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**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 24

March, 1971

Number 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ainsworth, Ruth. The Ruth Ainsworth Book; illus. by Shirley Hughes. Watts, 1970. 286p. \$5.95.

Ad
K-3 Charming black and white drawings illustrate a collection that includes some new material but consists primarily of the author's previously published work. The stories range from brief, simple tales for the very young child to longer and more mature stories like "Lucky Angus"; there are realistic stories and fanciful ones. Some of the very short stories have a bland quality, but the collection on the whole has variety and is sturdy enough to be useful for reading aloud, particularly in home collections.

Alexander, Anne. Little Foreign Devil; illus. by Gustave E. Nebel. Atheneum, 1970. 231p. \$5.50.

NR
4-5 Like the author, Nora had been born in China, come to the United States during the years of the first world war, and returned; like the author, Nora's British father was captain of a Yangtze riverboat and her mother American. Although many of the incidents are based on real events, the story of the dissolution of the foreign colony in the Chungking Hills, the depredations of a female bandit, the obduracy of a German family, and the courage of the leader of a mission school is weakened by a pedestrian writing style, stereotyped characters, and an unconvincing ending in which a hastily-made American flag is saluted by Nora, who then greets the bandit, who then departs. Nora and her mother sing the national anthem, and all the Chinese smile at them.

Arundel, Honor. The Longest Weekend. Nelson, 1970. 159p. \$3.95.

Ad
7-10 First published in England, the story of an unwed mother of a three-year-old. Eileen, taking her daughter off for a country weekend, has decided that she must move away from her parents' home, where her doting mother has been taking care of Gay. The story alternately moves in the present and in review of the past, a technique successfully used here; it permits the author to present the Perfectly Reasonable Modern parents who want their daughter to keep her child and to show at the same time the difficulties for a young girl who has been unintentionally kept immature emotionally. The writing is very good, the characters sharply drawn, and the outcome (the child's father, angrily shut out by Eileen, effects a reconciliation) believable. The only weakness of the story, and a crucial incident, is that Eileen, when she finds she is pregnant and quarrels with her lover, calls him—amongst other vituperative epithets, a kike. Joel is

Jewish, but Eileen has not realized this, and there is no explanation of why she did not; and her reason (she had heard a taxi driver use the word and knew it was insulting but "didn't know it was a racial-prejudice word") is not convincing.

Asimov, Isaac. ABC's of the Ocean. Walker, 1970. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.41 net.

R
3-5 From aquaculture to zooplankton, an introduction to aspects of marine life and oceanography; the book is not comprehensive, limited by the alphabetical format (two topics for each letter, with a paragraph of information on each topic) but the facts given are interesting and lucidly presented. The pages have an imaginative and varied use of black, white, and blue-green in illustrations, background, and print; on just a few pages this results in print that is hard to read. The photographs are good, the type large, the whole attractive.

Baer, Edith. The Wonder of Hands; photographs by Tana Hoban. Parents' Magazine, 1970. 40p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.47 net.

R
3-5 yrs A series of excellent photographs in black and white illustrate the message of the text: hands can do many varied things. They can show love, teach, create, explore, manipulate, signal . . . all of these are expressed in a simple rhyming text. The book has both the charm of the familiar and, for the very young, a stimulus to observation.

Berna, Paul. They Didn't Come Back; tr. from the French by John Buchanan-Brown. Pantheon Books, 1970. 212p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-8 Based on a real episode of World War II, the story of a band of Resistance fighters who mysteriously disappeared. The setting is contemporary: a new industrial town in which two men who had been involved in the Resistance decide to cultivate some community spirit by inciting some of the young people to investigate the old affair. The children are enterprising and lively, but their deep concern is not convincing, the plot moving slowly (with lengthy conversational digressions giving the details of the military events) to an anticlimactic ending. Good style, but the book lacks the dramatic impact and humor of Berna's earlier stories.

Bible. The Creation; illus. by Jo Spier. Doubleday, 1970. 23p. \$3.95.

R
K-3 Not unlike Peter Spier's small-scaled illustrations, the pictures here emerge from the roiling darkness of the void as sunny landscapes filled with a profusion of creatures and plants. The poetic simplicity of the text, taken from the Jerusalem Bible, makes it an excellent choice for presenting Genesis to the young child, and the illustrations are in faithful accord with its spirit.

Bontemps, Arna. Mr. Kelso's Lion; illus. by Len Ebert. Lippincott, 1970. 48p. \$3.95.

M
3-4 Percy and his grandfather travel by bus to Sidonia, Alabama to visit great-aunt Clothilde. Next door a man is boarding the lion that belongs to Mr. Kelso, and they all agree that the lion is both dangerous and unsanitary. A complaint to the authorities does not good, since no zoning regulation covers the matter. The lion gets out, knocks down but does not se-

riously injure Grandfather, and is lured back into his cage. Grandfather stays on to rest and recuperate, while Percy prepares to return home and go back to school. The writing style is adequate and the story has potential; unfortunately, it is not realized. There is some action but no development, a situation but no focus.

Borten, Helen. Do You Know What I Know? written and illus. by Helen Borten. Abelard-Schuman, 1970. 38p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.89 net.

R
K-2 A picture book with illustrations that use varied techniques most effectively, and with a rhyming text that points out some of the many things one can know through his senses. "I can see a pig is big, next to a snail; a pig is small, next to a whale. (Even the size of a spider depends on what's sitting beside her.)" Some of the ideas go beyond mere observation and simple interpretation, but most of the text extolls the immediate message of the environment. Intriguing in itself, and useful for stimulating discussion.

Brown, Marion Marsh. Willa Cather; The Woman and Her Works; by Marion Marsh Brown and Ruth Crone. Scribner, 1970. 160p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-9 A competent biography, not unduly fictionalized or adulatory in tone, but written in a quite flat style. The descriptions of Cather's progress in writing each book are drawn-out, and there is a tedious plot resumé giving little analysis of the writer's style but giving comments by reviewers and critics. The book gives a convincing but not perceptive picture of the thorny and aloof Willa Cather; appended are lists of books by and about her, and an index.

Carter, Angela. The Donkey Prince; illus. by Eros Keith. Simon and Schuster, 1970. 40p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.73 net.

NR
4-5 Requested by a donkey to give up her magic apple, the Queen refused; it had been a wedding gift from her father and it ensured her beauty and her health. When the President of the Donkey Parliament told her that the apple would have given all his donkeys (bewitched) their original shape, the Queen agreed to help if she could. She promised to bring up a donkey as a prince; if someone would go through fire and water for him, the donkeys would regain their original shapes. Most of the book is devoted to the adventure that the donkey prince has when, years later, the Queen lies ill (having lost her apple) and her adopted son goes forth to brave danger and recover it from the Wild Men. The tale is slow to start, labored, and weakened by inconsistencies; the writing style is plodding. The illustrations are graceful and romantic, softly colored and intricately detailed.

Clark, Ann (Nolan). Circle of Seasons; illus. by W. T. Mars. Farrar, 1970. 113p. \$3.95.

R
5-9 In dignified and reverent style, a description of the rites and observances of the Pueblo year begins with the transfer of authority from the Sun Chief, who guards the days of the summer for his people, to the Winter Chief. The People isolate themselves for the Day of the Dead, and soon thereafter celebrate the Fiesta Mass before the advent of the long winter months. Christmas is celebrated with dances that were old before Christ's birth; so through the year the Pueblo Indians merge old and new customs. Solemn as the writing is, it has a poetic quality, and the book

portrays evocatively the gentle, harmonious life of the Pueblos, encroached on by the pressures of the white man's civilization yet maintaining its deferential rapport with the phenomena of nature.

Clark, Electa. Cherokee Chief; The Life of John Ross; illus. by John Wagner. Crowell-Collier, 1970. 118p. \$3.95.

R
5-9
John Ross, who fought in the War of 1812, was a man whose Scottish ancestors had married into the Cherokee Nation and whose probity and integrity earned him the respect of many white statesmen as well as the leadership of the people of his tribe. This is a long record of the duplicity and persecution of the Cherokee people, of the schism within the tribe, of the harrowing eviction and forced march during which four thousand of the eighteen thousand who were sent to the Indian Territory died. A dramatic and tragic story, this is bluntly written; although John Ross is depicted as a strong character he is not vividly portrayed as a personality. The book is, nevertheless, a stirring documentary of historical value. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Cleaver, Vera. The Mimosa Tree; by Vera and Bill Cleaver. Lippincott, 1970. 125p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad
6-8
Fourteen, the oldest of five children, Marvella felt heavily the responsibility for them and for her blind father after their stepmother walked out. They had come to Chicago from a moribund North Carolina farm, and Marvella didn't have the heart to describe to her father the bleakness of their slum neighborhood; there was a mimosa tree growing in amongst the greenery she could see from their window, she lied. The stepmother's departure; the small boys' initiation into thievery by two tough, pathetic and neglected black children, one of whom dies in an epileptic seizure; Marvella's attempt to hold a job, and turning herself to petty crime; the horrifying fact that one of the boys' friends had pushed his mother into the path of an oncoming bus—all of these result in a decision to return to the farm. So the family goes back (Marvella driving the car) and is greeted, inexplicably, with enthusiasm, by the neighbors who had been so hostile. An unconvincing ending to a convincing but depressing book, convincing in the sense that all of the squalor and deprivation are real, but never achieving—perhaps because of the futility and the lack of contrast—the vitality of the Cleavers' other books.

Clifton, Lucille. The Black B C's; illus. by Don Miller. Dutton, 1970. 46p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.91 net.

M
4-5
Despite the title, the book begins with A for Africa. "A is for Africa / land of the sun / the king of continents / the ancient one." This is followed by a paragraph of random facts about Africa. This is the book's pattern: A brief poem, an illustration, a paragraph or two of bland prose. While the book may give information, it is scant in treatment of subjects included; the rhyme is often faulty ("together" and "better"; "activist" and "persists") and the book's most positive aspect is its theme: black people have always played contributing roles in American history.

Curry, Jane Louise. Mindy's Mysterious Miniature; illus. by Charles Robinson. Harcourt, 1970. 157p. \$4.50.

There was something odd about Mr. Putt. Why was he snooping around

R
4-6 her mother's antique shop? Mindy was sure he had a particular interest in the old dollhouse she had found at an auction sale, a toy marvelously fitted with authentic miniature furniture in perfect scale. The story moves from realism to fantasy when Mindy and her neighbor, Mrs. Bright, are captured by Mr. Putt, who has inherited a magical contraption that miniaturizes houses and the people in them. Mindy finds that her dollhouse, once a real house, is now part of a collection in a miniature community. What Mr. Putt doesn't know is that there are tiny captive people living in his museum, "Lilliput, U.S.A." There's a suggestion of caricature in some of the inhabitants, but the concept is entertaining, the solution is convincing within the fanciful framework, and the writing has suspense and pace.

Diekmann, Miep. Slave Doctor; tr. from the Dutch by Madeleine Mueller. Morrow, 1970. 285p. \$5.50.

M
7-9 First published in the Netherlands in 1965, a story set in the West Indies toward the close of the 17th century. A hurricane (historical fact) that severely damaged Curacao leaves Martin de By and his two sisters orphaned and the inheritors of a black slave, Nicky, who had been brought up almost as a sister to Ooba, the youngest. Apprenticed to a doctor, Martin signs on as physician to a ship that turns out to be a slave ship. From slaver to brigand and back to a slave ship Martin goes, returning home to find that Nicky, whom he loves, has been sold. He traces his way to her, finds that she has a child, rescues her and plans to marry her—but in the end she kills herself rather than submit to the imminent possibility of being recaptured. Although the excesses of inhumanity in the slave trade are made clear, and there is some interesting historical background, the book is heavily written and has little respite from high drama. Martin is sympathetic to the slaves but his only act of courage is based on personal motives, so that the author's intended indictment of slavery never crystallizes into statement or action.

Du Bois, William Pène. Call Me Bandicoot; written and illus. by William Pène du Bois. Harper, 1970. 63p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.43 net.

R
5-9 Ermine Bandicoot stalks his prey on the Staten Island ferry. A natural con man, a born storyteller, the sharp-nosed lad spins any tale that will engross a listener to the point of handing over food and money. Here he captures a victim with a tale of Bandicoot's campaign to end smoking and pollution by creating an enormous cigarette with tobacco collected from hoarded butts, an enterprise that ends with the clogging of the harbor waters . . . a fantastic story marvelously told. A note of contrast is effectively introduced at the end, when his listener follows Bandicoot and discovers that the lad is rebelling against his tycoon father. "It's tough to be a kid and have principles," he muses, after Ermine (Hermann Vanden Kroote, Jr. is his real and rejected name) refuses a meal, saying that he does not accept charity. Fourth in the author's series of books on the seven deadly sins, this has stinginess as a leit-motif, but the imaginative embroidery of the storyteller's art almost eclipses the theme. Written with wit and sophistication and illustrated with elegance.

Elgin, Kathleen. The Episcopalians; The Protestant Episcopal Church; written and illus. by Kathelen Elgin. McKay, 1970. 112p. \$4.95.

Useful and informative, as were the other books in the author's "Free-

Ad 5-9 dom to Worship" series (The Quakers, The Mormons) this gives historical background for the founding of the denomination in the 1780's, when those Americans who had been members of the Church of England could no longer maintain allegiance to its dicta. The book is weakened by the fact that almost half of it is devoted to one man, Leonidas Polk, with rather detailed description of Civil War battles in which he participated; while Polk was an important figure in Episcopalian church history, the treatment seems out of balance. The discussion of the growing strength of the denomination and of the schools and seminaries which it controls is followed by a question-and-answer section on structure and doctrine. Lists of prominent Episcopalians in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, a list of Episcopalians in the United States Space Program, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

Embry, Margaret Jacob. My Name Is Lion; illus. by Ned Glattauer. Holiday House, 1970. 46p. \$3.75.

M 4-6 Written with sympathy, but treating superficially the plight of the Indian child who is resistant to white culture. His mother, married to a white man, lives in California and Leo stays with his grandfather. Only because they are so poor does he come to the boarding school where there are new clothes and food. In class he will not talk or write, and he makes no friends. Only when the teacher tells him that his middle name means "Lion," and he sees the strength and beauty of lions on a school visit to a zoo, does he respond to the teacher's overtures. His grandfather appears, and Leo seems to realize for the first time the hopelessness of life for the uneducated Navajo. He decides to stay at school. The story is slight, the boy believable—but the fumbling, well-intentioned teacher and the harsh principal (also Indian, he says to Leo, "That's the trouble with you Sabina Indians. You aren't even Navajos, you're half Apache!") are crudely pictured.

Fox, Paula. Blowfish Live In the Sea. Bradbury Press, 1970. 116p. \$4.50.

R 6-9 Twelve-year-old Carrie had never understood why Ben wrote that sentence about blowfish everywhere but accepted it, as she accepted anything about her half-brother. When he was invited to meet his long-absent father in Boston, Ben asked Carrie to go along. In the story of that visit, as Carrie tells it, is a piercingly sweet and tender picture of a young girl's love for her brother. The book also is unusual in its sensitive characterization of Ben's father: the failure, the drifter embarrassed at meeting his son, but so clearly lonely that he touches the heart. He touches Ben's heart enough to make the young man decide to live with him, forsaking the convention and stability of his mother's and stepfather's home. Only after she returns alone does Carrie discover that Ben's father had once sent him a dried blowfish that he had found, he said, in the Amazon. It was after Ben discovered that the blowfish lives in salt water only that he began to write "Blowfish live in the sea," his testimony of resentment at his father's lies. And his leaving home is testimony of maturity: a realization that there are other values and softer judgments. A fine book.

Friermood, Elisabeth Hamilton. One of Fred's Girls. Doubleday, 1970. 229p. \$3.95.

Ad 6-9 Bonny Blair, eighteen and thirsting for wider horizons, quits her job as a hired girl and goes out to the New Mexico Territory in answer to a Fred

Harvey advertisement. There is no firm story line, but a potpourri of period details, western background, information about the Fred Harvey restaurants, friendships with other waitresses, and a quite patterned love interest in a solid, steady young man who is unappreciated at first. The writing style is pedestrian, the chief assets of the book lying in the period flavor and the locale.

Greet, W. Cabell. My Pictionary; by W. Cabell Greet, Marion Monroe, and Andrew Schiller. Lothrop, 1970. 95p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

R
3-6
yrs
A compilation of labeled actions or objects in broad categories: people, animals, storybook characters, what we do, things, places, colors, numbers, and "words that help" (prepositions). Although the pages are crowded and objects are not always in scale, the clear pictures and the categorization provide good orientation for reading readiness. In some cases, both the singular and plural are given ("goose" and "geese") or the names for both young and adult animals ("cat" and "kitten"). In "Things" there is clear grouping: food, play equipment, household paraphernalia, etc.

Harris, Leon. The Russian Ballet School; written and illus. with photographs by Leon Harris. Atheneum, 1970. 59p. \$4.75.

R
4-7
There are twenty state ballet schools in Russia, and the two most eminent are the Kirov and the Bolshoi, for which entrance examinations are held each spring. The high status and assured careers of dancers bring hundreds of ten-year-old applicants to the schools, where the rigorous requirements for admission are exceeded only by the severity and discipline of the training. Illustrated with clear, informative photographs, this describes the regimen, the social atmosphere, the academic curriculum, and the opportunities to perform.

Harris, Leon A. Yvette; illus. by Brinton Turkle. McGraw-Hill, 1970. 40p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.72 net.

Ad
3-5
Dedicated to the author's wife, born Yvette von Hartman (Márina Svetlova, professionally) this is presumably based on her first experiences at the Paris Opera ballet school. Yvette is eight when she is admitted; coming from her seaside home to live with an aunt in Paris, she is lonely until she makes a friend and is dubious about her ability until she passes the first screening test. Her delight is complete when her favorite ballerina autographs a toe shoe and gives her a bouquet of roses. The illustrations are charming, and the story has authenticity and subject appeal; the book is weakened by the rather stiff writing style.

Hays, Wilma Pitchford. The Open Gate; New Year's 1815; illus. by Carolyn Cather Tierney. Coward-McCann, 1970. 62p. \$3.49.

Ad
3-5
When Louisiana was purchased by the United States, many of the Creole families refused to recognize their separation from France. Lucie's mother was one of many who closed the gate between her home and the one next door when Americans moved in. But the French and American men were fighting together against the British, and their victory brought rapport. So, during the holidays of this episode of the 1812 war, Lucie's mother agreed to open the gate, and Lucie's American friend Stephen went home in the traditional way of New Orleans neighborliness. The historical background

is one seldom used in books for the middle age group, and the style is capable but fairly staid, the fiction rather overburdened by the history.

Heady, Eleanor B. High Meadow; The Ecology of a Mountain Meadow; written by Eleanor B. Heady and Harold F. Heady; illus. by Harold F. Heady. Norton/Grosset, 1970. 120p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.59 net.

R
6-9 Large print, clear illustrations, good organization of material, and an easy style of writing add value to a book that gives a lucid picture of the intricacies of an ecological situation as it responds to seasonal change. First describing the geological background of the meadow, formed by successive plants filling in a glacial lake, the authors discuss the changes, internal and external, of the flora and fauna of the meadow through the cycle of the year. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Holman, Felice. Solomon's Search; illus. by Mischa Richter. Grosset, 1970. 54p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.59 net.

M
3-4 A story with a message of peace and brotherhood is unfortunately tedious, lacking the light touch of earlier Holman books. There is some humor in the dialogue, but the plot and its development move slowly. Solomon, a cat, is bored by television and irritated by the static that prevents his hearing the full facts about a Search. He decides to go on a Search himself, and bit by bit other animals join him, until every animal in the world is involved and the line of procession goes around the globe. So they all join hands, and suddenly the air is quiet. The Search is ended. "On a certain day of a certain year . . ." the tale concludes, "one cannot say just when, but we shall all know it when it happens."

Kaufmann, John. Robins Fly North, Robins Fly South; written and illus. by John Kaufmann. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 40p. \$3.75.

R
2-4 A good book that gives an introduction to a theory of migration (in very simple, lucid terms) while it describes the life cycle of the robin: migration, nesting, mating, the male guarding the nest while the female sits, both feeding the nestlings when they hatch, the end of the clement weather and—back to migration. The theory that migration is wholly based on recurrent fine adjustment to sunlight is given as though it were fact rather than theory, but the book is otherwise carefully accurate. The writing style is brisk and capable, the illustrations precisely detailed and softly effective.

Kwolek, Constance. Loner. Doubleday, 1970. 143p. illus. \$3.50.

M
6-9 Anne was seventeen when her father remarried, and she resented her stepmother's changing the household ways; therefore when the school guidance counselor suggested (without talking to Anne's father) that Anne live with a young couple and take care of their child, she accepted eagerly. It didn't work out, and Anne decided to go to New York and join a young couple who had married and left her home town. Anne joined the East Village group with whom Dolly and Larry lived, enjoying the communal spirit and feeling, as the others did when Dolly's baby was born, that they were a family to whom the child belonged. While at a rock festival she visited the sister of the guidance counselor, who had come to see her in New York, and decided that she had had enough of living in a loft, of panhandling and drifting, and knew she would go back to her old plan of becoming a nurse

like Gloria. The dialogue is good and the characterization adequate, the East Village and rock festival scenes are broad enough to include sterling characters and weak ones. The book has, however, a story line that is neither strong nor fresh, and its development is unconvincing.

Liston, Robert A. The American Poor; A Report on Poverty in the United States. Delacorte, 1970. 191p. \$3.95.

R
8-12 A rather intensive study of the causes of poverty, the ways in which it affects not only its victims but the society, the measures that have been or should be taken to alleviate or even eliminate it, and the added burdens of inequity suffered by the poor. The book is heavy with analyses of statistics, but it is an objective and provocative report, and it is given dramatic impact by the descriptions of individual families affected. Separate chapters discuss the complicated welfare situation, social security, poverty and health, education of the poor, and the work of the O.E.O. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad Are Friends; written and illus. by Arnold Lobel. Harper, 1970. 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

R
1-2 Five very short stories in a direct and ingenuous style, appealing because of their ease and the familiarity of the situations, translated into animal terms. The mild humor that permeates the tales (a swimming expedition, a lost button, a slight malaise) adds to the value of some of the concepts obliquely presented (differences in shape and size in "A Lost Button"; time concepts in "Spring") and the give-and-take of a fast friendship is gently affectionate.

Lord, Beman. Shrimp's Soccer Goal; illus. by Harold Berson. Walck, 1970. 63p. \$3.75.

R
2-4 Straightforward writing style and a simple plot line combine with a modicum of facts, pleasant illustrations, and large print to make a very good sports story for the primary grades reader. There's a good balance of action in and out of school as Shrimp and his friends adjust to the fact that the new teacher is a soccer fan. Shrimp, who had been looking forward to playing football with Mr. Allen, the teacher who left, was not enchanted, but Miss Taylor was enthusiastic and knowledgeable, and her fervor sparked not only the team of boys and girls but also their cheering classmates.

McCord, David Thompson Watson. For Me to Say; Rhymes of the Never Was and Always Is; illus. by Henry B. Kane. Little, 1970. 100p. \$4.50.

R
4-6 A new collection that is, with few exceptions, light in topic and tone, with breezy humor and relish of word play, and with small, neat illustrations that often implement the poems. Some of the selections are, indeed, word games as well as poetry. Continuing the teaching-by-example of the "Write Me A Verse" section of an earlier book, the author shows, in a final section entitled "Write Me Another Verse" examples of verse forms. Included here are the ballade, the tercet, the villanelle, the cleriheuw, the cinquain, and haiku.

McNeill, Janet. The Other People. Little, 1970. 185p. \$4.50.

R
6-8
Already sad because they were moving to a new house, Kate (whose mother had married and was on her honeymoon) was even more dejected when she came to Sea View. She had envisioned her aunt's guest house as a glamorous resort; it was old, shabby, and filled with unexciting people; Aunt Poppy was a tired and defeated woman. But Kate became involved with the sullen boy whose father bullied him, with the odd young man she called the Mad Hatter, with the beautiful girl whose boy friend seemed to have forgotten her, and above all with the elderly recluse who lived in the house next door. Kate's sympathy and initiative are the fulcrum for events that change, to some extent, the lives of most of the others, and she finds that the experience has created in her an acceptance both of her new step-father and of the move to a new house. The writing has vitality and flow, the characters are sharply drawn, and the plot—if one can accept Kate's assumption of command in the situation—is sturdy. The milieu of the seedy guest house, in which a random group of people make the best of a rather dreary holiday, has an acrid fidelity.

Malmberg, Carl. America Is Also Scandinavian. Putnam, 1970. 126p. \$3.49.

Ad
6-9
Capably written and organized, but staid in tone, a survey of early exploration and later settlement of Scandinavians in this country, with two chapters devoted to the contributions of individuals: "The Skills They Brought" (inventors, sports figures, movie stars, doctors, etc.) and "They Helped Win Our Wars." Much of the material on immigration has been covered in other books on the subject; the two outstanding facets of this book are the discussion of assimilation of the immigrant population and the differences in second-generation attitudes, and the analysis of American attitudes and biases that made it easier for the Scandinavians to be accepted than were later newcomers from Latin and Slavic countries. Not exciting, but informative and objective. An index is appended.

Mari, Iela, illus. The Apple and the Moth; illus. by Iela and Enzo Mari. Pantheon Books, 1970. 37p. \$3.95.

Mari, Iela, illus. The Chicken and the Egg; illus. by Iela and Enzo Mari. Pantheon Books, 1970. 30p. \$3.95.

R
3-5
yrs
First published in Italy under the titles La Mela e La Farfalla and L'Uovo e La Gallina, two charming books for the youngest biologists. They have no text, but tell their stories clearly: in the first a moth larva is fed within an apple, emerges, and spins a cocoon; time passes (indicated by the budding of the branch to which the cocoon is attached). The adult moth flies off, lays an egg on an apple blossom, and the new fruit grows with the tiny egg inside. A clear pictorial presentation of a reproductive cycle. The pictures are dramatically simple, with lots of white space and sharp, clear colors. The Chicken and the Egg shows the egg being laid; the growth of the embryo; the brooding hen; the hatching, bedraggled chick becoming fluffy; finally, the chick, imitating its mother, learning to peck for grain and snap at insects.

Martin, Bill. America, I Know You; illus. by Ted Rand. Bowmar, 1970. 29p. (A Freedom Book) \$4.50.

M
3-5
One of a series, each called "A Freedom Book" the stated purpose being "to develop personal awareness essential to responsible membership in a free society . . . to develop affirmation and meanings of a free society

. . . to develop awareness of problems that threaten a free society." The major concept presented in this volume is: "Allegiance to democracy demands a practical understanding of the concepts on which our society operates." The attractive pictures are in double-page spreads, often bearing no apparent relation to the text; for example, the words "You are a color television with cameras on the moon," is accompanied by a picture of deep-sea divers. The pictures show happy schoolchildren, rural poverty, protest marchers, the Statue of Liberty, construction workers, a political convention, etc. The book describes facets of American life, but they do not seem necessarily to be concepts on which our society operates.

Martin, Bill. Freedom's Apple Tree; illus. by John Rombola. Bowmar, 1970. 29p. (A Freedom Book) \$4.50.

M
3-4 "Major concept: Every individual is personally responsible for our country's freedom." Like the title above, this is part of a series with a lofty purpose, the execution of which is frail. Here the scrawly illustrations and colored lettering give the appearance of a picture book. The text reads, "I'm a seed in the apple on Freedom's apple tree, I'm a sprout that is growing in the seed, I'm a tree in the sprout, I'm an apple on the tree, I'm the seed in the apple, so it all begins with me, I'm a seed in the apple on the tree. Let it hail! Let it snow! Let it thunder, freeze and blow! Every seed that endures the stormy weather grows more strong, grows more free, has more taste for liberty, in this tough job of living all together . . ." While the material may be useful in engendering discussion, it is too tenuous as presented to stand alone.

May, Julian. Why Birds Migrate; illus. by Chet Reneson. Holiday House, 1970. 33p. \$4.95.

Ad
3-4 An explanation of the migratory pattern that was set by climatic changes during the Ice Ages, when all but those birds that lived at the fringe of glacial caps could exist only by flying to regions where there was warmth and food. Most species return to mate and nest, the lure of fresh crops of summertime plants and insects bringing them north. The topic is competently handled save for a reference to the fact that "nature gives birds and other animals strong feeling that they have to obey. These mysterious feelings help the birds in their lives." There is brief but adequate mention of sun and star positions in migration, and the writing is simple and clear, but the drawings of birds seem to have random placement, and occasionally there may be two or three pictures of the same bird, one after another and each labeled.

Mehdevi, Alexander, ad. Bungling Pedro; And Other Majorcan Tales; illus. by Isabel Bodor. Knopf, 1970. 117p. \$4.50.

Ad
4-6 A collection of folk tales, adequately told, that has some idiomatic flavor and considerable humor. Many of the patterns are familiar: the young fool who makes profitless trades but triumphs in the end; the Majorcan Epaminondas, naively literal; the simple man who answers the king's riddles with wisdom; the wild creatures who help a young man who has been kind to them. Some of the tales have an element of magic but most are earthy. Occasionally the prose falters or a contrived moment weakens a story, but the book as a whole is fresh and amusing, a good source for storytelling as well as for reading.

Menotti, Gian-Carlo. Help, Help, The Globolinks! ad. by Leigh Dean; illus. by Milton Glaser. McGraw-Hill, 1970. 52p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.72 net.

Ad 4-6 Somehow, "TAH-RAH! Th-wooooo-ISH! BOOM! B-L-A-T!" doesn't have quite the same stirring effect as the sound of martial music. That's the major weakness of Help, Help the Globolinks: libretto into children's books loses far too much in translation. The idea is engaging: only music can dispel the evil Globolinks, blobs of electronically bleeping extra-terrestrial creatures who are invading the earth. Trapped in a bus without their instruments, the children of St. Paul's school stoutly sing while little Emily, the only one who had brought her instrument, plays bravely as she goes for help. Emily collapses, is rescued at the last moment by the marching band of the school faculty. Music hath charms, or, as Madame Euterpova, Mistress of the Music Department, says, "It will be the end of the world when music dies." The illustrations are lively, the story line strong, but the style of the adaptation is trite and the characterization, possibly an attempt to capture the exaggeration necessary on the stage, seems heavy-handed caricature.

Peet, William Bartlett. The Wump World; written and illus. by William Bartlett Peet. Houghton, 1970. 44p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.57 net.

M K-2 There's often a message in Peet's fanciful tales, but it is usually accompanied by humor; here the story is all message, albeit pertinent. The Wumps are a happy lot of herbivorous creatures living in a world of bucolic peace. One day a fleet of flying craft descends and out pours the whole population of Pollutians, who have discarded their worn-out planet. The Wumps go (literally) underground, while the Pollutians raise huge buildings, foul the atmosphere and the waterways, and fill the air with clamor. Finally they ruin life for themselves and take off to settle—and ruin—another planet. The Wumps come up, prowl the city in dismay, and eventually find a grassy haven. The planet will revert to pasture—but it will never be the same. The starkness of the story almost defeats the purpose.

Peters, Margaret. The Ebony Book of Black Achievement; illus. by Cecil L. Ferguson. Johnson, 1970. 90p. \$4.95.

Ad 5-8 A compilation of twenty-one biographical sketches of black men and women, chronologically arranged. Most of the subjects have been covered in other collective biographies, and several have had complete biographies devoted to them, but there are others who are little known. The choices (from Mansa Musa to Du Bois) have been made to show the diversity in Negro achievement; the book is weakened by the exclusion of contemporary figures. Forthright in tone, but dry in style, the book gives too little information about each person to be impressive; it is, however, useful as an introduction to the scope of black achievement. A bibliography is appended.

Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of the Faithful Dove; illus. by Marie Angel. Warne, 1970. 42p. \$2.50.

Ad 3-5 Soft illustrations in delicate pastel tones depict the Victorian setting of a posthumously-published tale, written in 1907, which was issued in the first edition with no pictures. Amabella Tidler, descendant of a pigeon family that had a proud history (carrying messages for smugglers) was

trapped in a stopped chimney while fleeing a hungry falcon. Her devoted husband's anxious antics provoked the interest of some workmen, and their investigation enabled Amabella and her son (hatched in the chimney) to gain their freedom and a return to familial bliss. Although the tiny book looks appropriate for the read-aloud audience, the vocabulary, the style, and the dialect used in human dialogue are quite sophisticated; this perhaps is better read aloud to the middle grades than read independently by them. The story is gentle, especially in its humor, and old-fashioned enough to be, perhaps, of primary interest to confirmed fans and students of Beatrix Potter's work.

Prelutsky, Jack. Toucans Two; And Other Poems; illus. by Jose Aruego. Macmillan, 1970. 29p. \$4.95.

R
K-2 Illustrated with pictures of engagingly silly animals, a collection of poems that are light, rhythmic, deft and humorous. The writer plays with words in nonsense fashion, but never deviates from facts about each creature. In its entirety: "Oysters / are creatures / without / any features." The appeal of rhyme and rhythm are clear in such small gems as, "The ancient armadillo / is as simple as the rain / he's an armor-plated pillow / with a microscopic brain. / He's disinterested thoroughly / in what the world has wrought / but spends his time in contemplative / armadyllic thought."

Robinson, Joan G. Charley; illus. by Prudence Seward. Coward-McCann, 1970. 251p. \$4.95.

R
4-6 Aunt Emm, with whom Charley had been staying while her parents were away, seemed to think everything Charley did was wrong. When Aunt Emm was about to go off for a vacation, she decided to send Charley to Aunt Louie's, a happy prospect until she found a scrap of a letter that said "I don't want Charley . . ." (It had read in full, "It's not that I don't want Charley . . .") So Charley ran away, camping out in the open and baffling the good people of the nearby village, who reported that there were a lame child (Charley) and a simpleton (Charley) at large. Taken in by a motherly woman after she has reached the end of her resources, Charley is discovered and scolded by Aunt Emm, but she realizes for the first time how constricted a life her aunt leads and finds that she can pity the friendless, lonely woman. The story has good characters, plenty of action in small, believable adventures, and the perennial appeal of making-it-on-your-own; the writing has vitality and pace.

Rockwell, Anne. When the Drum Sang; An African Folktale; written and illus. by Anne Rockwell. Parents' Magazine, 1970. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.47 net.

Ad
K-2 A Bantu folktale is retold in flat, but direct and simple, style; the illustrations are attractively designed and skillfully executed but have a static quality that makes them seem more a series of elegant decorations than an interpretation of the story. The tale has the classic elements of the genre: innocent victim, wicked spirit, resolution incorporating retribution. Forced by a stranger (the gluttonous ogre, or zimwi, of Bantu folklore) to live imprisoned in his drum, the sweet singer Tselane so enchants people that they give the drummer delicious, lavish meals. Searching for their lost child, Tselane's parents hear the drum sing. In the night they open

the drum and rescue their daughter; they fill the drum with bees so that the zimwi, when he goes to beat the silent child in the drum, is pursued and stung.

Rollins, Charlemae Hill. Black Troubadour; Langston Hughes. Rand McNally, 1970. 143p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

R
7-10 A good biography, written with warm affection, covering much of the same material that is in Hughes' autobiographical writing. Some of the incidents and relationships that are in the Meltzer biography are omitted, and Langston Hughes patron, Mrs. Mason, is mentioned only as "an elderly woman." While this is not as analytical as the Meltzer book, it is competent. The divided bibliography includes dramatic works for which Hughes wrote the script or lyrics. Many photographs of the subject and other prominent Negroes are included; an index is appended.

Schick, Eleanor. City in the Winter; written and illus. by Eleanor Schick. Macmillan, 1970. 28p. \$4.95.

R
K-2 Jimmy wakes one cold morning to find that there is no school because of a blizzard. His mother goes off to work, and Jimmy spends the day with Grandma. He helps with chores, plays, feeds the birds, goes shopping only to find the stores closed, welcomes his mother, has dinner, and goes to bed. The precise, quiet pictures, clean-lined, are sedately attractive; the story is static but has the appeals of an unusual event and a familiar, everyday environment.

Shannon, Terry. Ride the Ice Down! U. S. and Canadian Icebreakers in Arctic Seas; written by Terry Shannon and Charles Payzant. Golden Gate, 1970. 78p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.27 net.

R
4-7 The work of those men who clear the Arctic seas of dangerous floating ice is as exciting as the plot of any adventure tale, and in this description of the part played by the United States and Canadian Coast Guards there is, as well, a sense of the awesome and icy bleakness of the far North. The authors discuss the formation of icebergs, the organization of seventeen nations' services into the International Ice Patrol, and the work of the icebreakers. There is also a detailed account of the voyage of the tanker S S Manhattan through the Northwest Passage, a voyage that has already influenced (because of the knowledge it contributed) the design of ships, and may affect the pattern of world trade. A compendium of historical data about trips through the Northwest Passage and an index are appended.

Shay, Arthur. What Happens When You Spend Money; written and photographed by Arthur Shay. Reilly and Lee, 1970. 28p. \$4.50.

M
3-4 Although this discusses, in simple and general terms, some of the basic processes of exchange of goods and services in an economy based on money, it is far less cohesive than the author's previous "What Happens . . ." books. A small girl and her mother go to a grocery store; each time Martha selects something for purchase, there is an explanation—often superficial or incomplete—of its origin. There is also some mention of taxes, leisure spending, overhead, capital investment, etc. although most of these terms are not used. Many of the photographs give no information, and the text moves abruptly from one topic to the next, so that the

emphasis of the book seems to be not on what happens when you spend money but on the amazing diversity of sources of products.

Shortall, Leonard. Jerry the Newsboy; written and illus. by Leonard Shortall. Morrow, 1970. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

Ad
2-3
Uncle Nat had hurt his back, so Carl and Jerry volunteered to help their cousin Nick run the newsstand. It meant getting up at four-thirty and a half-hour subway ride; the boys' mother worried about Jerry, who was only eight. He did have some problems: the bundles of paper were heavy, he didn't always give the right change, and one day he let a paper blow away in the wind. But Jerry proved his reliability on the day neither Carl nor Nick was there. He opened the stand alone and, with the help of Pedro the shoeshine boy, ran the stand through the morning rush hour. Although Jerry has been walked to the subway by his father, the idea of permitting an eight-year-old to travel alone before dawn in New York seems markedly reprehensible. The story is nicely illustrated and simply told, and it incorporates information about the job of running a newsstand (although not complete information) quite smoothly.

Step toe, John. Uptown; written and illus. by John Step toe. Harper, 1970. 22p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Ad
4-5
Stark and forceful paintings in brilliant colors accompany a story with little line, but with the same strong, assertive mood. It is assertive not because the dialogue between two black boys is positive but because it paints such a harsh, true picture of their position. Walking through Harlem, they see and talk about the junkies, hippies, cops, and Brothers. Which do they want to be when they grow up? John's ambition is simple: "You must have a lot of fun when you get up around 16 or 17. That's what I wanna be, I wanna grow up to be 18 years old." "Maybe I'll be a cop," he adds. "No, man," says Dennis. "Nobody digs cops, you wouldn't have no friends. Guess we'll just hang out together for a while and just dig on everythin' that's goin' on." On this indecisive note the book ends, telling no story but mirroring the way it is. The format seems juvenile for the concepts and vocabulary level.

Ter Haar, Jaap. Boris; tr. from the Dutch by Martha Mearns; illus. by Rien Poortvliet. Delacorte, 1970. 152p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.17 net.

R
5-7
Translated from the Dutch, the 1966 Book of the Year, a World War II story with a message of brotherhood. Alone with his sick mother in besieged Leningrad, Boris goes into a danger zone to dig potatoes from the frozen earth. He and his friend Nadia are apprehended by Nazi soldiers and are not only kindly treated but escorted by them—at the risk of their lives—to the Russian lines. So Boris learns that the enemy can be both courageous and compassionate. The setting is dramatic, the writing vigorous, and the plot developed with pace and conviction.

Thomas, Dawn C. Mira! Mira! illus. by Harold L. James. Lippincott, 1970. 38p. \$3.50.

R
K-2
In most of the stories in which a Puerto Rican child adjusts to a move to New York, his acceptance of change depends on recognition in school or in a social situation. This deviates pleasantly from pattern: Ramon

falls in love with snow. He cannot wait for his mother to buy winter clothing when he sees other children playing, but rushes out—braving the unfamiliar elevator—to romp. Not surprisingly, he becomes ill—but he still feels the pretty snow "fell from the sky to say 'Welcome.'" The illustrations are attractive in strong black and white.

Tobias, Tobi. Maria Tallchief; illus. by Michael Hampshire. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 32p. \$3.75.

Ad
2-4 Elizabeth Marie Tallchief's father was Osage, her mother Scots-Irish, and the family well able to afford both dancing and piano lessons for their daughters. But when the family moved to California, a ballet teacher said that Betty Marie had been taught wrong and would have to start over. At seventeen she came to New York, joining the Ballet Russe company, where her dancing earned her solo parts. Wed to the choreographer George Balanchine, she rose to prima ballerina; after divorce, she remarried. At the age of forty-one, America's most famous ballet dancer retired to devote herself to her daughter and husband. The writing style is dry, simple, and factual but the ethnic and cultural appeals are strong and the soft, almost photographic illustrations are most attractive.

Turner, Morrie. Nipper; written and illus. by Morrie Turner. Westminster, 1970. 32p. \$2.95.

M
3-5 Nipper and his friends, all very young and (as in many baseball stories for or about older children) racially and ethnically mixed, are shown in cartoon-strip style. Nipper is black, given to portentous quotations and ineffectual performance. When the boys are trying to think of a team name, the Chinese-American says "The Yellow Dragons," the Indian American suggests "The Redskins," etc. Nipper comes up with "The Rainbows" because all the colors make harmony together. There is humor in some of the action, but much of it is trite; the humor of Nipper's habit of long-winded quotations very quickly wears thin. Well-meant but pedestrian.

Zemach, Harve. Awake and Dreaming; illus. by Margot Zemach. Farrar, 1970. 24p. \$4.95.

SpR
4-6 Although in picture book format, this is a fantasy more appropriate for the lover of fairy tales than for the younger child, save for the few who can appreciate the subtle sophistication of the tale. A victim of bad dreams, the young man consults a witch who tells him that he may seize an object in a dream by saying, "Come to me." Three times he does this, and an envoy comes from the King of the Land of Dreams, saying that the youth has taken his master's possessions. They agree that the young man will ask for no more, and will be granted pleasant dreams. Too pleasant. He falls deeply in love with a dream creature and finally consults the witch, who tells him that if he wants to be with his love forever he must drink a potion; he does, and dreams a dream that never ends. Based on a Tuscan legend, the story has macabre overtones although it is lightly told; dramatic and romantic, beautifully illustrated, but abstruse in concept.

Reading for Parents

- Beadle, Muriel. A Child's Mind. Doubleday, 1970. 294p. \$6.95.
- Cohen, Eleanor. "Getting Ready to Read." PTA Magazine, November, 1970.
- Ellis, Anne W. The Family Story in the 1960's. The Shoe String Press, 1970. 105p. \$4.50.
- Gagliardo, Ruth. "The Award Winners and More Quality Paperbacks." PTA Magazine, April, 1970.
- Giles, Cynthia Davis. "How to Create A Good Home Library." Parents' Magazine, May, 1970.
- Harmer, William. "To What Extent Should Parents Be Involved in Programs for Linguistically Different Learners." Elementary English, November, 1970.
- Higgins, James E. Words; Mystical Fancy in Children's Literature. Teachers College Press, 1970. 112p. \$5.95.
- Johnson, Laura. "If It's Fun, It Can't Be Reading!" English Journal, September, 1970.
- Kirk, Edith. "The Future of Reading for Partially Seeing Children." The Reading Teacher, December, 1970.
- Ohanian, Vera. "Cherished Books of Children: What Makes Them So?" Elementary English, November, 1970.
- Olson, Barbara. "Mary Norton and the Borrowers." Elementary English, February, 1970.
- Warren, Robert Penn. "Literature and Crisis." PTA Magazine, January, 1971.

