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**JUNE 1969  
VOLUME 22  
NUMBER 10**

**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
GRADUATE  
LIBRARY  
SCHOOL**

**BULLETIN  
OF THE  
CENTER FOR  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS**

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 is published monthly except August by The University of Chicago Press for The University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Faculty Representative; Mrs. Zena Sutherland, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$4.50 per year; \$3.00 per year for each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy price: 75¢. Checks should be made payable to The University of Chicago Press. 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. Address all inquiries about subscriptions to The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Please send editorial correspondence, review copies and all correspondence about reviews to Mrs. Zena Sutherland, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

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PRINTED IN U.S.A.

# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22

June, 1969

Number 10

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Abrahams, Robert D. The Bonus of Redonda; illus. by Peter Bramley. Macmillan, 1969. 136p. \$4.50.

R  
5-7 A first-person story set in the West Indies and told by a boy of thirteen whose engaging naiveté permeates the book. Bonus lives with his Gran'pa, a gentleman who objects to being told by a government agent how to improve his fishing. Convinced that his dealings with a local witch have resulted in the burning of his village, Gran'pa goes into hiding; he and Bonus escape to the island of Redonda, returning in triumph when they learn that the village has not burned down and that they have been mourned as drowned. There is no denigration of the characters in the amusing depiction of local customs and dialect, but a warm enjoyment of the flavorful people. A delightfully different adventure.

Anderson, Poul. The Infinite Voyage; Man's Future in Space. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 160p. illus. \$4.95.

M  
7-9 An overview of astronomical theories and discoveries is followed by a history of rocketry and of manned space flight; the book concludes with a series of conjectures about future space flight and about the possibility of the existence of intelligent life elsewhere. The material is interesting, but there is little new here, and the writing style is dry. Discussing the need for investigation of other planets, the author deplores the fact that NASA "is not organizing further lunar landings or any human expeditions to our sister planets. . . . Meanwhile, the Soviet Union goes ahead. . . . We do not want a bitter international rivalry. . . . Nevertheless, no matter how friendly, the nations that decide what is to be done in space are going to be the ones that are out there doing it. Surely the United States deserves a voice." A bibliography and an index are appended.

Arnov, Boris. Homes Beneath the Sea; An Introduction to Ocean Ecology; illus. with photographs. Little, 1969. 131p. \$4.50.

Ad  
7- A good book on the subject, describing the ecology of the seashore, the continental shelf, the open sea, a coral reef, the high seas and the lower depths; in each case the author discusses food chains, water temperature, mineral content, adaptations, etc. The style is a bit heavy, with occasional flat statements like, "This food chain . . . has given oceanographers much to consider and great efforts are being made to understand it," or, "This type of problem is one of many that a marine ecologist must consider." An interesting topic, however, and accurate information. An index is appended.

Baron, Virginia Olsen, ed. The Seasons of Time; Tanka Poetry of Ancient Japan; illus. by Yasuhide Kobashi. Dial, 1968. 63p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.17 net.

Ad 6- Poems from the eighth to the twelfth centuries, most of the selections grouped by season. The five-line tanka form translates into four or five lines, terse but evocative; an introductory note discusses the difficulties of translation from Japanese (and some Chinese) into English and gives some assistance by explaining some of the traditional symbols in nature. The black and white illustrations have the same quality of drama-by-understatement as does the poetry. Perhaps some of the selections seem flat or obvious because of the translation, but some do, although most have a fragile imagery.

Bible. Brian Wildsmith's Illustrated Bible Stories; as told by Philip Turner. Watts, 1968. 135p. illus. Trade ed. \$7.95; Library ed. \$5.30 net.

R K-7 A lovely book. Philip Turner, whose The Grange at High Force was awarded the 1968 Carnegie Medal, is an English minister. His Biblical adaptations, compact and dignified, give the Old and New Testament stories in a sweeping chronological continuum. The Wildsmith illustrations are stunning: vivid, colorful compositions that are both reverent and exciting. The book is as suitable for reading aloud to the very young as it is for the independent reader; it is beautiful enough to be enjoyed by the adult.

Blue, Rose. A Quiet Place; pictures by Tom Feltings. Watts, 1969. 63p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.53 net.

Ad 3-5 Matthew had been in two other foster homes before he came to live with the Walters family, and for the first time he felt he belonged. He loved his parents, his big sister and small brother; the only thing he yearned for was a quiet place of his own. He had had one at the library, but it closed, and there was only bookmobile service until the new library was built. He could get books, all right, but where could he read in privacy? At the close of the story, Matthew decides that he can read outdoors in good weather and that something will turn up for other times, if he looks persistently. The attractive illustrations and the quiet story describe a loving Negro family; the one weakness is that the story of Matthew's search for a quiet place seems grafted on to the detailing of a milieu and a family situation.

Burch, Robert. Joey's Cat; illus. by Don Freeman. Viking, 1969. 36p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.37 net.

R 3-6 yrs A quiet, pleasant, and realistic story about a small Negro boy and his pet. Joey's cat had put her newborn kittens in the garage where nobody could reach them; when she started carrying them out one day, Joey told his father that there was something the cat seemed to be afraid of, and sure enough, there was a big 'possum. Father (a policeman) trapped the animal, but Joey carried the box of kittens into the house. Mother, who said, "Don't get any ideas about bringing those kittens inside this house!" changed her mind when she saw them, and Joey's cat and her babies were firmly ensconced in the kitchen. Although it is low-keyed, this has all the ingredients of read-aloud popularity: a

happy family, small animals, a mild crisis happily ended, and a basic wish granted.

Camp, Paul K. A Handful of Stars. McKay, 1969. 184p. \$3.95.

Ad  
6-9 A story of a small mining town during the depression era, in which an adolescent boy must leave school to help support the family. Danny's father is killed in an accident and his mother remarries; anxious to have an education, he studies on his own. There is a mine cave-in, Danny is instrumental in saving lives, and the consequent publicity helps Danny—now relieved of family responsibility—to plan on a college education. The author gives a grim and vivid picture of the hopelessness of the depression and the details about mining are informative and interesting, but the story is weakened by the heroics of the long, dramatic final sequence and the all-ends-tied finale.

Chambers, Bradford. Chronicles of Negro Protest; A Background Book for Young People Documenting the History of Black Power; comp. and ed. with a commentary by Bradford Chambers. Parents' Magazine, 1968. 317p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.75 net.

R  
7- A compilation of forty-two documents in the history of black power, chronologically arranged and each preceded by informative notes about the document's background or that of its author or authors; some of the selections are followed by a postscript that describes contemporary reaction to the document. The editor's thesis is that prejudice developed not as a result of the African's helplessness in the face of white exploitation as a thing apart, but that white men have always hated black men because of their color. Somber and significant, this places the black man's protest in a sociological framework that may make the intricacies of today's problems more comprehensible. A list of documentary sources and an index are appended.

Clymer, Eleanor. The Second Greatest Invention; Search for the First Farmers; illus. by Lili Rethi. Holt, 1969. 117p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R  
4-6 Illustrated with precise and informative drawings of digs and artifacts, a simply written, straightforward investigation of archeological findings about the first agricultural settlements. The book follows the pattern of actual discoveries in tracing earlier and earlier cultures, adding a note of suspense to the intriguing findings; the final chapters, which trace the changes and complexities of populations and food production today, are almost an anticlimax. An index is appended.

Cohen, Tom. Three Who Dared. Doubleday, 1969. 144p. \$3.50.

R  
7-10 Henry Aronson went south for two weeks to do legal work for the Mississippi Summer Project—and gave up his job in Hartford to stay on. John O'Neal sacrificed his personal ambition in order to bring the Free Southern Theater to black people. Eric Weinberger withstood maltreatment and jail to keep viable a work project that brought dignity as well as a livelihood to a black community in Tennessee. Their contributions to the civil rights movement are impressive as individual efforts and inspiring as examples of the persistence and devotion of so many. The writing style is not outstanding; the book, nevertheless, is.

Cosgrove, Margaret. Bone for Bone; written and illus. by Margaret Cosgrove. Dodd, 1968. 128p. \$3.95.

R  
6-10 A most interesting introduction to comparative vertebrate anatomy, the author using paleontology, ontological recapitulation, and morphology to establish the likenesses and differences between animal forms. The writing style is informal, the infrequent diversion more than compensated for by the appeal of the conversational approach and by the author's sense of relish. The illustrations are at times not placed to best advantage in relation to the text, but they often are ingenious in clarifying or supplementing a description. A brief glossary and an index are appended.

Dickinson, Peter. The Weathermonger. Little, 1969. 216p. \$4.95.

R  
5-9 An unusual science fiction book, written in a lively, spontaneous style. The characterization is vivid, the fantasy deft, and the plot inventive; the compelling story is lightly brushed with sophisticated humor. Five years into the future, the British Isles have been mysteriously pushed back to a feudal superstition and a fear of all mechanical objects. Even the weather is controlled by magical spells. One young weather-monger, Geoffrey, escapes from the bewitched island and gets to France; he and his younger sister are sent back to find the cause of the enchantment. They do find it, and both the cause and the ending are wonderfully conceived.

Dillon, Ellis. The Seals; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Funk and Wagnalls, 1969. 127p. \$3.50.

R  
6-9 A novel set on a small island off the coast of County Clare in the time of the troubles. Two adolescent boys volunteer to cross over to the mainland to pick up a relative, and they decide to ask a third boy even though his family has a reputation for being informers in the far past. The dangers of the crossing and of the boys' encounter with the Black and Tans add excitement to a story with a colorful setting; the book has historic interest, the impeccably authentic Dillon dialogue, and the satisfactions of a mission accomplished and a family reputation vindicated.

Donovan, John. I'll Get There. It Better Be Worth the Trip. Harper, 1969. 189p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.11 net.

R  
6-9 Davy is thirteen when his grandmother dies and he comes from a small town to live with his divorced mother in New York. Bereft, he clings to his dog, Fred, aware that his mother is irritated by Fred and aware, finally, that she is irritated by him, too. Davy makes one new friend when he goes to school; he finds that Altschuler, too, is painfully adjusting to bereavement. In this context it is not surprising that the two boys are catapulted temporarily into a homosexual relationship. It is one of the scarring things that happen to Davy on the way to growing up; it is not the crux of the story, and it is handled with dignity. The story comes from Davy in a candid, touching document of childhood's end.

Duncan, Lois. They Never Came Home. Doubleday, 1969. 192p. \$3.50.

Ad  
7-10 Larry hadn't done much camping, but Dan was older and had had experience in climbing and camping, so there was reason to hope that they

were safe. Larry's mother, who adored him, refused to believe he was dead; his sister didn't dare tell her mother that she had taken on a debt of Larry's and had begun to suspect that he was involved in some kind of illegal transaction. The doubts about Larry's character are skilfully developed, so that it comes as little surprise to the reader to find that he had arranged to disappear, taking advantage of an accident that left Dan an amnesia victim. Save for that contrivance, the plot is deft; the story has action and suspense, and a compelling dénouement.

Emery, Anne. Danger in a Smiling Mask. Westminster, 1968. 176p. \$3.75.

M  
6-9  
When her sister Marni, newly-married, begs Robin to fly to San Francisco for a visit, Robin doesn't expect to be precipitated into a mystery. Why is the wealthy and socially prominent family keeping the wedding a secret? Why the anonymous telephone calls telling Marni to get out of town? Robin, frightened, gets in touch with her own boyfriend, who shows up just after there has been an attempted kidnapping. The culprit revealed, Marni and her husband declare their independence, having been under the thumbs of his parents; Robin and her boyfriend are happy; the servant couple who had made all the trouble are dismissed. Capably written, but the plot is rather labored and the characters, although believable, are shallow.

Foster, Joanna. Pete'e Puddle; with pictures by Beatrice Darwin. Harcourt, 1969. 28p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.54 net.

Ad  
3-5  
yrs  
A 1950 publication with new illustrations. Clad in bright raincoat, hat, and boots, a small boy happily plays by himself, making mud pies and building dams, playing milkman or giant, looking at his reflection. Puddles in the street aren't safe, but Pete plays in his own yard, "Mish! Mash! Muddle! with his hands in the mud." and goes "Splish! Splash! Splosh! with his big red rubber boots." Not very substantial, but very evocative of the primitive pleasure almost any child will recognize.

Gerson, Corinne. The Closed Circle. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 122p. \$3.50.

M  
5-6  
Twelve-year-old Audrey and her family have just moved to a small town from a sophisticated community where they've had United Nations personnel for neighbors. Audrey finds that her small circle of friends look down their noses at the clothes and customs of a girl from a Pennsylvania Dutch family and that they are embarrassed by the friendship between Audrey's sister and a Jewish girl. What with the good will of Audrey's family and the sterling qualities of the two outsiders, plus a heroic deed by Sylvia Goldberg, everybody wallows in understanding and sisterly love, with a few informational speeches on Chanukah included. The author's message is impeccably worthy, and the attitudes of Audrey's parents sensible and exemplary. The message is not successfully conveyed because it is so heavily overstated; the characters are flat and the writing style pedestrian.

Gibson, Bob. From Ghetto to Glory; The Story of Bob Gibson; by Bob Gibson with Phil Pepe. Prentice-Hall, 1968. 200p. illus. \$5.95.

Ad  
6-9  
Like most collaborations between a sports figure and a professional writer, this is a competently written autobiography—with less than the usual amount of defensive criticism of the press and less than the usual

amount of professional complacency. Gibson is candid about his opinions on prejudice and on Negro protest; unlike most black baseball players who have published autobiographies, he has found no discrimination on his team. Plenty of game descriptions for baseball buffs, in a somewhat better than average sports story.

Glubok, Shirley. Knights in Armor; designed by Gerard Nook. Harper, 1969. 48p. Trade ed. \$5.50; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

R  
4-9 An oversize book with a simply written text, some reproductions of paintings, and many photographs of armor. The labeled diagrams, the clear descriptions, and the many examples of armor for jousting or for fighting give the book minor reference use in addition to its historical and artistic relevance. Almost all of the examples shown are from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where the author lectures to children on knights and armor.

Goodenow, Earle. The Owl Who Hated the Dark; story and pictures by Earle Goodenow. Walck, 1969. 28p. \$3.75.

Ad  
K-2 If you can accept a bat blundering into an owl, you can certainly accept an owl outfitted by his best friend, a cat, with sunglasses. Hooter had been frightened, when young, by a bat; in vain his father assured him, "The bats are more afraid of you than you are of them." Hooter wouldn't fly. Only when his feline friend Beverly supplied a pair of doll's sunglasses was Hooter able to fly around in the safety of daylight. Short on animal behavior but long on nonsense humor, an amusing book. Adequately illustrated and blithe in style, the story is weakened by a tepid ending.

Gould, Lillian. Our Living Past; illus. by Donn Albright. Lippincott, 1969. 192p. \$4.95.

Ad  
6-9 A study of the evolution of the human being, tracing the multiplication and mutation of living creatures from the first emergence of marine forms. The biological and paleontological information is quite adequate, but the book is weakened by a recurrent implication of purposefulness: "When nature was ready to reveal," "It was not easy for plants to work their way . . . every time they tried to climb higher . . .," or "Then the new method was devised; sexual reproduction was the means whereby life made new life." An index is appended.

Graham, Lorenz. Whose Town? T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 246p. \$4.50.

Ad  
6-9 A sequel to South Town and North Town, whose protagonist David Williams—now eighteen—is in conflict about the best stance for the Negro American. Dave is a victim of discrimination and finds it bitter to get biased treatment from the authorities in his own town. Torn between the moderate path and that of a martial advocate of black power, Dave decides that parental influence and his own rationale incline him to moderation. Despite a style that often seems over-simplified, an important and an honest book.

Gray, Peter. Plague and Fire; The Story of London 1665-1666; illus. by John Hill. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 57p. \$3.75.

One of the publisher's Historical Events Series published in England,

Ad  
7-9 this is a rambling account of the beginning and spread of the bubonic plague in London in 1665, with a brief description of the Great Fire that followed so closely on its heels. The continuous text is printed in a solid-looking column with a wide margin, the space that would lend dignity unfortunately being frequently filled with lurid drawings that distract the eye. Much of the information is fascinating, since the discussion of sources, spread, and treatment are laced with anecdotes about Pepys, John Evelyn, and other Londoners. A list of "Things to talk about" (a quiz) and a list of suggestions for further reading (all British) are appended.

Heuman, William. The Goofy Pitch; illus. by William Moyers. Dodd, 1969. 123p. \$3.50.

M  
3-5 A quite patterned baseball story in which there is a rich boy (an only child whose parents leave him alone with the servants) who joins the team, is resented by most of the players, and proves himself. The goof-er pitch is a slow ball that wins the final game for a Midget League Team. The writing is pedestrian, the baseball sequences adequate; the story is given some value by the fact that the player-manager who champions the new boy does not ignore his old buddy, Skeeter Gonzales.

Hoff, Syd. Roberto and the Bull. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 35p. illus. \$4.25.

R  
K-2 The cartoon style of Hoff's drawings is just right for the blatant non-sense of this book. When the family's mule dies, there is no way for them to earn a living on their poor Spanish farm. Roberto is sent into the city, where his adroit evasion of speeding cars earns him a job as an Instant Matador. He meets a bull who is an old friend, and they stop to gaze amicably at each other. End of career. Roberto and the bull go home, the bull takes over the mule's job, and everybody works happily ever after.

Horizon Magazine. Lorenzo De' Medici and the Renaissance; by the Editors of Horizon Magazine; narr. by Charles L. Mee; in consultation with John Walker. American Heritage, 1969. 153p. illus. (Horizon Caravel Books) Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$5.19 net.

R  
7- A remarkably fresh and vivid treatment of a familiar figure and of one of the best-known periods in the history of the western world. The captions to illustrations, set in a wide margin bordering a single column of type, are in italics, but they are visually distracting enough to interrupt reading of the text. Both are interesting, the correlation between the two more important than in many of the books in the series because of the emphasis on Lorenzo's encouragement of art for art's sake and because of the attention devoted to Renaissance artists. The author's detailed examination of the power struggle between the major powers on the peninsula and within Florence gives the reader an excellent background for understanding the devious and bold machinations and achievements of the Medici. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Jones, Adrienne. Sail, Calypso! illus. by Adolph LeMoult. Little, 1968. 210p. \$4.95.

R  
5-7 Poor as Clay's family was, they had made it possible for him to have a summer of rest and sunshine after a winter in which he had been criti-

cally ill; they had left the city to work in a migrant camp near the seashore, and Clay had endless days of solitude ahead. He was, therefore, ecstatic when he found a derelict sailboat—and proportionately dismayed when another boy showed up to claim her. Adamant at first, each boy reluctantly admitted, as the days went by, that it needed two people working together to salvage the Calypso. Through the long, slow summer days the boys became close friends, a development as inevitable as the ripening of fruit. The story is unusual in the evocation of summer and salt and solitude, the atmosphere a fitting setting for the sparse cast. Although there is no large action until the end of the book, the writing is deft enough to hold the reader firmly, as the boys work patiently toward their goal and as the tentative overtures of an interracial acquaintance-ship change into the clear evidence of a solid friendship.

Kahn, Ely Jacques. A Building Goes Up; illus. by Cal Sacks. Simon and Schuster, 1969. 63p. \$3.95.

R  
5-9 An architect describes the step-by-step planning of an office building, with a clear explanation of the attendant complications of zoning laws, varieties of sub-soil, available utility lines, etc. There is less emphasis on the actual building of the structure than there is in Iger's Building a Skyscraper (Scott, 1967) and more on the roles of planners and consultants. Although the introduction talks down to the reader, the text does not. A glossary is appended.

Kurtis, Arlene Harris. Puerto Ricans; From Island to Mainland; illus. with photographs. Messner, 1969. 96p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.64 net.

R  
4-7 A simply written, comprehensive survey of Puerto Ricans, dry but informative, and firmly confident about the gradual improvement of difficulties in Puerto Rico and in the United States. The historical background is ample and interesting, and the analyses of present-day problems briskly competent. The author is candid about inadequacies and hopeful about the future. The Puerto Rican, she says, "can cement understanding between the black and white community because he embraces them both." Puerto Ricans can read this with pride. A glossary and an index are appended.

Leichman, Seymour. The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures; written and illus. by Seymour Leichman. Doubleday, 1968. 59p. \$3.50.

Ad  
3-5 Richly ornamented illustrations, imaginative and often humorous, reflect the fanciful story; here and there a picture of stark simplicity serves as contrast. The delicacy of pictures and story are not reflected in the writing, which is punctuated with phrases obtrusively modern or slangy. The story has an evocative charm: the young son of a court jester is discovered to be a natural troubadour, his particular genius being that his singing brings to his hearers lovely pictures of those things they most need or want. Judged by the King's ministers to be bewitched, young Ben is imprisoned; his life is saved when he sings for all the throng of people who have heard and loved him, and the King hears the beauty and promise in Ben's song and frees him.

Luis, Earlene W. Listen Lissa! A Candy Striper Meets the Biggest Challenge; by Earlene W. Luis and Barbara F. Millar. Dodd, 1968. 144p. \$3.75.

M  
6-9

When the Paramedics Club of which she was a member visited a school for the retarded, fifteen-year-old Melissa Preston thought it would be an excellent place for Artie, the retarded child next door. She also persuaded Artie's parents to investigate patterning therapy, and found that the boy was unable to benefit from it. However, in talking to the doctor, Lissa learned of another, younger child in the neighborhood who was educable and she rallied friends and family to help. Even the boyfriend who had been irritated by Lissa's preoccupation with the problems of the retarded became interested in helping. The cause is worthy, the story nevertheless tedious; the authors use too many conversations as vehicles for the dissemination of information, and the fictional framework often seems contrived.

Mann, Peggy. Clara Barton; Battlefield Nurse; pictures by Angie Culfogienis. Coward-McCann, 1969. 124p. \$3.49.

Ad  
4-6

A well-balanced biography, written without undue fictionalization and a minimum of adulation; the style is adequate, with a tendency to exclamatory remarks. There is a brief description of Clara Barton's childhood, some highlights of her work during the Civil War, and good coverage of her campaign to affiliate with the International Red Cross. The author successfully conveys the personality of a shy but determined woman who labored valiantly despite a frail constitution.

May, Julian. Living Things and Their Young. Follett, 1969. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

How We Are Born. Follett, 1969. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

Man and Woman. Follett, 1969. 46p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

R  
4-6

The second set of three books in a planned program for children in the elementary school. Like the first set by Meeks and Bagwell, reviewed below, this trio contains some duplication of material and some photographic filler (although less than the primary set); unlike the first set, it is written with clarity. Although the overlapping of material is a weakness in the series, as is the separation of related topics (diagrams of the male and female genitalia in How We Are Born; diagram of the female again in Man and Woman with an explanation of the menstrual cycle) there will be many who welcome the series' emphasis on the tender love between man and woman, and among members of a family. This second series (especially the last volume) may be useful for older children with reading problems.

Mayne, William. The Hill Road. Dutton, 1969. 144p. \$3.75.

M  
5-6

Mayne's graceful style usually prevails over any weakness of structure, but here it cannot quite compensate for the tedious incidents of the storyline, itself frail. Some children of the present day wander through the mist into the past, into an era that is the setting for the first part of the story. The connection is in the fact that the red-haired Magra, in the first setting, is deemed a witch; in the time-shift sequence, a small child with red hair is the focus of attention from the primitive people of the past.

Meeks, Esther K. Families Live Together; by Esther K. Meeks and Elizabeth Bagwell. Follett, 1969. 47p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

How New Life Begins; by Esther K. Meeks and Elizabeth Bagwell. Follett, 1969. 47p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

The World of Living Things; by Esther K. Meeks and Elizabeth Bagwell. Follett, 1969. 47p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

Ad  
K-2 In a series geared for family use, the topics of reproduction and family life are handled with an emphasis on familial love and with a dignified approach. Full-color pictures fill (and often over-fill) the pages with the young of many animal species and with families of all races. The text is clear; it is often stilted, however, and occasionally repetitive. There is an overlap of material in the volumes; How Life Begins includes diagrams of animal babies in utero, and similar drawings of a human embryo are in The World of Living Things. The latter has a considerable amount of material about family living that repeats some of the ideas of Families Live Together. A useful series but limited by the flat writing style.

Meredith, Robert, ed. Exploring the Great River; Early Voyagers on the Mississippi from De Soto to La Salle; ad. and ed. by Robert Meredith and E. Brooks Smith; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Little, 1969. 161p. \$4.50.

R  
6-9 A vivid account of the journeys of De Soto, Marquette and Jolliet, Hennepin, and La Salle between the years 1541-1682, when La Salle reached the delta and claimed the Mississippi Valley for France. The material is from three original sources, all eyewitness accounts. Save for the illustrations that make many of the Indians seem almost comic characters, this is a valuable book, with fresh, excellent treatment of familiar material. An index is appended.

Mizumura, Kazue. The Emperor Penguins. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 34p. illus. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Books) \$3.50.

R  
2-4 Another excellent book in a beginning science series, the amount and difficulty of information carefully gauged for the very young reader. The drawings and diagrams are good; the text describes the habits and habitat of the Emperor Penguins, with particular attention to their unusual methods of feeding and caring for their young.

Myron, Robert. Art in America; From Colonial Days through the Nineteenth Century; by Robert Myron and Abner Sundell. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 186p. \$4.50.

NR  
7-10 A history of art that is, despite the information it gives, so limited by dubious generalizations and by omissions as to be of little value. The authors devote most of the text to painting, and there is attention given to architecture, but there is no reference to sculpture (little though there was) or to the distinctive work done in glass. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Nicole, Christopher. Operation Destruct. Holt, 1969. 230p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

R  
7-10 A fledgling spy comes through his first assignment: British vs. Russian Intelligence, a new biological weapon at stake, and mortal combat in, on, and under water. Jonathan enlists the help of a pretty girl reporter in besting the two-omniscient-to-be-true Nobel winner, Madame Anna Cantelna, on land and sea. And train. The light-hearted style is a perfect channel for a blundering youngster, the plot has the mad pace of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and nothing (save the triumph of one set of agents over another) is according to formula—even the pretty girl, who falls for a pop singer.

Norton, Andre. Uncharted Stars. Viking, 1969. 253p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.53 net.

Ad  
7-10 A sequel to The Zero Stone. Here Murdoc Jern searches among the stars for the source of that mysterious and powerful energy-giving gem. With a Free Trade pilot and a mutant creature who has telepathic powers, Jern moves from planet to planet, from adventure to adventure. The writing is heavily laden with fantastic cultural deviations, but the story has pace and excitement.

Peare, Catherine Owens. Aaron Copland; His Life; illus. by Mircea Vasiliu. Holt, 1969. 148p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

Ad  
5-9 A biography that makes clear both Copland's dedication to his career and his place in musical history. It is marred by stilted writing, particularly in the earlier portions of the book; although it is for somewhat older readers, Dobrin's biography (T. Y. Crowell, 1967) is more graceful. This is, however, useful; an index, a bibliography, and a chronological list of "representative works" by Copland are appended.

Pomerantz, Charlotte. Ask the Windy Sea; with illus. by Nancy Grossman and Anita Siegel. Scott, 1968. 29p. \$3.95.

M  
K-2 Although the quiet story of a small boy's day on the beach has both the appeal of some amusing dialogue and some interesting information, it is hampered by being neither one thing or another. It hasn't a strong enough plot to be a good story, nor enough information about animal life to be useful; it has small doses of homespun philosophy from each adult that Tony meets, but their ideas are not really appropriate to a picture book audience. The pictures do not illustrate the story but alternate seascapes and realistic drawings of plants and animals.

Raskin, Ellen. Ghost in a Four-Room Apartment. Atheneum, 1969. 43p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.62.

R  
K-2 Objects fly around the rooms, the piano plays, children cling to the chandelier, and wild destruction is wrought by the busy poltergeist who tells his story on one set of pages while the members of a large family are shown in the bright, crowded pages of a second set. Best if read aloud by two people so that the ghost's musings and the rhyming compilation of family are separate, but amusing to look at even without reading.

Robinson, Joan G. When Marnie Was There. Coward-McCann, 1968. 236p. \$4.25.

Ad  
4-6 Part fantasy, part realism, a story from England in which the sharp characterization and the natural dialogue enliven a plot that sags of its own weight. The ending, in which Everything Comes Right, is weak, but the book has some high moments of adventure and suspense. Anna, a withdrawn and moody child, is sent by her foster parents to visit in a seaside town. Is the elusive and mysterious Marnie, who secretly plays with Anna, real? Nobody else sees her, but to Anna there is nothing more real or wonderful than her first friend. Anna wakes one day to find that she is ill and Marnie gone. Then she meets a lively family and—here the sag—one of the girls finds an old diary. It is Marnie's, and in it are references to events shared by Anna—but that is strange, because Marnie lived half a century before. Alas, it also is discovered that Anna is Marnie's grandchild.

Rosenberg, Nancy. New Parts for People; The Story of Medical Transplants; by Nancy Rosenberg and Reuven K. Snyderman. Norton, 1969. 85p. \$4.25.

R  
7-10 A subject of great current interest is explored in a good book written in a straightforward style and lightened by an occasional story about an individual case. The text describes the techniques and the problems in grafting tissue and transplanting organs, the machines that sustain life for patients with heart trouble or kidney malfunction, artificial organs and limbs, tissue and eye banks, and some of the new techniques in operating. Information on bequests to eye banks is included; an index is appended.

Seskin, Stephen. The Stone in the Road; illus. by Ursula Arndt. Van Nostrand, 1968. 48p. \$3.50.

Ad  
3-4 A quiet story with some latent content, the underlying themes being unobtrusively handled. The illustrations echo the not-unappealing naïveté of the medieval setting; the style is adequate, the ending weak. A small village near Prague, almost moribund, asks their gentle, bookish Baron what to do about their state. The Baron suggests that there be a reward for the removal of the huge stone in the road, an obstacle they are used to and ignore. Visitors are attracted, trade improves, a relic is purchased for the church. A workman, poor and industrious, moves the stone, and the Baron comments on how much is possible when an honest man does the best job he can. In addition to this gentle moral, there are overtones of "God helps those who help themselves," and "Familiarity breeds contempt."

Silverberg, Robert. The Calibrated Alligator; And Other Science Fiction Stories. Holt, 1969. 224p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.59 net.

R  
6-9 Nine science fiction stories are included in an original and varied collection, one of the best of which is the title story. In "The Calibrated Alligator" a prankster on a lunar base becomes involved in a biological experiment that succeeds in a totally unexpected way. One tale takes a poke at the fads in popularity of artifacts; another is the amusing account of a helpless man who gets shuttled from time belt to time belt when he calls the Friendly Finance Corporation to ask for an extension on his loan. Several are serious, but it is the humorous short story at which the author excels.

Stevenson, Eric. Tony and the Toll Collector; illus. by James Stevenson. Little, 1969. 28p. \$3.25.

Ad  
K-2 A slight story with a pat ending is nevertheless appealing because of the kind of humor it contains, because of the friendship between an adult and a child, and because there is an interest on the part of small children in tollbooths. Young listeners may find it uproariously funny that Tony slipped a snowball to the collector, Mr. Morton (instead of a quarter) one cold day, or that he scared him with a Hallowe'en mask. Mr. Morton is replaced by an automatic device, but turns up as the school crossing guard.

Strachan, Margaret Pitcairn. Two Families Make One. Washburn, 1969. 152p. \$3.95.

M  
6-8 A widow with two children and a widower with three children marry; this is the story of their period of adjustment, especially that of Laurie, a high school junior. While the approach is realistic and the acceptance of change posed as a logical solution, the book is weakened by slow pace, pedestrian writing style, and a faintly sanctimonious air.

Suskind, Richard. Men in Armor; The Story of Knights and Knighthood; illus. by Enrico Arno. Norton, 1968. 84p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.54 net.

Ad  
6-9 Illustrated with black and white pictures that have the awkward figures and ornate detail that convey an appropriately medieval flavor, a good book on knighthood and chivalry. Like Buehr's Chivalry and the Mailed Knight (Putnam, 1963) this gives accurate but not comprehensive information; it is not as well organized but, covering much the same material, is written with more grace. An index is appended.

Tashjian, Virginia A., comp. Juba This and Juba That; Story Hour Sketches for Large or Small Groups; illus. by Victoria de Larrea. Little, 1969. 116p. \$4.50.

R  
3-5 A compilation of riddles, songs, tongue twisters, stories, poems, et cetera, particularly useful for group play and for what the compiler refers to as her "story-hour stretch." Most of the games require a leader, most are very simple, and the book can be used with younger children as well as by the independent reader.

Tolstoy, Alexei. The Great Big Enormous Turnip; pictures by Helen Oxenbury. Watts, 1968. 27p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

Ad  
4-6  
yrs First published in England, a story so simply told that it can be used for independent reading, but the brevity and the subject indicate a read-aloud audience. The plot is slight: an old man tries in vain to pull a huge turnip out of the ground; one by one his wife, granddaughter, dog, cat, and mouse join the team. Up turnip, end story. The charm of the book is in the illustrations, deft and humorous, varied and lively. The text has less verve than the Hewett version (Whittlesey House, 1961).

Vogel, Ray, ed. The Other City; with photographs and commentary by William Boyd and others. White, 1969. 40p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.76 net.

Ad  
3-5 A grant from the Eastman Kodak Company, administered through the schools, made possible a photography project in a ghetto neighborhood. Edited by a teacher, this is a collection of photographs and captions produced by four seventh-grade boys in a Brooklyn area. It shows the crowded apartments and the rubble-strewn empty lots, the playgrounds and the pushcarts, the street games and the garbage, and the occasional excursions to a beach or a zoo. The comments are sometimes flat ("People around here use buses and subways to get to work or school.") and sometimes bleakly vivid ("Nobody lives in these beat-up buildings because they don't have windows or heat.").

Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. A Spy Case Built for Two. Westminster, 1969. 240p. \$3.95.

NR  
7-9 Most of the venerable ingredients of the standard novel of international espionage are here: the woman-proof master spy (Todd Dixon) who is irresistible to women, the elusive free-lance spy whose identity nobody knows, the female agent impervious to men (except, finally, to Todd Dixon) and an exotic setting. Save for the fact that the American agents are hunting the free-lancer, the plot is both hazy and convoluted; the characters are wooden and the writing style merely adequate. There is plenty of action, but the contrivances of plot quickly rob the story of suspense.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. Lillie of Watts; A Birthday Discovery; illus. by Leonora E. Prince. Ward Ritchie Press, 1969. 61p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.49 net.

Ad  
4-5 A low-keyed story with strong illustrations, a weak story line and an interesting setting. Over the weekend of Lillie's eleventh birthday, a series of small, personal disasters trouble her; some are solved and some, realistically, are not. The candid, simple writing is a bit flat, but the book's appeal is not in dramatic events and the style is little of a handicap. Appeal is vested in the very ordinariness of Lillie's day-to-day life: the busy, crowded household, the accepted scarcity of material goods, a small girl's desire to be admired and her struggle to overcome fear.

Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. The Mystery of the Crimson Ghost. Westminster, 1969. 190p. \$3.75.

NR  
5-7 A mystery in which the explanation of the hideous apparition of a dog in flames, a sight that terrifies several of the characters, is explained by the fact that a large dog is seen in the red beam of a spotlight. The perpetrator is a boy who is anxious to move away from the country and knows that the neighbors are hostile to the grandmother with whom he lives, and he fosters that hostility. The protagonist is a horse-crazy girl who has been riding an animal belonging to the grandmother, and who is instrumental in solving the mystery. Despite a competent style and some suspense, this is not up to the standard of some of Whitney's books; the characters are not convincing, and the plot laboriously artificial.

Wier, Ester. The Long Year; illus. by Ursula Koering. McKay, 1969. 150p. \$3.95.

Ad  
6-8 As in many books by Wier, the setting here is wild country, the protagonist an adolescent boy, and the plot a pitting of human courage and initiative against the rigors of natural events. Thirteen-year-old Jesse Kingman struggles to establish his authority, to prove his dependability to his father, and to keep from leaving or seeing changes in the lonely ranch life he loves. There is no strong story line, although some of the incidents have drama; the book is convincing, but it moves slowly.

Willcoxon, Harriett. First Lady of India; The Story of Indira Gandhi. Doubleday, 1969. 143p. \$3.50.

M  
6-9 Written in pedestrian style and with adulatory tone, a biography that gives the facts about Indira Gandhi's life (with rather protracted attention to one episode in her childhood) and that has a series of photographs that are of interest. Garnett's Madame Prime Minister (Farrar, 1967) is better-written and is indexed.

Witheridge, Elizabeth P. And What of You, Josephine Charlotte? drawings by Barbara McGee. Atheneum, 1969. 169p. Trade ed. \$4.25; Library ed. \$4.08 net.

M  
5-7 This story of a slave girl in Maryland in the 1800's has a curiously old-fashioned aura; it is romantic in approach and peopled by set figures: the beautiful, intelligent Josephine Charlotte; her mistress, the tender-hearted Miss Sarah; the stalwart George, handsome and polite, who wins Josephine Charlotte's heart; the Quaker who comes to the rescue, etc. Were there not an explicit and implicit indictment of slavery, this would be of little value.

York, Carol Beach. The Mystery of the Diamond Cat; illus. by Roseanne Burke. Watts, 1969. 112p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.33 net.

NR  
4-6 When they arrive for a visit at Aunt Sarah's, Paul, Martha and Joey discover that a recent guest has lost a diamond pin. The chauffeur, who has stolen it, discovers that Martha has a wooden frog in which he had hidden the pin. The children, who have been trying to solve the mystery, have an encounter with the chauffeur while on a picnic in the woods, but an insurance investigator shows up in the nick of time and catches the thief. The ending is contrived, and the action that precedes it is weak both in being tedious and in having little to do with the dénouement.

Young, Bob. Where Tomorrow? by Bob and Jan Young. Abelard-Schuman, 1968. 191p. \$4.

M  
7-9 The story of a high school dropout. Bunny had not made grades as good as her usual ones at the close of her junior year; her best friend had just married, and her boyfriend had enlisted in the army. What was the point of school? It took months of losing temporary jobs, a frightening involvement with a delinquent gang, and the tedium of a steady job as a waitress before Bunny was able to admit that her mother and her school counselor had been right. You can't go very far without a high school diploma, Bunny decided, and registered for her senior year. The story is patterned and the plot development both overextended and predictable, the value of the book being in the lesson that Bunny so laboriously learns.

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