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**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
GRADUATE  
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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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22

February, 1969

Number 6

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Adoff, Arnold, ed. Black on Black; Commentaries by Negro Americans. Macmillan, 1968. 236p. \$5.95.

R  
8- A collection of material from books, speeches, and correspondence, spanning the thinking of black Americans from Frederick Douglass to Dick Gregory. The writers are civil rights leaders, lawyers, novelists, journalists, playwrights, poets, and a few articulate voices from the area of mass entertainment (Bill Russell and Gregory). Their viewpoints or their topics may differ, but the contributors unite in speaking with candor and percipience of the dilemmas of a fragmented society. A section of biographical notes is appended.

Andry, Andrew C. How Babies Are Made; by Andrew C. Andry and Steven Schepp; illus. by Blake Hampton. Time, 1968. 84p. \$3.95.

Ad  
K-4 Published in cooperation with the Sex Education Council of the United States, this is a book that moves from reproduction in plants to animal reproduction, concluding with human beings. The illustrations are photographs of bright paper sculpture, quite explicit in showing genitalia and, in cutaway diagrams, fertilization and embryonic development. The use of a repeated pattern showing organs, fertilization, conception, and birth makes the pictures of mother and father seem only one of a series of progenitors. The book is intended for use by adults and children together, rather than for the independent reader, as is the Showers book reviewed below.

Boeckman, Charles. Cool, Hot and Blue; A History of Jazz for Young People. Luce, 1968. 157p. illus. \$4.95.

R  
7- An enthusiastic history of jazz by a former performer, written in a casual and conversational style; the table of contents indicates a few major figures, but much of the material about performers is buried and could be accessible were there an index. Nevertheless, the story of New Orleans and the Chicago school, the rise of swing and the emergence of bop and rock 'n' roll should be fascinating to anyone interested in popular music. One of the most informative aspects of the book is Boeckman's explanation of individual styles. A bibliography is appended.

Burchard, Peter. Bimby. Coward-McCann, 1968. 91p. illus. \$3.50.

R  
4-6 Set on the Georgia coast just prior to the Civil War, the story of a crucial day in the life of a young slave. Bimby had never faced the in-

exorable cruelty of a slave's life until the day his friend, old Jesse, was killed; when the boy talked to his mother, he discovered that his father had died of the punishment he had received when he tried to escape. Knowing that she would never see Bimby again, his mother gave the boy information to help him run away, both of them realizing that life without freedom was empty. The author writes with gentle calm, letting the poignancy inherent in the story reach the reader through events rather than statement, the characters in their brief appearance making the same impact that one finds in the compressed action of the theater.

Carle, Eric. 1, 2, 3 to the Zoo. World, 1968. 24p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.86 net.

Ad  
4-6  
yrs. Oversize pages lend themselves nicely to the big, bold pictures of zoo animals in this counting book; at the bottom of each double-page spread, a silhouette-picture cumulates, each in their own carload, the animals who are en route to the zoo: one elephant, two hippos, three giraffes, etc. At the end a fold-out page shows a large map of the zoo, with all the animals (from one elephant to ten birds) being visited by people. A tiny mouse appears in each picture, but is handled with no humor; the pages are colorful and handsomely composed; there is no text. Attractive, and adequate if used with adult help, but not an unusual counting book.

Chase, Mary. The Wicked Pigeon Ladies in the Garden; illus. by Don Bolognese. Knopf, 1968. 115p. \$3.95.

R  
4-6 A highly original fanciful story, the macabre characters of the pigeon ladies nicely balanced by the light touch of a leprechaun and by the realistic character of Maureen, the protagonist. Maureen is an enfante terrible, and she disobeys her father by going into an old, empty house; there she finds (and unfortunately makes enemies of) the seven unpleasant sisters who can turn themselves into pigeons and can either trap Maureen in their past or move into her present. These are the most delightfully malignant ghosts to appear in many a book, and their chastening effect on the termagant Maureen is deftly convincing.

Chekhov, Anton. Shadows and Light; selected and tr. by Miriam Morton; illus. by Ann Grifalconi. Doubleday, 1968. 122p. \$2.95.

R  
6- Nine stories, skilfully translated, varied in subject and mood, unvaried in excellence. "Van'ka" is a most touching story about a nine-year-old boy, newly apprenticed and away from home, writing a letter on Christmas Eve; "The Evildoer" is the hilarious dialogue between a magistrate and a peasant so stupid and stubborn that he carries the day by his very obtuseness. Several tales are about animals, several about children.

Clarke, Mary Stetson. Pioneer Iron Works; illus. by Joshua Tolford. Chilton, 1968. 80p. Trade ed. \$4.25; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

Ad  
6-9 A most useful book, although the audience for information so highly specialized may be limited. Written in a straightforward, quite solid style, the text describes in detail the establishment of the Iron Works at Saugus (then Lynn) around which the village of Hammersmith grew, and the various processes of manufacture. A brief final section describes the restoration of the Works, founded in colonial America and used for a

quarter of a century. The black and white drawings and diagrams are attractive and informative; a one-page list of further readings is appended.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth. Lighthouse Island; illus. by Symeon Shimin. Norton, 1968. 63p. Trade ed. \$4.25; Library ed. \$3.93 net.

Ad 4-5 "There wasn't another boy on the Rock. There wasn't a dog. There wasn't so much as a cat." What, Alex wondered, was he going to do all summer on his visit to the barren island of rock where his uncle and aunt tended the lighthouse? By the end of the summer, he had become fascinated by the puffin colony, had made a pet of a lively white kid, and had preempted an abandoned lobster boat as a play place; he hated leaving the small world he had come to know and love. The story has a quiet appeal that is enhanced by the soft but vigorous illustrations; the static quality of the book is compensated for by the vivid creation of the setting and the smooth flow of the writing.

Day, Beth. The Secret World of the Baby; by Beth Day and Margaret Liley; illus. with photographs by Lennart Nilsson, Suzanne Szasz, and others. Random House, 1968. 113p. \$3.95.

R 7- In this successful collaboration by a pediatrician and a layman, a simply written, authoritative text is given added usefulness by photographs of the infant in utero and added charm by photographs of newborn and very young babies. The authors describe the baby's behavior before birth, the processes of labor and birth, and the ways in which an infant learns and expresses himself. The final chapters—on the infant's ways of communicating and on the evidences of mental and physical growth—are particularly interesting. An index is appended.

Douty, Esther M. Forten the Sailmaker; Pioneer Champion of Negro Rights; illus. with photographs. Rand McNally, 1968. 208p. \$4.95.

R 7-10 Ten years before the American Revolution, a son was born to Thomas and Sarah Forten, free-born Negroes of Philadelphia; James served as powder boy on a privateer, was imprisoned by the British, and came home to become one of the pioneers for the rights of Negroes, a wealthy man and a respected citizen, and an individual who gave generously of his wealth and his time to help others, buying the freedom of many slaves. Although the book is written with a sustained note of admiration, it has no aura of being adulatory or uncritical; carefully researched and written, it is useful as a contribution to the history of our country and it is particularly interesting as a biography of a Negro whose fame rests on no dramatic accomplishment but on the record of a continuing service to the cause of justice. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Ets, Marie Hall. Talking without Words; written and illus. by Marie Hall Ets. Viking, 1968. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

Ad 3-5 yrs. Children should enjoy the familiarity of the gestures in the illustrations, those means of interpersonal communications which we take so much for granted we are almost unconscious of them. The simple text points out that "When Big Brother and I want a fight we don't say so with words. We can say so better with our fists—like this." And there are two boys, squaring off. Some of the captions stand alone, some (like the ex-

ample just quoted) are completed by the picture, and some may need adult interpretation. A book that should amuse the very young child and may prompt discussion of other means of silent communication.

Fehrenbach, T. R. The United Nations in War and Peace; illus. with photographs, cartoons, and maps. Random House, 1968. 179p. \$1.95.

R  
7-10 An excellent history of the United Nations by the author of an adult book on the subject, This Kind of Peace (McKay, 1966). Although the book gives a brief and adequate description of the other aspects of the organization, and of the powers in other decision-making areas, it focuses on the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of world peace since 1945. The writing style and organization of material are very good, and the author is objective and thorough in discussing the problems of conflicting powers, financial limitations, those limitations on the United Nations' powers that arise out of the compromises necessary to make at inception, and the realities of the international situation.

Forman, James. The Traitors. Farrar, 1968. 238p. \$3.95.

R  
8- A powerful story of World War II, set in a small Bavarian town in the years 1938 to 1945. With dismay, Pastor Eichhorn sees his congregation adopting the Nazi cause; with anguish, he knows that his only child, Kurt, is a confirmed Nazi. He turns to his foundling son, Paul, for understanding, but Paul wavers, insecure and frightened. Unfit for military service, Paul sees the war machine crumbling; he hides a Jewish friend; he joins a small group of traitors who conspire to save the town when the Nazis plan to destroy it as a deterrent to the advancing enemy. Distinctive characterization and a dramatic situation add impact to Forman's sweeping style and fine narrative sense.

Fox, Paula. The Stone-Faced Boy; illus. by Donald A. Mackay. Bradbury, 1968. 106p. \$3.95.

R  
4-6 One of the ways to erect a defense against the world is to keep an impassive face, and this Gus had mastered to the extent that his brothers and sisters called him "stone face." Only Great-aunt Hattie, when she came to visit, seemed to see that there was something behind the mask; the geode she gave Gus became the symbol of his inner self, a shining thing cased in rock. The symbolism is the more meaningful because, in this short book, the author gives a vivid and poignant picture of a small and rather frightened boy surrounded by family members who are boisterous, secure, or complacent. The plot is believable but of minor interest, serving principally to round out the characterizations and relationships.

Garfield, Leon. Mister Corbett's Ghost; illus. by Alan E. Cober. Pantheon, 1968. 87p. \$3.50.

R  
5-7 Through the bitterly cold and wind-tossed night of long-ago London a miserable boy is sent on an errand. The boy, Benjamin Partridge, resenting the fact that it is New Year's Eve and his family awaits him, wishes his master dead. And so Mr. Corbett dies, Benjamin having made a pact with a strange old man who promises Corbett's death for a lifetime share in Ben's earnings. Mr. Corbett's ghost, however, persists in accompanying Benjamin, and the boy is terrified and guilty. In a Dickensian twist,



it comes back to life and the grateful Benjamin never forgets "that obliging, anxious and oddly touching ghost . . ." Garfield's writing is always evocative, his dialogue period-perfect, and his characters vivid; his previous books have been vastly enjoyable but crowded with minor characters and incidents, while this is a starkly designed and possibly more memorable story.

Garson, Eugenia, comp. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Songbook; favorite songs from the "Little House" books comp. and ed. by Eugenia Garson, arr. for piano and guitar by Herbert Haufrecht; illus. by Garth Williams. Harper, 1968. 160p. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$5.11 net.

R  
4- The softly-executed illustrations add to the appeal of a book that will give especial delight to Wilder fans, old and young. Mrs. Garson has collected the words and music for sixty-two of the songs mentioned in the "Little House" books; each is prefaced by a note on the selection (usually on the composer and lyricist) and a reminder about the mention of that song in Mrs. Wilder's writing. The arrangements are simple and sturdy, the songs grouped under such titles as "Home and Memories," "Hymns and Sacred Songs," and "Patriotic Songs."

Gidal, Sonia. My Village in Brazil; by Sonia and Tim Gidal. Pantheon, 1968. 77p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad  
5-6 In the usual format of this series, a boy describes his family and the small events of two days in his life, incorporating into his story background information about the country, the people, and the way of life. The photographs are excellent, but there are in this volume a good many pictures of minimal interest (a monkey, an old guitar player, the family dog, etc.) and some of the text seems adapted to these photographs, so that this has less cohesion than do most of the preceding volumes. The book gives, however, a good picture of the slums, the traffic, and the busy markets of Sao Paulo, the nearest city; in fact, less than usual information is given about the village.

Goldston, Robert. The Great Depression; The United States in the Thirties; illus. with photographs and drawings by Donald Carrick. Bobbs-Merrill, 1968. 218p. \$4.95.

R  
8- A long, hard look at the grim years that followed the crash of 1929, prefaced by a description of the United States in the optimistic decade that preceded the disaster. The author examines in authoritative detail the political and financial intricacies of the depression: the role of the farmers and of organized labor, the futile efforts of the Hoover administration and the turbulent activity of the New Deal, the actions of the Congress and of big business. Carefully written, objective and analytical, this is an absorbing and important book from both financial and historical viewpoints. An extensive bibliography and index are appended.

Goodall, John S. The Adventures of Paddy Pork. Harcourt, 1968. 59p. illus. \$2.75.

Ad  
3-5  
yrs. No words; none needed. Between each page there is a half-page insert, so that we first see Paddy reluctantly trailing his mother in a store, and then a new double-page spread is achieved with the turn of the half-page: mother is still in the store, but Paddy has slipped outdoors.

In this pattern, a fairly successful physical device, Paddy's adventures can be followed as he escapes the clutches of a fox, tries to attain enough prowess to join a circus family, and finds his way home to mother. The illustrations, black and white, have vivacity and humor; the animal characters have appeal. Slight, but fun.

Gough, Irene. The Golden Lamb; illus. by Joy Murray. Lerner, 1968. 37p. \$3.95.

Ad  
3-4 First published in Australia in 1966, the story of a small girl who saw a mutant lamb and thought the straight golden fleece beautiful. Odd lambs are rejected by the flock, and Julie's uncle thought the golden lamb would interfere with the purity of strain; rather than have the lamb killed, Julie hid him. When a government expert came and saw the lamb, he told Julie that a flock of golden Merinos was being established, and that her lamb could join others of his kind. The story has only moderate pace, but it is economically structured and adequately (if repetitively) illustrated; it is one of the few Australian stories for younger children, an asset although not a great one since the background is not stressed.

Greenberg, Polly. Oh Lord, I Wish I Was a Buzzard; illus. by Alik. Macmillan, 1968. 28p. \$4.50.

Ad  
K-2 Handsome but repetitive pictures in brown, grey, orange, black, and white illustrate this plaint of a small Negro child picking cotton; the slight story is based on a childhood recollection reported to the author. It is so hot that the child wishes she were anywhere but at work: she sees a dog and says, "Oh Lord, I wish I was a dog." She sees a buzzard and says, "Oh Lord, I wish I was a buzzard." In between each fancy is a refrain, "We picked and we picked and we picked and we picked." On Saturday Daddy passed out candy and they walked home from the cotton field, late in the evening, the story ends, "with the moon shining pretty on the land." The illustration have warmth, the text a rhythmic appeal if little action; the ending seems weak.

Grieder, Walter. The Great Feast. Parents' Magazine, 1968. 30p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.21 net.

Ad  
K-2 Awarded the 1966 prize for the best children's book published in Germany during that year, this oversize book is filled with big, bright, busy pictures that take most of the space in a double page spread. The text is printed at the top of a very wide margin on the verso page; it is a story without a plot, simply describing the events of a wedding day of the past, with ebullient twin girls as the protagonists. The doll-faced, puppet-like figures have verve and humor, and the pictures are filled with gay details, but the pages are almost distractingly busy.

Hawkinson, John. Pastels Are Great. Whitman, 1968. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

R  
3-5 "A great help in learning art is a large wastebasket," says the author, whose advice to the reader is to observe and experiment; the tone is encouraging, the examples enticing, the instructions explicit. Hawkinson explains the basic skills of the technique, such as the way to hold a piece of pastel, the ways to achieve different kinds of strokes, and the ways in which to use them for particular effects.

Hediger, Heini. Born in the Zoo; by Heini Hediger and Jurg Klages; tr. by Gwynne Vevers. Viking, 1968. 141p. illus. \$8.95.

Ad 5- A book with fine photographs of zoo animals and their offspring, full page, chiefly in black and white, and accompanied by comments of varying length, the remarks usually including facts about natural habitat and about zoo experiences, often with some descriptive phrases about the species shown or about others. The photographs are prefaced by a lengthy defense of the practice of keeping animals in captivity, pointing to the valuable opportunity this provides naturalists and biologists for observation, the role of the zoo in conserving—or even re-stocking—rare animals, and the observable health and apparent content of zoo animals. Enjoyable for browsing, the book (translated from the German) is limited in usefulness by the random arrangement, there being neither index nor table of contents, and by the fact that the nature of the information in the captions varies.

Hunter, Mollie. The Ferlie; illus. by Joseph Cellini. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 128p. \$3.50.

Ad 5-6 In the Scottish border country, it is well known that one should never incur the anger of a ferlie, or fairy, and that is what Big Archie did. He stole a ferlie's cattle, and who should be sent after them when the ferlie won the beasts back by his magic, but the herd boy, Hob Hazeldene. In the ensuing battle of wits between the ferlie and the boy there are suspense and adventure, and some deft and flavorful writing. The element that made Thomas and the Warlock delightful is missing here—humor. Perhaps it is the lack of that lightening agent, but the story moves, at times, quite slowly.

Huntington, Harriet E. Let's Go to the Woods; written and illus. with photographs by Harriet E. Huntington. Doubleday, 1968. 94p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$4.25 net.

M 3-5 A book that gives facts about some forms of flora and fauna; each page on which there is text (a modest amount) is faced by a full-page photograph. The brevity and simplicity of the writing give the book some value for young readers interested in nature study, but it is limited severely by the random choice of subjects and by the lack of an index, since the table of contents uses terms that may be unfamiliar. The text describes, for example, newts but not frogs, one kind of beetle only, slugs but not snails.

Ionesco, Eugene. Story Number 1; For Children under Three Years of Age; tr. by Calvin K. Towle; with pictures by Etienne Delessert. Harlin Quist, 1968. 25p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.20 net.

NR 4-6 Too sophisticated for the three-year-old, this story, translated from the French, describes a small child whose parents, sleeping late, want to be left in peace. Josette's father, buying time, tells the child a nonsense story, then sends her off with the maid. Small Josette takes the story so literally that she startles the people in the grocer's shop when she repeats some of it. The illustrations are very effective, also sophisticated, boldly imaginative and brightened by humorous details.

Isaac, Joanne. Amanda; A Little Girl Who Did Not Want to Have Her Hair Combed;

written and illus. by Joanne Isaac. Lerner, 1968. 36p. \$2.95.

M  
K-1 A nicely designed book with the illustrations in small panels, the grey background of which is monotonous. The story is slight, with an ending that is unconvincing. Amanda hates to have her hair brushed, and fusses; her mother says, "Amanda, I am not going to comb your hair ever again!" Amanda becomes even more unhappy, envisions wigs and veils, decides to comb her hair, and comes politely to mother to have her hair braided. Pictures of Amanda's long, ribboned plaits, with the closing comment, "Happy Amanda."

Keats, Ezra Jack. A Letter to Amy. Harper, 1968. 28p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

R  
K-2 The many admirers of Snowy Day and Whistle for Willie will enjoy this evidence of Peter's growth. All of the male guests have been invited informally, but Peter wants Amy to get her birthday party invitation in the mail. The letter blows away in the wind, and Peter bumps into Amy trying to rescue it in such a fashion that she won't see it is for her. Comes the birthday party, and Peter has almost given up expecting Amy, when she walks in. The fresh, poster-bright colors and simplicity of composition are delightful, the story line modest and natural.

Keith, Eros. A Small Lot; story and pictures by Eros Keith. Bradbury, 1968. 26p. \$4.25.

R  
K-2 Bob lived in a house on one side of the small lot, Jay on the other; the space between was their playground, big enough for magic voyages or medieval castles. When they heard an adult talking about using the space for a business venture, the boys put in a bench and flowers; the man thought it must be a park, and he walked off, leaving the small but precious lot to the children. The story has some weaknesses, but the setting is appealing and the illustrations lovely: reality in black and white, and imaginative scenes of play in color—until the page shows the park. Almost all of the action takes place in the little lot's one tree, with snarled kite strings or hand puppets emerging from the foliage.

King, Marian. Mary Baker Eddy; Child of Promise; illus. by David Hodges. Prentice-Hall, 1968. 184p. \$4.50.

M  
6-9 A biography of the founder of the Christian Science Church, adequately written but adulatory. The author gives events in Mrs. Eddy's life in great detail (her illnesses, her marriages, her separation from her only child) but telescopes the material about the subject's life in those years in which it is probably of interest to most readers. While the biographee evinced an interest in the mental healing of Phineas Quimby, her own philosophy did not crystallize until she herself was healed in her mid-forties. Only the last chapter of the book discusses the subsequent years of Mrs. Eddy's life, describing her divorce, her third marriage, her major writing, and the establishment of Christian Science as an organized religion. A list of her works and an index are appended.

Koehler, George E. My Family—How Shall I Live with It? by George E. and Nikki Koehler. Rand McNally, 1968. 126p. \$3.95.

Written by a father-daughter team, a book of advice that is intended

M  
6-9 to help the reader see problems clearly and to change attitudes or patterns of behavior that are destructive or defeatist. The authors use rather heavily the device of a list of suggested role-playings or imaginary problem situations to discuss communication, conflict, acceptance, and love within the family. The treatment is rather shallow and the writing wordy and sometimes didactic, with an occasional slide from the religious to the sanctimonious.

Larrick, Nancy, comp. On City Streets; An Anthology of Poetry; selected by Nancy Larrick; illus. with photographs by David Sagarin. Evans, 1968. 158p. \$4.95.

R  
5-9 An excellent anthology, varied in subject and style, and illustrated with good photographs that only occasionally seem irrelevant to the poems they accompany. There is little humorous material, most of the poems having a mood of quiet sadness or deeper sorrow, if they are not simply descriptive of urban sights. Some of the poets are famous, others less well known; there are few children's poets, but there are many poems suitable for reading aloud to younger children. An author-title index and an index of first lines are appended.

Lauber, Patricia. Bats; Wings in the Night; illus. with photographs. Random House, 1968. 77p. \$1.95.

R  
4-6 A crisply written introduction to the subject, with good photographs, some diagrams, and an index. The author discusses the classification of bats, and those habits or abilities that distinguish them from other mammals or, within the order of Chiroptera, from each other. The extraordinary hunting and feeding patterns of bats, their mysterious migrations, and their almost death-like hibernation are fascinating aspects of the topic that have been and are being studied.

Laurence. Robert and the Statue of Liberty; written and illus. by Laurence. Bobbs-Merrill, 1968. 29p. \$4.95.

NR  
2-3 In picture book format, a bilingual fantasy; the busy, vigorous illustrations in quiet colors are interesting in composition and detail, but the fanciful story line is weak and unconvincing. The book can, however, be useful because of the fact that the English and Spanish texts, printed side by side on each page, can be compared. Robert, a small New Yorker, rows out to the Statue of Liberty and invites her on a tour of the city; he also buys her a coat in the largest size that can be found. From the top of the Empire State Building, Miss Liberty sees a boat coming into the harbor, so Robert rows her back to her home so that she may welcome the boat.

Lopshire, Robert. I Am Better Than You. Harper, 1968. 64p. illus. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

R  
1-3 Big, simple, cartoon-style illustrations show the two almost identical lizards who change roles when the boastful one, Sam, gets put down. No matter what Pete imitates, Sam thinks of some new trick that can prove he is a far, far better lizard than Pete. Overreaching himself at last, he loses, and Pete assumes ascendancy, but the competition, as well as the message, are in agreeably low key.

Lyon, Elinor. Cathie Runs Wild; illus. by Greta Elgaard. Follett, 1968. 155p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.97 net.

Ad 5-6 After living for ten years in an orphanage, Cathie was blissfully happy living with her cousins on the west coast of Scotland, and she was most reluctant to go with her mother's sister to live in Edinburgh. Aunt Jean insisted, however, that Cathie could get a better schooling in the city. Cathie hated the school, she missed the freedom of country life, and she didn't get along with Aunt Jean; she ran away and hid in the hills near her home. To her relief and delight, it was decided by Alistair that she need not go back to the city. The story moves unevenly, sometimes very slowly, but the characters are believable, the dialogue deft, and the atmosphere of the Scottish hill country quite vivid.

McCord, Jean. Deep Where the Octopi Lie. Atheneum, 1968. 177p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.81 net.

Ad 7-10 A collection of ten short stories about the problems of young people, most of them to do with personal relationships. In "The Cave" a youngster vows revenge on the members of a gang who vandalize the work of an elderly artist; in "All the Wonderful Dreams," Katie rejects the old man who had told her untrue stories about his adventures; in one story, there is a patterned adjustment to a stepmother, and in another a less patterned (but not very convincing) reaction to an imminent divorce. The writing style is good, the subjects varied enough and of wide interest, but the exposition is weak in many of the stories.

McGinley, Phyllis Louise, comp. Wonders and Surprises; A Collection of Poems; chosen by Phyllis McGinley. Lippincott, 1968. 188p. \$3.95.

R 6- A very pleasant anthology, this, with a preponderance of good, light writing and some pointed or poignant selections. There is traditional material but not the usual accumulation of anthologized pieces, for the most part; the greater number of contributors are modern. A combined author-title index is appended.

Manchel, Frank. Movies and How They Are Made; illus. by Kelly Mark. Prentice-Hall, 1968. 71p. \$3.75.

Ad 4-7 A book that gives a considerable amount of information about the making of movies by following the progress of an imaginary picture from story idea to completion; it covers the evolution and format of the scenario and the shooting script, the roles of actors, producers, technicians, et cetera, the actual filming, and some facts about film and cameras. For those who can read the somewhat more difficult People Who Make Movies by Theodore Taylor (Doubleday, 1967) there is more information and interesting photographs. The drawings here are mediocre and the writing rather plodding; however, the print is large, the facts interesting, and the coverage adequate. A glossary of terms and an index are appended.

Molarsky, Osmond. Song of the Empty Bottles; illus. by Tom Feelings. Walck, 1968. 51p. \$3.75.

M 3-4 A good setting and a sympathetic protagonist give appeal to a story with a thin plot and little pace; the illustrations are pleasant but repetitive. Thaddeus loved particularly to go to the Neighborhood House on

Thursdays, because that was the day that Mr. Andrews came and played his guitar. He told Thaddeus that he knew of a cheap guitar, so the boy collected empty bottles to earn money; then Mr. Andrews paid him ten dollars for a song, so Thaddeus had his dearest wish—his own guitar.

Murray, Joan. The News; photography by George Krause. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 153p. \$1.95.

Ad  
6-9  
Joan Murray is a news correspondent for WCBS-TV in New York; she is a pretty, competent, and successful young Negro. Television has charms indeed as a possible career, and girls will enjoy reading about the details of Miss Murray's work. The book would be more valuable and probably more interesting were there more material about production of news and less about the author's clothes, cosmetic rituals, etc. There are many photographs, all of them including the author. The style is casual, the tone personal; the book concludes with some advice (to those interested in working in the field) on education, skills, and job-hunting.

Neurath, Marie. They Lived Like This in Chaucer's England; artist: John Ellis. Watts, 1968. 32p. \$2.65.

Ad  
3-5  
First published in England, this, like other books in the series ("They Lived Like This In . . .") is a compilation of random facts, loosely related, about many facets of life in a particular historical period and in a specified location. Each paragraph or two has an illustration or an illustrative detail in the period style, and the effect of the whole is an informative but rambling assortment of interesting bits of information that give an evocation of the period.

Pedersen, Elsa. House Upon a Rock; drawings by Charles Shaw. Atheneum, 1968. 218p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.13 net.

R  
6-9  
A well-paced and capably-written story about a small community's reaction to the disastrous effects of an earthquake, based on the Alaskan catastrophe of 1964. Derrick Slocum has been wanting to get away from his family and get a summer job as a fisherman; when the quake strikes and ruins the family hotel, Derrick's help is needed at home. His father, an idler of note, rises to the occasion and takes a part in community action as well as in family work; Derrick sees, for the first time, the forces that shape community life. In his own growing maturity, he also sees the ways in which people respond to stress. Dramatic, realistic and often perceptive.

Perez, Norah A. Strange Summer in Stratford; illus. by Robert Ihrig. Little, 1968. 176p. \$4.75.

Ad  
5-6  
Because her father was writing a book about modern Shakespearian theatre, Jenny and her parents were to spend the summer in Stratford. Jenny quickly got over her feeling that the summer would be wasted, finding the place and the people fascinating, and she was even more intrigued when she learned that somebody was committing acts of sabotage in the theatre. In part due to the investigations of Jenny and her friends, the culprit is discovered, and in the course of the summer Jenny makes new friends and briefly appears on stage. The plot has a note of concoc-

coction and the book a plethora of characters, but the setting is intriguing and the characters varied and colorful; the writing has pace and humor.

Reed, Gwendolyn, comp. Out of the Ark; An Anthology of Animal Verse; drawings by Gabriele Margules. Atheneum, 1968. 228p. Trade ed. \$5.75; Library ed. \$5.57 net.

Ad 5-9 A useful anthology for independent reading or for reading aloud, some of the animal poems being grouped by subject although there is no division indicated. The spare, economical illustrations have the suggestive quality of haiku. The authors represent centuries of poetic heritage; the selections include old favorites and some lesser-known poems. The author-title index includes dates of birth and death; a section of notes on some of the titles precedes the index, but it is necessary to use the latter to locate those titles. Definitions of words deemed unfamiliar are provided at the foot of some pages.

Reynolds, Pamela. A Different Kind of Sister. Lothrop, 1968. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.35 net.

Ad 6-9 Sally's sister is coming home after four years at an institution for the retarded, and Sally is both ashamed of having anyone know about Debbie, and ashamed of being ashamed. Sally's consuming interest is riding and she is especially anxious that her snobbish new friend, Amy, not meet Debbie. The encounter is unavoidable, and Amy reacts just as Sally had feared; but there are other girls who accept Debbie, and Sally herself begins to appreciate the fact that her older sister is a person, with needs as strong as other people's, and with a contribution to make to society. The message and the handling of the main theme are excellent; despite the rather pedestrian style and the too-pat ending, the book has value.

Schick, Eleanor. Jeanie Goes Riding. Macmillan, 1968. 26p. illus. \$4.50.

Ad K-2 Clean lines and soft colors make the illustrations pleasant although sedate; the story is also in low key, its two attractions the subject and the development of a translatable situation: the child with an unadmitted fear. Jeanie talked horses, collected horse pictures, knew all about breeds; when she had her first riding lesson, Jeanie was nervous, while her friends considered her a blasé expert. When Jeanie goes off the trail and the wise old horse gets her back, she finally feels comfortable. The author's use of "doll" for a toy horse may be confusing.

Schoenherr, John. The Barn; written and illus. by John Schoenherr. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1968. 40p. \$3.50.

R 2-4 Strong pictures in black and white combine meticulously realistic drawings of animals with delicate background details. The drama of the illustrations is tempered by the quiet writing, which describes the predatory excursions of a hungry skunk, himself preyed upon by an owl who must feed three owlets. Low-keyed, the text is less a story than a revealing vignette of the constant struggle for survival in the animal world.

Schuman, Benjamin N. The Human Eye; drawings by Michael K. Meyers. Atheneum, 1968. 78p. Trade ed. \$4.75; Library ed. \$4.37 net.



Ad 4-6 A book that describes the formation of the human eye, the structure and function of the parts, and the way in which we see—or those ways in which vision is commonly impaired. The facts are accurate, the text simply written, and the illustrations detailed, but the book is on the whole not as satisfactory as is the Adlers' Your Eyes (John Day, 1963) which has a more cohesive writing style and clearer diagrams.

Schwartz, Alvin. Old Cities and New Towns; The Changing Face of the Nation; illus. with photographs. Dutton, 1968. 126p. \$5.95.

R 5-7 Like Liston's Downtown, reviewed in last issue, this takes a critical look at urban problems, examining them with less intensity but taking a wider view. The author considers the development of such planned cities as Colombia and Reston, and looks at some of the innovations that may be used in urban development or redevelopment in the future: the linear city, the megastructure, climate control, underground traffic, etc. Like Liston, Schwartz devotes a considerable amount of attention to the reclamation and development of recent years; here the example is Philadelphia, and the human problems as well as the physical needs of cities are considered. Crisply factual, profusely illustrated with maps and diagrams, and balanced in treatment. A relative index is appended.

Selsam, Millicent Ellis. Maple Tree; photographs by Jerome Wexler. Morrow, 1968. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.73 net.

R 2-4 Clear photographs, many enlarged close-ups in black and white and some in color (and beautiful), add to the appeal of a lucid and informative botany book for the primary grades reader. The text describing the maple's life cycle is crisp and direct; it moves from a look at the familiar winged seeds to the first tentative root that probes the earth, from seed-leaf to young plants that grow into towering trees. There is a brief reference to growth rings, and some of the ways in which men make use of maple tree products are referred to, but Mrs. Selsam, as usual, hews closely to her subject.

Shay, Arthur. How a Family Grows. Reilly & Lee, 1968. 43p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad 4-6 A quite detailed description of human reproduction (including gestation and birth) is integrated into the story of the birth of a sixth child into an actual family. The book has some very positive aspects: it gives, quite eloquently, the impression of family love and of the love that permeates the sexual relationship of the parents; it touches in dignified fashion on the illegitimate baby and on such evidences of sexual maturity as menstruation and nocturnal emission; and it uses a combination of photographs of the Rosen family, diagrams, and photographs of exhibits to give information in varied forms. It also has, unfortunately, some weaknesses, the most notable of which is that some of the material seems written for a much younger audience than does the other information; the double columns of type on some pages are visually distracting; and some of the material seems poorly organized. There is no index; a one-page glossary is appended.

Showers, Paul. Before You Were a Baby; by Paul Showers and Kay Sperry Showers; illus. by Ingrid Fetz. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 33p. \$3.50.

Written very simply, with the format (short sentences, plenty of

R 2-3 white space, a minimum of labeled diagrams, and large print) indicating independent use, although adults can use the book as a springboard for discussion of human reproduction. The illustrations show the stages of foetal growth, and (very tenderly) the infant child; the text is accurate, candid, and direct.

Smith, John, comp. My Kind of Verse; comp. by John Smith; decorations by Uri Shulevitz. Macmillan, 1968. 235p. \$5.95.

Ad 5-8 A pleasant anthology, with the usual scattering of old favorites and some unusual selections as well; the book is divided into sections in which the poems are grouped under such headings as "Songs and Simples," "Tall Tales," or "Wisdoms, Praise, Prayers and Graces." A design by Shulevitz accompanies each section-heading, there are some notes on some of the poems, and the authors' names follow each selection; author and first-line indexes are appended. Most of the poems are from contemporary sources, but Keats and Shakespeare are well-represented. This is not a rounded collection and it is not intended to be; many of the poems are humorous, quite a few nursery rhymes are included, and the book is clearly exactly what the compiler proposes in his introduction: a *mélange* of poems enjoyed by one person and presented for the enjoyment of others.

Stephan, Hanna. The Quest; tr. by Daphne Machin Goodall; illus. by Antony Maitland. Little, 1968. 216p. \$4.75.

Ad 5-7 Translated from the German, a story based on a case in the files of the Hamburg Red Cross. Five-year-old Peter Reisiger was taken home by a Russian soldier, ran away and lived with a Kirghiz tribe in the Russian steppes, then went to China, India, and Tibet. Culturally polyglot, Peter was being taken home by a Dutchman but ran away in Egypt, his experiences making him feel that he must see more of the world in which he was so at home before being tied to one place. Found by a German hotel-keeper, Peter is put in touch with his family, and the book ends with the receipt of a letter from his mother. The varied settings, most of them exotic, give the story dramatic interest; the plot itself, which should be self-sustaining, somehow bogs down in the repeated pattern of the small boy who is so quickly assimilated into each new situation and who is so indefatigably sturdy, sensible, and amicable.

Tomerlin, John. The Fledgling. Dutton, 1968. 188p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.91 net.

Ad 6-9 Having just moved to the country, Richard has made no friends; having just lost a twin brother, he is shielded and overprotected by his fearful mother. He visits a small local airport and is invited to go on a flight —and his whole life changes. This is what Rich wants, so he secretly takes lessons. Eventually his parents find out, and the resolution of the story brings his mother's agreement after she has seen Rich perform. Save for this slight note of convenient capitulation, the book has a vitality and pace that make it enjoyable even without the drama and danger of the flight sequences.

Trez, Denise. Good Night, Veronica; story and pictures by Denise and Alain Trez. Viking, 1968. 32p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.77 net.

M  
K-2       Trez illustrations have a merry insouciance that is engaging no matter what the story line is, and here the random irrelevancies of a dream give full opportunity to exploit that quality—although the text is slight. Veronica is in bed, the bed appears in a treetop, the tree runs away. Veronica jumps into a cloud, discovers she can lengthen her limbs at will, et cetera; the story ends with Veronica tucked into her bed, with time left to sleep.

Unrau, Ruth. Who Needs an Oil Well? drawings by Jan Gleysteen. Abingdon, 1968. 255p. \$4.50.

Ad  
6-9       A good story of the depression era, this is set in rural Oklahoma and given added interest because the Rempel family is Mennonite. Matt Rempel, thirteen, dreams of having enough money to enable his father to dispense with his help so that he can go to high school. A well is drilled on Rempel property, but it brings in only gas—and Matt's brother promptly lays a pipeline so that the gas can be used for lighting. The Rempels stoutly "make do," depression or no. The setting and the period details are interesting, characterization adequate, and both family and community inter-relationships deftly depicted; the writing style is occasionally awkward, and the story line seems artificially propped by Matt's lingering suspicion that a youth nearby is really Pretty Boy Floyd.

Untermeyer, Louis, ad. Tales from the Ballet; illus. by A. and M. Provensen. Golden Press, 1968. 92p. \$5.95.

Ad  
4-6       In an oversize book illustrated with lovely pictures that are among the best of the Provensens' work, the plots of twenty popular ballets are told. There is a moderate use of dialogue; there is a certain amount of background filler—the story of Giselle, for example, begins, "It is a beautiful autumn day on the banks of the Rhine, a perfect day for harvesting the grapes to make the delicious wine of the country." Notes on the ballets are appended, giving the names of writers, composers, and choreographers; Les Sylphides is listed as The Wood Nymphs, although the more familiar title is given in parentheses. The level of fictionalization limits the book's usefulness to younger readers.

Vasiliu, Mircea. Mortimer, the Friendly Dragon. Day, 1968. 46p. illus. Library ed. \$3.69 net.

M  
K-2       Competently illustrated, this is a read-aloud book with little originality in the basic plot, although it has variance (to a degree) from the often-used theme of dragon-gains-recognition-and-approval by helping to heat something, or by keeping something warm. Here the added interest is a parade that culminates in fireworks, dampened by rain, and dried and lit by Mortimer. The dragon, whose only champion had been a boy named Chris (irrelevant to the outcome) is made assistant commissioner of parks and becomes a popular member of the community.

Weiss, Renée Karol, comp. A Paper Zoo; A Collection of Animal Poems by Modern American Poets; selected by Renée Karol Weiss; pictures by Ellen Raskin. Macmillan, 1968. 39p. \$4.50.

R  
K-4       Although intended as a book for reading to young children, this collection should be enjoyed by independent readers who can deign to forget that it looks like a picture book. The poems are charming, and the illus-

trations have a vigor that complements them; the colors (green and orange) are brash enough so that the pages on which only one color is used with black and white are a visual relief. "Free, loose drawings with tight textural decorations," is the artist's description of her work, and it can be added that the textural decorations have the intricacy and solidity of beautifully engraved silver.

Wojciechowska, Maia. Tuned Out. Harper, 1968. 125p. Trade ed. \$3.50, Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R  
9-11 "One day I ought to find out how it is with other kids," Jim's journal begins on June 9, 1967, and it goes on to record a sixteen-year-old's love and respect for a brilliant older brother. The rest of the journal describes, in a story of intensity and bleak honesty, Jim's stunned disbelief when he finds that Kevin has been using marijuana and LSD, his efforts to dissuade Kevin, and his traumatic experience of being with his brother when Kevin has a trip so bad it results in hospitalization. At times the writing slows, but this seems curiously appropriate in a story in which the stunned protagonist is fighting against time. Candid, with no melodrama except the terrible melodrama of what is happening, and with a lack of didacticism that makes the message all the more effective.

Wondriska, William. Mr. Brown and Mr. Gray. Holt, 1968. 34p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

Ad  
K-2 At first the two friends thought that their King was joking when he asked them what happiness was—but he gave each of them an island, the means to do anything he wanted, and a year to find out if one could indeed find happiness by having everything he wanted. Mr. Gray built a luxury hotel with a soda fountain in each room; Mr. Brown built a little cottage and entertained family visitors. At year's end, the King (a horse) learned that Mr. Brown (a pig) had no answer; Mr. Gray (also a pig) wanted to be King. So the ex-monarch lived happily as Mr. Brown's island neighbor, and the story ends with the ex-Mr. Gray and present King asking the other two, "Do you know what happiness is?" There is humor enough in the details of the story and the illustrations to make the book appealing, and the idea of comparative—and changing—concepts of happiness can be understood by children, but it is probable that the allegorical aspects need to be explained to most children.

Wuorio, Eva-Lis. Save Alice! Holt, 1968. 165p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R  
5-7 A romping adventure story that begs to be translated to the screen; it has a small, distinguished cast (British twins, an American guest, an older cousin) a light love interest provided for the older cousin, an exciting chase sequence (through Spain) and a mystery (Why had an old woman pushed a caged bird into the car?) with most villainous villains, determined to get the bird for their undoubtedly nefarious reasons. All the action is accompanied by merry dialogue, good characterization, and a sustained pace.

## *Reading for Parents*

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