EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITHANNOTATIONS

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


Written with authority in an easy and lucid style, a detailed and objective analysis of the battle that was the turning point of the Civil War. The illustrations are exceptionally good, even for this series in which the illustrative material has been notable. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.


A colorful period of American history is described in lively writing style; well-organized and meticulously detailed, the text is particularly notable for the candor of approach. In the foreword, for example, quoting Perry's statement that "The honor of the nation calls for it . . .", the editors comment, "If by 'honor' Perry meant national interest, he was assuredly right." The text gives excellent background material about Japanese history prior to the Perry expedition; the inclusion of reproductions of Japanese as well as American illustrations means that the illustrative material reflects the objectivity as well as the color of the text. A bibliography and an index are appended.

M  Appell, Clara. Glenn Learns To Read; by Clara and Morey Appell; photographs by Suzanne Szasz. Duell, 1964. 64p. $2.95.

A read-aloud book in which photographs of one of the Appell children are used to illustrate a description of the learning process. The opening pages show Glenn as a pre-school child: listening to sounds, becoming familiar with signs, envying his older siblings. Glenn then goes to school: several class activities and individual activities are pictured. Glenn learns to read, gets his own library card, selects—happily—his own books to take home. Because the text and pictures convey a calm acceptance of the facts that reading takes time to learn and that children learn this skill at varying speeds, the book may be useful to teachers and parents. The text seems, however, to be padded here and there in order to make use of photographs; there are, for example, eight photographs (each with a line or two of text on a full page) showing a small Glenn listening to one sound or another. The book might be more interesting to a child were it less stilted and obtrusively purposive.
4-6 Harper, 1964. 172p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net.
A good story for the middle grades, written in an easy style; the setting is colorful, the plot has unity and credibility, and the dialogue has light humor. When Tim and Debbie's father takes on the job of remodeling an old Spanish mission, the two are at first appalled by the prospect of nothing to do in the Arizona desert. They become friendly with a Papago Indian boy, Stuffy, and the three go hunting for a treasure, using an old map; what they find is not at all what they expected—in fact, they find the real map after they find the treasure. As in the author's *The Shaman's Last Raid*, the realistic depiction of Indians today is particularly good: Stuffy is plump, pug-nosed, and amiably matter-of-fact; his father is a reservation policeman.

A serious and candid appraisal of group social work, interesting to the general reader and particularly valuable to the young person contemplating the possibility of a career in social work. Mrs. Baker describes, in the first part of the book, some of the cases and typical situations in various kinds of therapeutic group work: the home for young delinquents, the patients in a mental hospital at a meeting, the classroom in a school for mentally retarded children. The second part of the book describes the agencies—again, a sampling—and the text closes with lists of schools, scholarships, foundations, and agencies. The writing style is calm, competent, effective. A bibliography and an index are appended.

A read-aloud picture book with a quiet text and with delightful illustrations of Parisian street scenes. The book has no story line, the text simply describing the things that Jean and Jacqueline, a small brother and sister, enjoy about rainy days in Paris. The few French words of the book are used in context so that they are both comprehensible and unobtrusive.

A revised edition of a 1938 publication; based on historical facts, this novel of ancient Egypt proposes a solution to the mystery of the fate of King Tut's young widow. The background for the tale is the struggle between the worshippers of Amon and the powerful priesthood of Amon-Ra. The Queen and several others escape the evil Lord Chamberlain by taking refuge on a raft laden with beehives—the honey of the Nile. The book gives period and historical details most convincingly, the story line has pace, and the ending is dramatic; the story is weak in characterization, with almost all the characters being stereotyped in varying degrees.

6-9
Sought after by major league clubs because of his brilliant college baseball, Stacey Lane stunned the press when he announced that he was going to Cambridge to study archeology. When his mother died, two years later, Stacey was released from his promise to shun a baseball career. The book, at this point, turns to formula baseball-story, with the hero having trouble—with his playing and with the coach—and with a spectacular performance during a game at the end of the story. The baseball scenes are good, but not outstanding, these scenes being weakened by the writing style that is the weakest part of the whole book—a style that is florid, trite, and sentimental.

M Braenne, Berit. *Little Sister Tai-Mi*; tr. from the Norwegian by Evelyn Rams-
A sequel to *Trina Finds a Brother*, in which six-year old Trina, only child of a Norwegian couple, convinces her parents to adopt an Arab boy as her brother. When father sails to Korea, his family goes along; they are captivated by a small Korean orphan and add her to the family. The text moves quite abruptly back and forth between Korea and Norway before the meeting takes place; first a chapter on Tamar's first winter, then a description of Tai-Mi's wanderings alone with her big dog, until she met a kind old man—back to Norway, where Tamar is being teased; back to Korea, where the old man and the child begin their hunt for food and shelter—and so on. A good, if obvious, plea for brotherhood, but the story is considerably weakened by the fragmented construction.


A read-aloud picture book, illustrated with stylized and sophisticated pictures. Borka, teased and laughed at by the other geese because she had no feathers, was unhappy; her mother knitted her a jersey, but it took so long to dry that Borka never learned to swim. After getting aboard a ship, Borka got to London; there the captain put her in the zoo. There Borka is now, accepted because she is only one of many oddities, and she is happy. The story line is slight, the writing style is adequate but static and humorless.

M Cameron, Edna M. *Children of the Tundra*; illus. by Anne Marie Jauss. Lipincott, 1963. 128p. $3.25.

A collection of short stories about Eskimo, Aleut, and Athabascan children in Alaska today, illustrated in mediocre style. The author has taught Alaskan children for many years; although her stories give some interesting details about ways of life in the far north, and although they show that children everywhere have some qualities that are universal, the book is dull. The writing style is quite self-conscious, the children are superficially drawn and they don't come alive, and the dialogue is particularly weak.

"Come on, Trudy, Sandy, Bill, and Nat. Let's fight to hold our fort against Jim, Jan, Will, Sam, and Alice."


Attractively illustrated, a fourth book about the delightful and lively French orphans who live—not uneventfully—with Madame Flattot. When the entourage moves into a small castle, the orphelines are enthralled, the smallest girl immediately falls into the moat, and the boys scornfully reject the friendly overtures of the girls. The smallest girl pleads, "Can't I even push Marcel so he'll chase me?" The boys, when they organize a scout troupe, are aware that they must now do good deeds even if it is a strain; in their new roles, the boys at last seem the knights that the little girls, enchanted by the atmosphere of chivalry and romance, have hoped for. A light and charming story with important (but not obtrusive) overtones about social behavior. The children are believable, the writing style is both humorous and cohesive.


A text on an interesting topic is weakened by poor organization of material, superficial treatment of subject matter, and pedestrian writing style. The illustrations are not unattractive, but they are quite uninformative. The information given is accurate, and it is comprehensible as far as it goes, but it seems not to go far enough. For ex-
ample, in explaining polymerization: "The mix then goes to another tank called a re-
actor. It is here that the giant molecules form." What the reactor does, what it looks
like, in what way it processes the mix is not explained. An index is appended.

R Chalmers, Mary. Take a Nap, Harry; story and pictures by Mary Chalmers. 4-6 Harper, 1964. Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.19 net.

A small and captivating book in which the text and illustrations are perfectly com-
plementary. Harry is a kitten, but his behavior is universal small boy; he cannot get
to sleep at nap-time, so his mother gives him some chores. After the required
amount of clowning, admirably tolerated by mother, Harry succumbs and goes off,
yawning, to bed. The text is brief, light, and natural; the illustrations are econom-
ical of line and have a gentle humor.

Ad Chapin, Henry. Spiro of the Sponge Fleet; by Henry Chapin and Peter Throck-
morton; illus. by Bertil Kumlien. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1964. 104p. $3.75.

Spiro Kousaki wants to be a sponge diver—as is his older brother, as were his father
and his forbears, as are most of the men on the small Greek island of Kolymnos. His
widowed mother, fearful of the dangers, has arranged the chance of a safe and lucra-
tive job; she agrees to let the boy go on one trip before he enters business. Spiro
learns to love the work, and he shows the crew that he has ability; he comes home
toughened, confirmed in his goal and supported by his brother, and wins his mother's
consent. The details of the sponge trade are fascinating and some of the episodes are
exciting; the book has unity of construction and realistic background. The writing
style is, save for the description of some of the diving adventures, cumbersome and
sedate. A glossary of Greek words used in the text is appended.

R Chubb, Thomas Caldecot. The Northmen; illus. by Richard M. Powers. World, 7-
1964. 125p. $3.50.

A colorful and informative book, with illustrations that are interesting in design but
often distracting. As background to the major part of the text, Mr. Chubb describes
the peoples, the invasions, the tribes that merged or battled in the world of the eighth
century. The chapters detailing the three centuries in which the Northmen ravaged
and terrorized the Christian world are less smoothly written than is the author's
wont, perhaps because they seem just to catalog invasions and incidents. The last
chapters, on the other hand, describing the culture of the Northmen and the differ-
ences in the lives of slaves, freemen, noblemen, and king are particularly impres-
sive for their vitality and clarity. As in the other books in this series, a chronological
chart is included, giving the broad picture (from 300 to 1500 A.D.) of the events of
the rest of the world as well as the history of the Northmen. A good bibliography and
an index are appended.

R Clewes, Dorothy. The Branch Line; illus. by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1963. 3-5 128p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.68 net.

Set in England, a very pleasant story, simply written and tightly constructed; the plot
has momentum and an element of suspense, yet the behavior of the children is realis-
tic and their accomplishment in saving the small branch line quite credible. Rory,
Kay, and Gerald fall in love with the branch line and are dismayed at hearing that it
is to be abandoned; they approach the adults of the community who find the line use-
ful—or who have a sentimental interest—and whip up enough enthusiasm to give im-
petus to a joint purchase of the little railway. The book is printed in type too small,
unfortunately.

R Cooley, Donald G. The Science Book of Modern Medicines. Watts, 1963. 228p. 9-
$4.95.
A most interesting survey of recent drug discoveries, advances in research, and improvements in methodology and therapy. The author discusses—in relation to medical advances—some problems that are basically morphological or physiological, giving balance and background to the descriptions of new drugs, new discoveries about vitamins or hormones, or problems presented by the side-effects of recently-discovered medication. The vocabulary is not popularized, although the author occasionally slips into journalistic technique: "... If a person's own DNA molecules were lined up end to end ..."; indeed, the text is rather difficult to read for one unfamiliar with the terminology. Despite the vocabulary, the book will probably be read by younger readers with a special interest in medicine. A good glossary and a very good index are appended.

Ad Coombs, Patricia. The Lost Playground. Lothrop, 1963. 44p. illus. Trade 5-7 yrs. ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.84 net.

A read-aloud book with text and illustration having similar qualities of humor and sentiment. Jane leaves her home-made stuffed animal, Mostly, in the park; he finds himself wafted to the playground where lost toys go. Mostly is a misfit—he wants only to go home; and he convinces the other toys—who are quite happy—that he doesn't belong. The others agree, and Mostly is conveyed back to earth, where he and Jane have a glorious reunion. The writing has a not-infrequent note of contrived cuteness that weakens a rather nice fanciful tale.


A pleasantly-illustrated read aloud book with little momentum but with a quiet evocation of an early summer morning in the brief and lyric text. A small boy goes out at dawn, and he tells a ripe peach he dreamed it would ripen and fall; he asks the tall grass "What did you dream?" and the grass—he is sure—waves to him. His mother comes out, and says she dreamed that they would go to pick berries; in quiet content and affection they go. For some children the creation of mood and the gentle prose will have appeal, but for many readers the lack of action and the absence of pace will limit appreciation.

Ad Dahl, Borghild Margarethe. This Precious Year. Dutton, 1964. 159p. $3.25. 7-9 yrs.

A story of South Dakota in the depression years: Helia Singstad, a senior at a small college, has financial problems because it has been a drought year. Most of her classmates have jobs—any jobs they can get—so that they may finish school. Popular and pretty, Helia has not too much trouble finding a beau or getting a teaching contract for the following year. It is the depression background that gives the book what distinction it can claim: the characterization, plot, and personal relationships are all adequate but rather flat. The writing style, again, is adequate but tepid, with an occasional phrase that seems padded: "Helia shivered, although she was wearing a black wool skirt and a gray wool sweater."

R Dillon, Ellis. The Coriander; illus. by Vic Donahue. Funk and Wagnalls, 1964. 211p. $3.25.

An Irish story of utter charm. The setting and the characters are beautifully etched, the storyline is fresh, the humor delightful—but it is the style of the writing that is the greatest appeal of the book. Miss Dillon does a completely convincing job of writing in first person—as a boy of sixteen—and she constructs her story with skill; her prose has a lilt and a lovely ease of flow. Pat, living on the small island of Inishgillian, describes the mercenary joy with which the islanders assist a ship to wreck so that they may strip her. Pat and his friend rescue the ship's doctor; since their commu-
nity has long been without medical help, the two boys kidnap the doctor. Eventually they have to reveal that they have been hiding the wounded man—and when they do, the whole population is agreed that the boys have done the right thing and that the doctor, an unwilling guest, must be kept captive.

A rewriting intended to replace Facts of Life and Love, first published in 1950 and revised in 1956. Candid and objective, the book is written in a style that is informal yet dignified. The text gives common-sense advice and authoritative facts on dating, marriage, sex, parental relationships, and the achievement of adult attitudes. Dr. Duvall discusses—with neither over-emphasis nor coyness—such problems as homosexuality, premarital relations, and venereal disease. An index is appended.

M Ets, Marie Hall. Automobiles for Mice; written and illus. by Marie Hall Ets. 4-6 Viking, 1964. 28p. Trade ed. $3; Library ed. $3.04 net.
Pleasantly illustrated, a very slight story about mice who play with the toys of a sleeping child; all of the tale is possible except for the fact that the animals ride in the toy truck and fly in the toy airplane. They are hurt by crashing; one mouse is pinned down by an overturned toy train and part of his tail cut off. The mice agree that vehicles are not for them. The text contains a bit too much of "EEeee! EEeee!"

Ten stories about pioneers, previously published in books or magazines. The collection has variety of style and locale; the authors included are Benet, Chute, DeVries, Fast, Guthrie, Haycox, Kjelgaard, and Richter. The stories are well-chosen, having drama and color; some have humor as well.

Ad Ferguson, Charles W. Getting To Know the U.S.A.; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Coward-McCann, 1963. 95p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.29 net.
An oversize book with strong somber illustrations in dark blue; in a continuous and rambling text, the author describes the size, the sweep, the color, and the spirit of the United States. After some general remarks the text proceeds chronologically, with interspersions of anecdote and legend, in a skimming of our history. Not a history book, but interesting for browsing, the book is limited by the miscellaneous nature of the material; the writing style is breezy and rather fragmented. An index is appended, and additional readings are suggested in an appendage in which the books are described rather than being merely listed.

A lovely, lovely picture book. The rhymed text is gentle, the illustrations are beautifully soft, and the two are completely in harmony. A small boy sees a rabbit and he loves it; there are pets in his home, but nothing that belongs just to him. All through the wintertime the boy wonders how the rabbit is—now and then he sees the rabbit, but it always flashes away. One day the boy finds a nest of young, and he closes in joy, "I hadn't a pony or pup to pet, But I had a nest like a fur-lined cup And five baby rabbits to watch grow up!"

A story of Crete in 1941, before and during the Nazi invasion; the central character
is fifteen-year-old Penelope Metaxas, only child of a farmer and grandchild of an old war hero. Penelope finds it hard to understand her cousin Alexis, who has taken refuge from the war on the mainland and who seems cowardly. When the war comes to Crete and the Metaxas family flees to the mountains, the girl begins to understand the stress and trauma and futility of war. The background detail is fascinating, most of the characterization is vivid, and the pattern of events is realistic. The book is weak in writing style, the writing being uneven in pace, often stilted and more frequently diffuse or stretched.


A description of the varied ways in which both armies gathered military intelligence: signal flags, telegraphy and photography, balloon observation, and espionage people of all kinds—horse couriers, diplomats, southern belles, Pinkerton agents, Knights of the Golden Circle. The subject of Civil War intelligence is dramatic in itself, the material is well-organized and (as the lengthy bibliography indicates) based on good source material. The writing style is a bit slow and heavy. An index is appended.


A deviation from the other books in the series, in each of which a boy talks about his life and his community; here two friends in a village in the Bavarian Alps describe their village and their lives. In separate chapters, Robert and Markus speak. The boys are adolescent, both apprentice masons; Robert, in the course of his story, is given permission to change his career and learn to be a violin-maker. The text is lively and informative, and the photographs are delightful. Through the medium of reported conversations, the text gives a considerable amount of material that is historical.


In a slight fictional framework, the life cycle of the herring gull is presented in an excellent book for the beginning student of nature. The illustrations are soft in technique and meticulous in detail; the writing style has a light, poetic quality. "When the hot sun beats down on the little island, the baby gulls stand in the shadows of their mothers to keep cool. When rain pours down, they find shelter under the spreading wings of their mothers."


A picture-book version of an Irish legend about the outwitting of brawn by brains. Intended by the publisher as a read-aloud book for younger children, the simplified retelling seems unnecessarily flat in style for reading aloud. Fin, a giant married to a small wife, was afraid of only one thing in the world: the bigger giant, Cucullan. Fin's little wife took matters into her own hands and directed the ploy that frightened off the strongest, biggest giant in Ireland.


A description of the atomic city built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the polar ice cap. Built with the consent and co-operation of the Danish government, Camp Century was completed in 1960; it operates to test polar construction, to provide a base for a portable atomic power plant, and to function as a year-round labo-
ratory for polar research and development. Although the writing style is rather dry, the details of the construction and operation of Century are imbued with enough drama to compensate for the prosaic treatment. A brief bibliography and an index are appended.


A read-aloud picture book about an impossibly long dachshund who lived with an impoverished and loving old woman. Lengthy was so long that the neighborhood children used him for a jump rope, and when he went into the kennel, a part of him always stayed out. To save his beloved mistress money, the dog left home; rich people took him in and petted him and they gave a party for him. Homesick, he was returning when he was tripped over by robbers; with the reward money, Lengthy and the poor old lady lived happily ever after. The first part of the book is a bit tedious; the ending is telescoped and seems contrived even for a nonsense story.

R *Horizon Magazine. The Search for Early Man*; narr. by John E. Pfeiffer; in consultation with Carleton S. Coon; illus. with many paintings, engravings, and sculptures from prehistoric times. American Heritage, 1963. 153p. (Horizon Caravel Books.) Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

One of the best in this series, a fascinating survey of paleontological exploration; some of the text is based on Mr. Pfeiffer's own investigations, and all of the text is informed, informal and easy in writing style, and lucid in explanations of theories and methods. The illustrations are particularly well-captioned; a bibliography of prehistory, a list of museums, and an index are appended.


Not a basic text on molecular phenomena, but a series of chapters that discuss new frontiers, in both the physical and the biological sciences, in which molecular structure or function is involved. The author describes diseases that result from malfunctioning molecules, the odd effects of severe cold on molecular behavior, advances in medicine based on discoveries about molecular structure, etcetera. The last chapter outlines some home demonstrations; a reading list and an index are appended. Illustrations are not clearly labelled, although those of chemical diagrams and formulas will be understood by the reader with some background. They reflect the one weak aspect of the text, which is that the material is not completely comprehensible to the reader with no background in the sciences, yet it is presented in a simplified manner suitable to the reader who is being introduced to the subject.

R Johnson, Crockett. **The Lion's Own Story**; eight new stories about Ellen's lion. K-3 Harper, 1963. 64p. illus. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net.

A delightful sequel to *Ellen's Lion*. Eight brief stories about conversations between the child and her toy have humor, spontaneity, and a beautifully bland writing style that serves nicely as a foil for observation of human foibles. For example, when Ellen severely orders her already-silent toy to be "very silent," she becomes increasingly resentful when the lion takes her edict literally. First she suggests that he is trying to annoy her by being silent in a not-nice way, then that he is irritated, then angry, then she accuses him of harboring designs of violence. The imaginative Ellen is entertaining, the matter-of-fact lion who deflates her is even more so.


An interesting and useful book, handsomely illustrated in black and white, that describes birthday customs in twenty-four countries; much of the information should
prove valuable for classroom or assembly use. A brief first section discusses birthday observances in general; after the description of the birthday customs of each country, there is a phonetic pronunciation given for the foreign-language words that have been used. An index is appended.

NR Johnson, Winifred. Senior Panic. Westminster, 1964. 191p. $3.25. 7-9

Four senior high school girls, close friends, decide that they must do something about the fact that none of them has ever been asked for a date. Karen, on whom the story concentrates, has two problems: no boyfriend, and no desire to go to college, which is what her widowed father wants. Crystal's parents don't want her to be a teacher, Alma's mother is a social climber and a snob, Becky is absorbed in the school orchestra. Alma joins a wild set and is killed in an automobile accident; the other girls work out their problems with not too much difficulty. Although the book has some perceptive parent-child relationships, it is written to pattern and many of the characters are stereotyped.

M Jones, Dorothy Holder. The Oldest One. Funk and Wagnalls, 1963. 185p. $3.25. 7-9

Seventeen-year-old Fran, oldest of four children, feels that she should take a part-time job to help her widowed mother provide advantages as well as necessities for the other children. Knowing that her mother's earning ability is limited by lack of training, Fran wants job experience. She gives up, quite cheerfully, school affairs and a large part of her social life; she is happy in her job as a receptionist in a photographer's studio, and she is appreciated by her employers. The family relationships, Fran's sense of values, the peer-group relationships, and the school episodes are all realistic. The writing style is a bit fulsome, and the story—despite the sterling quality of Fran's character—seems weakened by a lack of direction. Fran is helpful and industrious, unselfish to the verge of disbelief, and sensible, but she is all of these things at the beginning of the story; her behavior and her ideas are unchanged—they are simply restated, evaluated, and (to Fran) validated.

R Kavaler, Lucy. The Wonders of Fungi; illus. with photographs and with drawings by Richard Ott. Day, 1964. 128p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.64 net.

A well-organized and interesting book that is broad in scope and lucid in style. After some introductory information, the text is topically divided: fungi that harm crops, fungi that cause human illness—or cure it, fungi as a source of food in the future, fungi that damage plants. A final chapter conjectures about the fungi that may be found in space. An index is appended.

NR Kendall, Lace. The Mud Ponies; based on a Pawnee Indian myth; illus. by Eugene Fern. Coward-McCann, 1963. 62p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.86 net.

A story based on a Pawnee Indian legend. Orphaned and wandering, the small boy called Running Star was turned away from other Indian villages after all his own people had died. Dreaming one night of a new kind of animal fallen from the stars, the boy made ponies of mud and of clay; those to whom he showed the mud ponies jeered at him. Running Star was given another dream, and his horses came to life; he became a great leader of his people. The illustrations have a starkness appropriate to the story; they are well-designed rather than well-drawn. The writing is slow in pace and turgid in style, so that the book seems considerably over-extended.

M Kennedy, Emily. Otto the Growly Boy; with illus. by Paul Kennedy. Prentice-Hall, 1964. 32p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.41 net.
A nonsense story about a surly child who learned to laugh, illustrated by rather repetitive drawings. The writing style is light and pleasant, but the theme is slight: Otto, who never laughed or even smiled, was visited by a gorgle that wouldn't go away. His parents told Otto, when he appealed for help, that he would laugh if he only knew how easy it was to get a gorgle to depart. Otto growled; the gorgle stayed on and stayed amiable. The gorgle growled; Otto laughed and laughed—his family came in and laughed, and all the neighbors came in and laughed. Mission accomplished, the gorgle left.


A read-aloud book for the very young, with delicate pastel illustrations, and with a very slight but pleasant theme. Miranda, a kitten, has a dream in which all things are joyous and beautiful; her mother tells her the next morning that sometimes beautiful dreams come true. There seems little point to having Miranda be a kitten—she dreams of human holidays like Valentine's Day... of human (or human-looking) fairy godmothers, yet part of her dream is of a milk-filled pond.


A captivating book. This lively biography of Charlotte Bronte has fine characterization of all the members of the Bronte family; the household atmosphere is vividly evoked, as is the atmosphere of the Yorkshire Moors. The portraits of the sisters are candid, with no eulogistic note; the developments of their literary interests and publications is so described that the reader is always conscious of the courage it took for the Brontës, as women—and especially as women from a modest parsonage—to submit manuscripts. Not a complete biography, the book describes Charlotte Brontë between the years of seventeen and thirty-one, by which time Jane *Eyre* had been published. A brief list of books (by or about the Brontës) for further reading is suggested.

Ad LaRue, Mabel Guinnip. *Tiny's Big Umbrella*; pictures by Mary Stevens. 1-2 Houghton, 1964. 128p. $3.

For beginning independent readers, a sequel to Tiny Toosey's Birthday; episodic in construction, illustrated with lightly humorous drawings, this is a book that should be useful. The ploys of the seven Toosey children are a bit silly, but they're believable and quite appealing to a young sense of humor; the style is less hampered by vocabulary limitations than in most readers.


A description of an Amish family of today, with an appealing central character. Suzanna, called Shoo-Fly, is irrepressibly impulsive and affectionate; when some "English" (non-Amish) people become neighbors, Shoo-Fly is curious about their ways. Intrigued but wary, Shoo-Fly finds their strange customs uncomfortable, and she—as well as other members of her family—come to appreciate more fully the Amish way even while they become more understanding about people outside. The author creates convincingly the atmosphere of a large farm family home, and the details of Amish life are colorful; the book evokes a quiet sympathy for the "different" group.


A very good survey of Greece past and present, with long, detailed chapters on Gre-
cian history and an exceptionally good chapter on Greece today. The second part of the text comprises chapters on the Byzantine influence, Greek literature, the distinguished great people from other lands who have loved Greece, and the changes in Greek religion from pagan times to today. The photographs in this volume are not as good quality as are those in other books in this series, many of the pictures being dark. A list of dates, a list of famous cultural figures, and a divided bibliography are included; the relative index is very good and the end-papers provide political and relief maps.

R  Life Magazine. The Insects; by Peter Farb and the editors of Life. Time, 7-1962. 192p. illus. $3.95.
An oversize book profusely and impressively illustrated with photographs and diagrams, some of the full-color enlargements being spectacularly handsome. The first chapters trace the evolution of insects and comment in general on the insect world, describing the class and pointing out the attributes that have contributed to the durability and proliferation of insects. While the text has separate sections on bees and ants, most of the chapters are concerned with functions or habits: building habits, protective devices, the phenomenon of metamorphosis, etc. The writing style is serious and fact-packed. A key to the principal orders of insects, a divided bibliography, and an excellent index are appended.

R  Lord, Beman. Rough Ice; pictures by Arnold Spilka. Walck, 1963. 64p. 3-5 $2.95.
Eddie decides to try out for the Peewee League as goalie, since a weak ankle keeps him from skating fast enough to be a forward. Since his father was a great forward, Eddie knows that he is expected to play the same position; he delays telling the truth. When his father shows up at a game, Eddie is briefly disconcerted, but he rallies and plays a good game of ice hockey. (The game is—realistically—tied.) Father says, candidly, that he's proud of Eddie's prowess, but would have been pleased if his son had felt enough confidence to tell the truth. Good as a hockey story for the middle grades reader, simple and realistic in development if a bit static in writing style.

M  McKim, Audrey. That Summer with Lexy; illus. by Charles Geer. Abingdon, 5-7 1964. 144p. $3.
A sequel to Lexy for Short. For most of the summer, Lexy's mother is away and sister Maureen is in charge; tomboy Lexy gets into one scrape after another, always having had nothing but good intentions. When mother returns and the family—accompanied by Lexy's friend Patty—goes to the lake, there is a serious conclusion to one of the summer's ploys. The two friends are instrumental in capturing a criminal who had been a customer in a photography venture. Lexy is also a heroine when she rescues from a swarm of bees a small child whose mother had accused Lexy of lying and stealing during a babysitting job. The book is sadly weakened by the two contrived and overly dramatic closing episodes, the previous ones having been both amusing and believable. The relationships between characters are good for the most part, although the characters themselves are often stereotyped or overdrawn.

R  Martin, Patricia Miles. Pocahontas; illus. by Portia Takakjian. Putnam, 1964. 2-3 164p. (See and Read Storybooks.) Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.29 net.
A very simply written biography, adequately illustrated and printed in large, clear type. The story of the Powhatan girl begins when she is eleven and sees an English ship arrive. She learns English, becoming friendly with the Jamestown colonists; when she is grown, she marries John Rolfe and goes with him to England, but dies while returning to her homeland. Limited somewhat in style by the demands of vocabulary, but not dull and not embroidered.
R Merrill, Jean. *Tell about the Cowbarn, Daddy*; illus. by Lili Cassel Wronker.
K-2 Scott, 1963. 45p. $3.50.
A picture book that shows in its illustrations the scenes described from memory rather than the scene taking place, which is a bedtime dialogue between a small boy and his father. The conversation will, in pattern rather than in subject, evoke a sympathetic feeling in the reader, since it is clear that father and son have had the same conversation before. "Daddy, tell about . . ." "What else? What about the silo?" the child prompts. As father describes the barn of his boyhood, quite a few facts about cows, barns, and farms emerge—painlessly.

A revolutionary War story based on historical fact. When his father and older brother are away from their farm, fourteen-year-old Peter Bogart takes on new responsibilities; he also is instrumental in some successful Patriot activity, especially in riding to warn General Greene that the British are about to attack, and telling him of an escape route about which the British know nothing. Having become friends with a Lenape Indian of his own age, Peter is several times aided by the friendly Lenape. The story is believable, interesting historically but slowed a bit by extended writing.

Sophisticated, candid, and well-researched, a biography of the composer that is objective in approach. The book is profusely illustrated: portraits, reproductions of scores and title pages, sites of residences and theaters, cartoons, photographs, and some delightful pictures of scenes from early performances. The writing style is brisk, vivid, and competent, with many excerpts from Wagner's writings. There is no minimizing of Wagner's love affairs, but they are treated as matter-of-factly as are the musician's political or religious idiosyncrasies. A brief index is appended.

K-2
A picture book with a sedate text; the other fowl, always quarreling, ask the two happy owls how they live together so peacefully. The owls describe their contentment in the phenomena of the seasons, but the other birds cannot understand this and they go back to living and squabbling as before. The owls sit quietly and blink their eyes and think wise thoughts. The text is simple and meaningful but without direction or vitality. The illustrations are remarkably handsome, reflecting the author-artist's experience in poster design: bold and brilliant colors are used in sophisticated style.

First published in England under the title *Who's Who—And Why*, a matter-of-fact text that is comprehensive, candid, and dignified. The illustrations are merely adequate; the diagrams are not well-labelled, and there are several parts of the text (particularly the section on genetics) that would be augmented by illustrations. The author describes the reproductive process, including male and female physiology; he emphasized genetic patterns, describing mutation, dominant and recessive genes, twins, sex determination, and variation in human growth. The last chapter discusses human love, sex drives, and maturity, in a very sober approach. The appended index is adequate in citing terms used; it is weak in listing them inadequately, since such entries as "tongue-curling" and "resistance" may not be understood to be hereditary characteristics.

Ad Piper, Roger. *The Big Dish; The Fascinating Story of Radio Telescopes*; illus.
A discussion of radio telescopy, with textual emphasis on the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, where the instrument is called the Big Dish. The author explains the advantages afforded by radio astronomy as compared to optical telescopes, and he describes in detail the planning, construction, and operation of the Big Dish. He discusses in particular detail the use of the radio telescope in satellite tracking and the co-operation between British and American scientists. The subject is fascinating, the material is well-organized, and the explanations of theories and functions is good for the most part—although occasionally the author plunges rather heavily into technicalities. The writing style is straightforward in passages of scientific importance, but some of the introductory or ancillary passages have folksy or irrelevant comments. A list of the world’s radio observatories (in use or under construction) and an index are appended.

R Pitkin, Dorothy. Sea Change. Pantheon Books, 1964. 250p. $3.50. 7-9
Vicky Harbison turns sixteen in a summer of important changes and new insights. Plump Vicky has no boy friend and is miserably conscious of being left out of her old crowd. A job in a marine biology lab gives her new interest, and she gets a crush on an older man there. By the time the summer is over, Vicky has realized that some men do find her attractive, and that the older man was not only in love with his assistant, but that part of his charm was his profession: Vicky really loved the lab. The story is a perceptive study of a maturing adolescent, written in a smooth style; characterization is good on the whole, but Vicky’s parents are not convincingly drawn. As in Wiser Than Winter, the ending of the book—although perfectly credible—is a bit pat, with all problems solved.

R Radau, Hanns. Little Fox, Alaskan Trapper; tr. by Dorothy Long; illus. by 7-10 Heiner Rothfuchs. Abelard-Schuman, 1963. 158p. $3.
A remarkably convincing first-person novel, purportedly written by a young Natsit Indian; first published in Germany under the title Grosser Jiger, Little Fox. The directness and the simplicity of the writing style are admirably suitable for the character of Little Fox, who is a good and simple person. One of the last of his tribe, Little Fox is aware of the way in which the white man’s whiskey has brought degradation to the Indians; he wants only to work hard and live peacefully in partnership with the one man who has shown concern for him. Trapper Fred is a white man, an uncle by marriage; he teaches Little Fox the lore of the wilderness, and they share a love for hard work and simple living. The story-line is slight, the thread of growing friendship between the two men serving merely as background for vividly realistic scenes of the lonely and beautiful country, and for episodes about trapping or about the few (and colorful) additional characters in the story.

R Rich, Elaine Sommers. Hannah Elizabeth; pictures by Paul Edward Kennedy. 4-5 Harper, 1964. 161p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net. Based on the author’s childhood, a story of a child in a Mennonite community; in describing the events of Hannah Elizabeth’s tenth year, the author gives excellent background details of the Mennonite beliefs and customs as well as experiences that have universality. Hannah Elizabeth is a real and sympathetic character, troubled by her inadequacies, grateful for understanding, concerned about being different. One of the most interesting episodes in the book is that of the death of a beloved grandfather; the child’s reaction is described with gentle candor.

R Ross, Frank Xavier. The World of Medicine. Lothrop, 1963. 192p. illus. $3. 7-
A good book for the general reader, and one that should be immensely useful to the young person who is interested in a medical career. The author surveys medical history, discusses the personal attributes that are important for the would-be doctor, and describes the training and the high-school preparation for pre-medical work. Each of the fields of practice is discussed, including some of the associated areas such as pharmacy and medical technology. Sources of information are cited; a list of medical schools and an index are appended.


In a simplified style, a fairly extensive version of the voyage of the Argonauts; the details of Jason's life before and after the voyage are given briefly. The writing style is flat, only occasionally having a lyric phrase that gives a sense of legendry. The illustrations are adequate; one double-page spread that shows Jason carrying Hera across the torrent is sadly impaired because the two small figures, centered, almost disappear into the binding.


A very good account of the flights of Shepard, Grissom, Glenn, and Carpenter; the writing is informed and lively in style, much of the material being based on personal observation. Mr. Shelton also discusses the flights of Gagarin and Titov; he gives brief biographies of the four American astronauts and good background information about problems, equipment, spacecraft, and training. An index and an extensive glossary are appended.


A tall book with rhyming text; the illustrations are distracting at close range, but can be used—since they are large and bold—for showing to a group of children. The text is a bit rambling, occasionally dipping into history, occasionally going off into flight of fancy to eulogize hats. The book has no story line and it has only a modicum of humor, but it does not seem enough to sustain a child's interest: "Hats are for work, Hats are for play. Silk or wool, Straw or tin, Round as an orange, Thin as a pin, Flat as a pancake, Tall as a stack—Furnace-red, Inkpot-black— Hats are handsome, Hats are fun. Look at this one The Magician wears, He takes it off, And what comes out? An egg A rabbit A flock of doves. Out they fly—and up goes a shout! And the Magician wearing that magical hat Looks like that . . . Ho for a Hat!"

R Stambler, Irwin. _Project Gemini_. Putnam, 1964. 64p. illus. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.86 net.

A good book and a timely one, written with experienced competence but in a rather heavy style. Mr. Stambler gives background information about previous space flights, especially those of the astronauts, and describes the planning of the Gemini program. He discusses the problems, the solutions or partial solutions, the training of the two astronauts, the equipment of the men and the construction of the Gemini and of the Agena—the target craft. Finally, and in more vivid style than the preceding text, the author describes a typical Gemini launching, the rendezvous and docking in orbit, and the re-entry. A glossary and an index are appended.


Red Ridinghood was delighted when she was given a tiny lamb, because she was a
lonely only child—now she had a creature that could play with her. One day the lamb was taken by a dwarf; in order to win back her pet, Red Ridinghood had to win a game of marbles in the cave of the dwarfs. Heartened by the cheering of the friendly little men, the child won and was sent off with her little lamb. Mildly entertaining, the story is weakened by being neither realistic nor convincingly fanciful. There are satisfying elements in the book, but there is also a sense of contrivance.

Ad Strachan, Margaret Pitcairn. Cabins with Window Boxes. Washburn, 1964. 7-9 178p. $3.50.
A junior novel set in a Makah Indian community in the Pacific northwest. Seventeen-year-old Nona is both apprehensive and annoyed when her widowed mother decides to buy and operate a motel. Nona and most of the members of the Indian community are sure that the venture will fail. "Whites own things, Indians don't." Gradually Nona finds satisfaction in the challenge and, by the end of a summer of back-breaking work, she finds a reward in having succeeded (with moderation) and in having her friends and relatives admit that the project has set them an example of initiative and courage. The writing style is not outstanding, but the plot is realistic, the characterizations are good, and the candid expression of opinions about Indian-white relationships is refreshing.

Ad Talley, Naomi. Medals for Brave Men; illus. with photographs. Dial, 1963. 4-6 63p. $2.95.
A useful book, particularly for the photographs of medals given by the United States; the photographs, in black and white, are accompanied by textual descriptions. Briefly reviewing the origin of such awards, the author gives a description of the establishment of each medal, in each case giving at least one anecdote about a winner of that award. The writing style is a bit flat: "To do this—to make designs for these banners—a business grew up called 'heraldry.'" and there are occasional passages that seem unnecessarily choppy because of sentence brevity: "They dared not venture out into the daylight. There were too many British regulars and Loyalists about. The men were behind the British lines!"

Comprehensive, well-illustrated, and written in an easy, lively style, a survey of ships and weapons that is as entertaining as it is informative. The author alternates fictional and non-fictional chapters, in a chronological continuum, beginning with the Cretan galley and ending with an exciting description of a destroyer in 1945. An excellent relative index is appended; the bibliography is starred to indicate titles of special interest to young readers.

Ad United States Committee for UNICEF. Hi Neighbor; Book 6; Stories, Songs, Facts and Fun from Four Countries. Hastings House, 1963. 64p. illus. $2.95.
One of a series of books designed to give information about children of other lands, with some information about the countries—all of this being oriented to the UNICEF program. For each land, such facts as area and population are listed; a map and a flag are included; a brief story, a few recipes, some informational text about history, games, foods, etc. The last page, directed to adults, lists project suggestions. The book should be useful to augment classroom studies, but it is weakened by the crowded format with the print in double columns, and by the fragmented quality of the text.

M Verney, John. The Mad King of Chichiboo. Watts, 1963. 30p. illus. $2.95. 5-7
A humorous picture-book for the post-picture-book reader who can comprehend the vocabulary and the word-play. Not really mad, the King withdrew from society (especially tourists) by cooking. Poor cooking. When his kitchen staff left, he advertised for a wife who would eat his cooking and wash dishes. The French applicant couldn't stand the food, the American wanted a dishwasher, and the Englishwoman said she hadn't tasted a real English meal since coming abroad. A large spoof on British cuisine best appreciated by the sophisticated reader, but with enough obvious humor for anyone. The drawings, scribbly and page-filling, have amusing details—also, in large part, for the sophisticated reader.

M Watts, Mabel. The Boy Who Listened to Everyone; illus. by Ervine Metzl. K-2 Parent's Magazine, 1963. 42p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.84 net. Little Kevin sold eggs and honey as good as any in Ireland; one day he went off to buy some ducks, but, persuaded by various adults to buy a purse for the money, a tin box for the purse, etcetera, he could buy not one, since he had used all his profits. Kevin decided that after that he would take no advice, but would think for himself. The illustrations are adequate, a bit cartoon-like; the plot is unoriginal, but the book may have some value for reading aloud, since the writing style is pleasantly smooth and has some light touches of humor.

Ad Weiss, Harvey. The Very Private Treehouse; written and illus. by Harvey Weiss. Abelard-Schuman, 1964. 60p. $2.75. A slightly meandering story, but pleasant because of the realism of the amiably squabbling conversation. Three children decide to build a treehouse and they periodically step on their dog's tail, request help of an adult stranger who tries—wistfully and unsuccessfully—to take a nap, and hoist their complacent goat into the treehouse. The characters gather, goat and all, for a chowder feast in the tree house. Light and rambling foolery, exaggerated but not impossible in incidents.

M Wood, Frances. Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon; illus. with photographs in color. 4-5 Follett, 1963. 32p. (Our National Parks Series.) Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.10 net. A book with limited use, illustrated with photographs; there is no table of contents and no index, but there is a full-page map. The text gives some description of and some statistics about each park and monument it describes, but it is fairly cursory. There is no indication (since there is no table of contents) that the book contains some material on another park (the Petrified Forest National Park). In the same format are three other volumes in the series: Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Teton; Rocky Mountain, Mesa Verde, Carlsbad Caverns, and Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Hawaii.

M Woody, Regina Llewellyn (Jones). A Time To Dance. Chilton, 1963. 156p. 7-9 $3.50. A long career-college-and-love story, with an enormous amount of authoritative information about dancers and dancing built around a thin story line. Janet is studying dance at Mills, and her fiancé is a choreographer in Hollywood. There is some misunderstanding between them, but Janet and Johnny set a wedding date when she gets her degree. The dance buff will probably be fascinated by the references to famous dancers and by the details of choreography, interpretation, dance therapy, training, etc. The book is weakened by the writing style, often florid and occasionally banal: "She wondered what the trouble was, little dreaming that it was her own nonchalance toward a soon-be-famous male dancer that was causing their reaction."

**Books of the Year.** Child Study Association of America. $0.50. For parents and children, 500 selected 1963 titles. From C.S.A.A., 9 E. 89th St., New York 28, N.Y.

**The Brotherhood of Man.** Queens Borough Public Library. 22 titles, annotated, on prejudice and poverty. Free from the library, 89-14 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica 32, N.Y.

**Canadian Books, 1962;** 8th annual list of the Canadian Library Association. 6p. $0.30; 4 copies, $1. From the C.L.A., 63 Sparks St., Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada.


**Fiction Supplement to Books for Youth, 1956-1962.** Toronto Public Library, Young People's Department. 16-page supplement. $0.25. From the library, Toronto, College and St. George Streets, Toronto 2-B, Ontario, Canada.

**Free and Inexpensive Learning Materials;** 12th ed. 256p. All orders postpaid from Div. of Surveys and Field Services, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville 5, Tenn. 1-9 copies, $2 each; 10-49, 10% discount; 50-99, 20% discount; 100 or more, 30% discount.


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