



I L L I N O I S

---

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign Library  
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.



**MAY 1969  
VOLUME 22  
NUMBER 9**

**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.

\* \* \*

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.

© 1969 by the University of Chicago. All rights reserved.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22

May, 1969

Number 9

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

American Heritage Magazine. The History of the Atomic Bomb; by the editors of American Heritage Magazine; narr. by Michael Blow; in consultation with William W. Watson. American Heritage, 1968. 150p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79.

R  
7- A first chapter gives some background information about the scientific research that preceded the first successful nuclear chain reaction, and the book goes on to describe events at Stagg Field, Los Alamos, and other secret sites where the knowledge of American and European scientists and the resources of the United States made possible the development of the atom bomb. This sober look at a grim but important topic considers the conflict within the scientific ranks, and the continuing conflict about the weapons race versus the peaceful uses of applied nuclear energy. Profusely illustrated, competently written, and objective in approach, a very good piece of reporting. A glossary, a list of suggestions for further reading, and an index are appended.

Batterberry, Michael, ad. Chinese and Oriental Art. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 192p. illus. \$8.95.

Ad  
7- An oversize book that has many reproductions of works of art, the pages unfortunately crowded enough with two columns of print and with the illustrations to make the art objects, in many instances, less effective. Most of the book is devoted to Chinese art, with shorter sections on Korean, Japanese, and Indian art, each section following a chronological order. There is information in the text, and the illustrations are delightful, but the book's usefulness is limited by the random selection and occasionally irrelevant digression. There is sometimes an unnecessary amount of background detail. A numbered list of illustrations gives locations of art objects, and a relative index is appended.

Berne, Eric. The Happy Valley; illus. by Sylvie Selig. Grove, 1968. 58p. \$4.95.

NR  
4-5 The author of Games People Play refers to this as his first "un-psychiatric" book, a fantasy about people and animals in an imaginary valley. The illustrations are intricate in the contemporary style, reminiscent of Alain Le Foll. Shardlu, a partially-employed python, rolls down into the valley when he is coiled into a ball. He meets a motley group of residents: Abe, who cannot understand English but can speak it, and who speaks Ruthenian because his wife's name is Ruthie; a kind

princess and a timid rabbit, an explorer, and a garrulous sheep named Flossie. There's an amusing quip here and there, but the story is very labored, with occasional overtones of Wonderland and, despite the author's comment, psychiatric connotations.

Biemuller, Ruth. Dance; The Story of Katherine Dunham. Doubleday, 1969. 144p. \$3.50.

M  
6-9 A quite pedestrian biography of the eminent dancer, describing her childhood and the beginning of her career in a stilted book that gives only a superficial picture of Katherine Dunham's personality or her dancing. The writing is careless ("drawback" and "carefree" are given as "draw back" and "care free") and the dialogue is often burdened with artificialities: for example, in talking to the brother who has been her friend and supporter, the dancer announces, "People just can't seem to realize that Negroes can develop their own dance forms, based on birth, youth, age, and death. And there's so much from our own experience that can be added to well-known subjects of literature, art, and music." A section of photographs is included. Only because of the scarcity of material does the book have any value.

Blackburn, Joyce. Martha Berry; Little Woman with a Big Dream. Lippincott, 1968. 158p. \$3.95.

Ad  
6-9 A biography of the woman who built, by determination, example, and persuasive oratory, a school for the poor mountain people of Georgia. The Boys Industrial School grew over the years from a single building to a well-endowed coeducational campus, a project to which all of Martha Berry's life and love were dedicated. This is an inspiring story, and it needs no embellishment; it is adequately told here but is weakened by an adulatory tone. There are discrepancies in details between this biography and that by Myers (reviewed below); for example, Myers refers to the biographee's one romance: "They had been engaged a very long time." while Blackburn says, ". . . with no sign of the formal engagement . . ." A brief list of sources is included in the author's note.

Boone-Jones, Margaret. Martin Luther King, Jr.; A Picture Story; illus. by Roszel Scott. Childrens Press, 1968. 28p. \$2.06.

NR  
2-3 A biography of Reverend King that does little more than pad the bare outlines of his life, with most of the filler-material being in the section of the book dealing with King's childhood. The print is large, the writing style flat and often coy or trite. The illustrations are deft, but the broad strokes that are effective from a distance are often distracting when seen close up. Superficial, but interest in the subject gives the book some use, since there is so little for the primary grades reader.

Bright, Robert. Gregory; The Noisiest and Strongest Boy in Grangers Grove. Doubleday, 1969. 35p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad  
K-2 Gregory didn't talk, he yelled. Gregory didn't walk, he ran. He could jump higher than the highest haystack, and he liked his own way. He also liked Grandma's pancakes, and was more than willing to do a chore in return—but, being Gregory, he didn't ask what the chore was; that was how Grandma eventually found herself feeding pancakes to a mule, a bear, and a much-chastened boy. The illustrations have little finesse,

but a great deal of fun and vitality; the story is nicely written, not very strongly plotted but brisk with tall-tale exaggeration.

Brink, Carol Ryrle. Two Are Better Than One; drawings by Fermin Rocker. Macmillan, 1968. 181p. \$4.50.

R  
4-6  
A pleasant period piece, set in the 1900's, the episodic structure smoothly knit together by the author's easy humorous style and by the interpolated chapters of a story written by the two protagonists. Cordy and Chrys are almost thirteen, best friends, the lonely home of one balancing the crowded, lively home of the other. Together the girls brave a teacher's wrath, succumb to Easter finery, suffer through a party with boys, and write their suffocatingly romantic adventure story. The story closes with the girls passing the high school entrance exams—and playing with their dolls, a key to one aspect of the book that may limit reader interest: Chrys and Cordy seem very young for their age in many ways.

Buchanan, Norman. Painting and the Joy of Colour. Warne, 1968. 48p. illus. \$3.50.

Ad  
8-  
A compilation of suggestions for the amateur, most of the book being devoted to the handling of pattern and color in painting with water color. The author discusses tone values, color matching, using a view finder, reflected light, and some of the techniques of painting with oil as well as with water color. A section on materials and equipment includes directions for stretching a canvas. The book's weakness is its random selection and arrangement of topics; while it does not give the beginner all the information he needs, it is useful in offering concrete suggestions for experimenting with many of the problems a beginner faces.

Cecil, Edward. Malachi Mudge; drawings by Peter Parnall. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 47p. \$3.95.

Ad  
3-4  
An animal story that has a modest plot and slow pace, the style just ever so faintly permeated with whimsy; a lonely mole tries to find a friend, captures a bird and lets it go, and is reluctant to share his home with a beetle. The mole and the beetle become accustomed to each other and, in time, the best of friends. The illustrations are distinctive, with black and white used to elegant effect in beautifully detailed drawings of animals (almost the meticulous realism of Ravielli) and natural backgrounds.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. Bob Bodden and the Good Ship Rover; illus. by Ted Schroeder. Garrard, 1968. 48p. \$2.12.

Ad  
2-4  
A tall tale about a hero in Maine folklore, the intrepid Bob Bodden, who sailed the seas in a ship so big that it cast a ten-mile shadow, a ship with mast so tall that it speared the moon. When the ship ran into the South Pole and stuck there, Bob Bodden left it with the kindly thought that it would eventually become covered with snow and ice and be thought a continent, a fate that befalls very few ships. The illustrations are scrawly, lively, and humorous in cartoon style; the exaggeration of the tall tale is appealing, and the writing, although not in the author's usually graceful style, is simple and full of fun.

Cooper, Elizabeth K. The Fish from Japan; with pictures by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, 1969. 27p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

R  
K-2  
Gay illustrations picture realistically home and school settings for a pleasant story about a small boy who turns disaster to triumph by using his imagination. An uncle had promised a fish from Japan, and Harvey—who wanted a pet—was dismayed when the present came. A kite. Proving that you can fool all of the people some of the time, Harvey permits his friends to help feed his imaginary transparent fish. The writing style has an easy, natural quality and the humor is left for the reader to discern rather than being stressed.

Corrin, Sara, ed. Stories for Six-Year-Olds; And Other Young Readers; ed. by Sara and Stephen Corrin; illus. by Shirley Hughes. Watts, 1968. 198p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

R  
5-7  
yrs  
First published in England in 1967, a good collection of stories for reading aloud, attractively illustrated in black and white. The editors, both teachers, point out in a prefatory note that many of the stories are suitable for independent reading but have been chosen because of successful use as read-aloud material. The stories are familiar ones ("Gingerbread Boy," "Tom Tit Tot," "The Three Brothers") for the most part, with a good many English folk tales. Not an unusual selection, but particularly useful because it focuses on a definite age-group.

Damjan, Mischa. The Little Prince and the Tiger Cat; illus. by Ralph Steadman. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 27p. \$4.50.

Ad  
K-2  
First published in Switzerland, a read-aloud book with a plot that is rather slight but that will give the young listener a chance to enjoy the inside track. In the year 777, cats were rare in Japan and nobody realized that they caught mice—it was thought that the cats killed mice by magic. So the palace pet, Mao-Miu-Min, was kept on a leash until a happy accident set him free and proved that cats could help solve the problem of mice. The illustrations are impressive: bold in the use of color, handsomely designed, and lightened by touches of antic humor.

Davis, Janet S. Completely Cowed. Chilton, 1969. 162p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.73 net.

M  
6-9  
When Elspeth's niece, Ellis, showed up for a summer visit, she was the Compleat Bohemian, from her lanky hair to her dirty thongs. Crisply, Aunt Elspeth took her in hand, and Ellis learned to appreciate the quiet, orderly life of a small New England village. When a guitar-playing boy friend appeared, Ellis found him only a nuisance; in fact, she had fallen in love with one of the local men. The atmosphere and tempo of village life are convincingly and pleasantly drawn, but the plot and characterization are weak, and the story line over-extended.

Derleth, August William. The Beast in Holger's Woods; illus. by Susan Bennett. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 194p. \$3.95.

Ad  
5-6  
Banny and Rick, who tells the story, both know of the hoax that a practical joker had once perpetrated—the hodag, a huge fake lizard. But this time, they are convinced, there really is some strange, large animal prowling the woods. Trying to track it down, the boys run into



a pair of criminals and are held in a cabin; they get away, after finding the origin of the beast, and are instrumental in catching the culprits. Their role in the capture is believable, and the book has pace and suspense. The plot is uncluttered, if a bit stretched; characterization and dialogue are good.

Elkin, Benjamin, ad. The Wisest Man in the World; A Legend of Ancient Israel; retold by Benjamin Elkin; pictures by Anita Lobel. Parents' Magazine, 1968. 35p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.21 net.

Ad  
3-4  
Ornate and delicate illustrations, richly detailed and bright with color, enhance a simplified version of the testing of King Solomon by the Queen of Sheba. Long envious of Solomon's fame, the Queen tries to devise such insoluble challenges that he will fail and be shamed. He draws a thread through a winding hole by having a worm crawl through, he deduces a clever way to tell indistinguishably dressed boys from girls, and he uses the friendship of a small bee he had once let go to pass the final and most difficult task set him by the Queen. The style of writing is dignified, suited to the subject and the source, but rather sedate.

Ellis, Harry B. Ideals and Ideologies; Communism, Socialism, and Capitalism. World, 1968. 256p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.86 net.

R  
7-10  
A most intriguing book, especially for those interested in the relationships between politics and industry. The approach is comparative, the tone objective, and the observations candid and thoughtful. The author gives the historical background of each of the three ideologies and points out the repeated evidences that, in practice, the lines of demarcation are fading: private profit as an incentive in a factory in communist East Germany, the growth of social welfare in the United States. He discusses at some length the cumulative cause-and-effect relationships between different factions within an ideological community; for example, the Social Democrats in Germany after World War I, affected by the fact that other parties absorbed some of their doctrines, were forced to shift their program. A bibliography and a lengthy index are appended.

Floethe, Louise Lee. Floating Market; illus. by Richard Floethe. Farrar, 1969. 31p. \$4.50.

Ad  
3-4  
A story set in Bangkok, the illustrations supplementing the description of the floating market with light, bright scenes of crowded waterways, colorful costumes, and ornate temples. Harsa and her brother Nai Chune take the family sampan to market to sell produce and cooked food so that they may buy an anklet for a younger sister who feels put out because there is a new baby. The plot is slight, although it does give a pleasant picture of family life and of the amicability of a Thai community; it serves chiefly as a vehicle for an attractive travelogue.

Fritz, Jean. George Washington's Breakfast; illus. by Paul Galdone. Coward-McCann, 1969. 41p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.49 net.

R  
3-5  
It is perfectly natural that a boy born on February 22 and named in honor of George Washington should want to know everything he can about Washington's life. George W. Allen knew a great deal, but it struck him one morning at breakfast that he did not know what the Father of His

Country might have had for his breakfast. He enlisted the librarian's help and tried every Washington book in the library; he went to visit Mount Vernon, and he finally emerged from the attic at home with exactly the information he needed. The fictional framework is deft, the illustrations echoing its light humor, and the story gives both a believable picture of a small, determined boy and a good introduction to the vicissitudes of historical research.

Gardner, Martin. Never Make Fun of a Turtle, My Son; illus. by John Alcorn. Simon and Schuster, 1969. 40p. \$3.95.

M  
K-3 A series of poems on child behavior are enlivened by the mod, poster-startling pictures in hot colors. The rhymes have a swinging quality that befits the light-hearted, chiding messages on safety, sharing, shopping, and consideration for others. Few of the selections have depth; each focuses on a distinct trait or problem. "Just look at those hands!/ Did you actually think/ That the dirt would come off, my daughter/ By wiggling your fingers around in the sink/ And slapping the top of the water?"

Garfield, Leon. Black Jack; illus. by Antony Maitland. Pantheon Books, 1968. 243p. \$3.95.

R  
6-9 A hanged man comes back to life, captures an orphaned boy, and together they hold up a coach from which an insane girl escapes; the boy and girl join a caravan, she regains her sanity and they fall in love. Her father is murdered, she goes to an asylum, the repentant highwayman rescues her, and the boy and girl sail off together in his uncle's ship, in which they have stowed away. Sounds wildly implausible? Yes, but Leon Garfield makes it wholly convincing, rich with the color and the speech of England in the mid-eighteenth century, full of pathos and suspense.

Gitler, Ira. Make the Team in Ice Hockey. Grosset, 1968. 73p. illus. \$3.29.

R  
6-9 Despite an unattractive format (two columns of print, often broken up by diagrams or photographs) a book that should prove useful for newcomers to an increasingly popular sport. Unlike the Whitehead book, reviewed below, this is for participants rather than spectators, and it does a very capable job of describing the rules and subtleties of the game. There is information on equipment and its care, but most of the text is devoted to instruction in the several aspects of hockey play: skating, passing, stickhandling, etc. Diagrams are clear, and a list of hockey terms is provided, as are drawings of the officials' code of signals. Appended, finally, is the complete book of rules of the National Hockey League.

Grimm, Jacob Ludwig Karl. Little Red Riding Hood; illus. by Bernadette. World, 1969. 27p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.86 net.

Ad  
K-2 A picture book version of the familiar story, the oversize pages fully utilized by the artist, whose colorful scenes of fields and woodlands have a romantic and traditional appeal despite the evidence of contemporary techniques. The retelling is close to the traditional Grimm interpretation of the Perrault story, with some modernization of terms that are an

improvement, and some slight changes in the story that seem no improvement.

Gurko, Leo. Ernest Hemingway and the Pursuit of Heroism. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 248p. (Twentieth-Century American Writers) \$4.75.

R  
9- A very long biographical chapter is followed by a series of detailed critical analyses of Hemingway's writings in a serious and absorbing book that should be stimulating to anyone interested in Hemingway or in American literature. The biography is compact and objective; the essays are discerning and critical, scholarly but not arid, the author exploring with consistent percipience the theme of heroism in Hemingway's books. A list of books by Hemingway, a selected bibliography of books about him, and an index are appended.

Hall, Rosalys Haskell. The Bright and Shining Breadboard; illus. by Kurt Werth. Lothrop, 1969. 28p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.56 net.

Ad  
3-5 The lively but uncluttered illustrations are light-hearted in mood, matching the blithe but quite slight story. Resolved Makepeace Waterman was sent by his mother to test the village maidens, when he said that he was determined to wed. Touchstone of a good housekeeper was a clean breadboard; to Resolved's delight, the only shining board belonged to the one girl he really wanted. The story's pattern is repetitive, the theme is a limiting factor, and there is no real explanation of why Resolved didn't just ask the girl he loved; but the light style and humor are saving graces.

Hoban, Russell. Harvey's Hideout; pictures by Lillian Hoban. Parents' Magazine, 1969. 38p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.21 net.

R  
K-2 Mildred Muskrat's opinion of Harvey was that he was a "selfish, inconsiderate, stupid, no-good little brother." Harvey thought Mildred was a "loudmouth, bossy, mean and rotten big sister." The sniping and squabbling continued, each child playing alone and pretending to be with friends, until Harvey and Mildred discovered that only a thin wall separated their secret and lonely hiding places. A peace pact was established, and a new era of amity dawned. The illustrations are amusing but repetitious; the story is appropriately simple for the read-aloud audience, but it is drawn-out, buoyed up by the humor, vivacity, and fidelity of the dialogue.

Jenkins, Alan C. The Golden Band; Holland's Fight Against the Sea; illus. with photographs, maps and reproductions of old prints. Coward-McCann, 1968. 159p. \$3.49.

R  
6-10 An excellent survey of the long struggle of the Dutch to protect and extend their land. The material is well-organized, the photographs informative, and the book strikes a good balance between historical background and the details of engineering and reclamation projects. Although the writing style is sober and straightforward, there is a piquant undercurrent of drama in the building of the "golden band" of bulwarks against the ever-encroaching sea.

Johnson, Bob. Hockey. Creative Educational Society, 1969. 120p. illus. \$5.95.

Like the Gitler book, reviewed above, this is for the player rather

M  
6-9 than the viewer; it, too, has two columns of print and is even more distractingly fragmented (visually). In fact the greatest weakness of the book is that it has too many photographs that are not easily identifiable because they lack captions. Both books cover the same points in the playing of the game; this adds practice drills for achieving skill at some particular play and may have some value for coaching, but it is not as lucid or as well-written as the Gitler book. A glossary is appended.

Joutsen, Britta-Lisa. Lingonberries in the Snow; illus. by Anthony Saris. Follett, 1968. 190p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

Ad  
4-6 An American family goes to Finland for a year, and Susie, a seventh-grader, soon finds a friend at her school in Turku. The story is episodic, with no real plot line; Susie and her family learn to enjoy Finnish foods and customs, they learn a bit about the country's history and visit the countryside, and there is a considerable amount of discussion comparing American and Finnish mores. Not very substantial, but fairly interesting and capably written save for some minor errors.

Kishida, Eriko. The Hippo Boat; with drawings by Chiyoko Nakatani. World, 1968. 27p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.61 net.

M  
K-2 From Japan via England comes a picture book with a slight story, an appealing setting, and illustrations that have vitality. The rains flood the zoo, and many of the animals come to Mrs. Hippo, begging her to save their babies; with an assortment of small animals topped by a baby giraffe on her broad back, Mrs. Hippo swims to shore. The water eventually subsides, the sun comes out, and a tired Mrs. Hippo and Baby Hippo sleep.

Koch, John R. Where Did You Come From? written and illus. by John R. Koch. Hale, 1968. 32p. \$2.79.

M  
3-4 "To the boys' surprise, the new family was Negro," and the first question they asked the boy their own age was, "Where did you come from?" Jefferson Washington IV didn't want to talk about the not-very-nice neighborhood from which he had come, so he talked instead about his ancestor, who came as a slave, and the descendant of his who carried supplies for Washington in the Revolutionary War, and who married a freed slave of Jefferson's—naming their son Jefferson Washington. The book, unfortunately illustrated with harsh drawings, is weak in suggesting the boys' surprise but not following up, and in choosing names that tend to stereotype, but it does have value in showing the fact that black children, too, have a long lineage of which they may be proud.

Le Guin, Ursula K. A Wizard of Earthsea; drawings by Ruth Robbins. Parnassus, 1968. 205p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.90 net.

Ad  
6-8 An intricate and brooding fantasy, set in an imaginary world of a hundred small islands, Earthsea, in which the art of wizardry is taught and revered. This is the story of the youth of Sparrowhawk, the young wizard who in his time was to become dragonlord and Archmage, a leader and a legend. As a student at the School for Wizards, the boy, on a rival's dare, summons up a spirit from the dead, and from that time on he flees that spirit until they meet in a final battle in which, conquering by naming the shadow of his death with his own name, he at last becomes a

whole and free man. The conception of Earthsea and its magic is original and imaginative, and at times the story moves with drama and excitement; however, the pace is uneven, with long passages that are heavy with invention and a slow development of incident.

Lightner, A. M. The Space Plague. Norton, 1966. 156p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.28 net.

Ad  
7-10  
A science fiction story set in the future, after the Disaster has wiped out all of mankind save a colony in Africa; the machines of the white men who caused the Disaster are taboo, and so is any person born with a skin too light. The darker, the better. Amhara, a gifted student, has been secretly giving books to a cousin who is forbidden study because he is so light-skinned. Against this background, it is discovered that there are other men alive in the world, and a team of five fixes an old, taboo helicopter and flies to England, where they find a culture of white people based on the bees: women are queens, men are drones, dancing is in the figure-eight of the bee dances, et cetera. Attacked by giant bees, the party flies home with a prize specimen: a white male who has become their friend and Amhara's suitor. The writing style is excellent, the details of each culture are imaginatively conceived, and there is no strain on credulity; the book's weakness is that it covers so much ground in such detail that the shift from Africa to England is almost a line of demarcation.

Liversidge, Douglas. The Picture Life of Elizabeth II; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1969. 39p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad  
3-4  
Black and white photographs of the British royal family and a stiffly written but straightforward text give an adequate picture of the responsibilities and privileges of the monarch. There is little about the Queen's private life or her childhood, the focus being on the role of a British ruler rather than on Elizabeth Regina. The large print, interesting pictures, and informative text give the book usefulness if little drama or color.

Lyon, Elinor. Strangers at the Door; illus. by Mary Dinsdale. Follett, 1969. 191p. \$2.95.

R  
5-7  
Another story about the Gunn family, smoothly written and permeated with authentic Scottish speech-cadence and with the beauty of the Scottish countryside. Here the Gunns are dismayed to find that the home they so love is legally the property of a man from South America, for a renegade great-uncle had sold it and told nobody. Cathie and her friends do their best to make the house seem unattractive, but it is really the kind heart of the stranger that saves them, for Mr. Waterston comes to realize what eviction would mean. The characterization is excellent, the pace sustained.

Mariana. Miss Flora McFlimsey's May Day. Lothrop, 1969. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.

Ad  
4-6  
Another story about the little doll and her animal friends, the pastel-sweet illustrations having a static quality. The writing is adequately simple, sometimes stilted and occasionally humorous; the plot line is modest and bears a message: handsome is as handsome does. Fretting

because she isn't pretty, Miss Flora McFlimsey spends time taking care of the porcupine children, then helping Mrs. Cotton Tail. Hailed as Queen of the May, a happy Miss Flora McFlimsey decides she is, after all, almost pretty.

Martin, Patricia Miles. A Long Ago Christmas; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Putnam, 1968. 31p. \$3.49.

Ad  
K-2 Living on the rolling stretches of the prairie, Darius had never seen a Christmas tree and could hardly wait for the tree-trimming party at the schoolhouse. But when Christmas Eve came, the family was snow-bound and in their isolated, cozy home they had their own homely, merry Christmas. A quiet story with little plot but with some evocation of period and setting, and with the perennial appeal of a self-sufficient coping with nature.

Mayer, Mercer. If I Had . . .; story and pictures by Mercer Mayer. Dial, 1968. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

Ad  
K-2 A small boy has dreams of retaliation. Big boys have picked on him, his sister has messed up his toy box, even his puppy has been bullied by large dogs, so . . . if he had a gorilla, then the big kids wouldn't pick on him (picture of terrified bullies) . . . or if he had a snake, his sister wouldn't . . . (picture of snake rearing up from messy toy chest) et cetera. Finally realism sets in. All he really has is a big brother (picture of rescue from double-popsicle-snatcher) and "He's almost as good." (Picture of big brother eating half a double popsicle.) The pictures are amusingly ferocious, the story slight but entertaining.

Milne, Lorus. The Phoenix Forest; by Lorus and Margery Milne; drawings by Elinor Van Ingen. Atheneum, 1968. 114p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.81 net.

R  
5-7 Explaining the legend of the phoenix, the authors go on to describe the flora and fauna of a hardwood forest in which a fire starts after a bolt of lightning strikes. Animals flee, and men fight the raging fire for hours, but the forest is doomed. Slowly, like the phoenix, the forest is born again, the pioneer plants paving the way for a gradual return to ecological balance. The illustrations have a fragile appeal, and the writing is vivid when it describes the natural environment directly; the book loses impact when human dialogue is introduced as a method of giving information. Very informative, this should be hailed by nature lovers and conservationists. A list of suggestions for further reading is appended.

Moore, Janet Gaylord. The Many Ways of Seeing; An Introduction to the Pleasures of Art. World, 1968. 141p. illus. Trade ed. \$7.95; Library ed. \$7.18 net.

R  
8- A stunning book, profusely illustrated, comprehensive in coverage and written in a style that has dignity and vitality. It discusses the relationship between art and nature, and that between the artist and his world, envisioning the perception of an object in terms of light and color, of composition and line. The author suggests ways in which the reader can try for himself some of the ideas discussed and some of the ways in which he can learn to see the elements of an art form. In describing the

work of individual artists, Miss Moore is at her best; she also describes media, materials, and techniques. An excellent divided bibliography, a list of the illustrations (alphabetically arranged by the artist's name but including page numbers) and an index are appended.

Moore, John Travers. Town and Countryside Poems; pictures by Lois Allen. Whitman, 1968. 40p. \$2.75.

M  
K-2 Some poems are about the town or the country, while some have no particular connection with either; the subjects are familiar ones: pigeons in the city, going to bed, night noises, turtles in their shells, city lights. The writing is pedestrian, with frequent sacrifices of mood to rhyme, very little humor and—with an infrequent exception—jaded imagery.

Myers, Elisabeth P. Angel of Appalachia: Martha Berry. Messner, 1968. 224p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.34 net.

M  
6-9 A more highly fictionalized biography than that by Blackburn (reviewed above) and just as laudatory, this account of the life and work of Martha Berry is crowded with anecdotes and sprinkled with awkward dialect. ("Only furst ah gotta . . ." Why not "first"?) Despite the florid writing there is a modicum of interest in the story of a woman whose life was devoted to a selfless project, an institution for deprived children (at the turn of the century, in Georgia, for white boys—girls were accepted later) that grew into an educational complex, the Berry Schools. An index and a bibliography are appended.

Neufeld, John. Edgar Allan. Phillips, 1968. 95p. \$3.95.

R  
6-9 Twelve-year-old Michael tells the story of Edgar Allan, the Negro baby who is adopted by his family. Michael's father is a minister in a small California town, and he has told the adoption agency that they wanted "someone who might need help more than other children." Michael and the two younger children accept Edgar Allan, but the oldest girl, fourteen, cannot—nor can the minister's congregation. For Michael, who has a high ethical sense, the prospect of giving the child up is a betrayal of all his parents have taught him. When criticism turns to persecution, Edgar Allan is sent away, and Michael finds it difficult to forgive his father. Unhappily, he accepts the fact that society is not ready to practice the love it preaches, and that even a good man may not be strong enough to resist the pressure of society. Despite the tinge of case history, this is an important and a touching book, especially adept in portraying the conflicts and relationships within the family.

Perl, Lila. No Tears for Rainey. Lippincott, 1969. 158p. \$3.75.

Ad  
4-6 There is a limit to how much change and stress an eleven-year-old girl can absorb, and Rainey was near that limit. She hated cooking classes, she had few friends in the new school, her sister and mother were both working and the new apartment empty, and—worst of all, her father was in the hospital. No, worst of all was the fact that Rainey was ashamed that he had had a mental breakdown, and that she lied about him. A Puerto Rican friend and her brother, and a Negro neighbor help Rainey keep her equilibrium and adjust to her father's return. It isn't until Rainey is caught in a kitchen fire that her father snaps out of his morose withdrawal and acts his old self. Although the writing style is

adequate and the characters believable, the story is crowded by too many strong themes, the major problem of adjustment being dwarfed in importance by the stress, for example, that is put on the events and mishaps in cooking class. One very perceptive aspect that is kept in perspective is the determinedly cheerful attitude that Rainey's mother has in talking to her husband; Rainey, who has felt before that "Sometimes my mother is so cheerful and optimistic I could kill her," realizes that it is the wrong behavior from her father's viewpoint, but cannot interfere in a delicate situation.

Peyton, K. M. Flambards; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. World, 1968. 206p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.86 net.

Ad  
7-10 The vivid writing style and excellent characterization and dialogue lend depth and dignity to what is basically a well-worn plot. Orphaned girl comes to stay with relatives and discovers that she is going to inherit money and that her marriage to the handsome older son is planned. Older son turns out to be a bully, and the quiet, intelligent younger son is the true love. Here the characters of the older son and his father, two ignorant, cruel, and powerful men are drawn with blistering realism, and there is added interest in the younger son because he is one of the first flyers (of an experimental plane) in England. The time is just before World War I, and the author raises several questions that reflect the changing times. The orphaned Christina, for example, cannot reconcile herself to the cruelty with which her uncle treats his servants, yet she cannot quite bring herself to admit that a groom is her equal as a human being.

Reed, Betty Jane. More Mom for Tom; illus. by June Talarczyk. Denison, 1968. 31p. \$2.38.

NR  
4-6 yrs In halting rhythm and often-bad rhyme ("out" and "shouts") is told the story of a child who has lost all his friends because he always wants his own way. He wants his own way because he is feeling rejected, Mom being busy with the new baby. Dad talks to Tom's friends, sets up an evening chat-for-three time, and assures Tom that he and Mom love both their children. There is some value in the fact that Dad extends a helping hand, but it is not reasonable to assume that so wise and understanding a parent would have seen no symptoms of dethronement before. The writing is stiff and contrived, the illustrations mawkish.

Reeves, James. The Trojan Horse; pictures by Krystyna Turska. Watts, 1969. 31p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$3.30 net.

R  
4-5 Looking back on a tragic experience of his childhood, a Trojan describes the invasion and sacking of his city as it appeared to a boy of ten. Ilias tells of the war and its causes, of the deaths of the sons of Priam, and of the huge horse that was built by the Greeks as an offering to the Gods—so the Trojans thought. The style is rolling and eloquent: "Great were the lamentations at the death of these heroes." The story is not obstructed by the personal narrative, and the large pages—although more appropriate in size to the picture book audience than to the middle-grades reader—are wonderfully used for the virile, exciting illustrations, not unlike the work of Keeping in their high sense of design.



Ruy-Vidal, Francois. The Secret Journey of Hugo the Brat; pictures by Nicole Claveloux. Harlin Quist, 1968. 27p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.55 net.

NR  
4-5 A moral tale in modern dress. Hugo meets an ear sitting at an outdoor cafe, a mouth dictating to machines, an eye on a balcony, etc. Each is personified, each gives Hugo words of wisdom. Lost, then, in a maze, Hugo listens to his inner voice; he wakes in his own room and—based on the experiences of his strange journey—changes his behavior. The hitherto hostile Hugo becomes friendly and considerate. The story is labored, lightened only a little by some inventive touches; the illustrations are handsome but probably more appealing in their sophistication of concept and design to the adult than to the child.

Schaller, George B. The Tiger; Its Life in the Wild; by George B. Schaller and Millicent E. Selsam; illus. with photographs, drawings, and maps. Harper, 1969. 72p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.43 net.

Ad  
5-7 Although this gives information that is accurate and often interesting, the writing is quite static and the book therefore unexciting. Schaller's preface describes the interest that led to his field-work in India, observing tiger behavior in Kanha Park, a nature reserve. The text refers to him in third person, rather stiffly. After discussing the tiger's habitat and the techniques of study, the authors devote separate chapters to food, family patterns, communication, et cetera, ending with a chapter on myths about tigers. Four titles are suggested for further reading and an index is appended. The book is a little heavy for the younger reader and a little too superficial for the older, who might prefer Schaller's The Deer and the Tiger (University of Chicago Press, 1967).

Scott, Joseph. Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Everyone; An Introduction to the Writing of Ancient Egypt; by Joseph and Lenore Scott. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 95p. illus. \$4.95.

R  
7- For a subject so complicated, involving so many diagrams, this is an outstanding accomplishment. The authors are lucid, organized, and thorough, their attitude toward the reader-learner firm but encouraging. They describe the hieroglyph, the Egyptian alphabet with its biliteral signs, determinatives and reading directions, and they provide a fairly long vocabulary. Pertinent subjects such as the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone, numbers, and what Egyptians wrote about add variety to an already-interesting book. An Egyptian chronology, a map, and some identifying pictures of major deities are appended.

Stolz, Mary. The Dragons of the Queen; pictures by Edward Frascino. Harper, 1969. 49p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R  
5-7 An unusual story in tempo and setting, with no child characters; were the writing style not so simple, this would be more a New Yorker short story than a children's book. A middle-aged American couple, unimaginative and pompous, have an experience that changes their lives in one enchanting Mexican night. Unable to find hotel accommodations, Mr. and Mrs. George Kenilworth of Boise, Idaho, accept the invitation of Dona Pascuala to stay the night in her crumbling but elegant casa. Aged one hundred two, surrounded by her dragons (seven dogs) and beloved by all

the town, the old woman seems indeed a queen, and her dignity and charm captivate the visitors.

Tibbets, Albert B., comp. Let's Dance; Stories for the Teens. Little, 1968. 149p. \$4.50.

M  
6-9  
Eight short stories about adolescent boys and their problems, most of which have to do with adolescent girls. The situations presented are patterned, for the most part, with shyness or a third person keeping two young people apart, or plots in which the protagonist fails to get the right girl, the right part in a play, or a place on the varsity team. The writing styles, save for "Storm Under Glass" by Stolz, are undistinguished; the stories are typical of the harmless-package magazine story with a dash of love interest, and indeed all were first published in magazines. Chiefly useful as a collection because there are comparatively few such for boys.

Viorst, Judith. Sunday Morning; drawings by Hilary Knight. Harper, 1968. 30p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

Ad  
K-2  
Silhouette pictures, black and white touched with bright blue, have the unmistakable manic-delightful Knight stamp: the flying hair, the perky nose, the antic posture. They are a fine foil for the bland writing: "Then I get two Nick legs into the other dungaree leg. I say he looks all right. He says he can't walk. I fix the dungarees. Nick doesn't know the zipper's in the back." Thus speaks an older brother, himself not very large, who diligently wakes Nick and proceeds to make a mess of the kitchen and living room, quietly playing on Sunday morning so that their parents can sleep. No plot, just fun.

Weil, Lisl. King Midas' Secret; And Other Follies. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 47p. illus.

NR  
4-5  
The stories of King Midas, Narcissus, Icarus and Daedalus, and the riddle of the Sphinx are retold in a breezy, slangy style ("When travelers could not solve the riddle—SHHGLUCK! The Sphinx simply ate them up.") and illustrated with lively humorous drawings. The free interpretations of the legends ("What if Daedalus had not awakened in time? What would have happened then?" is accompanied by a picture of the falling Icarus being caught in what looks like an umbrella, and saved thereby from drowning.) seem pointless. Brief homilies end each tale: "Wise people say: Don't you make the same mistake! Narcissus fell into a pond, you may fall into a lake."

Weygant, Noemi, Sister. It's Spring! text and photographs by Sister Noemi Weygant, O.S.B. Westminster, 1969. 63p. \$3.95.

M  
3-5  
A series of poems about nature in the spring, each selection facing a photograph in color. The pictures of budding leaves, fragile flowers, and the wild creatures of the woods are lovely. The poetry tends, although it has an infrequent phrase that shows a lyric sense, to be contrived, trite, and often coy. As an example, "Will They Fit Your Baby?": "Flower mittens/ pearly- pink/ knitted for the twins/ to wear/ till after the last chill/ of spring. But then/ the twins/ will soon outgrow them. Do you know/ a little baby/ who could wear/ these flower mittens?"

Wohlrabe, Raymond A. Exploring Giant Molecules; with drawings by Phil Jaget. World, 1969. 95p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.61 net.

R  
7- An unusually lucid explication of a complex and multi-faceted subject, the organization of material and brisk writing style making the subject as comprehensible as it is fascinating. The author discusses monomers and polymers, explaining the structural difference between ordinary and giant molecules, and the use of structural formulas, chemical equations, and molecular models. All of these are used throughout the book in illustrating, in good diagrams, the giant molecules, natural or man-made, that have changed or served so many procedures for mankind. There is some historical background given, and much of the book is devoted to such aspects of polymer chemistry as plastics of various types, silicon-based polymers, and the ferment of biological research in the investigation of nucleic acids and proteins. Several experiments are suggested to the reader, with some dangerous substances or procedures carefully noted. An index is appended.

Whitehead, Eric. Ice Hockey; illus. by Paul Frame. Watts, 1969. 53p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad  
5-9 A good introduction to the game, with some information about its comparatively short history and with quite explicit explanations of the way the game is played, and of the roles of each player (forwards, defensemen, and goalie). Also discussed are penalties, rules of play, and equipment. The author does not attempt to give the fine points of the game, nor does he list every infraction for which there is a penalty, and the index and glossary are also scanty: the glossary, for example, does not include the term "icing," nor does the index. A very useful double-page spread shows the officials' signals for the different kinds of penalties.

Wolff, Carolyn. Three People; illus. by Stanley Mack. Harlin Quist, 1968. 44p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.84 net.

M  
3-4 Three short stories are embellished by drawings that have a grotesque and humorous quality. There are minatory overtones in "Serena," the tale of a child whose passion for television leads her to climb into the set, where she loses her third dimension. In "The Duchess" a small girl dwelling obdurately and uncomfortably in a tree is wooed to family life by the charm and the cuisine of pretty young Mrs. Sternberg. The third story, "Norman," has a delightful switch ending. Norman loses his first tooth, stays awake to peer at the tooth fairy of whom he has heard, and discovers his mother. Comes the dawn! Now Norman understands why his mother is tired in the morning—she's been flying around all night collecting teeth! There is humor in the writing, but the literary sophistication of the style is suitable for children older than those to whom the subjects will appeal.

Yolen, Jane. Greyling; a picture story from the Islands of Shetland; illus. by William Stobbs. World, 1968. 29p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.86 net.

R  
3-5 Based on the Scottish legend of the selchie, the seal that has turned into a boy, this tender story is illustrated with pictures that have a stark, poster-like quality that suits the rugged setting and a gracefulness in

color and detail that suits the fantasy of the theme. A lonely, childless couple rescue a seal pup, and it becomes a selchie. None of the village folk know and not even the boy understands why the sea calls to him. When the father is near drowning, the townspeople are afraid to venture into the tossing waves, but the son dives in to save his father. The selchie becomes a seal once more, and each year a great grey seal comes to the shore and visits the man and his wife.

## *Reading for Teachers*

- Anderson, Verma and others. Readings in the Language Arts. 2d ed. Macmillan, 1968. 450p. \$4.25.
- Baratz, Joan. "Linguistic and Cultural Factors in Teaching Reading to Ghetto Children." Elementary English, February, 1969.
- Blomberg, Mary. "Parable of the Paperbacks." English Journal, May, 1968.
- Bryant, Beverly. "Miami Prevents Reading Failure with the Disadvantaged." The Instructor, March, 1969.
- Hiatt, Doris and Klein, Celeste. "Don't Judge a Paperback by Its Cover." Top of the News, January, 1969.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. "Negro Poets: Through the Music of Their Words." Elementary English, February, 1968.
- Morrison, Ida. Teaching Reading in the Elementary School. Ronald, 1968. 616p. \$7.50.
- Muccigrosso, Robert. "Whitman and the Adolescent Mind." English Journal, October, 1968.
- Pond, Patricia. "Teaching Children's Literature—with Paperbacks." Top of the News, January, 1969.
- Ross, Frank. "Bibliotherapy." Media & Methods, January, 1969.
- Rutherford, William. "Learning to Read: A Critique." Elementary School Journal, November, 1968.
- Spencer, Robert. "Mastering the Art of Storytelling." Grade Teacher, January, 1968.

