EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R Recommended

Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.

M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR Not recommended

SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

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

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New Titles for Children and Young People

7-10
Although this story is told by a high-school girl, it focuses on a young man who is a non-conformist and a college drop-out. Denny drives a beat-up car and wears shabby clothes, he rebels against the standards and the expectations of his wealthy parents, and—Deirdre discovers—he tells lies. Deirdre is a conformist, her younger sister a discouraged loner. Both girls find, after Denny runs away (as much from himself as from his environment) that he has shaken their preconceptions and widened their horizons. A timely and a perceptive book, well-written and realistic; interaction among personalities is convincing, especially in the extent to which the reactions obtain: there are no dramatic reversals or pat solutions to problems.

A young girl looks back on an enchanted summer, the summer in which she was thirteen and had her own horse; expanded from notes made at the time, the book is often entertaining and is written with ingenuous simplicity. There is a certain amount of repetition that is convincingly adolescent, but that weakens the story; the details of training and caring for a horse and of the procedures at horse shows are plentiful enough to interest the lover of horse stories and to limit the appeal of the book for those who are not readers of horse stories.

In a story based on his own family's experiences, Mr. Brent describes the family trek to their summer home and the disappearance and reappearance of the much-loved family dog. Those of the six Brent children who are old enough to remember their Wisconsin summer home are yearning to get there, and so is Mr. Toast; when they stop to picnic, it is Mr. Toast's eagerness to get on with the trip that spurs them. When they find, the night of their arrival, that Mr. Toast is missing, they are most anxious; when they discover that he has been left at a gas station, they go back for a delirious reunion. Simply but a little self-consciously written, with a rather sentimental attitude toward both Mr. Toast and the summer home, and with occasional passages that are flowery: "The miles flew by on wings of song. And just as voices and energy were beginning to flag, the familiar landmarks began to appear and cries of recognition sped the travelers on."

A simply written text, adequately illustrated and briefly indexed, in a book that has
good coverage and is well-organized. The author describes the first uses of rubber in Mexico and in South America, the establishment of plantations in other parts of the world, and the many ways in which manufacturing processes of natural rubber have been improved. He also describes the many and diversified kinds of synthetic rubber, and discusses the wide range of rubber products made today.


7-10
An introduction to England that is informed, informal, comprehensive, entertaining in parts, and often confusing because the material is badly organized. The author describes Britain—or the tribes that become the British people—from prehistory to the year 600, but there is a great deal of subsequent history in such chapters as "Other Cities" or "Picking Up Loose Threads." All colorful and cheerful, but rambling; the text covers historical, geographical, educational, cultural, political, industrial, and religious aspects of English life. An index and a chart of English monarchs from 827 to 1603 are appended.

R Campion, Nardi (Reeder). Look to this Day! The Lively Education of a Great Woman Doctor: Connie Guion, M.D.; by Nardi Reeder Campion with Rosamond Wilfley Stanton; illus. with photographs. Little, 1965. 300p. $4.95.

A long, detailed, and lively biography of Dr. Connie Guion, a famous physician and a charming person. One of a family of twelve children, she had a long, hard struggle to get her own education and to help the younger children in the family before she could enter medical school. After teaching chemistry at Vassar and at Sweet Briar, Connie Guion began medical school at the age of thirty-one; some fifty years later, she was honored by being the first practicing woman doctor to have a hospital building named in her honor. The biographee is a delightful character, and her story gives interesting glimpses of the beginnings of higher education for women. An extensive index is appended.


A timely book about a great man; useful and interesting, yet weakened by a flat writing style. The major part of the text is devoted to the boyhood and the college years of Dr. King, the book ending with the passage of the Civil Rights Bill in 1964 but having touched on only the major events of the long struggle. The illustrations are good; the words and music of "We Shall Overcome" are appended.


An attractively illustrated book about the coming of spring, comparing the season of the year to the beginning of a day. The second-person text is written with simplicity; it explains the changes of the angle of sunrays, the melting snows, the spring rains: all of the natural phenomena that produce the visible changes we enjoy. The text is neither too sweet, as books about spring so often are, nor is it dry with a cataloging of facts. It moves smoothly, gives information, and has—aided by the illustrations—an added appeal of evocation of the warmth, the scent, and the anticipatory stirring of the season.


6-9
Science fiction from the robot's point of view. Rex was one of the more complex class of robots, and he had been purchased to be the companion of a young boy. When Paul's family made a trip back to earth, neither he nor his robot, Rex, could bear to be parted; both ran away. After several adventures and after having been separated, the two
were reunited in Kansas City; the loyalty and intelligence that Rex had shown in planning their ploys were rewarded when he was declared the first free robot. The story of their trip seems drawn out, but the basic idea is carried out well, the story being told by Rex. The book has little characterization, but some of the episodes are ingenious.


Well-written and attractively illustrated, a good turn-of-the-century story. Having been shunted around amongst relatives until she was ten, motherless Cassie had been keeping house for her father for two years. She loved the New York village in which she lived, she loved her house, she loved her two best friends. When a projected dam threatened her father's smithy, Cassie was desolated; when her determination led to a transporting of their house to high land, she was delighted. Based on the author's adult book on the history of the real village, the story has authentic detail, good characterization, and an unusually fine picture of community life.


As in Dr. Duvall's other books, the approach is both dignified and candid, and the writing style is informal without being chatty. The author examines in great detail and from many angles the range of attitudes toward the problem and gives cogent arguments for premarital chastity. The arguments are moral, not moralistic, and sensible rather than dogmatic; the book discusses physical and psychological implications, social repercussions, future implications, religion and conscience, personality and family relationships. An important and useful book for the adolescent, and a helpful book for the adult concerned with guidance of the young. A lengthy bibliography and an index are appended.

Ad Eisenberg, Azriel. Worlds Lost and Found; Discoveries in Biblical Archeology; by Azriel Eisenberg and Dov Peretz Elkins; illus. by Charles Picard. Abelard-Schuman, 1964. 208p. $3.75.

A dozen archeological discoveries of the Near East are described in authoritative and immensely detailed accounts. Some are as familiar as the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone; others are less well known. The material is fascinating, but the heavy-handed writing style may limit reader interest. An index is appended.

R Enright, Elizabeth. Zee; pictures by Irene Haas. Harcourt, 1965. 47p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.60 net.

A completely delightful story about a small, cantankerous fairy whose homes were always being destroyed by People. Animals saw and heard Zee, people did not; her possessions were destroyed without even the small satisfaction of having her screams of rage heard. One day a small Person rescued Zee, and there was Zee's first human friend, Pandora Smith. Pandora decided she would call Zee "Hope," after a best friend that had moved away; and so Zee came to live forever in Pandora's doll-house. Deliciously illustrated and deftly told, this fairy tale has overtones of humor and of allegory that are lightly evident, giving additional depth to a story that has charm in its very bones.


A book that gives the history of baseball in this country, skimming the highlights and giving a small amount of information about the way the game is played. Photographs and diagrams are good; drawings are quite mediocre. The writing style is stilted and awkward: "The men with George Washington at Valley Forge lived in huts. They
couldn't keep warm. They almost starved. Then spring came. A soldier took a ball out of his knapsack and tossed it. 'Let's have a game!' someone shouted. 'Here's a shovel handle to use as a bat!' The endpapers show identical diagrams of a baseball diamond, giving a few paragraphs of explanatory text. The treatment is superficial, but the book may be useful for slow readers in the upper grades.

Ad  Ets, Marie Hall. Just Me; written and illus. by Marie Hall Ets. Viking, 1965. 3-6 32p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net.

A very small boy describes his imaginative imitating of farmyard animals as he plays alone. The theme is slight and seems overextended; the illustrations are attractive but they, too, are repetitive. The book escapes being dull because the text has an unpretentious simplicity of style, but it is a read-aloud story perhaps more valuable as a potential stimulus for imaginative play than for any pace or story line.


A poem about the night, with illustrations that are attractive in black-and-white and beautiful on those pages that are in color. A little girl who wonders what the outdoors is like at night is given a nocturnal walk as a birthday present. It is just what she wants; she is not disappointed, but is enthralled by the quiet beauty and by the glimpses into the secret world of night animals. A peaceful and a satisfying book, evoking the hushed excitement of a child's first experience of a country night, written with a restrained imagery in a style appropriate for the small girl who is speaking.


Illustrated in Mr. Fisher's distinctive style, a book that describes very briefly the beginnings of glassmaking in this country. The details of the glassmaking processes are adequately explained, the emphasis in the text being on the techniques rather than on the products. One of a series of books about craftsmen of colonial America, the book is not meant to be comprehensive; the information given is also found in Buehr's The Marvel of Glass (Morrow, 1963) which is more extensive in coverage. The Glassmakers is, however, a very handsome book and a good introductory presentation of the topic. A list of technical terms and a one-page index are appended.


Set in a small Indiana town in 1910, the story of orphaned Tess Trumper in her last year of high school. Tess lived with her uncle, caretaker of a cemetery; to her it seemed a familiar and dear place. She felt almost a member of her best friend's family, the Washingtons; only at high school did Tess feel tall, awkward, inadequate, and an outsider. When her friend Irene Washington married, Tess felt even more alone; she tried to be more feminine when she was briefly smitten with a handsome young newcomer, but his attitude toward the Washingtons (a Negro family) and his—to Tess incomprehensible—dislike of cemeteries put an abrupt end to friendship. Tess found another love; as she became aware that she loved Andy, she realized that his short stature didn't matter a bit to her and she also realized that her own appearance was unimportant, and that all people can be measured by their real worth. The relationship between Tess and the Washington family is warm, loving, and believable; the broader picture of the position of a Negro family in a small town at that time is honest; although treated with dignity, this aspect of the story seems a little self-conscious because it is so often reiterated. Again, the theme of the cemetery seems overemphasized; while Tess has a natural acceptance of her immediate environment and a calm
recognition of deaths and funerals, she seems to be sentimental about the gravestones and the buried townspeople to a degree that is not consistent with her character. Characterization is good, both that of major and of minor characters; the writing style is easy and natural; the period details are particularly good, evocative and consistent. The weakness of the book is in flaws of style, not in attitudes or relationships of characters.


7-10
A sequel to *South Town* (Follett, 1958). Now the Williams family has moved north and David, sixteen, is wary about what he will find in an integrated school. He finds attitudes that range from hostility to the sort of friendliness that has no aura of tolerance. Unable to believe that he can trust most of the white people he meets—especially those in positions of authority—David makes some mistakes that hamper his feelings of acceptance. He assumes responsibility for the family when his father becomes ill, and the maturity and perception this gives to David helps him with his problems. The writing style is a little flat, but is straightforward; characterization is good, the plot is rather pat at the end of the story. The strength of the book is in the candid portrayal of a spectrum of reactions, among David's classmates in particular: Buck, who is a snob, Alonzo, who is always suspicious, and Jeanette, who is intelligently objective in her assessments of people and of situations.

The *Golden Age* was first published in 1895, *Dream Days* (of which one chapter is "The Reluctant Dragon") was published three years later. The stories, in episodic chapters, are told in retrospect by one of five orphaned brothers and sisters who are as imaginative and captivating characters as were ever created. Although the print is unfortunately small, the book should delight any reader sensitive to literary style and distinctive humor; the Keeping illustrations are oddly appropriate.

Ad Griffith, Valeria. *A Ride for Jenny*; illus. by Jacqueline Tomes. Lippincott, 4-6 1964. 158p. $3.50.
Living in a small town, Jenny and her friends decide that it shouldn't be too hard to raise enough money to enable them all to take a vacation together. They try babysitting, selling fudge, and picking walnuts; when they plan on a circus, the others all get the impression that Jenny knows how to ride bareback. Billed as the star attraction, Jenny practices desperately in secret; she doesn't make it, but the circus and the vacation fund are saved at the last moment by a surprise performer. A quite believable and pleasantly written story, but weakened by a few contrivances and coincidences, and a little slow-moving.

An enormously detailed history of the events preceding the accession of William of Normandy to the throne of England, and a description of the aftermath of conquest. The author reviews the complexities of the background of the power struggle in England: the various claimants, their lineage, their allies and their enemies, their intrigues and their spheres of influence. The most interesting part of the book is in the broad view given of the changes in British policy and the shaping of the feudal system after Hastings. The writing, however, is so detailed and the material so complicated that the book plods. Illustrations are unattractive; a bibliography of adult books and an index are appended.

R Hoban, Russell C. *Tom and the Two Handles*; pictures by Lillian Hoban. Harper,
2-3 1965. 64p. (I Can Read Books). Trade ed. $1.95; Library ed. $2.19 net. An entertaining book for the beginning independent reader and a good choice for reading aloud to younger children. Tom reports to his father that he has had a fight with his best friend; father says there are two approaches to the problem (like a jug with two handles) and that Tom can try getting even or he can make up with Kenny. Tom has good intentions, but they fight again; by the time he has been defeated in four tries, Tom practices. He wins. He kindly explains to Kenny that there are two handles... so they make up. The story has repetition, but the style and humor use it to advantage: Tom's four tries have the cumulative effect of a theatrical "running gag." The dialogue has the real flavor of children's conversation.

M Holbrook, Sabra. The Goat that Made a Boy Grow Big; illus. by Haris Petie. 4-6 Coward-McCann, 1965. 93p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.86 net. The story of a boy of twelve living on the island of Saint John in the Caribbean. When Corny rescued a small goat marooned on a rock, he persuaded the couple for whom he worked to let him keep the goat on their cay. However, the frisky animal kept getting into trouble, and Corny knew he had to give up his pet; he also knew that he had learned something about seeing situations objectively and about assuming responsibility. The story-line is thin, the writing style rather pedestrian; the background and the local customs are interesting but are obtrusively incorporated at times. The illustrations are pleasant and the relationships between Corny, who is a native, and his employers, who are white, are nicely matter-of-fact: adult-to-child, and employer-to-employee... no sentimentality, no self-consciousness.

Ad Johnson, Crockett. We Wonder What Will Walter Be? When He Grows Up. Holt, K-2 1964. 38p. illus. Trade ed. $3.; Library ed. $2.96 net. Walter, a small boy, consults several animals about his choice for the future; each animal suggests his own kind—the antelope, for example, thinks that Walter ought to become an antelope. The idea is not highly original, but the writing has a bouncy humor that combines nonsense ideas and dignified dialogue. In suggesting that Walter consult a giraffe, the lion says, "High thinking... I can't imagine deciding so serious a question without a goodly amount of elevated thought, can you?" Walter's response: "What?"... then, "Oh.", flatly. This humor is exactly what children of eight of nine (and up) find delicious, but it is discrepant in a book with subject and format that is suitable for the pre-school audience.

M Kellogg, Jean. Hans and the Winged Horse; illus. by Pers Crowell. Reilly and 3-5 Lee, 1964. 39p. $3.95. A fairy tale about a small boy who rode a winged horse. Hans, who lived with his grandparents, made long trips to the spring to get water. One day he saw a winged horse; nobody believed him but the town baker, who said he had seen the same thing when he was a boy. At last Hans had the joy of riding the horse; then he was saddened because the townspeople caught it. The boy rescued the beautiful animal; next morning he found that a clear spring of water had risen where the horse's hoofs had struck the ground. A slow-moving story, told in a flat style and with an overextended story line; illustrations are of conventional calibre.

Ad Lapage, Geoffrey. Man Against Disease. Abelard-Schuman, 1964. 180p. $3.75. 8-
A book that is written with authority and that gives a great many facts; unfortunately, it had several drawbacks that severely limit usefulness. The pages are solid with close print; the writing style is not dull, but it is fairly dry; the book has no table of contents and has a most inadequate index. The photographic illustrations are chiefly portraits, but there are occasional odd selections: for example, one page carries three pictures—a picture of Jenner, a picture of the infected hand of his patient, and
a picture of the Leeuwenhoek microscope. The facing page describes Pasteur’s work on rabies, the index does not list Leeuwenhoek. Dr. Lapage discusses infectious diseases, immunizing agents and procedures, drugs and anesthesia, malnutrition and vitamins, chemotherapy, and modern techniques for massive control and therapy. Despite the weaknesses of the book it has value because it is accurate, it is wide in scope, and it gives a brief amount of biographical material about major figures in medical history. It covers more topics than do the more sprightly books by De Kruif or Clendening or the more simply written books by Fox and Shippen, but the incomplete indexing makes such coverage less important. A list of suggestions for further reading is included.

R Lear, Edward. ABC; penned and illus. by Edward Lear. McGraw-Hill, 1965. K-2 29p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.63 net. A recently-discovered Lear manuscript, here published for the first time, with each page having a verse in script and an illustration; the alphabet-verses are repeated in type at the back of the book. Not particularly good as an alphabet-learning device, but enjoyable nonsense indeed. An example of the light humor and the style: "X was King Xerxes Who most of all Turks is Renowned for his fashion of fury and passion—X!—Shocking old Xerxes!"

Ad Lewis, Clara Juh. I Love Spring; illus. by Dick Lewis. Little, 1965. 28p. 1-3 $2.95. In rhyming first-person text, the author describes the joys of the seasons: "I love spring! Spring is new. It's new blades of grass. It's rain on a lass. It's violets and rain. It’s a wood-scented lane." The text is adequate, the idea not new; the illustrations have some movement and color but are not distinctive.

R Life Magazine. The Cell; by John Pfeiffer and the editors of Life. Time, 1964. 8-200p. illus. $3.95. Terrific. A good text is enhanced by a superb selection of photographs, photomicrographs, diagrams, and magnifications. The material is presented in reverse of the usual order in biology books: such subjects as photosynthesis, ATP, DNA, and genetics are discussed in the first part of the book. The text then examines the evolution of animal life, ontogenetic changes, the complexities of human physiology and the functioning of the various systems of the human body. The book concludes with a chapter on the cell in sickness, this section being the only one that treats its topic rather superficially. A "Vocabulary of Cellular Biology," a full-page diagram of a cell, a brief bibliography, and a good relative index are appended.

R Lloyd, Norris. Billy Hunts the Unicorn; with illus. by Robin Lloyd Papish. 4-6 Hastings House, 1964. 94p. $3.50. Billy, ten years old, dislikes the idea of leaving his friends in New York and going to Vermont for the summer; when his father finds he must go on a trip, it means Billy and his mother, who is French, must go to Vermont alone. What makes it worse, Uncle Charley comes for a visit, and Uncle Charley is a compulsive clown, not a father-substitute. Billy discovers that there are advantages to country life; he finds that a girl neighbor is fun; even her little brothers and sisters are fun. By the time his father arrives, Billy has adjusted thoroughly. The unicorn of the title is a father-son joke, not irrelevant to the theme of the book, but possibly misleading. The style, the country background, and the characters are delightful; especially vivid is Bee, the indomitable tomboy. The story has humor and candor; it is unusual to find, in a book for children, a character like Uncle Charley; Uncle Charley means well and he is often helpful, but he does clown. Almost every child will recognize Billy's reaction: he is a bit embarrassed, a bit annoyed.
Sally, a high school senior, was embarrassed by the fact that her mother was having a late pregnancy; when Larry Joe was born, however, she loved him. Then the doctor told them that Larry Joe was mongoloid; they followed his suggestion and put the boy in a home. The next summer Sally visited a camp for retarded children; later, at college, a school for exceptional children. Sally decided her baby brother was educable as well as lovable, and he was brought home to live. The major message of the book is utterly worthy; so are the sub-plots, such as Sally's lobbying for legislation on behalf of schooling for retarded children or campaigning for integration in sororities. The book is weakened by the fact that too much is being considered: too many causes, too many characters, too many problems. There are also too many conversations that are persistently obtrusive despite their high motivation.

A read-aloud picture book about the wonders of nature, with illustrations that are, on most pages, distractingly space-filling. A mother and four children go for a walk on a summer day; mother points out the soaring of a hawk, Susan finds a bluebird's feather, they all observe a fish catching a waterbeetle, and so on. The theme is unoriginal, the treatment is slight, the writing style is static.

An English story written with a light, deft touch and with the charm of a small canvas that captures mood as well as detail. Ellen, assigned to work on a project with a classmate, finds an old ship on dry land; she won't share the find with David, but it develops that they both know about the ship and they present it as a joint project to the class. For most of the story, Ellen explores the woods while walking her baby sister and brother. Few characters, but beautifully drawn; the dialogue—especially that amongst the children—is delightfully right. Indeed, the plot is far less important than the picture of the child's view: Ellen is quite matter-of-fact save when it is a matter of imaginative play, and both her small friend Jenny and her almost-enemy David are quite at home with this ambivalence.

A compilation of letters and of excerpts from books and journals, each with some explanatory material as a brief preface. Some of the excerpts are most moving, a few are sternly caustic, and some have a simplicity and dignity that is stirring. Because much of the material was written in the years in which an ornate literary style was esteemed, much of the book is ornate and mannered; all of it is interesting, but this is not a book to read at one sitting.
A book that comprises over two hundred rhymes selected from two earlier collections: Scottish Nursery Rhymes and Sandy Candy. The authors explain in their prefatory note that the material was chosen for re-publication because the Scottish language has been changing; they have tried to bridge the gap in this edition by Anglicizing the language to some extent and by including a glossary. A good book for reading aloud, and one that should prove worthwhile to adults interested in comparative folk material. An index of first lines is appended.

R Neal, Harry Edward. Your Career in Foreign Service; illus. with photographs. 7- Messner, 1965. 183p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.64 net.
A useful addition to a career guidance series, detailing the wide range of careers open in foreign service, and discussing preparation, salaries, and advantages and disadvantages of particular jobs or locations. The text also discusses the Peace Corps, the Foreign Agricultural Service, Foreign Service Scholarships, Agency for International Development and other avenues to work abroad. The text is perhaps too liberally sprinkled with anecdotes, but it is well-written; a list of sources of further information and an index are appended.

It is really refreshing to read a book about anti-semitism that sweeps nothing under the carpet, yet has humor, and that has good characterization, good dialogue, and good style. Berries Goodman looks back to the two years his family spent in a suburb before they fled back to New York; Berries (Bertrand) was nine, then, and was disgusted at finding his only close neighbor was a girl, Sandra. Berries made one good friend at school, and when he brought Sidney home, he was baffled by the reaction. Bit by bit, from one person and then another, Berries learned about prejudice: the acceptance of canards, the nuances of tone, the light dismissals of subjects with painful implications. The whole bit. When Sidney was hurt after Sandra dared him into a dangerous jump, the whole situation changed. All of Sidney's mother's resentments emerged and she refused to let the boys see each other; she, too, had her prejudices. The facts of suburban segregation are smoothly incorporated, the prejudices on both sides and the degrees of bias most skillfully described.

A story about Canadian immigrants at the turn of the century. Orphaned Megan, sixteen, has come from Wales as the hired girl of the Jones family; sensible and hard-working, Megan wins the affection of the family. For the first time in her life, she feels the joy of belonging to people; she loves the farm and she begins to love her new country. Her one quarrel with the elder son, Lloyd, is about prejudice: to Lloyd the immigrants from Europe are "foreigners." All the others are particularly fond of one Polish family; when Lloyd and Stefan Andori escape from a mine cave-in together, his attitude changes. The setting is unusual, characterization is not deep but it is believable and consistent, and the writing style is fairly good although lightly sprinkled with trite descriptive phrases.

Ad Ormsby, Virginia H. The Big Banyan Tree; pictures by the author. Lippincott, K-2 1964. 27p. $2.95.
When the building of a road threatened the destruction of the big banyan tree in which the children loved to play, they pleaded with the authorities to no avail. All the children then camped in the tree; their sympathetic mothers took over while the children
were in school. When a hurricane demolished homes, everyone went to live—temporarily—in the tree; then all the adults agreed to forget the highway and keep their tree. The illustrations are adequate and show white and Negro families joining forces; the story-line is weak, not convincingly realistic or fancifully humorous; the writing style has an attractive simplicity.

An interesting biography, written in an easy, colloquial style (at least, so translated) about an energetic and attractive personality. Although his career was unusual in being immediately successful, the glamor of being the Waltz King of the world was balanced by the bitter parental opposition of the older Johann Strauss. Popular and musically prolific, Strauss was—and is—an engaging subject. A good relative index is appended.

A biography of Douglass that may be useful for the information it gives, but that is written in very stilted fashion. Some of the awkwardness of the style is due to the controlled vocabulary, and some to the necessarily abrupt effect given by superficial treatment of an episode. For example, "In 1848, Douglass went to one of their meetings. Their leader said, 'We want the right to vote.' Her name was Mrs. Stanton. 'That's going too far,' other women told her. Mrs. Stanton whispered to Douglass, 'Help me. They will listen to you.' Douglass made a speech. His voice flowed over the room like the music of an organ. 'Slavery for women is as bad as slavery for Negroes.' The women cheered. 'We want votes for women!'" The illustrations are of comic book calibre.

A book that is informed, informative, and liberally illustrated with black-and-white photographs and diagrams. The text is divided into chapters on the art of countries or regions: "Cairo and the Fatimid Caliphs," "The Mongols and the Road to China," "Persia and the Safavid Shahs" etcetera. A map and a list of sources of illustrations are included. The book has, in addition to descriptions and illustrations of the usual art forms, a great deal of material about carpets and about mosques; there is also a modicum of historical material. The reader with a special interest in art or in architecture may find the book absorbing; for the general reader, it is so fact-packed as to seem rather awesome.

A picture book with cartoon-like illustrations; the text has an amusing variation on a standard theme: the animal that misbehaves and is frowned upon until it does a good deed. The formula ending is weak and contrived. Stein is a large dog and he brings his owner gifts; unfortunately, the gifts are all the property of the neighbors, who do not appreciate Stein's retriever instincts. When the dog rescues a neighbor by snatching his wig and going for help, then summoning more help by snatching something else; then rescues a kitten ... all Stein's erstwhile foes become his friends.

A book that discusses Shakespeare's England, sixteenth century London, and the Elizabethan theatre; it gives a brief biography of the dramatist and describes his
plays. The material is authoritative, informative, and well-organized; it is poorly illustrated and it has, in the text, capitalized words (later defined in a glossary) that are visually jarring. Endpapers show a map of London and a list of the order of Shakespeare's works. The glossary consists chiefly of terms that might be unfamiliar, such as masque and farthingale; it also has, inexplicably, fairly common words such as Pope, melodrama, and tyrant.


A happy deviation from the formula sports biography. Jackie Robinson describes his childhood, his early career in professional baseball, and his entry into a major league. The book focuses on his problems as the first Negro player in the major leagues: the uncooperative players, the dubious reporters, the jeering fans. Mr. Robinson also discusses candidly his own difficulty in keeping his temper and in not losing his courage, crediting the support of family and of white and Negro friends. An honest, smoothly-written, and interesting autobiography.


Not exactly new material, but always of interest to baseball fans is any book about the World Series; here the author has compiled accounts of a dozen games that were particularly dramatic. The writing style is informal sports-page style, each story with appended box-score and illustrated with a photograph or two. An index is appended.


A story of thirteenth century England; young Hugh de Breauté is summoned home to help his father and uncle defend the family's castle against King Henry. En route Hugh meets and immediately falls in love with Jane Pelham; he vows to save her from marriage to an elderly suitor. The castle is stormed; Hugh's father is killed and Hugh, branded a coward by his father, escapes. Hugh bests a famous jouster to clear a lady's name; he refuses her protection and he and Jane turn to the open road and a life of minstrelsy. The writing is a bit heavy, a bit elaborate; the characters are believable but seem superficially drawn. The story has plenty of action and is colorful with details of feudal life.


Based on Sir Harold's 1954 book for adults, *Scotland Yard*; a few pages of photographs are included, and an index and glossary are appended. The book gives some information about the founding of the Metropolitan Police and of the structure of the organization, but it is minimal; most of the text describes typical (and real) crimes as they were solved by various branches of Scotland Yard. There is some material about the training of police and of police animals. The style is rather stiff, particularly in the anecdotes, which often have a rather lame ending. Authoritative, certainly, since Sir Harold was for eight years the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, and informative—but somehow not as interesting as a book about Scotland Yard ought to be.


Mrs. Selsam does her usual competent job of producing a science book for beginning independent readers. Billy and Jerry decide to have the same kind of pet; they buy turtles and learn how to feed them and care for them properly. Having enlisted help from
a man at the zoo, the boys enthusiastically participate in a controlled experiment. At least, they try. The vocabulary is simple but the writing is not dull, the facts are accurate but they are not doled out with a heavy hand, and there is a mildly humorous note in both text and illustration.

Ad

Seuss, Dr. Fox in Socks. Random House, 1965. 61p. illus. (Beginner Books). 2-3 $1.95. The usual Seuss daffiness in nonsense words and zany illustrations. The text does not tell a story, but plays with similar sounds and dissimilar spellings; identified on the jacket as a tongue twister for super children, the book will indeed appeal to those children who enjoy word-play. The text increases in difficulty, moving from "Knox in box. Fox in socks. Knox on fox in sox in box." to "Through three cheese trees three free fleas flew." and "... they call this a muddle puddle tweetle poodle beetle noodle bottle paddle battle." Fun, but not a beginner book.

M

Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out About Safety; by Martha and Charles Shapp; pictures by László Roth. Watts, 1964. 42p. $2.50. A catalog of safety rules, illustrated with drawings that add little to the text and that are quite awkward in execution. The safety rules are more or less grouped into urban, rural, and home areas; they are all good advice, but they are all fairly obvious and flatly expressed. "Accidents can happen on the street. Be careful when you cross the street." is the text for one double-page spread; another is, "It's safer to play in the playground than in the street. But you must be careful in the playground, too."

R

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. The Velvet Room; drawings by Alton Raible. Atheneum, 5-7 1965. 216p. $3.95. Robin is a reader and a dreamer, the twelve-year-old in a large family of migrant workers; they come to the McCurdy ranch in the apricot season, and Robin meets a charming old woman who gives her a key to the Velvet Room, a haven. The velvet room is the library of the deserted McCurdy house; it is largely through Robin that her family is given a permanent berth as caretakers of the house. The story has a large dose of romantic mystery, but it also gives a realistic picture of the migrant workers in the time of the depression. Characterization is good, and the writing style is excellent.

R

Steele, William Owen. Wayah of the Real People; illus. by Isa Barnett. Holt, 6-8 1964. 128p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.27 net. An unusual story about a Cherokee boy's year of schooling at Brafferton Hall in Williamsburg in the mid-eighteenth century. Although the story is fictional, the institution was real, and Wayah's experiences are vividly convincing. Wayah suffers all the apprehensions of any displaced person moved to an environment with sharp cultural differences. Fearful that he will be changed, Wayah finds when he is back with the Real People that his year of new experiences has helped him mature. The story has excellent period detail, good writing style, and a consistent identification with the viewpoint of the central character.

Ad

Stephens, Peter John. The Perrely Plight; A Mystery at Sturbridge; drawings by R. D. Rice. Atheneum, 1965. 216p. $3.95. A story set in a small town in Massachusetts in 1836. Gib Martindale, twelve years old, can't understand why the neighboring Perrely family is ostracized; he knows that Mrs. Perrely is part-Indian, but there seems some other reason, a mysterious secret. Gib stumbles on the fact that the two families are related, and he has a chance to befriend the Perrelys when their son is falsely accused of theft and arson. The story is rather well-written but it moves slowly; characterization varies in depth, with some of the characters seeming exaggerated.
Ad  Streatfeild, Noel.  *The Children on the Top Floor*; illus. by Jillian Willett.  
5-7 Random House, 1965. 248p. $3.50.

Four children live on the top floor of a large house. All the same age, they are the wards of Malcolm Master, a television personality who had said while on a program that he wished, at Christmas, he could wake to the sound of children's voices. Two boys and two girls, left at his doorstep, are brought up by his old Nanny; the children earn money making commercials until Master's disappearance while at sea ends their employment. The four try to earn money by themselves and plan a future (all are age eleven, more or less), but find they are to be sent to a school for the homeless. At the last moment, when they decide to run away, they meet their Mr. Masters on the doorstep, and all ends happily. The situation is bizarre, but not unbelievable; the writing style is lively and the characterization deft and varied; the flatly contrived ending is disappointing.

8-10 Tammy, seventeen, goes to her friend in Rome because she had promised to help Rita when her baby was due, Tammy having persuaded Rita to keep her illegitimate child. Through an error, Tammy gets to the wrong house and is mistaken for a new employee by a tyrannical and bedridden old woman. Madame, a world-famous couturiere, lets Tammy wear some of her fabulous clothes, Madame's nephew has his life changed immeasurably for the better by Tammy. So does Madame. They all love her and want her to stay, but Tammy decides she doesn't want to be a singer and model and decides to go back to Grandpa and life on a shanty-boat. A quite unbelievable story; Tammy is a stock character: beautiful, charming, naive, filled with common sense and Biblical lore. Her speech is all quaintness and dialect: "Excepting that you seem powerful suspiciony, afraid of anybody's sorning offn your granny."

Morrow, 1965. 30p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.88 net.

An amiable but fairly slight read-aloud story, with run-of-the-mill illustrations; the text was first published in 1962 in a children's magazine. Mother Bunny was alarmed when a new tenant in the old house decided to cut down the honeysuckle patch, since the patch was a very pleasant home for Mother and Baby Bunny. Other animals promised help, but Miss Cobble won each of them by kindness; indeed, her kindness manifested itself when Baby Bunny was threatened by a strange cat. Miss Cobble then realized that the rabbit she'd been shooing off was a mother rabbit, and she decided to leave the rest of the honeysuckle intact. The writing style is lightly humorous and just slightly sweet in tone, the sweetness balanced by the matter-of-fact dialogue and by simplicity.


A book written as the diary of an English girl during World War II. Sent to the United States when she was eleven and her brother James eight, Sabrina Lind kept a record of the last heart-rending days at home, the trip across the Atlantic, and the first few months of American impressions. The style is gravely quaint, maintained with a high degree of consistency as the narrative of a girl of eleven—the consistency aided by misspellings used with restraint. The story has some humor, some sentiment, and an impartial loyalty to both countries. Much of the book will evoke poignant memories for an adult; much of this the child reader will miss, but as a record of wartime impressions or as a good story the book stands, memories or no.

R  Trease, Geoffrey.  *No Boats on Bannermere*; illus. by Richard Kennedy.  
Norton, 1965. 252p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.88 net.
A cracking good story: written with style and humor, having a mystery that four children solve in credible fashion, and constructed with economy and craftsmanship, this tale of four children in an English village is a delight. The characterization is excellent, the portrayal of the headmaster being particularly felicitous. Bill and Susan, whose mother has inherited a cottage in the village of Bannermere, are treated brusquely by the local squire, another newcomer. Bill is sure that Sir Alfred has a nefarious secret; although his secret isn't what Bill thinks, he has one and Bill and Susan and their friends ferret it out, with an utterly satisfactory ending in which all parties get their just desserts.

R Tunis, Edwin. Colonial Craftsmen and the Beginnings of American Industry; 6-9 written and illus. by Edwin Tunis. World, 1965. 159p. $5.95. An oversize book that is impressively handsome and that should be tremendously useful; well-organized and superbly illustrated, the text is comprehensive, lucid, and detailed. The book is divided into six sections: a general appraisal of crafts and industries in the New World, country work, town shops, bespoke work (specially ordered), group work, and manufactories. An extensive index is appended.

NR Wahl, Jan. The Howards Go Sledding; illus. by John E. Johnson. Holt, 1964. 3-5 25p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net. A picture book for the very young, adequately illustrated but so bland in style and so slight as to have little vitality. A family of guinea pigs go off to visit their Aunt Hilda, their gift of a cake on one sled and the family on another. Since it is summer, they must put roller-skates under the sleds; the children fall off, the parents arrive with a crash. The mild humor, the writing style, and the weak ending may be shown in the close of the story. "Mr. Howard was quite an excellent steerer. Aunt Hilda was his sister. She would be happy to see them. 'We've lost our cake!' Mrs. Howard said in the middle of her song. 'We've lost our children too!' cried Mr. Howard, turning around, but he did not stop until he banged into a tree. It was Aunt Hilda's tree; and this made her drop her knitting. And there were lots of things to pick up then—including Mr. and Mrs. Howard. Teeny was found with a lot of cake frosting on her. However, Bumps brought armfuls of tiger lilies for everybody—and so, going by sled was a pretty fine thing to do."

Ad Watts, Edith Whitney. Archaeology; Exploring the Past. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1965. Distributed by New York Graphic Society. 44p. illus. $2.95. An introduction to archeology, profusely illustrated with excellent photographs of digs, artifacts, and various tools and procedures of archeologists. The book has neither a table of contents nor an index; since the text is divided into short topics in related areas, it seems limited in use. The writing style is here and there oversimplified for the audience that can comprehend the vocabulary. The text discusses the ways in which archeologists may establish the site of a dig and the ways in which the sites have been buried, and it gives good information about methodology of digs, of dating finds, and of making records. There is little description of the history of archeology and little reference to individual archeologists.

Ad Wayne, Jenifer. Kitchen People; pictures by Leonard Shortall. Bobbs-Merrill, 5-6 1965. 156p. $3.50. A family story set in rural England, written with some humor and some mystery. The mystery (a long-lost and valuable violin hidden somewhere in an old house) is functional for the story line but holds little suspense; the humor is of the getting-into-scrapes variety. Mrs. Jonas, a widow, comes with her four lively children to keep house for a bachelor relative. Sedate and meticulous, Uncle George is dismayed by the living habits of his kin; he is very much a drawing-room type, and they dub
themselves "kitchen people," informal and happily slap-dash. The writing style is good, and many of the characters are amusingly but often exaggeratedly depicted as English stereotypes: the hearty Colonel, the wispy lady musician, the warm-hearted household helper. The book is weakened throughout by the fact that all of this is overdone: too many quaint characters, too many children's ploys that dismay Uncle George, too many scenes that show how careless but charming the Jonas brood are.


A second Katie Rose story; again the author has created an average-pleasant-girl heroine whose family will probably achieve the familiar appeal of the Malones. Katie Rose has her heart set on a part in the school play, and is given only a spot in the chorus; her newly-revived interest in a boy on whom she'd had a crush is blighted when—of all indignities—he succumbs to the gaiety and candor of her younger sister. Ready to leave home, Katie Rose is brought to sharp appreciation of all her blessings when she faces a genuine crisis: she is taken along by a drunken man who is kidnapping the infant with whom she is baby-sitting. The ending is a bit much, but the rest of the story is comfortably believable and entertaining—written in an easy style, with good characterization and balanced treatment of family, friends, and school situations.


The story of a running battle between a mild, bespectacled small boy in an English village and an evil-tempered goat that had escaped from his tether and frightened the villagers. George was frightened by the goat, but he felt that he must prove his mettle by outwitting the animal—especially after the billy goat had done several kinds of damage that included damage to George. George finally catches his enemy, a closing episode enlivened by the fact that two Mystery Tour busloads of visitors are on the scene. The plot is stretched a bit thin, but the village scenes and the people are real and charming; the fact that the adults can't—or don't—manage to capture the goat is not convincing, but the humor of incident and characterization compensate for the weakness of plot.


A mild and rather rambling story about a small boy who would like to think the bottle he found has magic properties. Randy makes a wish—and it comes true; it happens to have been a logical wish. He tests the bottle... another wish comes true, sort of. He wished to wake up on the moon, and by the time he's faced with the possibility that this may come true, Randy is terrified. He has really talked himself into something, and his father tactfully comes to the rescue. When morning comes and Randy wakes in his own house, he is so relieved that he makes an impossible wish (that the brook would freeze, it being a summer day) and then happily buries the bottle. Not obtrusive-ly message-bearing, but psychologically sound and written in a light, clear style.


A vividly written description of the dramatic story of Cabeza de Vaca's two long visits to the New World in the sixteenth century. His first long journey across the North American continent is an epic of privation, danger, faith, and dogged persistence. A rare man for his time, the explorer loved and was loved by the Indians; his desire to help the Indians led to his own defeat when he came in 1541 to serve as Governor of Paraguay. To those Spanish colonists who had held power, Cabeza de Vaca was a menace; in time he was the victim of such intrigue and conspiracy as to end his appointment and ruin his life. The writing is authoritatively detailed, a bit weak in dia-
logue—not because it seems overly fictionalized but because it occasionally has phraseology that seems too modern. A bibliography is appended.


A biography of Conan Doyle that is enlivened by plots and scenes from his books and short stories. His life itself is so colorful and varied as to seem fictional: a physician, an athlete, a soldier, an author of historical books, surgeon on a whaler, the first man to ski in Switzerland. And more. The title refers to the fact that Conan Doyle grew tired of his great detective and killed him off, then was forced by popular demand to revive and continue the stories about Sherlock Holmes. The book is lively in style and informative; the biographer is not critical of Doyle as a man or writer, but there is no tone of adulation in the book.

R Wuorio, Eva-Lis. The Land of Right Up and Down; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. 3-5 World, 1964. 61p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.41 net.

A quite charming story set in Andorra and occasionally rousing faint echoes of Heidi, as small Maribelle climbs the mountain to stay with her grandfather. With her special fondness for the vivid butterflies of her region, Maribelle is indignant when an American woman appears and it becomes known that she is a lepidopterist. Then Maribelle sees a book about butterflies and understands why specimens must be collected; she even finds a rare specimen when the Butterfly Lady falls ill. Her help is more than repaid when she later sees a picture of her catch in a new book, and when the Butterfly Lady makes it possible for the whole family to go to a fiesta. Engagingly illustrated, and written with warmth and simplicity, rather slow-moving but effective because the style reflects the quiet mood of the background.


A book with a sentence on each page: "S is for the satellites that probe outer space" or "W is for the wonders you may some day see in space." Illustrations are cartoon-like in technique and some of the pages have background colors so deep that it is difficult to see the print. The intermittent contrivances of the definitions and the difficulty of vocabulary level will limit the book's usefulness as an alphabet book, and as a book about the popular topic of space travel it is limited by superficial treatment.
Reading for Teachers


