noise—tentatively. He crashes some toy trucks. (Maybe she'll wake up.) He imprudently moves a large box of blocks: tremendous bangings. His mother appears, unsmiling. But Jamie smiles at her, his mission accomplished. Small children may recognize and identify with Jamie's ploy, but it is a process too close to them to have the appeal that it may have to the adult who reads the book aloud.

M Marino, Dorothy (Bronson). Moving Day; written and illus. by Dorothy Marino. K-2 Dial, 1963. 29p. \$2.75.

A slight read-aloud book, with illustrations that are adequate but unremarkable. The two Holly children wish they could stay with their friends in a familiar place; their cat and kitten are used to the old home, too. Boxes are packed, rooms are emptied, the van is loaded. Everybody drives to the new house, unpacks, and they all have a

picnic lunch. The children go out to play and quickly make new friends; the cat and kitten sit on the window seat just as they used to do. The writing is static, with no emotional impact and no humor. The book has a subdued quality of life at the everyday level that will appeal to some children because of the familiarity of the event.

R Meeks, Esther MacBain. Jeff and Mr. James' Pond; illus. by Paul Galdone.
K-2 Lothrop, 1962. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

A read-aloud book that gives in a fictional framework, and quite successfully, a simple explanation of the balance of life in nature. Jeff, having helped Mr. James build a pond, notices the water is no longer clean; Mr. James gets some water fleas to eat the scum; soon the fleas multiply and the pond is stocked with minnows to clear the fleas. After the minnow-winnowing bluegills overpopulate the pond, Jeff hits on the final solution, and he—with friends—goes fishing. The illustrations are both attractive and informative.

R Meyer, Jerome Sydney. Engines; illus. by John Teppich. World, 1962. 78p.
5-7 \$2.75.

An excellent informational book, written with crisp simplicity and illustrated by diagrams that are adequately labeled and are well-placed in relation to the text to which they pertain. The material is well-organized: a general discussion of engines, and separate chapters on each kind of engine: steam, diesel, jet, etcetera, with a final chapter on engines of the future using atomic or solar energy. Within each chapter, Mr. Meyer gives a brief historical report, an explanation of basic principles, and some illustration of application. An index is appended.

NR Olds, Helen Diehl. The Little Ship That Went to Sea; illus. by W. N. Wilson.
K-2 Reilly and Lee, 1962. 28p. \$2.50.

A small boy was sailing his model boat on a pond; then his Little Ship managed to sail away and "she hid behind some bushes." On the bank there was a fish who had come from England; he offered to guide Little Fish and he traveled in Little Ship's hold. They saw New York harbor, icebergs, porpoises, and the Eddystone Light. When they reached London they were welcomed by crowds of people; guardsmen were there and the Lord Mayor, who said that the Queen had telephoned the President about Little Ship. A very weak story, with poor nature concepts (the fish), obtrusive and random informational details (the fish explains that only a small part of a berg is above water), and a completely unbelievable ending. The illustrations are pedestrian, the writing is dull.

M Palmer, Mary B. The Teaspoon Tree; illus. by Carlotta Dodge. Houghton,
4-6 1963. 114p. \$2.75.

A fanciful story about the adventures of a doughty little girl named Andulasia, who hears from her friend the Mole about a teaspoon tree. Armed with her popgun, Andulasia embarks on a search for the tree, planning to take it home with her. She meets a series of odd and widely diverse characters: a languid Grecian lady, a Commuting Animal, an obliging dinosaur. She eventually finds the tree, and all the characters she has met are carved on the spoons; in some embarrassment, Andulasia decides to leave the tree where it is, and returns to tell the Mole all about it. The book has humor and imagination, but the episodes frequently seem contrived in detail and slow in their pace.

Ad Parish, Peggy. Good Hunting Little Indian; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Scott,
5-7 1962. 47p. \$3.

yrs.

A read-aloud picture book, amusingly illustrated. Little Indian, having made a bow and six arrows, proudly informs his parents that he is going hunting and will bring

home some meat for Mama to cook. A turkey and a deer get away; Little Indian is treed by a bear and pursued by a wild hog; in a flippant surprise ending, Little Indian rides the hog home. Papa suggests that next time Little Indian bring the meat home, rather than having the meat bring him. Rather slight, but with nice light humor and with the amused tolerance and love of parents deftly suggested.

M Parkinson, Ethelyn M. The Merry Mad Bachelors; illus. by Fritz Kredel. 4-6 Abingdon, 1962. 175p. \$3.

A sequel to Good Old Archibald; Arch is now an accepted member of the gang, and the plot is based here on the determination of the boys to acquire yet another new member. They want to find a home in their own town for orphaned Emory Stringfellow, whose guardian doesn't seem to understand what lanky Emory would do for the seventh grade basketball team. The writing has humor, most of it in dialogue, but it seems overdone: the ploys of the youngsters are on the cute side—for example, they collect testimonials about a young bachelor, hoping to convince somebody to marry him and make a home for Emory. Especially exaggerated is the family situation (as in Good Old Archibald) of the Conways, where all of the six boys are slightly off-beat characters, exceeded in bright quips only by their parents.

R Phipson, Joan. The Boundary Riders; illus. by Margaret Horder. Harcourt, 5-7 1963. 189p. \$3.

An excellent adventure story, set in Australia, and written with sustained suspense and convincing detail. Jane and her younger brother, Bobby, are given permission to go on a week's tour of inspection with a cousin of fifteen. The dangers they encounter are all credible, and all exciting; the ways in which they react to danger are realistic; the ending of the book is dramatic and satisfying. Bobby, the youngest and most shy of the three, gains the position of leadership; all of the characters are individual and consistent in their reactions to each other and to events.

M Pine, Tillie S. The Eskimos Knew; by Tillie S. Pine and Joseph Levine; illus. 2-4 by Ezra Jack Keats. Whittlesey House, 1962. 32p. \$2.75.

As in The Pilgrims Knew and The Chinese Knew, some simple science information is tied quite artificially to a group of people. The text consists of a repeated pattern of "The Eskimos knew" (that burning oil gives light and heat, for example), "Today, we" do thus and thus, and "You can . . ." do some simple home demonstration to illustrate the point. Only a few of the topics bear any significant relationship to Eskimos: they have long known that blue ice, melted, proves salt-free . . . today we get fresh water from sea water, etc. Some of the topics seem contrived . . . the Eskimos knew that light can go through some things, but so did many other peoples. The demonstrations are of variable usefulness, also; tying blown-up balloons to a box may show that air-floats keep things from sinking, but few children need to prove to themselves that light will go through wax paper but not through cardboard.

R Price, Christine. Made in the Renaissance; Arts and Crafts of the Age of Exploration; written and illus. by Christine Price. Dutton, 1963. 120p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.64 net.

A book that describes the arts and crafts of the Renaissance; like its predecessor, Made in the Middle Ages, the volume is handsome in format, with many detailed illustrations of medieval art objects. The text gives a considerable amount of background information about the period; the writing style is straightforward. The separate sections of the book are on such topics as costume, sculpture, armor, furniture, etcetera. An authoritative book, useful in art collections as well as for the general reader.

R Sharp, Margery. Miss Bianca; with illus. by Garth Williams. Little, 1962.

6- 152p. \$3.75.

A delightful sequel to the delightful The Rescuers; here the lovely and courageous mouse, Miss Bianca, goes on another rescue mission. With the aid of the Ladies' Guild, Miss Bianca rescues a small girl from the evil grasp of a wicked duchess. The scenes of the female mice-militant training rigorously for their foray into the palace are delicious. The writing style is distinctive, with enchanting characters and suspenseful plot. Both the text and the illustrations sparkle with humor.

Ad Scherf, Margaret. The Mystery of the Velvet Box; illus. by Charles Geer.
5-7 Watts, 1963. 154p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

A mystery story in which an eccentric grandmother has left a valuable painting that is found after the unraveling of a set of clues that Gran has left behind. While Harriet and her brother Bertie are looking for the treasure, they are harboring an imposter who pretends to be a cousin. The story is fairly well constructed and has suspense, but the identity of the imposter, Gerald, and the solution of the mystery both seem quickly obvious. The dialogue is good, characterization adequate, and the logical processes of the children are believable—but, as in many juvenile mystery stories, the children do the detecting while the adults do little.

Ad Sendak, Maurice. Alligators All Around; An Alphabet. Harper, 1962. 26p.
4-6 illus. \$1.84.
yrs.

An alphabet book in which a family of three ingratiating alligators is shown on each page, "juggling jelly beans . . . keeping kangaroos . . . looking like lions . . . making macaroni . . ." or other unlikely pursuits. The fact that each letter of the alphabet has only two or three words used alliteratively makes the text easy to remember, even if some of the words are unfamiliar when first heard by a child. The illustrations are, of course, repetitive, but the repetition is alleviated by engaging silliness of occupation and facial expression.

Ad Sendak, Maurice. Pierre: A Cautionary Tale; in Five Chapters and a Prologue.
K-2 Harper, 1962. 32p. illus. \$1.84.

A small book about Pierre, a youngster who, with hauteur and every evidence of hostility, replied "I don't care!" to every overture of parental affection. To a lion who planned to eat him, Pierre gave the same answer. So the lion ate him. Only after being ejected from inside the lion (held upside down by a doctor) did Pierre respond with pleasure and indicate that he did care about something. Bland nonsense, but a bit slow-moving, with not quite enough vitality or humor to compensate for the slightly static quality of the story.

R Sherburne, Zoa. Stranger in the House. Morrow, 1963. 192p. \$3.25.
8-10

Kathleen and her younger brother loved Alma, their housekeeper, as though she were their mother; for eight years their mother had been in a mental hospital. The news that mother was coming home made Kathleen apprehensive about relationships within the household, about the comments of her friends, and about her own feelings. The author writes about a difficult problem with dignity and sensitivity: Kathleen's ambivalent feelings are realistic, her mother's efforts to be patient and understanding as she waits for her family to adjust to the change and to accept the fact that she is recovered from an illness are both realistic and sympathetic. The emphasis in the story is on the problem of adjustment, but the other aspects of family life and school affairs are not neglected.

Ad Smaridge, Norah. Looking at You; illus. by Stan Palczak. Abingdon, 1962.
7-9 176p. \$3.

A compilation of advice for young people, informal in tone, broad in coverage, and divided into four sections: home, friends, personality, and activities. The author's suggestions are common sense, and her attitude is one of encouragement. The book has, however, several weaknesses, the chief one being the random arrangement of material within the sections. Some of the anecdotes and examples seem inconclusive, and the scope of the text is perhaps too broad: the random arrangement contributes to a diffused effect. Two brief topics that discuss prejudice, tolerance, and the use of derogatory names are particularly good.

NR Smith, Imogene. Egg on Her Face. Lippincott, 1963. 190p. \$3.50.
6-8

A book about the sophomore and junior years of Abby Harker; each chapter describes a separate episode, most of these being set in the high school. There is a thread of continuity in the fact that the characters reappear, but no story line at all. Abby is an only child; she and her parents have a good relationship, but as it is presented in the dialogue, the Harker home life is determinedly cute. The writing style is weak—sometimes sentimental: "It had been some time since the Colonel had seen a fresh young face, and Abigail's reminded him of a long-dead wife who had left him too soon with neither son nor daughter." and sometimes exaggerated, as in describing a teacher: "Weekly he posted his little lists on the bulletin board: Committee on Installation of Typewriter Ribbon . . . Committee on Glue and Accessories . . . Committee on Work Output by All Committees." Two of the episodes seen drawn in quite unnecessarily, one about a student who commits suicide and one about a student who becomes pregnant. It is not the inappropriateness that seems objectionable: these things happen to adolescents; what seems objectionable is that they have nothing to do with Abby and, since each is in a separate episode, they have nothing to do with the rest of the book.

NR Steiner, Charlotte. Jack is Glad, Jack is Sad; written and illus. by Charlotte
3-6 Steiner. Knopf, 1962. 27p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.99 net.
yrs.

A read-aloud book that attempts to distinguish moods for the very young; each four-line verse is followed by a description of the resultant emotion. For example, "When neighbor Freddy / Comes skating by, And Jack tries to trip him / To make him cry—Jack is bad." or "When Jack wakes in the night / And can't see a light / But hears from the ground / A mysterious sound—Jack is frightened." The value of the book seems slight, since some of the emotions (sad or glad) are quite familiar, and some may be confusing as they are described (Jack is charmed by Maybelle's golden hair). The book also has some suggestions of dubious value: Jack is bad, told he may not go to the circus, behaves well and is allowed to go . . . (not all parents change their minds) and "Jack visits Granny and eats too much cake," (Not all visits to grandmothers result in a "Big tummyache.").

R Stine, G. Harry. Man and the Space Frontier; illus. by Lewis Zacks. Knopf,
7-10 1962. 149p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.69 net.

A book that discusses the problems of physical and emotional adjustment to various phenomena of space flight: pressure, humidity, acceleration, weightlessness, high intensity sound and vibration, radiation, and isolation. Interesting material of great topical interest, written with competence in an informal style that occasionally becomes a bit slangy. The illustrations are pedestrian, with some drawings being inadequately labeled; an index is appended.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Siri the Conquistador; pictures by Beni Montresor. Har-
3-5 per, 1963. 51p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

A sequel to Belling the Tiger and The Great Rebellion. Here Asa and Rambo, brother

mice, are horrified when the owners of the delicatessen in which they live provide a temporary home for a dog. The mice don't trust Siri, the cat, enough to meet her face to face, but they have achieved a *modus vivendi*. Through the mousehole they have long conversations . . . that is, Siri boasts and the mice listen. Asa and Rambo are warned by Siri that another dog is arriving—this one, to stay. Together they plan that Siri will be so fierce that the new dog will have to "coexist as fast as possible." The newcomer turns out to be a tiny and timid Chihuahua; Siri immediately becomes patronizing and protective. The book has charm in the simplicity and candor of a style that also has perception and humor. Slower-moving than the two previous books about Asa and Rambo, with illustrations that are, in reflection of the text, gentle and humorous.

NR Summers, Hollis. Someone Else; Sixteen Poems about Other Children; pictures by Jane Miller. Lippincott, 1962. 39p. \$3.

A read-aloud book of verses, detailing the reprehensible behavior of sixteen children; each verse is faced by an illustration. "Lucille Ann has a voice so loud / She could probably quiet the largest crowd / All by herself and quite alone / Without the use of a microphone. "But she needn't yell in a house that's small / Where there's not much reason for yelling at all." The verses have good rhythm but seem, many of them, extended by contrivance. The author has stated that these are "preaching poems that hope for the congregation to deliver its own sermon." The poems may evoke some amused or guilty recognition on the part of children, but they are a bit dull, and several of them describe behavior patterns that tax credulity: Tomothy, for example, likes dirt so much that he eats mud pies and takes his nap on the compost heap.

R Turnbull, Colin M. The Peoples of Africa; illus. by Richard M. Powers. World, 1962. 127p. \$3.50.

One of the most impressive books in the series about major cultures of the world. The author writes with objectivity and understanding, and with the colorful detail and authenticity resulting from first-hand observation. After a general discussion of the land itself and of the first men in Africa, the text describes groups of African peoples who live in the same way: hunters, nomadic pastoralists, and settled cultivators. Mr. Turnbull concludes with a discussion of values, mores, and religious beliefs, with a brief mention of the conflict between tribal custom and the new patterns borrowed from (or imposed by) Europe. A chronological chart, a list of books for further reading, and a combined index and glossary are appended.

NR Wondriska, William. A Long Piece of String. Holt, 1963. 38p. illus. Trade 4-6 ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net. yrs.

An alphabet book with no print, except for a "glossary" at the close of the book. Illustrations are in red and white, with a black string continuing in a line across all pages; each page—or double-page—has a drawing of an object standing for a letter of the alphabet. Some of the drawings are objects familiar to small children (house or moon) while others may be unfamiliar (volcano or whale); some of the drawings are not easily identifiable, such as the difficult-to-see shadowy octopus. There seems little point to an alphabet book that does not familiarize the child with the letters themselves; the illustrations are not humorous.

R Young, Scott. The Clue of the Dead Duck; illus. by Douglas Johnson. Little, 1962. 159p. \$1.95.

A good mystery and adventure story, told by Morgan, who lives as a foster child with Black Ab and his two children. When Black Ab goes to Toronto on business, Morgan and Young Ab go off on a duck-hunt in secret, knowing it would be forbidden. Morgan

is hit, regains consciousness to find that Young Ab has disappeared, and is suspected of foul play. Feeling that he will lose the home he loves, Morgan works desperately to find Young Ab. He does, the mystery of the attack on them is solved, and the boy gains his dearest wish: he is adopted by Black Ab. Morgan's role in solving the mystery is credible; the mystery itself is believable; the writing has suspense and local color, and the book has unity of construction.

M Zimnik, Reiner. Little Owl; by Reiner Zimnik and Hanne Axmann. Atheneum, K-2 1962. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.41 net.

Translated from the German, a read-aloud picture book that has some interesting painting as its chief asset; the illustrations are in vivid color and many are distractingly busy, but they have vitality. The story is quite weak: a small owl habitually watched the various tenants in an apartment building, but only the boy in the building knew the owl. A fire started and the owl alerted the boy; the round fat washerwoman who lived in the attic really owed her life to the little owl. She had always been so afraid of his hooting that she hid under the bed; now she and all the other tenants drew back their curtains so that the little owl could watch them.

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