Production Note

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

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

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New Titles for Children and Young People


A text that comprises discussions of several aspects of sight: normal and abnormal eyesight, color blindness, education for the blind and the partially-sighted, optical illusions, and the structure and function of the human eye. Most of the diagrams are clear, but several are inadequately explained or labeled. The book gives accurate information in a rather flat style of writing; a one-page word list is appended.


An oversize book with handsome full-color illustrations and with large, clear print. The translation is good, differing little from other, older versions; the difference is more noticeable in dialogue than in descriptive passages. A useful edition although it is heavy to handle.


Thirteen accounts of British and American spies during the American Revolution; some of the chapters describe the activities of one agent, others describe the work of several. The material is dramatic, but the writing style is a bit slow and heavy. No source material is cited, although a prefatory note states that such material is listed in the 1959 title, *Turncoats, Traitors and Heroes,* on which this book is based. A brief glossary is included, headed "A Few Queer Words"—including some that seem fairly common, such as "code" and "agent, or secret agent." An index is appended.


Bob's friends had been enjoying the product of his inventive genius: a compound that duplicated a small sample of beverage and stretched it to a huge amount. Unfortunately, the soda-pop stretcher exploded; fortunately, the dregs proved to have an amazing ability to eliminate friction . . . spinning wheels went on spinning ad infinitum. Bob hoped to duplicate his formula for a space scientist, but it was some time before he was able to outwit foreign spies. Triumphant at last, the inventor encountered rebellion when his product used up too much sugar. "Gravity, No. Candy, Yes.," the picketers cried. Amusing if often forced humor—a bit too complicated and exaggerated; in the reader for whom the story is geared, there may be little awareness of the fact that the book pokes tongue-in-cheek fun at the world today.
R Bendick, Jeanne. **Archimedes and the Door of Science**; pictures by the author.  
A good book about the many and diverse investigations and discoveries of Archimedes, with an adequate amount of biographical material. The author also gives information about life in Greece and in the Mediterranean world. The material of the text is arranged by subject: "Archimedes and Mathematics," "Archimedes and His Lever," "The Measurement of a Circle," or "The War Machines of Archimedes." Explanations of principles and illustrations of application of principles are simply and lucidly given. An index is appended.

M Berenstain, Stanley. **The Big Honey Hunt**; by Stanley and Janice Berenstain.  
1-2 Random House, 1962. 64p. illus. (Beginner Books.) Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.19 net.  
For beginning independent readers, a bear story written with controlled vocabulary; illustrations are cartoon-like and quite repetitive. The story is slight in concept, rather drawn-out but with some humor. Some pages have poor division of sentences into phrases. Mother Bear sends Dad out for honey, and he explains to Small Bear that they are going to a bee tree rather than to a store. Boasting to the end, Dad makes one mistake after another as they race from tree to tree; they evade an owl, a porcupine, and a family of skunks; they are pursued by a swarm of angry bees and go to the store, Dad explaining that there you can get the best kind of honey.

K-2 Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.73 net.  
A read-aloud book, beautifully illustrated, that discusses the relationships between feelings and body movements. The book provides a springboard for discussions between adults and children, and can be used by adults in implementing work with children in dancing or role-playing, but it does not stand by itself when read aloud. It is long, slow, and replete with concepts requiring associations or comprehension of words too complex for the small child. "Movement that goes up may strive as mightily as Atlas, lifting the world on his shoulders." or, "Backward-going movement can be... as stingy as a miser's closing fist or as cold and unsociable as an oyster drawing into its shell."

4-5 $2.75.  
The story of Katy Pink, a fifth-grader living in a small Nebraska town; Katy discovers that she is an orphan who has, for some mysterious reason, not been legally adopted. Before the story proper begins, a first chapter describes the theft of an infant from a French orphanage by an American nurse, so Katy's origin is known to the reader. Katy's friend Diana is determined to solve the mystery, and she suspects a connection with the British woman who has moved to Nebraska. The woman is, indeed, Katy's English grandmother, who marries the town grouch, who becomes kindly and generous. Good writing style, and some good relationships, but a strained plot with several subplots that are given enough attention to be obtrusive.

Ad Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. **The Big Dipper**; illus. by Ed. Emberley. Crowell,  
2-3 1962. 34p. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books.) Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.35 net.  
A first science book for beginning readers, with information on the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, the North Star, Ursa Major, and Ursa Minor. While the scope of subjects exceeds that indicated by the title, it is not too complicated for the age of the reader. The text is, however, not always clarified by the illustrations; especially susceptible to confusion are the drawings of some of the constellations. Two pages in sequence have text implying that information about the difference between the winter and sum-
mer skies can be gleaned from the illustrations, which is open to doubt.

R  Breslin, Jimmy.  *Can't Anybody Here Play This Game?*  Viking, 1963.  124p.  8- $2.95.

Subtitled "The Improbable Saga of the New York Mets' First Year," a book to delight baseball fans. Mr. Breslin writes in a lively, colloquial style; he knows and loves baseball and he describes the ploys and personalities of the team with jeering affection and wit. An appendix cites some of the records set by the Mets: most games lost in a season, worst earned-run average for pitching staff, most total runs given up by a team, etc. Some of the anecdotes about Stengel and Throneberry are particularly funny, and both the team and their fans are as endearing as they are improbable.

NR  Buckley, Helen E.  *Some Cheese for Charles*; illus. by Evaline Ness.  Lothrop, 3-5 1963.  26p.  Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.84 net.

A read-aloud picture book with text in rhyme and with illustrations that are variable in quality. Josie wants to befriend a mouse named Charles and hunts for cheese to give him; she asks members of the family and asks her dog and cat. Finally Josie finds a small piece of cheese on a doll's plate and gives it to Charles, who puts it under a glass dome to keep forever. A very slight text without humor or vitality. As in the first book about Josie, *Where Did Josie Go?*, the writing has a jingly quality: "So Josie tip, tip, tip-toed tozy/ And left her cat to doze/ doze/ dozy."


A very simply written story about a Viking boy who sailed to Wineland as Leif Erikson had done a century before. Sigurd understood by the time he was thirteen why all of his childhood he had been so rigorously trained by his father, for he needed all his stamina and skill on the long journey. The book has good period detail, unity of construction, and suspense in plot development; because of the combination of simple style and subject interest, the tale will be useful for slow older readers.


Set in Texas in the 1880's, the story of a farm family; Carrie, the middle Lawson child, is delighted that Josephine, the cousin who visits for the summer, is just her own age. At first Carrie is somewhat jealous of her cousin, but after several adventures in which Josephine acts courageous and friendly, the two become fast friends. They spend a great deal of time and energy trying to find a lost family heirloom, which—with happy realism—never turns up. An adequate family story with good period details and good values, but slow-paced and not successful as a mystery; characterization is slight, with some of the smaller children being a bit too cute.


A gentle story of a French-Canadian family, written with simplicity and grace. Jean-Claude is an imaginative child, the only one of the Plouffe children who gets into mischief. When scolded by his family, Jean-Claude calmly runs away ... across the road to his grandmother's to be soothed and sent home. Jean-Claude's father wants to modernize his farm, but defers to his old-fashioned father; eventually he buys a tractor (which he doesn't know how to run) and keeps it a secret. There is a short-lived family feud when the secret is blurted out by Jean-Claude, but he is then the cause of peacemaking in a happy ending that has no sentimentality. A lovely portrayal of three generations living in amity, and a completely convincing regional flavor.
Ad Ciardi, John. You Read to Me, I'll Read to You; drawings by Edward Gorey. 2-4 Lippincott, 1962. 64p. $3.50.
A book of poems in which selections are intended to be read alternately by a child and by an adult, with each set printed in a different color. With few exceptions, the poems are humorous; some in a nonsense vein, some tongue-in-cheek about parents or children, some playing imaginatively with words or ideas. Here and there the poetry seems to strain for effect, but for the most part it is gay and imaginative. The selections are good for reading aloud, although the book may not be used quite as the author intended, since the poems meant to be read by children need—most of them—to be read with some finesse in addition to the comprehension of the simplified vocabulary.

M Clewes, Dorothy. The Birthday; illus. by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1963. 71p. 2-3 Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.52 net.
Penny was excited about her sixth birthday party until she heard each of her invited friends talk about the unusual parties they had had. The party was almost spoiled by the depredations of the neighbor's puppy, but everybody rallied to prepare a second menu. Penny was surprised by the appearance of Kurly Kornflakes, a cereal-box character to whom she'd mailed an invitation although her mother said no such person existed. Kurly did tricks and entertained the guests so well that they thought it was the best party anyone had ever had. The writing style is pleasant and the mounting tension of birthday party plans is a familiar and appealing phenomenon to the audience, but the visit from Kurly Kornflakes is contrived and is not adequately explained. The book is too long for reading aloud to pre-school children, and too long and difficult for beginning readers; for the child who can read it independently the story is weakened by having so young a protagonist.

R Cone, Molly. Reeney; illus. by Charles Geer. Houghton, 1963. 131p. $2.75. 7-9
A restrained and realistic story about a family's adjustment to death; Reeney is an adolescent girl who is determined to keep house for her father and her older brother. Having been given a month to see if it will work, Reeney decides to be a good cook and housekeeper so that Aunt Ada (grim and minatory) won't be called on. As Reeney struggles and makes mistakes, she learns; she also becomes more sensitive to brother's problems and more sensible about her role in school and her relationships with her friends. The author's attitude is sympathetic without being sentimental; the changes in Reeney are convincing; the writing style is effortless, with good characterization and very good dialogue.

A paperbound book about a southern farm family that moves to the city so that father can work in the factory; Andy, age eight, strikes up an acquaintance with a Negro boy, George, who becomes his best friend. Andy Blake's family finds it hard to adjust to urban life, and much solace and assistance are gained by their participation in the program of a church-sponsored neighborhood house. Andy is pleased when the program is opened to Negro neighbors; George is a bit apprehensive about being the first Negro child to attend. Both boys and their families find spiritual and social satisfactions at the house on the corner. While the book is purposive and the writing is quite dull, there is great value in the candor with which the author sets forth the problem of community integration. Andy's grandfather is reluctant to accept even integrated schools, but his parents accept this quite readily; Andy, as the youngest generation feels no prejudice, although he is aware of adult attitudes. George and Andy discuss their relationship in a most matter-of-fact manner, and although the plot development is a bit pat it is not unrealistically so.

A good science fiction story set on Ganymede, a Jupiter satellite; because of his father's illness, Bob Wilson must stay on Ganymede when their space ship returns to Earth. Bob is a victim of a mysterious epidemic ailment from which he recovers; he gives all of his effort to finding the cause of the plague and to synthesizing an antibody. Salvation comes to the outpost colony when their small stock of medicine is duplicated in quantity by another life-form after a system of communication has been established. A nicely unified plot, well-sustained suspense, and adequate characterization; although the setting is Ganymede and the story includes alien creatures and concepts, the writing is happily free of melodramatic incidents.


The Mill Creek Irregulars again become involved in detecting a crime when they realize that somebody has a nefarious purpose in trying to stop a tent show. Steve and Sim are aware that the mystery involves the land on which the show is held, and they ferret out the criminal after several brushes with danger. While there is some humor in the writing, the style is forced; the characters tend to be a bit quaint, although together they give a good picture of a small community a generation ago. The plot is credible, yet—as in so many junior mysteries—it is weak in assigning only to the boy detectives the interest, diligence, and intelligence that result in a solution.


An interesting book that discusses film techniques as it relates the development of the motion picture industry. The author describes the pioneering work of such directors as Ince and Griffith, the differences in approach among such comedians as Lloyd, Chaplin, and Langdon, and the increasing complexities (and costs) of production. The careers of some of the great stars of silent movies are described, and the advent of talkies, cartoons, and cinerama are cited. The format of the book is good: clear print and well-distributed photographs; it is unfortunate that many of the photographs are so small that details are very difficult to see.


An interesting biography, both as a picture of a self-made man and as a picture of the development of one of the world's great newspapers. Owner of a newspaper before he was of age, Adolph Ochs got control of the *New York Times* in 1896, when circulation had gone down to 9,000 a day. Patiently, wisely, Ochs built up his paper by maintaining standards and by refusing to compromise with politicians or advertisers. The book gives a good picture of Ochs' personal life and of the family involvement in the newspaper, but the story of the *New York Times* is probably of greater interest to the general reader. The author, formerly a reporter on the *Times* staff, has given good coverage to both aspects. A brief bibliography and an extensive index are appended.


An excellent medical biography, written in a smooth and competent style by a doctor. The professional and the personal aspects of Lister's life are nicely integrated; the tone is appreciative and restrained; medical facts are given with full explanation but with no writing down. A list of important dates and a citation of sources are appended; an extensive relative index is appended.
A story set in a medieval castle where, on the first spring day, almost all the adults ride away to make a state visit. Prince Paul, eight years old, is lonely; he remembers how boring it was the year before and he persuades the Court Chamberlain to have all the children of the castle gather in the king's banqueting hall for luncheon. Due to a communications error, the party is a fiasco, but the king's jester saves the day. Not a strong plot, but the humor and style of the writing more than compensate for this; both text and illustrations make the medieval scene come alive. There is an odd shift from present tense to past tense about halfway through the book, especially noticeable because there are no chapter breaks.

On her sixteenth birthday, Libby ran away from her mother and stepfather, feeling unloved; she took a bus to Chicago, got a factory job, and went to room with the family of a co-worker. Mrs. Siedler had an invalid husband and three children, and all of them worked to save what they could. Gradually Libby realized that this was an impoverished life totally unlike her previous idea of poverty. Extricating herself from involvement with a tough neighborhood gang, Libby confessed to the Seidlers that she had run away, and she decided to return home. While no aspect of the book is exaggerated, the story is weak in having too many elements which seem out of proportion. For example, the basic problem seems to be Libby's relations with her parents, but this is dropped for most of the story. The contrast between Libby's former life and the grinding existence of the Seidlers needs no other plot, and the picture of the tough gang is in itself material for a story.

Six monkeys imitate other animals, but Twig—the seventh—is independent and alert; he saves the other six several times from being eaten by King Lionel. Finally, when the other monkeys are trapped in King Lionel's cave and it seems that the end is nigh, the lion is hoist by his own petard; Twig uses the lion's own trick to outwit him. The text is decidedly abrupt in style; frequently it demands an association of ideas or a comprehension of latent content that is beyond most of the read-aloud audience. For example, the lion is trapped when, roaring at a well-head, he sees a "lion" look up. "King Lionel roared. The lion roared back. King Lionel sprang! Now there weren't any lions around." This assumes familiarity with a well and its reflective and echoing power; it also jumps to a conclusion, a jump the listener may be slow to follow. The next lines, concluding the text in a weak ending, are: "Six little monkeys were happy again. Six little monkeys were out of trouble. Out of trouble for the rest of the day." Illustrations are repetitive, often scratchy and distracting.

An entertaining read-aloud picture book, attractively illustrated, about a young Saint Bernard dog who was being trained for rescue work in the Alps. When Hugo (carrying a thermos of hot chocolate hooked to his collar) found a child who had been separated from his ski class, the pup tried to rescue the boy, but the boy only wanted to rest. Hugo had to be rescued himself before he accomplished his first mission, retrieving the boy from—literally—the dog house. The pictures of bright ski-clothes against the white snow are lively and colorful, and some of the illustrations in which the mournful Saint Bernard is looking startled or complacent are irresistibly funny.
In a series of books about government agencies, this volume describes the work done by the United States Customs Bureau. After a quite brief first chapter that gives some facts about the establishment of the Bureau, each chapter gives an account of an actual case—or several cases—on record. While the kinds of problems are varied and often dramatic, the book gives information about organization and functions in fragments dispersed through the text. The writing style is a bit cumbersome and some of the chapters seem over-extended. The appended index is divided, listing entries for people and for places, with a third "General" listing of violations, legislation, agencies, etc.


A new volume in an excellent series; the photography is good, as always, and the story is convincingly and informally told in first person. Nick Lansbury is the son of a farmer and lives in a thatched-roof cottage near Stratford-on-Avon; as he describes the small occurrences of his life he gives a picture of a typical English village and of the community life. As in other books in the series, background information about the country is given through a schoolroom scene and through a visit to a historic spot. A handsome and a useful book.


Small Mario lives with his mother and his baby sister in southern Mexico; from their tiny mountainside farm, his mother takes corn to market. Mario hopes to get earrings for little Celia, since she is already two years old, and "without earrings, no one would know that she was a girl at all." One day Mother fails to come home and Mario goes to the city to find her; he cares tenderly for Celia and repulses some Americans who have come to help him, thinking they are from an orphanage. In the end, Mother appears with gifts, having been run over by the Americans, who helped her and gave her money. So Celia has earrings and Mario kneels to pray, at the close of the story, giving thanks to "the Madre Bonita for her great kindness in allowing his mother to be run over by an automobile." While the love of a small boy for his sister is appealing, the character of Mario seems to be rather derogatory: a child who is wily but not very sensible and just a bit of a quaint peasant.

Griffith, Valeria. *Jenny, the Fire Maker*; illus. by Jacqueline Tomes. Lippincott, 4-6 1963. 158p. $3.50.

A good story about summer camp, not unusual in plot but realistic in treatment and written smoothly. Jenny has typical problems of a first camping experience: homesickness, a mild feud with another camper, a bout with poison ivy. Jenny's achievement of the summer is learning to make a fire without matches, an art she has secretly and laboriously practiced because she has been teasingly called the Fire Maker. The book has good values, especially in the relationships between girls of different ages.


A story told by Hakon, son of Olaf and heir to the bleak north Norwegian island of Rogen; a Viking tale that has an epic quality. When his father dies, Hakon is at the mercy of his harsh and deceitful uncle; the boy hides in a mountain cave until the time when some of his followers and his slaves meet with him and plot Hakon's reinstatement. Their plot is successful and Hakon Olafson is again Hakon of Rogen. The author creates the details of period and atmosphere most convincingly; characterization is excellent and the writing style is mature and powerful.
Ad Hess, Lilo. Rabbits in the Meadow; story and photographs by Lilo Hess. K-2 Crowell, 1963. 43p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.76 net. A read-aloud book that describes, with no fictionalization, the life cycle of the cottontail; the text is fitted to a series of photographs of a doe and her litter of three. The photographs are good close-ups with just a few pictures that are fuzzy; they are rather repetitive. The text is straightforward in tone and low-keyed: informative, a bit dry.

R Hoban, Russell C. Some Snow Said Hello; by Russell and Lillian Hoban. K-2 Harper, 1963. 30p. illus. Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.19 net. A read-aloud picture book that tells its small story through the conversation among three siblings. The author captures faithfully the random quality of three bored children engaged in desultory squabbling, and the illustrations add humor; it is possible that the dialogue will be more amusing to the adult reader than to the child listener to whom such conversation may seem natural rather than humorous. The combination of text and illustration, however, is often irresistible, as when the small girl, sitting on her prostrate little brother and pummeling him, explains to her mother, "He hit me." Sent outdoors to play, the children build a snowman and patch up their quarrel.

R Jablonski, Edward. George Gershwin. Putnam, 1962. 190p. (Lives To Remember.) $2.95. A lively and candid biography that gives a vivid picture of Gershwin and of the musical and theatrical circles in which he moved. Since he moved at a dizzying pace in the fascinating world of show business, his story is filled with drama; for those readers who love his music, the book is saturated with nostalgia-producing song titles. The author writes objectively yet affectionately about the man; he writes competently and enthusiastically about the music. A chronological list of Gershwin compositions and a list of recordings are appended, as are an index, a brief glossary of musical and theatrical terms, and a selected bibliography.

NR Jorgensen, Aurora Dias. Four Legs and a Tail; illus. by Don Bolognese. 3-5 Lothrop, 1962. 27p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.84 net. A read-aloud picture book with illustrations that are lively but distracting. The text does not have a story line but describes a series of animals, each of whom tells what he can do: the crocodile can swim, the flamingo can stand on one leg, the monkey can hang by his tail, etc. The book ends by picturing a boy who can do all of the things previously portrayed, but can also count, write, and read a book. Even small children know well that human beings can do many things that animals cannot, so that the book seems to have little point.

Ad Justus, May. New Boy in School; illus. by Joan Balfour Payne. Hastings House, 2-3 1963. 56p. $2.95. A simply told story of a Negro boy of seven who came to a new school and found that he was the only Negro in that class. Shy and mistrustful at first, Lennie made friends when his parents told him that he himself would have to be friendly if he wanted others to be so. He balked at the thought of participating in the Parents' Day Program, but with his friend Terry whistling while Lennie sang, the new boy did very well before an audience. Although the writing is a bit stilted and the situation is simplified by having no children who make Lennie feel self-conscious or unhappy, the simplification is right for the age of the reader. The great value of the book is in the matter-of-fact description of Lennie's fears and his reactions, especially since there is in his problem—a newcomer in a group—a universality with which any child can identify.
Ad Knowlton, William. **Hawaii; Pacific Wonderland**; illus. with photographs by the author. Dodd, 1962. 64p. Trade ed. $3; Library ed. $2.79 net.
A book about the natural wonders of Hawaii: coral reefs and volcanoes, marine life, land and water birds, and the amazing variety of plant life. Photographs are not always well reproduced, but most of them are informative; a map and an index are appended. The book gives many interesting facts in a slightly florid style; material is arranged in a rather random fashion within the chapters. A useful book, but not outstanding; it is regrettable that the title does not indicate more clearly the scope of the subject matter.

NR Kumin, Maxine W. **Archibald the Traveling Poodle**; ad. from a story by James Krüss; illus. by Erich Hölle. Putnam, 1963. 31p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.69 net.
An oversize read-aloud picture book with a verse text, the original story on which this volume is based having been first published in Germany in 1960. The illustrations show, in attractive double-page spreads, scenes in various places in Europe; in each scene Archibald Swank, touring in a flivver and searching for a mate, observes the sights. Finally Archibald falls in love with Abigail Vogue in Amsterdam; when they have little ones, they live in Paris and the baby poodles speak French with a slight touch of their mother's brogue. Maxine Kumin cannot write bad verse, but the book is a weak vehicle for her talent: a contrived original story that serves as a thinly-veiled travelogue.

Ad Lobel, Arnold. **Prince Bertram the Bad**. Harper, 1963. 29p. illus. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net.
A read-aloud picture book about a royal enfant terrible who was detested by all for his destructive and hostile ways. One day a witch, hit by a stone from Bertram's slingshot, changed him into a small dragon; everybody enjoyed Bertram's plight, so he ran away. In the forest, the dragon was scorned by other animals, and when winter came, Prince Bertram was cold and lonely. He rescued the witch from a snowdrift, was restored to his original shape and returned to the castle, happy and amiable. Not a highly inventive story, but quite deftly told and having all the traditionally satisfying elements. The illustrations are very attractive, their humor set off by a slight touch of grotesquerie.

Tom and Jane knew they shouldn't go into the shed where Mr. Maitland, their neighbor, worked on his inventions, because a sign stated that the shed was SECRET. They couldn't resist an open door, went in and hid in the strange machine they saw there, and were unintentional stowaways when Mr. Maitland climbed in the machine and took off. The machine was a combination of automobile, helicopter, and diving vessel, so they had an exciting trip; Tom climbed out on a wing when they stalled after coming up to the surface of the sea, and loosed a cable so that they could fly again. Safely home, they received plaudits and publicity. The illustrations are extremely attractive, but the story is regrettably slight; the three passengers see many sights and the idea of the strange craft is intriguing, but except for Tom's one courageous gesture, nothing much happens.

Tilda, eleven, goes to her grandfather's, expecting him to sell his bakery and return with her to stay in the new room that has been built on to the house. She finds that Grandpa is irate because a neighboring restaurant won't buy his bread; he won't be satisfied until that happens. One day when Grandpa is ill, Tilda bakes the bread; the
restaurant owner won’t take any other kind, and it is revealed that Tilda’s bread had
(by accident) been pink. Tilda finds the answer, and Grandpa keeps his customer; he
also makes it clear that he doesn’t really want to retire, so Tilda returns alone.
Slight, and with several extraneous characters—such as Luke, who eats nothing but
tomato soup (the bread-coloring agent). The writing style is adequate, verging occa-
sionally on the cute side, with characters that are overdrawn.

7-9
Sheila, for the year her widowed father is in Japan, goes to live with relatives who
run a fish hatchery in a small town. Knowing that Aunt Sadie is strict and her daugh-
ter unfriendly, Sheila is unhappy and expects to be bored; she becomes interested in
the hatchery, falls in love with Rick, the boy who works there, makes a friend of her
cousin, wins the approval of her aunt, etcetera. There is some interest in the back-
ground of the story, but it is quite a patterned plot of adjustment to a small-town
school and of solutions to all problem relationships. The mystery concerns the long-
lost money for which Rick’s mother is hunting (and which will enable Rick to go to
college). Here again, in formula fashion, it is Sheila who thinks of the solution.

7-9
A science fantasy in which agents are sent from the western powers to combat Red
agents in a race to colonize the planet Topaz. Each group has been processed to re-
live as men of earlier times, so it is Comanche against Tatar, with members of
each group conscious of living on two time levels. There is also a battle with Red
masterminds, hairless creatures called the Baldies are entombed on Topaz, there
is a race of apelike men, and there are a pair of coyotes that are simpatico and re-
sourceful. The story has a great deal of action, but the plot is complicated; the in-
tricacies of plot and the super-abundance of characters clog the movement of story
line.

9-
A short novel about an orphan lad who was bent on having a better life than the grind-
ing poverty of tenant farming. Set in the Red River region in 1910, the story has few
characters, an economical story line, and a heavy use of dialect. All of these are
used to full advantage to produce a book that has unity, strength, and a re-creation
of mood and locale that is powerful and convincing. Jed is the "bound boy" of Basil
and Cannie, but he yearns for the time when he can leave the farm and travel with
Peddler John. Hunting John, Jed is picked up by a chain gang; he helps Luther, a Ne-
gro boy his own age, in an escape attempt. Both are caught, both have their freedom
purchased by Peddler John, who understands discrimination and who approves Jed’s
desire to help Luther. The treatment of the chain gang members, and especially of
those who are Negro, is candid; the author shows his sympathetic attitude, but his
characters are variously cruel or just hardened in a realistic way befitting the pe-
riod and the region. It is odd that Mr. Owens is, on the other hand, circumlocu-
tous about Peddler John, who has clearly been driven from country to country because he
is Jewish, yet he is called "the Dutchman" save for one reference: the chain-gang
captain whispers that John is "a son of Abraham," and John remarks, "You heard
the Cap’n call me a son of Abraham. He didn’t mean me no good by it."

7-9 143p. $2.50.
A formula sports story for boys, with some good descriptions of games, but with
little else to offer. Kim Morgan makes the high school ice hockey regular team al-
though he is only a sophomore and is small. He has a chip on his shoulder about size, and he has a quick temper—good on the ice, but his desire to shine and his reckless play make Kim unpopular with his team-mates. Kim finally sees the light during the big final game. Suddenly he is a member of a team, appreciating others, playing carefully, etcetera; his team wins the game 3-2 with Kim making one of the goals and two assists. Plot and characters are patterned and the dialogue is stiff. One uncaptioned diagram of a hockey rink with players in position is included; the diagram has no red line and no face-off circles.

A read-aloud picture book about Algernon, the cat who worked nights in the stacks of the New York public library. Algernon enjoyed the library during the day and was proud of his job protecting books from hungry mice. He didn't like pigeons and was put in the cellar when he chased one that had gotten into the Main Reading Room. The cat and the pigeons became allies, however, when they fought together against some rats. Slight plot, pleasant illustrations. The details in both text and illustrations of the library and of Bryant Park will be of comparatively little interest to children who are not familiar with the scenes.

R Priolo, Pauline. Piccolina and the Easter Bells; illus. by Rita Fava. Little, K-2 1962. 48p. $3.
A charming story based on a Sicilian legend. Piccolina waits anxiously for her father to get back to town by noon so that she may be lifted by him high in the air so that she will grow. Each child is lifted by custom while the lifter calls, "Grow, child, grow." The smallest child in her class, Piccolina cannot get a drink from the fountain or turn the door-knob with one hand. Her father doesn't make it, but the miller comes to her rescue; the miller is very tall indeed, and the delighted child feels that she is growing already. The author and illustrator give nice bits of local color; both have a gentle humor in their work. The writing style is pleasant, and the relationships between the small girl and the adults of her world are warmly sympathetic.

R Pundt, Helen Marie. Spring Comes First to the Willows. Crowell, 1963. 7-10 231p. $3.75.
An excellent junior novel about an adolescent girl who, in addition to the usual concerns of a teenager who has just moved to a new town, is troubled by the fact that her parents keep their old-fashioned ways. Anna Maria, although she is almost sixteen, must wear her hair in a braid as girls did in Alsace; Papa is lord of his household and strict; Mama bakes for a caterer. Anna Maria wants very much to be accepted, especially by wealthy, handsome Alan, yet she sees the shallowness of being a conformist. She grows steadily to maturity and independence of spirit, finding release in the realization that she can accept the fact that her parents are different and that she is—as a child of her parents—herself different. Good writing style, fine values, and consistent characterization.

A eulogy to one of baseball's most revered heroes, not written as a biography although the book has a small amount of biographical background. The material is arranged topically rather than chronologically: a chapter on "The 3,000th Hit" is followed by "He's Only Human"; "That Wonderful Guy" precedes "Stan the Man." As may be seen by the chapter titles, the tone is consistently adulatory; while Stan Musial possibly deserves respect more than most players, the book is not improved by having almost every chapter end with a flowery last paragraph such as, "But Stan is not a man who breaks the hearts of children. He'd rather make them smile and
laugh—usually along with him." Good baseball anecdotes, and a few photographs. An index and a page of statistics are appended.

Ad Schmidt, Werner F. The Forests of Adventure; illus. by Artur Marokvia. 6-7 Little, 1963. 161p. $3.75.

Eric the young and ingenuous huntsman has been brought up in a lonely mountain cabin by Black Otto; when both Otto and his long-hidden Crown of the Realm disappear, Eric gives chase. He has many adventures and, although he is easily duped, he always triumphs eventually since he is brave, kind, and honest. Eric finds that he is the heir to the throne, hidden as a baby because of a wicked usurper, Prince Paul; Prince Paul is killed and Eric is declared king of the realm. The story has some good action and is written with a slightly-tongue-in-cheek humor, but the book seems too long and the writing is weakened by several instances of contrivance: for example, Eric finds a message from Otto, written "by a finger wet with blood . . ." and it is necessary to explain later that Otto was not badly hurt but had had skin sheared from his thumb in a "slight but bloody wound."


Orphaned Johan was invited by Robert Harper to live with him when he moved to the spot he would call Harper's Ferry. Jonah liked living with his Quaker cousins, but they were crowded, so he went with the Harpers. The book gives a considerable amount of information about frontier life in the mid-eighteenth century, but it is a dull story, being episodic and slow-moving. The conversation often has an obtrusively modern flavor: "Come with us, Fatso. We're gonna play Injun."


For beginning independent readers, a first science book that is as entertaining as it is instructive; information is accurate and simply presented, and the writing is lightly humorous. (Mrs. Selsam is a genre all by herself.) Greg convinces his father of his need for a microscope, and father shops around for a second-hand microscope. Greg makes his own slides and is entranced by the complexity and variety he sees; he also finds that his parents are so interested in the slides that he has to take his turn.


For beginning independent readers, a story about an unwelcome dragon, told in rhyme and illustrated with elaborately detailed drawings. The mayor and the wise men of the town of Kell couldn't get the dragon to depart; Jonathan, whose offer to intercede had been dismissed by the mayor, stepped up and whispered to the beast. The dragon walked off; Jonathan had whispered politely, "Please, Mr. Dragon, won't you go away?" A slight plot with an anticlimactic ending; the book can be used for beginning reading practice, but it is quite dull. The verse is often halting in rhythm and contrived in the rhyming: "He called out the army/ And six men, in step,/ Came marching up bravely—Hep-hep, hep-hep. They set up a cannon, Put a cannon ball in. 'Fire when ready,' said the Mayor. 'Ready? Begin.'"

NR Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out about Spring; by Martha and Charles Shapp; pictures by Laszlo Roth. Watts, 1963. 42p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $1.88 net.

A slight text, with a line or two of print per page; the text consists of a series of re-
lated statements. "When is spring? Spring is when it's warm enough to put away winter coats. . . . Spring is when you can ride bicycles. . . . In the spring the days are longer. . . . Some animals sleep all winter and wake up in the spring. . . . There are many rainy days in the spring. . . . Spring showers bring the flowers. Some are growing in the ground. Some are in flowerpots. Some are on ladies' hats." Rather dull writing, and pedestrian illustrations.

Ad Snedeker, Caroline Dale (Parke). Lysis Goes to the Play; illus. by Reisie 5-6 Lonette. Lothrop, 1962. 63p. $3. When his father was called away from Athens just before the performance at the Acropolis, Lysis was distressed; he had been promised attendance at the new play by Euripides. He decided to chance going alone, but his sister's sacrifice inspired him to an even more dangerous decision: he dressed Callisto as a boy and took her along. They nearly ran into trouble, but they did see—and were thrilled by—the play Alcestis. Interesting background of authentic period details, and especially interesting theatrical information, but possibly of less interest to the middle grades reader than to older readers.

M Soderberg, Eugénie. Mokihana Lives in Hawaii; photographs by Anna Riwkin-K-2 Brick. Macmillan, 1962. 47p. Trade ed. $2; Library ed. $2.25 net. A collection of photographs of a group of Hawaiian children; the children and the scenery are delightful, the text is weak and contrived. One child is to have a surprise birthday party and the others collect gifts; the party is pictured. Valuable only because of the way in which the book clearly shows the happy racial amalgamation in Hawaii.

R Sommerfelt, Aimee. Miriam; tr. by Mrs. Pat Shaw Iversen. Criterion Books, 7-10 1963. 160p. $3. An honest and perceptive book about a Jewish family in occupied Norway. Miriam and her younger brother have had several bitter experiences by the time they have escaped to Sweden; Miriam's biggest shock had come when she overheard her sweetheart's mother warning him about falling in love with a Jewish girl. After the war ended, Miriam came back to Oslo to live with her loyal friend Hanne, and in time her grief about the deaths of her father and sister was eased. A candid and mature book, in which the author writes with restraint, letting the drama and the tragedy of war and persecution carry the story. Also impressive is the realistic handling of prejudice on the part of some Norwegians: some are fighters against discrimination, some are weaklings who are influenced by the Nazis, some are simply confused or do not realize their prejudice.

R Stockton, Frank Richard. The Griffin and the Minor Canon; with illus. by 4-6 Maurice Sendak. Holt, 1963. 56p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.27 net. A new, illustrated version of a story written at the close of the nineteenth century; the illustrations are admirably suited to the tale. The last of the griffins, having heard that there is a stone griffin on the facade of the church, flies into town; the only person brave enough to talk to the fearsome creature is the gentle and conscientious canon. The griffin becomes fond of the canon, who is sent away by the townspeople in hopes that the griffin will follow. In the minor canon's absence, the griffin tries to carry on—teaching school and visiting the sick. The griffin flies away with his stone likeness; the canon returns to live revered. Good style, quiet and perceptive humor, but a bit low keyed for many readers, especially in the ending, which is rather weak and slow.

An engaging animal story in which a small red antelope gains self-confidence. Little Red Diker stayed close to his mother when he was very small, but soon felt a need for independence; granted permission to go to the lake and get a drink all by himself, Diker was frightened back before he reached the lake. Several times he started out, but there were strange Things and Noises. Only when he realized that another young animal had been frightened off by him did Diker get all the way to the lake. The conversations between the mother and child are charming, mother gently encouraging, and hiding her amusement at Diker's attempts to cover up. Some of the illustrations echo the humor of Diker's successive attitudes of determination, alarm, and pride.


A fairly sophisticated junior novel, first published in Sweden in 1961 under the title Flicka I April. Lena Berg, an overprotected only child of old-fashioned parents, goes to Stockholm to study fashion design. Very much an outsider, Lena falls desperately in love with easy-going Michael and clings to her one friend, flirtatious Margita. Painfully she learns that Michael is something of a philanderer, that Margita is an opportunist, and that she herself is considered odd. Michael does come to love Lena, but almost reluctantly and (realistically) in part because he is so much aware of Lena's need for him. The plot is slow-moving, but the story is interesting because it is realistic and understated. Lena never becomes popular, she doesn't score a phenomenal success in designing, her personality doesn't change; unlike most heroines in teen-age fiction who are either attractive or become so by the aid of clothes or cosmetics, Lena does not change from this description: "... stocky wide hips and solid thighs. The lower half of Lena seemed to be a different person from the upper half ... she was tractable ... easy to manage ... an insignificant, colorless girl in unsuitable clothing."


A read-aloud picture book with illustrations that are pleasant but are repetitive. Although designated as a reading readiness book for helping "pre-reading children and beginning readers develop the incentives, concepts and skills so important in learning to read" the text seems to fall short of this good purpose. The story has several comments or concepts with latent content or with humor that is better suited to more advanced readers. The plot is mildly humorous but rather contrived; a mouse and a lion each want to see humans. A kind fairy knows that humans would be afraid of the lion and that the mouse would be afraid of people, so she arranges to have each look the size of the other when seen by people. After several disillusioning experiences, the mouse and the lion return to their friends, planning never again to visit people.


A happy and nonsensical picture book, illustrated with gay crayon drawings. A little boy, more interested in playing marbles than in achieving distinction as a knight, goes to rescue a small princess because he suspects that she may be afraid to be alone in a tower (while she awaits being eaten). In a see-saw over a log, the little knight is catapulted to the tower window, the two children float down by parachute action of the princess' long skirt, the dragon learns to play marbles and follows them meekly home. The knight is a hero; years later he marries the princess; they have many children and the dragon has many little dragons. An infectious blithe spirit is in the illustrations; an engaging simplicity is in the text.

Eben Hall goes to stay with his uncle Silas in the Atlantic Coast fishing village where his maternal ancestors have for generations been sailors. Delighted at the idea of helping Silas trap lobsters, Eben is horrified to find that he gets seasick. Taciturn Silas thaws gradually, and Eben is sympathetic toward his dour uncle when he finds out about the tragedy in his past. Eben starts a harbor tour business, helps re-establish the family reputation, and finds the culprit who has been stealing Silas' lobsters. The writing is of mediocre calibre, characterization is adequate but rather shallow, and the plot is slow-moving. The book has two realistic touches that are redeeming; Even never does get over being seasick, and his apprehension of the lobster thief is due to chance rather than to the excessive acumen often attributed to adolescent detectives.


Sue's summer plans were changed when she got a job in a veterinarian's office, and further changed when an invalid grandmother came to live with her family. Sue's boyfriend Dave was away, and she fell hard for Keene Jarrett; Keene left suddenly when a medical job came along. Unhappy at first, Sue realized, when Dave came home, that she still loved him. The book does not have an unusual plot or deep characterization, but it has excellent relationships within the family, especially those of Sue to her brother and her grandmother. Dialogue is natural and often humorous, and the author refrains from melodrama or dreams-of-glory achievement—Sue, for example, has no crisis situations at work that result in her being a heroine.

Ad White, Anne (Hitchcock). *A Dog Called Scholar*; illus. by Lilian Obligado. 5-6 *Viking*, 1963. 158p. Trade ed. $3; Library ed. $3.04 net.

A rather sentimental but often humorous book about an obstreperous and lovable retriever. Mrs. Tucker and the two children adored Scholar, but when somebody wanted to buy him, their rejection of the sale was met by a firm desire on the part of Mr. Tucker to get rid of the dog. Left alone with Scholar for three days, Mr. Tucker fell victim to his charms. Most of the book is in episodic chapters, with each episode a description of some prank or well-meaning misbehavior, with Scholar getting into trouble but being understood and forgiven. Much like the author's *Junket* in broad plot outline; a book written with ease and humor.


A text adapted from an educational film, with many colored pictures from the film; the latter are of some value, since they give authentic details of costume and background, but they are in some ways obtrusively unreal: the men's wigs, for example, are clearly wigs. The text follows a boy of seven through his early training, his years as a squire, and his preparation for the life ahead as a feudal knight. The book does not give quite enough explanation of the feudal system for the reader who is not familiar with vassalage; as a narrative the book is weak because the protagonist is a cardboard figure; the writing is rather contrivedly based on stills from the film. Not as informative as Buehr's *Knights and Castles* (Putnam, 1957).


Twelve considerably fictionalized accounts of the childhoods of Botticelli, Da Vinci, Michaelangelo, Raphael, Rubens, Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Stuart, Corot, Whistler, Russell, and Picasso. Each sketch is accompanied by two pictures in black and white; one painting by the artist and one portrait of him, some of the latter being self-portraits. A brief list of some of the paintings of each artist is given. The book gives a minimal amount of information; the writing is effusive and each biographical sketch
A novel about some of the people living in an English town before and during World War II. A book for the mature reader, since it has an adult approach, has a fairly heavy saturation of military and political information, and shuttles back and forth with incidents about the several characters. The lives of many of the characters interweave; for some others, it is merely a crossing of paths. The book is well-written, with good characterization and with great variety of incident and adventure; it is most interesting, however, in the presentation of the changing attitudes—and the differing attitudes—toward war, both the possibility of conflict and the actuality.

A junior novel set in a Great Lakes community in 1812; Maggie's family does not want her to marry her father's first mate, Dick O'Brien, and Maggie and Dick have a lover's quarrel. When war is declared, the townsfolk of Barnaby Bay find that there is a traitor amongst them: he is an older man that Maggie has spurned as a suitor. Maggie, after a scene in which British officers threaten invasion and the traitor is unmasked, is married to Dick. The period background is of interest, and the book has some adventurous incidents, but the writing style, story line, and characters are mediocre.
Reading for Librarians


