EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

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

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

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BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Acting Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey Sutherland, Editor.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: per year, $4.50; $3.00 per year each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy, 75¢. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois. All notices of change of address should provide both the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

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4-6 Library ed. $2.29 net.
A good book on the topic, relating architectural style and the materials used in houses to climate, function, and raw materials. The text is not comprehensive in coverage of periods, but it serves admirably to substantiate the authors’ views on architectural variations in housing. The book describes types of houses from caves to modern homes; illustrations are informative and a one-page index of architectural terms used in the text is appended.

Ad Aldis, Dorothy (Keeley). Is Anybody Hungry? drawings by Artur Marokvia.
3-5 Putnam, 1964. 61p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.68 net.
A collection of poems about eating habits of children or animals or about special treats. The verses are pleasant, mildly informational, and occasionally humorous or imaginative. Not an outstanding book, but one that has moments of felicitous description or of small, appealing familiarities.

M Aliki. George and the Cherry Tree. Dial, 1964. 29p. illus. Trade ed. $3.75;
K-2 Library ed. $3.61 net.
A read-aloud version of the well-known story about George Washington, written in a simple but flat style. The illustrations are very attractive, although a few of the pages seem overfilled; the colors are wonderfully vivid, and the pictures have vitality and humor.

7-9 Damaris Cleveland goes to France with her cousin Celia, and there she becomes involved in a mystery that culminates in a murder in the Roman Amphitheater at Arles. The man Damaris is in love with is suspected and arrested; she helps clear his name with the help of a fellow Briton, Thomas, in a dramatic and dangerous confrontation with the criminals. The plot is a bit contrived, characterization is adequate, writing style is good, and the details of locale are vivid.

7-10 Jonathan Flower, in response to an advertisement, goes to Cape Cod to tutor two children for a summer. He finds himself in an unusual household: Dr. Sarx, who owns a chain of funeral parlors and who carves ushabtis (alter egos for Egyptian mummies), the vague and aloof mother of very precocious twins, a head servant who is a Parsi priest, and two more servants from the Mysterious East. Add a few Cape Cod Characters, such as the grandmother of Jonathan’s friend, a wispy, chiffony lady given to
solo performances of sonnet or song; Mrs. Little makes her first appearance gar-
landed (profusely) in tomatoes. The plot gets off to a roaring start and keeps pace to
the end: mysterious shots, assailants in the dark, attempts to hurt or kill the chil-
dren, an abduction, etcetera; at the end, Dr. Sarx is stopped just before he entombs
in their hollow statues the twins and their mother, Dr. Sarx escapes to a watery death
(or does he?) while the house and its grim enbalming chamber burn. All of this much-
ness would be too much were not the author's tongue rather firmly in his cheek, evi-
denced by elaborate detail, impossibly off-hand erudition, and exaggeration on all
fronts. Nevertheless, the story is, despite the embroidery that gives it color, ham-
pered by too many details, incidents, quips, and characters.

NR Antoncich, Betty Kennedy. The Cliff House Mystery; decorations by Gerald
Mollie O'Neal, fifteen, has a summer baby-sitting job that leads to adventure when a
blind youth moves in next door; Marc explains that his grandmother has kidnapped
him. His parents are getting a divorce and his father has disappeared; Marc is sure
that his grandmother has precipitated the situation. The two young people discover a
secret room that had been part of a mysterious past event: the murder of a revenue
agent. Mollie convinces Marc that they can use the secret room as a hiding place;
they pretend he is kidnapped, his grandmother sends for his parents, the parents are
united again, grandmother gets her come-uppance, and Marc gets over the trauma
of the diving accident that caused his blindness when he saves the life of Mollie's
small charge. Involved, melodramatic, and adjective-laden, the story is weak in dia-
logue and shallow in characterization.

K-2 $3.50.
As always, Mr. Ardizzone's illustrations are distinctive in their gentle, humorous
way; as always, the story is nonsensical in plot and utterly restrained and bland in
style. Usually a felicitous combination, the plot here is so tepid that the pictures
can't quite rescue the book. Mother, father, and Diana are quietly having tea when a
rhinoceros appears; the adults are frightened but Diana merely proceeds to admin-
ister medication, since the beast has a bad cold. Diana refuses to let any harm come
to her new friend; as the years go by they grow old together and together they are
visited by the neighborhood children.

R Armour, Richard. The Adventures of Egbert the Easter Egg; Paul Galdone
An engaging read-aloud book with rhyming text and lively, humorous illustrations.
This is an Easter saga told from the viewpoint of an egg: it has romance of a sort,
suspense, adventure, and a happy ending. Egbert, with nothing but a thin shell to pro-
tect him, was relieved when he became hard-boiled; he was delighted when his boy
painted a face on him. On Easter morning, all the eggs with stripes and dots were
found by children, but Egbert had been left out in the grass overnight. A slope in the
land started Egbert toward a doorway . . . out came his very own boy, who had been
in bed with a cold the day before. "Did he say, then, 'I've found one'? No, see the
next line: He said (Egbert loved him for this), 'I've found mine!"
in Paris. The episodic story line is an unconvincing blend of travelogue and teen-age skirmishing. The dialogue is weak: for example, Jody and one of the girls have dinner with a captain in the Coldstream Guards. "Nao, nao, we are the fawtunate ones." says Finch-Hobberly. "Aren't they dahling, Finchy boy?" says Mrs. Finch-Hobberly. The trip has a plethora of exciting incidents, and none of the characters seems real.

6-9 Written as diary entries, the record of the year in which Janie turned fourteen; a year in which Janie loses weight, improves her complexion (ditto posture, grooming, etcetera), acquires a steady boy friend, improves her relationships with her family and her friends, gives the elementary school graduation speech, and starts high school. Not inappropriately gushing or coy for a thirteen-year old, but the slangy, confidential style is viscous reading, and the minutiae of Janie's exercises and coiffures seem overdone. Janie makes frequent virtuous comments about decorum, daughterly love, religious inspiration, or patriotic feelings, but they seem superimposed and she seems a cardboard character.

Although this football story deviates from formula, it retains a few elements of the patterned sports story. Tom Farrell, a high school sophomore, wanted desperately to play football, but he was too fat; lonely, friendless, and discouraged, the boy had been a compulsive eater. Given a chance by a new coach who saw that the fat boy could kick, Tom began a strenuous, but not judicious, program of diet and exercise. The scenes of practice sessions and games are well done, Tom's role in winning games is realistic except for the dramatic final game, and the book is competently written. The story is weakened by the fact that Tom's rigorous program so weakens him that he requires hospitalization, a situation that none of the adults seems to have foreseen, although such adults as Tom's parents and the football coaches are presented as observant, intelligent, and sympathetic people.

Cheerful, harum-scarum, and well-intentioned, Mary is always an attractive heroine: she makes mistakes, she tries again, and she is always believably engaged in familiar, everyday experiences. Mary's family is apprehensive when Mary decides that a woman of nine should know how to cook, but mother and grandmother patiently see Mary through her trials to the triumph of a birthday cake for Grandmother—with only a little help from Mother. A good book for girls, but rather passive in style and tempo.

A rhyming text describes the trip made by a small boy who is travelling alone on an ocean liner; Danny is going to England to visit an aunt and is a bit apprehensive about not being recognized. By the time the ship docks, so many of the passengers and crew have agreed to help Danny that there is a great deal of commotion; even the smokestacks are spelling D-a-n in Morse code. His aunt recognizes Danny......because he looks like his father. The rhyming falters here and there, the illustrations are overly busy; the plot is not hackneyed, but it is slight; there is mild humor in the exaggeration. There is some evocation of the holiday atmosphere of a luxury liner, but this may be less appealing to the read-aloud audience than to the reader who has travelled or who has read about shipboard life.
A book that reiterates the blessings of being an American as it gives information about the history, the tenets, and the government of the United States. The text includes chapters on the flag, with particular reference to the rules of its usage, about the national anthem and other patriotic songs, about governmental structure, and about the presidents. The writing style is clear and the facts provided are accurate and useful, but the tone of the writing seems to imbue patriotism with complacency.

A charming Christmas story, and a nice choice for reading aloud to younger children. A small town in Provence, Touronne has suffered financially and the population has dwindled; no longer do the people celebrate the traditional March to the Star, a midnight procession to a hilltop manger where the newest mother of the community takes the role of Mary. There are no young couples in Touronne, and no infants. Six small children decide to have a March; one by one the adults of the community become involved, and when the night comes there are—for a perfectly logical reason—a new mother and child there. The people are real, the ceremony and the planning are described with a tenderness and simplicity that never become sentimentality.

A good mystery story with a strong emphasis on family life in rural Canada. Samantha lives in an old house so large that part of it has been closed off; she has hunted many times for an old book that her great-grandmother claims is somewhere in the house, and she sometimes resents being at the beck and call of the querulous old woman. When the family has a reunion in honor of Great-Gran's birthday, Samantha finds the book in a secret room. The book has a slight overdose of historical material in one chapter, but the writing is for the most part easy and informal. The family relationships are realistic and warm, and the descriptions of the countryside and of small events on the farm are quite vivid.

A book that gives bits and pieces of facts about the Mets, but that has two distracting weaknesses. It describes in detail a game between the Mets and the Dodgers, the text veering away to discuss past performances, or personalities, or anecdotes about Met fans. Pages later it returns to the next inning of the original game, an awkward device for the reader. The interim material seems to have no organization, and the fact that the writing style is colloquial journalese adds to the impression of rambling and anecdotage. Not written with the percipience of Angell or the humor of Breslin, but with some interest for baseball fans, and probably more than some interest for the New Breed.

R Cromie, William J. *Why the Mohole; Adventures in Inner Space*; illus. with 8- photographs and with diagrams and maps by Arthur Knapp. Little, 1964. 220p. $4.75.
An unusually fine example of scientific writing for the general reader. The author has wide experience in oceanography and geophysics; his explanations of the problems inherent in the exploration of inner space are lucid, thorough, and animated. Mr. Cromie describes the evolution of Project Mohole, gives the pertinent facts about earth and oceans, discusses drilling techniques and recent advances in exploration by drilling. The material is well-organized and the writing style is excellent, but the outstanding value of the book is in the logic and clarity with which the author describes the pur-
poses of the investigations. A divided bibliography and an index are appended.

Ad DeArmand, Frances Ullmann, comp. *When Mother Was a Girl; Stories She Read*

A divided bibliography and an index are appended.

When Mother Was a Girl; Stories She Read

Then. Funk and Wagnalls, 1964. 209p. $3.50.

Seventeen short stories are included in the book, all having been published originally in magazines during the years 1941-1947. Most of the selections are love stories, and few of them give a particularly clear picture of the adolescent of two decades ago as differing much from the adolescent today. There is little variation in writing styles, almost all of the stories being not well written but adequately written, and almost all having components of humor, romance, breezy dialogue, and problems that are settled by a somewhat sentimental ending.


A mild read-aloud story about a British postman, nonsensical rather than fanciful, rewritten from the original 1948 publication; the illustrations are a bit busy but are attractive because of vitality and humor. Mr. Musgrove, the Flying Postman, delivered mail by helicopter direct to the bedroom window; after getting stuck in a church steeple he was grounded and jobless. He and his wife began making pink ice cream, a dish they served to the Postmaster General when he was recovering after being thrown from a horse. In gratitude, the P.G. reinstated Mr. Musgrove, whose wife went on making pink ice cream. Soon they accumulated enough money to buy their own helicopter; the cow who had provided milk for the ice cream sat in the back seat. Rambling in construction and rather tepid, so that the plot seems overextended.


Another episode in the life of that amiable hippopotamus, Veronica; another ingratiatingly-offered lesson in human relationships, this time on the theme that they also serve who, etcetera. Bored and feeling useless, Veronica finds that her fellow animals appreciate her kindness, and that they even appreciate her wisdom—or the wisdom they impute to her. Knowing that she is considered useful, Veronica no longer feels bored.


The setting is Tahiti, the period not specified; the story describes the acquisition by Walter, a dentist, of a private island—given him by a king in lieu of payment for dental work. Finding his island beset by rats, Walter brought in cats; the cats killed the rats and grew fat, then they fought and decimated their own kind. When their numbers had gone down from over a thousand to only twenty, they asked Walter’s advice. Walter’s original cat said, "Fish." So they began to fish. The story ends abruptly with the fact that Walter’s descendants still sell copra, the king’s descendants still have gold fillings, and the descendants of the cats still tell kittens today how they were once taught to fish. The illustrations are awkward, the print is close-packed and hard to read; the story seems neither one thing nor another: a bit of information, a bit of atmosphere, a bit of the fanciful. The story of the cats has little to do with the first part of the story with its description of Tahiti.


A story of China in 1948, written by an American-born author who worked in China during the years in which the Communists gained power. Liu Mei-lin is happy in the betrothal arranged by her mother, but she wants to have just one more year of school; her betrothed, Ling-wen, is not happy about the delay, but accepts it. When the Communists enter the town, Mei-lin and Ling-wen are at first impressed by their behavior;
later, Ling-wen is quite converted but Mei-lin is increasingly dismayed by the poli-
cies, the techniques, and the oppressive regimen of the party. Mei-lin escapes to Hong
Kong, the story ending as she flies from there eastward to freedom in Formosa. The
writing style is adequate, the background details of Chinese family life and customs
are interesting; the story moves fairly slowly for the most part, accelerating at the
close. The book unfortunately seems overweighted with material about the Communists,
the story of Mei-lin almost being lost in the accumulation of anecdotes of cruelty that
lose impact by profusion.

Ad  Garten, Jan. The Alphabet Tale; illus. by Muriel Batherman. Random House, 4-7
1964. 52p. $2.50.

An alphabet book with rhyming text, illustrations that are bright and clear, and a tricky
pattern that is entertaining but that weakens the book as an alphabet-learning device.
On the recto page is a large capital letter, the tail-tip of an animal, and all of the text
save for the rhyming (and operative) word: "Spreading out with a beautiful swish, This
tail is the tail of the plumed --------." On the next page is "Ostrich" and the picture of
the rest of the bird. The ostrich is then facing the letter "P" with a new tail-tip and a
new text.

Ad  Gilmour, Ann. Understanding Your Senses; Easy Experiments for Young People; 4-6
with photographs by James A. Gilmour and drawings by Robin Callander.
Warne, 1964. 64p. $2.95.

Not a book that purports to give a comprehensive treatment of the subject, but a series
of clear, simplified explanations of some of the ways in which the senses function.
Large photographs are faced by pages on which part of the text gives facts and part of
the text gives instruction for simple home demonstrations. The photographs are use-
ful; some of the diagrams are not clear.


A read-aloud book with illustrations (black and white with touches of red) that are
pleasant in their simplicity and liberal use of blank space. The story is slight in line,
static in writing style, and realistic. A small boy whose mother makes him a red
jacket gives it to a friend when it is outgrown; the jacket is used by a third child, and
after it has been cut down the little red jacket is given to the original owner to be used
for his new pet—a monkey. The text ends thus, an unsatisfyingly abrupt ending.

K-2  Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net.

A tall book about a boy who lived in a tall house, but—although exaggerated—not a tall
tale. Mary worked for Thomas's mother, and she said that as soon as her back was
turned Thomas did terrible things. (He thought they were just interesting things.) One
day he made the washing machine overflow, and while Mary was trying to clean that
up, Terrible Thomas pulled out fuses and everything in the fifteen-story building
stopped running. In the commotion Terrible Thomas was locked into a basement room,
and by the time he was found was repentant. He told Mary he'd be the best boy in the
building. She hoped so...but she decided to go on calling him Terrible Thomas for the
nonce. Entertaining, and only far-fetched enough to lend spice; the style is good, the
plot rather slight; the illustrations are very amusing.

2-4  (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books.) Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.65 net.
A very good first book about bees, with a succinct and simply written text and with
clear illustrative diagrams. The text describes the ways in which bees learn to fly in
a straight line and the various means they have of guiding their flight; it explains with clarity the signal-dances that are used by bees to give each other flight directions.

Ad Herrmanns, Ralph. Children of the North Pole. Harcourt, 1964. 43p. illus. 3-5 $2.50.

First published in Sweden under the title Barnen vid Nordpolen, a pleasant little story about two Eskimo children of Greenland, with more than half of the page space being given to color photographs taken by the author. The pictures are of good quality but are repetitive. The text describes the attempt made by Serkok to hunt seals; without permission, he takes his father's kayak, which floats off when he lands on the other side of the fjord; his worried smaller sister marches off to meet him. Next morning the two reach home, worried about parental reaction but not expecting physical punishment since parents in Greenland never strike a child. The story ends abruptly when (a friend having given them a seal and promised to look for father's kayak) the text concludes, "Since the seal was heavy, it meant they were dragging a lot of food home with them. They had good news as well. Father would get his kayak back. Kivijok had promised."

Ad Hewett, Hilda. Harriet and the Cherry Pie; illus. by Kathryn Fligg. Lothrop, 5-7 1964. 224p. $3.50.

When her father must go to Australia for six months, Harriet and her little sister are sent to stay with great-aunt Sophie in London. Sophie turns out to be a young woman who runs a tea-shop, The Cherry Pie, and Harriet is quite happy there. She also becomes very busy when she is given a part in a new professional play; delighted with her theatrical experience and her new friends, Harriet is still concerned with Sophie and her financial problems. When a theatrical columnist writes about Harriet, the resultant publicity puts the shop in the black. The story closes with an unfortunately pat ending: Daddy arrives on Christmas day. The story is pleasant, but the details of both Harriet's theatre experiences and of the business of the shop are rather laboriously incorporated. The characters are believable, the dialogue very good. Four recipes for items made by Harriet in the course of the story are appended.

NR Hill, Elizabeth Starr. The Window Tulip; with pictures by Hubert Williams. 3-4 Warne, 1964. 27p. $2.50.

Little Willem, when he saw a rainbow over the Zuider Zee, made a wish that he could somehow buy spectacles for his grandfather, so that the old man could again be able to see well enough to do his carving and earn money. Willem found a tulip bulb, the landlord gave him permission to grow it in a pot in the window, and a large and rare tulip grew. A tulip-grower bought the bulb and also let them live in a little house on the edge of the tulip field. Next spring they enjoyed a field of window tulips. A story that is unsatisfying because it leaves so many things unexplained; for example, why does the rich tulip grower appear at all, when the landlord had said, "I'm off for a week's visit to the richest tulip grower in Holland."? Too slight, too pat.

R Hobson, Polly. The Mystery House; illus. by Judith Ann Lawrence. Lippincott, 5-6 1964. 158p. $3.50.

First published in England in 1963, a good story with a diversity of elements nicely put together: elements of mystery, magic, friendship values, and family life. Marilyn, eleven, knows her mother is glamorous and detests it; her father, also detesting it, has been gone several years, and Marilyn's dearest wish is that her mother stop her professional life and that the family be reunited. The mystery house, not really a mystery, is the rambling house next door; here Marilyn and the resident children find some marbles they become convinced are magic. The marbles do seem to work, bringing each of the five children his secret wish; however, there is a logical explanation for each development. The characterization is very good, perceptive and often humor-
ous; the relationship between Marilyn and her mother is drawn with candor.


Hu lived with three siblings: Ha, Hai, and Ho; with no parents, this boy of eleven had trouble caring for small ones of seven, five, and three. Living in a Hong Kong shack, Hu thought of several ingenious ways to make money; thus he granted the three wishes of the children. He convinced Madame Ching, for example, that by holding a sign advertising her restaurant, he could lure tourists at the docks. He convinced her that they would all be better advertisements if she fattened them first with free meals. In the end, the last wishes are granted when Madame Ching volunteers to adopt the children and when another employer offers to pay for Hu's schooling. The children's situation is not adequately explained nor is the facile solution realistic; there is, on the other hand, nothing in the story to indicate that it is not meant to be taken seriously: no humor, no exaggeration, no touch of fancy. The illustrations are distractingly busy with detail. There may be some small value in one aspect of the story: there is, both within the small family of orphans and in the relationships they establish with adults, affection and charity.


A read-aloud book with softly-executed illustrations; the theme is universal, the treatment slight. "Sometimes you simply have a bad day. You are good. The day is bad. It starts like this...With spilled milk...and frowns." Several incidents of the day and the evening are cited, all of them frown-producing. Then bedtime comes, parents and big sister smile, and the small girl (who has frowned at being frowned on all day) smiles. The text is static, the value of the book being in the familiarity of the child's reaction to an ordinary situation; the communication of a bad mood is established more deftly in Zolotow's *The Quarreling Book* (Harper and Row, 1963).

Ad Huggins, Alice Margaret. *Spend Your Heart*; by Alice Margaret Huggins and Hugh Laughlin Robinson. Westminster, 1965. 191p. $3.50.

Written by a doctor and a teacher who lived for many years in China, a junior novel about a woman medical missionary. Just before the outbreak of the war with Japan, Dr. Marion Bruce comes to the mission hospital at Wangshan; some of her problems are those of almost any doctor beginning practice: incorrect diagnoses, a resultant diminution of self-confidence, and the expressed resentment of the head nurse. All of this is compounded by the fact that Dr. Marion is working under language difficulties. When the war begins, the young doctor gains the respect of all and regains her self-confidence when she successfully completes a long siege alone in the operating room. Some of the medical material and all of the background details are interesting, but the story is cluttered with incidents and characters; the simple story line is almost obscured.


A good story about two fourth-grade friends, simply written in brief episodes with a slight connecting thread of plot. Susan has small problems and small adventures; Martin shares most of the adventures and solves many of the problems. For the most part the incidents are quite realistic and often humorous; in just a few instances, the action seems a bit contrived—for example, Susan and Martin find a very small boy who is lost, and when they go to the nearest house they find that it is the right house and that the child hasn't been missed because he is an identical twin, and his mother and grandmother each think the other has him in tow.
R Judson, Clara (Ingram). *Andrew Carnegie*; illus. by Steele Savage. Follett, 5-7 1964. 158p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.45 net.

One of the manuscripts left by the prolific Mrs. Judson, this biography of the famous industrialist is—like her other books—quiet in style, carefully organized, and balanced in treatment. Impressive as an example of financial success, Andrew Carnegie is drawn as an admirable figure in the later years in which his philanthropic ventures and his espousal of the cause of international peace made him a figure of historic importance.

R Laffin, John. *Codes and Ciphers; Secret Writing through the Ages*; illus. by C. de la Nougerede. Abelard-Schuman, 1964. 145p. $3.

A truly excellent book on cryptography, written with style and clarity, and well-organized. The examples given are extensively detailed, and the text is enlivened by true anecdotes about the uses of some of the codes or ciphers. The author never writes down, yet the writing has informality and flashes of humor—the easy lucidity of the good teacher. A dozen cryptograms and solutions for the reader are appended, as is an index.


A long and complicated adventure story. Adam, just out of high school and an advanced student in marine biology, is sent to work with Dr. O’Keefe; working in a laboratory on a Portuguese island, Dr. O’Keefe has made remarkable progress in regeneration of parts, work based on the ability of the starfish to regenerate an arm. Adam becomes involved in the struggle between an unscrupulous American (whose beautiful young daughter is used as a lure) and the friends of Dr. O’Keefe, a network of good men. Each side has agents, secrets, plans, etc. Dr. O’Keefe has a houseful of children, one of them being a precocious twelve-year-old, Polyhymnia, who is kidnapped. After intrigue and counter-intrigue, one of the good men is killed. The tycoon’s daughter is bitten by a shark, and Adam and Dr. O’Keefe are prepared to use their new knowledge to save her as the book ends, in affirmation of the triumph of good over evil, or at least of the humane over the inhumane. The writing style is good, some of the characters are vividly drawn, the ethical concepts are fine ones; the book loses impact because it is so involved: so many characters, so many incidents, so many long passages of dialogue.


Another delightful collection of stories by the author of *Heather and Broom* and *Thistle and Thyme*; ten ghostly tales are prefaced by a foreword on their sources. The book is attractively illustrated, and the writing style is distinctive: colloquial, humorous, and with just enough of the Scottish tongue to have lilt and color without being mawkish. A wonderful book for reading aloud and a good source for storytelling.


Broad in scope and well-organized, a good volume in the World Library series; the writing style is easy and colorful, only occasionally verging on the flippant ("...the red-beaked black swan, which Australia has produced to show the world it can be different..."). The photographs are of good quality, varied and often stunning; endpapers provide political and relief maps. Mr. MacInnes gives good historical background and geographical descriptions of the two countries, discusses typical rural families, sports, education, recreation, native and colonial peoples and policies, and some of the artists—particularly the contemporary artists—of Australia and New Zealand. Perhaps the most interesting chapter is the one entitled "A Breezy, Unpredictable
People," in which the author describes national characteristics and attitudes, race relations, pressing problems, and social customs. In addition to the index, there are appended lists of important dates (separate lists for the two countries), lists of important cultural figures, and a bibliography divided by chapters.

A good science fiction story set on another planet in the distant future, but containing no element of the fanciful. A young doctor arrives at the planet Acoma for his first post, but finds there has been an error in communications. There is no job for Garry Bart, and he reluctantly takes a job as a veterinarian so that he can stay on Acoma; he finds an odd medical problem on which he secretly does research. The medical practitioners of the planet are furious when he divulges his results, then mollified when he makes another discovery that will benefit them financially and that also may prove to be of enormous medical import. Characterization is adequate, plot and atmosphere are convincing, and the writing style is smooth.

Ad Lightner, A. M. The Planet Poachers. Putnam, 1965. 184p. illus. $3.50. 6-9
A story of the future; save for one non-human creature that talks, this science fiction story might be set in a remote part of today's world. It is based on the discovery of a new animal found on another planet; the keravoro resembles a unicorn and lives in a symbiotic relationship, apparently, with both a plant and another form of animal life. Two young Rangers, on their first space job, become involved in the struggle between those who want to preserve and study the keravoro and those who want to kill the valuable animal or capture it for selling off-planet. The writing style is just a little on the florid side, the characters just a little on the stereotypical. On the whole the plot is plausible, the attitudes toward animal life near-Franciscan, and the zoological details authoritative. The closing episode is the least convincing part of the story, with the Rangers being led to the hideout of the criminals by telepathic communication between the young Ranger who has raised "the Rock," and "the Rock"—a birdlike creature who thinks and talks like a human being.

The first of a projected series of books about minority groups in the United States, this description of the Negro people's participation in various aspects of the struggles of the Civil War and of the ante-bellum years is worthy and dull. The book describes a dramatic period of our history and it focuses on a problem still acute and poignant; the possible impact of the text is vitiated by weak writing style and by occasional flat generalizations, but the material itself is interesting and useful.

A picture book with a slight text, simply written; the illustrations are soft in execution, partly realistic, partly stylized. The book has a repeated pattern of two double-page spreads: the first shows, for example, a boy kneeling near a pond—"The pond had a secret"—and the second spread shows the fish in the pond. Again, two rabbits—"The rabbits have a secret"—and in the next double-page spread, an all-over pattern of rabbits. The concept is appealing: in simple, everyday things there are wonders not immediately visible; the fact that some of the secrets seem a little artificial weakens the impact, however. For example, the attractive page showing children trimming a Christmas tree follows the sentence "Winter has a secret." Here
the secret is not an intrinsic quality as is the plant that grows from the seed that has a secret.


An excellent book, authoritative and comprehensive, by a New Zealander who writes with skill and with rare objectivity. The material is well-organized, the writing is vivid in descriptive passages and dispassionate in analyses of limitations and problems. Miss Marsh discusses the backgrounds of the peoples of New Zealand, gives good historical and geographical details, and describes the country today. Photographs are variable in quality; a map is provided. An index and a list of suggestions for further reading are appended, as is a section that explains the pronunciation of Maori words and lists those that are used in the book.

R Martin, Patricia Miles. The Greedy One; illus. by Kazue Mizumura. Rand McNally, 1964. 64p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.08 net.

A story of present-day Japan, with very attractive illustrations. When Kenji's greedy cormorant gulps the fish intended for the holiday meal, he tries to get another fish, since this is a traditional feature for Boys' Day. Kenji gets two fish, one of which he gives a friend; when Boys' Day comes, he feels that both he and the greedy one have learned something. The plot is slight but adequate; the background details of family life and holiday customs are interesting but not obtrusively informational.


Written with simplicity and illustrated with pictures that have a lively grace, a brief read-aloud story set in Japan today but having a timeless quality. That a small girl feels cast off when her older brother starts school is a feeling known to youngest children everywhere; the happiness the boy feels when he has made his sister happy by including her is a reaction typical of all human relationships. Bored and lonely, Chie mopes about each day when Ichiro plays with his new friends; she is thrilled when Mother says they are going to pack a lunch for Sports Day at Ichiro's school. Ichiro is dismayed; now his little sister will see him come in last in the race, and he has always let her think him fleet. He loses the race, but he and Chie together win the three-legged race; he shares his prize with her and they are both content.


An intensively detailed and serious discussion of some of the great leaders of modern dance in the United States. With a good introduction that gives particular emphasis to the foundation laid by Delsarte and Dalcroze, the author gives an excellent description of the evolution of modern dance through biographies of Duncan, Wigman, St. Denis, Shawn, Graham, Holm, Humphrey, Weidman, and Tamiris. In these biographies are authoritative analyses of techniques and theories, of comparative schools, and of trends and influences. The book has interest, certainly, for the general reader, but the considerable amount of detail about technique and the professional tone of the appended section of notes indicates that the book will probably be of greatest appeal to the reader with a special interest. An index is appended.


An intensively detailed and authoritative examination of the culture of the Mound Builders, particularly in descriptions of their art. The author gives briefly—but adequately—a review of the immigration of early men and of the first cultural patterns of human life on this continent. The writing style is serious, maps and drawings are informa-
tive, and photographs are very good. A selected and scholarly bibliography is appended, as are a brief index and a one-page chronology.

Ad O'Neill, Mary. People I'd Like To Keep; illus. by Paul Galdone. Doubleday, 4-6 1964. 64p. $2.95.
Fifteen poems about some of the people who are favorites of the author, written in first person from the viewpoint of the child: a schoolmate, the baker, a favorite teacher, the family doctor, etcetera. The point of view is well-maintained, only occasionally seeming that of an adult rather than that of a child. Some of the ideas and experiences in the poems have a universal or a humorous appeal; some of the selections have vivid phrases or perceptive concepts, although the poems are for the most part only adequately written and moderately imaginative.

A read-aloud picture book about the rescue of a trapped cat. Caught in a narrow space between two buildings, Mary Jane's cat yowls so loudly that the startled neighbors think it might be an air raid—or a tiger. A policeman calls three firemen, whose chopping breaks a water pipe; the landlord is dismayed, and it is then necessary to call a plumber. A man comes from the S.P.C.A., but Mary Jane finally rescues the cat herself, since the hole in the wall is small...the cat comes out with a stranded kitten. Everybody goes down to the station house, and everything gets straightened out. The pictures are lively, the story has a modicum of humor in the situation; the plot is not highly original, the writing style is adequate.

A book for beginning independent readers that is repetitious in pattern but is lightly humorous; the photographic illustrations are large and clear. A boy whose turtle runs away after having had a turtle house built for him tells the story. Pet follows pet, and the original turtle house grows with each new tenant: duck, kitten, rabbit, dog, goat, horse. When the horse goes back to the farm, the boy fixes up his house for a pet that will "never make trouble! I'm going to fix up my house for a BOOGLE. I don't quite know what a Boogle is. But one of these days I hope I'll find one." With this is the last picture, showing an elaborate if ramshackle edifice carrying a sign that reads "Boogle House." A nice nonsense ending, but a bit abrupt.

R Phipson, Joan. Threat to the Barkers; illus. by Margaret Horder. Harcourt, 5-7 1965. 219p. $3.50.
A sequel to The Family Conspiracy, in which the younger Barker children had a secret goal for which they earned money. Now the family is particularly happy because the oldest Barker, Jack, is just starting a flock of stud sheep. When young Edward becomes accidentally entangled with sheep thieves, he is timid until he realizes that his own brother's new flock is threatened; he tells the police and he helps catch the culprits. The extent of Edward's involvement is perfectly believable, and the author stresses (through the words of the father) the fact that moral courage is more important than physical. Characterization is very good, the dialogue is flavorful, and the details of locale are vivid.

Ad Ruskin, Ariane. The Pantheon Story of Art for Young People. Pantheon Books, 6-9 1964. 159p. illus. Trade ed. $6.95; Library ed. $5.69 net.
A history of art in an oversize book with an unusually large number of full-page, full-color illustrations. Simple and competently written, the book is weak only in scope, giving but six pages to the chapter entitled "New Ideas," which describes the
ideas of the Impressionists and touches only fleetingly on contemporary art. The book has no index and does not list the reproductions included, limiting usefulness; it is also a slight drawback to find, in many places in the text, references to details of a painting that is, although the fact is not noted, on the following page.

A good introduction to crystallography, giving adequate background material about the forms of matter and giving clear explanations of the qualities that distinguish crystalline structure. The text describes the way in which crystals grow and gives instructions for simple home demonstrations in which crystals can be grown. The author does not go into too much detail about molecular structure; she refers briefly to some of the identification techniques and to some of the uses of crystalline substances. The illustrations vary in usefulness, some being clear, and others being inadequately labelled or not specifically enough detailed in the drawing itself.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated with very good reproductions of the artist's work, over fifty of the seventy-odd illustrations being in full color and almost all of them being full-page. The text is authoritative and detailed, discussing chiefly Matisse's work: his development, his varied techniques, and his theories. The biographical information is slight; a list of dates is appended, as are a bibliography, a list of books illustrated by Matisse, and a list of the illustrations in the book. An excellent book for an art collection.

Ad Shecter, Ben. Jonathan and the Bank Robbers; written and illus. by Ben Shecter. 2-4 Dial, 1964. 30p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.96 net.
Jonathan, going alone by train on a visit to Uncle Horace, has heard discussion of a robbery and he suspects the odd couple who sit opposite him. He has seen black masks in one of their boxes. When a mechanical delay halts the train, the suspects take Jonathan along to a hotel, where he sees further suspicious evidence. When he accuses the couple, Jonathan is chagrined to find that they are famous magicians. When Jonathan boards the train again, another odd couple appears; this time he is less naive. The illustrations, showing the costumes of Buster Brown era, and drawn in a grotesque-droll style, are more amusing than they are attractive; the storyline is a bit thin, needing either more humor or more realistic incident to give it body and flavor.

A biography of Socrates that gives a great deal of information about Greece during and after the Golden Age, and gives perhaps too much information about Athenian politics and government. The book is written with authority but written in a ponderous style; many of the Socratic dialogues are quoted at length. Not as well-organized or as well-written as Mason's Socrates, The Man Who Dared To Ask (Beacon, 1953). A bibliography and an index are appended.

Winner of the 1964 Australian Children's Book Prize, the story of a pre-adolescent girl who longs for permanence and roots—the "dear perpetual place" of the laurel. Lesley's father operates a carnival ride, so the Somervilles move about. Shy Lesley cannot adapt as can her sturdy younger sister; when father's illness changes the family pattern, Lesley has to adjust to living in a settlement—a temporary housing community in Sydney. The family relationships are good, all of the children in the story
are individual characters and the relationships between and among them are highly perceptive. Interesting background and good dialogue; the writing style has ease and color.

A very good story about a boy's first hunting trip, and a very perceptive story about a boy's sense of values. Excited about the prospect of going along on a bear hunt, Andy gets acquainted with a "no-good," a foreigner; he has never stooped to talking with a migrant before, but he finds that he likes Manuel. His horizons widen, and his admiration for his father impel him to seek the integrity his father admires. Andy has a chance to show his own integrity on the day of the bear hunt, and he makes a generous gesture that wins his father's respect. The story is written with remarkable unity and consistency; the descriptions of the countryside and of the farmyard scenes are excellent, the dialogue and the attitudes of the people are completely real.

R Steele, William Owen. The No-Name Man of the Mountain; illus. by Jack Davis. Harcourt, 1964. 80p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.03 net.
Another of Mr. Steele's dependably superb tall tales, written with gusto and humor; the plot is delightfully mad and the incidents are madly delightful. On the classic theme of a good youngest brother victimized by the older ones, the nameless sibling accepts with loving gratitude each scurrilous trick his older brothers play on him. Told that he is too ugly to be seen, younger brother obediently lives with his head in an onion sack and tries to farm the side of a mountain. Spurred on by his desire to know his name, younger brother eventually sees through the machinations of the older two and outwits them. A good story to read aloud or to use for storytelling.

A good biography of the Canadian explorer; the focus is on the search made by Mackenzie for an overland route to the Pacific from his base at Lake Athabasca. The book is written with crisp and dignified simplicity, all of the drama being inherent in the recorded facts of the journey. There is a minimal amount of fictionalization and of dialogue; the illustrations are fairly attractive although some are busy with detail. A map that shows Mackenzie's two routes (the first route reaching the Arctic, a goal unplanned and undesired) is included.

Ad Tooze, Ruth. Nikkos and the Pink Pelican; illus. by Janina Domanska. Viking, 3-5 1964. 64p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.81 net.
The story of a small Greek boy who knew, even before he tried painting, that he wanted to be an artist; somehow Nikkos wanted to capture the beautiful colors of his island home. Tourists gave Nikkos money when the boy did tricks with the island's tame pelican; the drachmas were saved for paints. When a tourist found that the boy had talent, she sold him her paints before she left; even more important, she convinced the boy's father that his son's ambitions were worth encouragement. A story told with simplicity and restraint, tightly constructed and nicely illustrated; the events are realistic, the setting is colorful, and the outcome is satisfying.

A picture book first published in Sweden under the title Vi tänkte ga till skogen. The text is slight and simple, the brief story being told by one of the four children who go on a picnic. The youngsters plan a walk to the woods, but the food is so tempting that they get only as far as a nearby ditch; the picnic is enjoyed and the contented quartet amble home, satiated, bearing wild flowers for the mother who packed the picnic. The
illustrations are not of outstanding artistic quality, but they are bright and jaunty. A mild and passive read-aloud story.

M Van Gelder, Richard G. The Professor and the Mysterious Box; illus. by Harriet. Harvey House, 1964. 46p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.62 net. Written by a staff member of the American Museum of Natural History, a very simple description of the way in which a group of children help a zoologist who is studying skunks. The five children learn that the skunks are caught unharmed, observed and recorded, and released after identifying tags have been put on their ears. The illustrations are softly executed in black and white; the fictional framework of the book seems a bit elaborate for the very modest amount of information, but it is not a serious burden. The professor does not explain to the children to what use the statistics will be put.

R Veglahn, Nancy. The Tiger's Tail; A Story of America's Great Political Cartoonist, Thomas Nast; illus. with Nast's cartoons. Harper, 1964. 211p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.27 net. Not a full biography, but a book that concentrates on the career of the political cartoonist as it affected the downfall of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall. Well-written and illustrated with Nast's cartoons, the book gives a vivid picture of the political scene and of the New York draft riots. While the personal aspects of Nast's life are not stressed, the courage and integrity of the quiet young man who did so much to expose corruption are consistently clear. A list of sources is appended.

M Vogel, Ilse-Margret. The Don't Be Scared Book; Scares, Remedies, and Pictures by Ilse-Margret Vogel. Atheneum, 1964. 43p. $2.95. In a series of brief verses, each verse accompanying two double-page spreads, the text considers the problems of some frightening situations. The nonsense approach and the attractive illustrations have appeal; the writing itself is mediocre. Sample: "If boating with a troll who's cross, You find he's mean and plays the boss, Don't Be Scared! His bossy energy will fade If you make him get out and wade." Most of the situations are fanciful, but the inclusion of some that are real (but treated with the same humor) may provide some comfort to children.

R Waber, Bernard. Just Like Abraham Lincoln. Houghton, 1964. 40p. illus. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.27 net. An engaging story in which a boy describes an adult neighbor who looks like Lincoln and has many of his finest qualities. Mr. Potts is a hospitable man who loves children, who reads a great deal, and who—aware of his resemblance to Lincoln—collects Lincolniana in a modest way. Mr. Potts dresses as Lincoln for a school program; some time later he moves away and his home is purchased by a Mr. Pettigrew. The last page of the story shows the moving—in; the comment is, "I wonder what he's like." The moving men are carrying a portrait of George Washington. Although the text rambles a bit, it achieves a conversational, mulling-over quality that is natural and warm. In the double description of Mr. Potts and Abraham Lincoln, there is enough (but not too much) information for primary-age children.

M Wahl, Jan. Hello, Elephant; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Holt, 1964. 27p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net. yrs. A read-aloud book graced by Ardizzone's illustrations, but so slight in construction and static in pace that the story is unsatisfying. A small boy tells some men who are taking an elephant to a zoo that he wants to take the elephant home; the elephant is grateful, he is happy to inhabit the boy's back yard, he responds politely to greetings. The story ends, 'Every morning Ricky came out. 'Hello, Elephant,' he said. The Ele-
phant was waiting: And they ran across the field having a good time. THE END."

A dramatic and moving story of World War II, in which the occupants of a Belgian home for convalescent children flee the German blitzkrieg. Walking and riding from Heyst to Dunkerque, the children are able to escape to England when some Tommies give up their places on the rescue ship. The author writes with restraint, leaving pathos and horror to emerge from the facts themselves, this book being based on a true incident.

Ad Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. Secret of the Emerald Star; illus. by Alex Stein. 6-8 Westminster, 1964. 233p. $3.50.
Thirteen-year-old Robin is puzzled by the strange behavior of the girl who lives next door to the house to which Robin's family has just moved. She discovers that Stella and her widowed mother have come from Cuba to live with Mrs. Devery, Stella's American grandmother, that Mrs. Devery is a prejudiced tyrant, and that Stella has been blind from birth. A mysterious and unpleasant man, Mr. Lemon, and a valuable piece of jewelry (the emerald star) lead to better understanding between Stella and the grandmother whose prejudices about minorities and preconceptions about blindness have caused so much misery. The character of Mr. Lemon and the mystery element of the story seem overdrawn; the two basic themes of the story are well-handled: Mrs. Devery's hostile behavior hurts other people, but not as much as it hurts her, and the theme of constructive attitudes toward the blind is developed with informed sensitivity through the device of having a sighted child learn how a blind child feels.

Keefers' Landing was both home and place of business: the family sold fuel, fishing supplies, and groceries; when a new highway isolated the property, the Keefers had no business. Randy, fifteen, longed to be treated as an equal by his brother and grandfather; Randy it was who thought of buying an old excursion steamboat and instituting a floating store. Written with honesty and perception, this story is unusual in its economy of construction. Especially perceptive is the conflict Randy feels, his desire for status and recognition making him rebellious at times while at other times he feels admiration and loyalty for the older brother so laden with responsibility. The relationships within the family are deftly drawn: the grandfather and oldest brother valiantly holding together the family of three younger children, still adjusting to the accidental death of both parents and additionally burdened by financial worries.

A book in two parts: the author describes his several encounters with a former member of Hitler's Abwehr, Carlo; the major portion of the book is in third person, a retelling of a tale told by Carlo, a tale of counterespionage and romantic adventure concerning Allied agents involved in Operation Overlord. The text then returns to the author's conjectures about Carlo, his thesis being that there is a strong possibility that Carlo is the long-sought Martin Bormann who was Adolf Hitler's confidante and deputy. Both parts of the book are plausible in plot, authentically detailed, and dramatic; the writing style is a bit heavy. An appended note by a U. S. Army officer who did liaison work with British Intelligence substantiates the author's position that both the story of counterespionage and the theory of Bormann's identity might be true; however, the fact that these accounts may have validity does not lessen the anticlimactic effect of an inconclusive ending to the book.
Reading for Parents


Georgiady, Nicholas; Romano, Louis; and Baranowski, Arthur. "To Read or Not To Read—in Kindergarten." Elementary School Journal, March 1965.


