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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

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 XIV

September, 1960

Number 1

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Aardema, Verna. Tales from the Story Hat; by Berta and Elmer Hader; illus. 4-6 by Elton Fax. Coward-McCann, 1960. 72p. \$3.50.

Nine folktales from West African sources, most of them to do with animals rather than people; all are suitable for storytelling. The writing is rather dry, and there are occasional abrupt breaks in the narrative flow that are most apparent when the tales are read aloud. Notes on the stories, glossary, and a list of sources are appended.

M Albrecht, Lillie Vanderveer. Deborah Remembers; with drawings by Rita 4-5 Newton. Hastings House, 1959. 111p. \$2.75.

Deborah is a doll in a Massachusetts museum, and in this book she tells the other dolls the story of her life since she was made in 1704. As Deborah recalls adventures as the beloved doll of a succession of little girls, a great deal of historical background emerges. Interesting historically, but the writing style is both trite and elaborate. The book contains a very unpleasant presentation of a Negro child; a small boy named Pompey (itself an index) is depicted as rolling his eyes and stammering in a most stereotyped characterization.

R American Heritage Magazine. Railroads in the Days of Steam; prepared by 6-9 the editors of American Heritage. American Heritage, 1960. 153p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series) Trade edition, \$3.50; Library edition, \$5.05.

A fascinating history of railroads in America, illustrated by a superb collection of prints, photographs and drawings. The invention and the development of the steam engine are first described; the effect of the steam engine on transportation problems is discussed. The author has incorporated into the text every aspect of railroading: the struggle for financial power, the building of roadbeds, the development of improvements in equipment, the uses of railroads in wartime, the famous railroad legends. A book useful as browsing material for younger readers or for slow high school readers. A glossary of railroading slang and an index are appended.

R Anderson, Paul Lewis. Yong Kee of Korea; illus. by Yong Hwan Kim. Scott, 3-4 1959. 90p. \$2.75.

The story of a boy of nine who is very eager to assume adult tasks; Yong Kee, an only child, is especially anxious to give up the tasks he considers fit only for girls. The boy very ably demonstrates that he can be both industrious and responsible. Yong Kee and his parents are described in such an easy and natural style that the story never seems purposive. Family relationships are delightful, and the details of Korean culture are incorporated with no apparent effort. The author worked for several years in the Korean Department of Education.

M Baner, Skulda Vanadis. First Parting. Longmans, 1960. 211p. \$3.25.
8-10

Anna Magnuson leaves her family for the first time to teach in a one-room school-house. She has to adjust to the weather, the people, the loneliness . . . and she does. Her teaching is successful, she makes good friends and she finds that this second parting is also difficult. As a story about rural teaching, the book is rather run-of-the-mill: Anna's experiences are fairly patterned. The writing style is somewhat brittle, with good characterization for the most part. The author writes very frankly of the reaction of a high-school girl to the news that her mother is going to have a baby, and of the tragic fact that the baby is born blind.

Ad Bannon, Laura May. The Other Side of the World; written and illus. by Laura K-2 May Bannon. Houghton, 1960. 48p. Trade edition, \$3.00; Library edition, \$2.63 net.

The author presents two themes in this picture book: one emerges effectively; the other, a peripheral idea, is confusingly stated. The confusion is due to the fact that Miss Bannon describes the transition from day to night as though the sun is the moving body. For example, ". . . the sun left Tommy's side of the world . . ." or "It crossed wide rivers . . ." The main theme is delightfully explicit. While Tommy sleeps at the end of the day, it is daytime for a small boy in Japan. Jun buys a strangely printed book from the other side of the world, and his mother takes him to a foreign restaurant. They try forks, but have to ask the waiter for chopsticks; Mother explains that the other side of the world is much like Japan, even though small differences exist. So both Jun and Tommy know what goes on, while the same sun shines on each boy—only at a different time. A nice way for small children to learn about differences in people and their customs.

R Bockner, Ruth. Growing Your Own Way; An Informal Guide for Teen-Agers. 7-12 Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 190p. \$3.50.

An excellent book for any adolescent, and one which may well be enjoyable and profitable for adult readers. Dr. Bockner discusses the problems of the teen-ager with a broad perspective: she is chiefly concerned with one age group, but clearly does not set the members of this group apart. The examples of individual reactions and attitudes make explicit the fact that adolescents have patterns that are shared by all people of all ages. The writing style is informal, yet it is never condescending or coy as are so many books of teen-age guidance. Dr. Bockner is particularly to be commended for the dignity with which she writes of delicate matters, and for the fact that she never becomes didactic.

Ad Bolton, Carole. Christy. Morrow, 1960. 217p. \$2.95.
6-9

Christy gets a crush on an old friend of her father's: a much traveled and glamorous author. When the author falls in love with an older woman of whom Christy is very fond, the sixteen-year-old is desolate . . . but not for long. Christy finds someone her own age, and sees with some perspective that she had been infatuated. A fairly patterned plot, but the writing style is sprightly, conversation is deftly handled, and the relationships between Christy and the older people in the story are sympathetic.

R Borden, Charles A. Hawaii, Fiftieth State. Macrae, 1960. 190p. illus. \$3.50.
8-

A well-written and comprehensive book, carefully indexed and closing with an appendix that contains useful information about holidays, place names, population figures, etc. The material is well-organized, and there is good balance in the aspects of Hawaiian life chosen by the author for examination. Industrial, cultural, historic and civic areas are thoroughly explored. The relations between Hawaii and the United

States are given very careful attention, especially the area of labor relations. Maps and photographs are good, and the writing style is smooth and straightforward: dignified without being dry.

R Braidwood, Robert J. Archeologists and What They Do. Watts, 1960. 180p. 9-12 \$3.95.

A book that gives in great detail a picture of the procedures, living pattern, and methodology of the archeologist, with emphasis on the work done on a dig. The writing style is not formal, but the explanations of some processes (the steps in search trenching, for example) are not clear and would have been greatly simplified by diagrams or photographs. Information on preparation for the profession, on the various kinds of archeological research, and on the less glamorous aspects of the archeologist's life gives a comprehensive and realistic picture. Mr. Braidwood's devotion to, and enjoyment of, his profession are pervasively evident and give encouragement to the reader interested in this choice of career as well as giving a vitality to the text.

Ad Brown, Bill. Big Rig; by Bill and Rosalie Brown; illus. by Peter Burchard. 3-4 Coward-McCann, 1959. 48p. \$2.50.

The story of a truckdriver whose cargo was being damaged by a mouse, and a mouse who had decided to stick with this particular driver because he was a kind man. The book combines a minimal plot (driver adopts mouse after gnawed wiring sounds horn and effects the rescue of a stranded school bus) and a good deal of information about trucking. A glossary defines the truck—or rig—terminology, but there is a somewhat heavy dose of unfamiliar vocabulary with the body of the story at this reading level.

R Brown, Myra (Berry). First Night Away from Home; pictures by Dorothy Marino. Watts, 1960. 56p. \$2.50. yrs.

A most enjoyable picture book. Stevie goes to spend the night with his best friend, who lives at the end of the block. On the way, he asks other children, importantly, if they've ever slept away from home. Their answers vary, but the answers are uniformly entertaining. Stevie has trouble getting to sleep that night . . . until his hostess appears with the Teddy Bear his mother has brought over. An experience that small children find exciting is told with simplicity and naturalness; the children are truly child-like and the humor is inherent in this very fact.

NR Bruce, Dana, ed. My Brimful Book. Platt and Munk, 1960. 72p. illus. \$2.95. 3-6 yrs.

An oversize picture book that is divided into three parts. The first section has a dozen familiar poems, each by a different author; the poems are illustrated with sentimental drawings by Tasha Tudor. The second section, illustrated by Margot Austin in rather pedestrian style, has verses from Mother Goose, several to a page. Section three, competently illustrated by Wesley Dennis, presents animal stories (no author cited: possibly these have been written by the editor) in a coy writing style. The print in this section is oversize, presumably intended for independent reading. The original material in this book is of little value; the poems and verses are easily available in other volumes.

SpR Budd, Lillian. The Bell of Kamela; illus. by Paula Hutchison. Rand McNally, 6-9 1960. 76p. \$2.95.

A book in which the scene moves from the present to pioneer days, and returns briefly to the present. Two lumberjacks hear a mysterious bell in the forest—it seems to talk. The major portion of the book, an explanation of the bell, tells of the westward journey of the family who placed the bell in a high treetop. It is a deeply moving story

of faith and courage; the writing is vivid and the people are real and sympathetically drawn. At the close of the book, the lumberjacks cut down the tree and find the bell, although they never learn the whole story. This is not a story about children, but it is an absorbing story for the perceptive reader.

R Carlson, Natalie (Savage). Evangeline; Pigeon of Paris; illus. by Nicolas.
3-5 Harcourt, 1960. 71p. \$2.75.

This one is not strictly for the birds, but has a delightful French flavor as well as describing the adventures of Evangeline. The Chief of Police having decreed that there were too many pigeons in Paris, a plan was executed whereby doped pigeons were deported to the country. Thus Evangeline was separated from her mate, Gabriel; and she'd had quite a time catching him. After much trouble and considerable heart-ache, Evangeline found her way back to Paris—and there was Gabriel, wondering why it had taken her so long, everybody else had flown back long ago. Style is good, atmosphere and humor are highly diverting.

Ad Castle, Jane. Peep-lo; story and pictures by Jane Castle. Holiday House,
1-2 1959. 36p. (A Beginning-to-Read Book) \$2.50.

While playing on the beach, Jane sees a plover that seems to have a broken wing. She realizes, when the bird flies away and when she sees a nest nearby, that the mother plover is trying to keep her away from the eggs. Jane watches a baby bird hatch, and she gets her father's field glasses so that she may observe the plovers. The story is slight and the chief value of the book is in the attitude of the child toward the birds: interested but not destructive. Competent but rather tepid illustrations, static but giving seashore atmosphere. Has good interest and unusual subject for a Beginning-to-Read book.

R Cavanna, Betty. Accent on April. Morrow, 1960. 256p. \$2.95.
6-9

A perceptive novel about a girl of fifteen, unusual in its main emphasis, which is on sibling relationships in the adolescent years. Kathy has other problems: being jealous about her best friend, falling in love, doing a good job on the school paper . . . the author has given a balanced picture, but has not centered interest on romance. Lively writing style, good characterization, and adept dialogue. A further interesting aspect of the book lies in the family atmosphere, that of an urban and urbane academic milieu.

R Cleary, Beverly. The Real Hole; pictures by Mary Stevens. Morrow, 1960.
3-6 32p. \$2.75.
yrs.

An enchanting picture book to read aloud. The text has a sincerity and simplicity that are tremendously effective, with humor that is inherent in the situation and the conversation of the very real children. Janet and Jimmy are twins, age four; Janet likes to pretend, but Jimmy likes things that are real. He wants a shovel that is not a toy so that he can dig the biggest hole in the world, and he refuses all suggestions for using the hole. His father finally persuades Jimmy that it would be nice to plant a spruce tree, and then at Christmas they will have two trees . . . one inside the house, one out. The illustrations, some in color and others in black and white, have a lively and humorous charm.

R Coggins, Herbert Leonard. I Am a Mouse; illus. by Judith Brook. Abelard-
4-6 Schuman, 1959. 117p. \$2.75.

A delightful story told by a young mouse, Moose, who has an inquiring mind. Finding that the cheese holders (placed about so thoughtfully by the People) are defective, Moose learns to get the cheese without being hurt. He travels about teaching other

mice how to deal with the problem; it is with dismay that the mice learn that these cheese holders are Traps. The writing style is smooth and plausible, and the humor emerges in delicious fashion from the candid and earnest observations Moose makes on life. He is surprised to learn, for example, that people are not born blind; he is astonished to learn that small people cannot talk when they are born, but have to be taught their own language. The art of the author is in the consistency with which he maintains the viewpoint of the mouse.

M Colman, Hila. The Best Wedding Dress. Morrow, 1960. 221p. \$2.95.
7-9

Sara, just at the time she graduated from high school, lost her mother. Therefore, when she became engaged, it was difficult to resist the two interfering aunts who were trying to be helpful in making plans. Everything seemed so prosaic—even her fiance became interested in his humdrum job. Sara, immature and romantic, had to learn painfully the fact that happiness in love and artistic satisfaction could be found in more conventional settings than a Greenwich Village garret. The writing style is adequate; values and attitudes are good. The weaknesses of the book are a fairly patterned plot, characterizations without depth, and a heroine who is remarkably naive for a girl of eighteen who has been brought up in Manhattan.

Ad Conklin, Gladys. I Like Butterflies; pictures by Barbara Latham. Holiday
2-3 House, 1960. 25p. \$2.95.

Simply presented information about some of the more common butterflies. There is no attempt to have the book serve as a handbook for identification; the butterflies are pictured, in some cases the names are included, and a small amount of text makes a very general comment. A list of names with corresponding page numbers is appended. Not as useful as books like Pistorius' What Butterfly Is It? (Wilcox and Follett, 1949) for the reader who already has an interest that demands information, but a good book for the small child whose pleasure or curiosity may be led toward the development of a further interest in butterflies.

Ad Corbett, Scott. Dead Man's Light; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Little, 1960.
5-7 176p. \$3.

An adventure story set approximately at the turn of the century. Tommy, an orphan who has been shunted about amongst relatives, arrives to stay with Uncle Cyrus, who works in a lighthouse. Uncle Cyrus is the first relative Tommy really likes, and he loves the atmosphere of the sea and the lighthouse. The boy solves an old mystery about a former keeper who died, and in so doing, he wins a substantial award. Uncle Cyrus weds a sympathetic widow so that Tommy can be adopted, and the plot of two nefarious villains to find the mysteriously lost jewels is foiled with Tommy's help. With this plethora of plot and the exaggerated characterization of adults, it is the more a credit to the author that the book is readable: lively, suspenseful and humorous.

M Crosby, Alexander L. Rockets into Space; by Alexander L. Crosby and Nancy
3-5 Larrick; illus. by Denny McMains. Random House, 1959. 81p. (Easy-To-Read Book) \$1.95.

Brief information about the solar system is followed by a short history of rocketry and an explanation of the way in which a rocket works. The authors then go on to describe the probable passenger-carrying space ship and the problems of putting men into space; they discuss space stations and travel to the moon. The short sentences and brief text make for easy, independent reading. Illustrations are difficult for younger children. The treatment of each of the topics is rather scanty, and there are several minor distractions in the writing style. For example, "If you get up very early, you can see Venus before sunrise." . . . but there is no guide to its position, so it

might better have been omitted. There are also irrelevancies: "We don't know what happened to the first man who set fire to gunpowder. He may have been blown up, too." It is somewhat obtrusive when the text changes from third to second person and back; it seems arbitrary to speak of a visit to Mars in such a positive statement as, ". . . the ship will coast through space for 260 days. When it gets close to Mars it won't land. It will circle the planet." Index is appended.

NR Cummings, William T. The Kid; story and pictures by W. T. Cummings.
3-4 Whittlesey House, 1960. 32p. \$2.25.

A mood story. A small boy lives all alone in a deserted house after his grandfather dies, subsisting on nuts and berries. Lonely, he wanders until he meets a golden horse; the horse takes the boy back to the farm he's wandered from; the farmer and his wife on the very first evening ask the boy to live with them. Although fanciful, the plot is not fantastic; the fact that it is unrealistic is therefore obtrusive. The theme is too esoteric for the small and literal reader, being quite inappropriate for the grade level. The writing style and some of the descriptions of outdoor life create an effective atmosphere; it is unfortunate that the story line is thin.

Ad Daniell, David Scott. The Boy They Made King; illus. by William Stobbs.
5-7 Duell, 1959. 151p. \$3.

A fictionalized version of a passage in English history. When a Tudor king succeeded to the British throne, a group of Plantagenet supporters plotted to depose him by putting on the throne a boy they claimed was the true king, Edward VI. For this purpose, they took young Lambert Simnel from his family; carefully coached, the boy was to pretend to the role of Edward Plantagenet . . . and the plot almost succeeded. A suspenseful adventure story, with good background of the fifteenth century and with historical interest; the details of the plot are rather patterned.

NR Daugherty, Charles Michael. Wisher; with pictures by James Daugherty.
4-6 Viking, 1960. 40p. \$2.50.
yrs.

Wisher was the only kitten in the litter that was not happy with his lot; he wanted to be anything but a cat, despite his mother's sage advice. He wished he were a fish: one night he dreamed that he swallowed a fish that grew bigger . . . he turned into a fish . . . it swallowed a cat and it grew bigger, and then turned into a cat . . . and he woke up. Then Wisher was happy to be himself. Most of the text's interest depends on the dream sequence, and it is rather confusing. The illustrations are both repetitive and distracting.

Ad Dehkes, Evelyn S. Anna-Marie. Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 207p. \$3.
7-10

The story of a young girl who seeks independence, set in Norway at the beginning of the century. Anna-Marie breaks the pattern of conformity in her small town by going to work in a newspaper office instead of becoming a maid. She learns to set type so well that she can get a job in a large publishing company in the city. Hating to leave her country, she finally realizes that she loves Erik, the young man who had gone to America, so she goes at last to become a bride in a strange land. A good background, with the Norwegian setting and vocational interest. The development of the action is somewhat patterned, and the ending of the book is weak: a bit trite and sentimental. The introduction of words and phrases in Norwegian is awkward.

R De Leeuw, Cateau. Fear in the Forest; illus. by Leonard Vosburgh. Nelson,
4-7 1960. 127p. \$2.95.

A story about those pioneers who, at the close of the eighteenth century, were defending the Ohio Territory against marauding Indians. Daniel, whose father's death at the

hands of Indians had left the boy deeply frightened, was now an orphan. He joined the pack-horse brigade that brought supplies to a fort, and became very fond of the family of the brigade leader. When Indians attacked, Daniel forgot his fear in defending one of the children of his adopted family. Smoothly written, the tale has the appeals of danger and excitement, and the values of courage, persistence and good friendship relations. Characterization is good, and Daniel's progress toward security is gradual and believable.

NR Dines, Glen. The Fabulous Flying Bicycle. Macmillan, 1960. 163p. illus. 4-6 \$2.75.

Jerry, a boy who is always getting into trouble because of his mad inventions, becomes involved in the activities of an adult who has a product called transoplastic. They encounter a motorcycle gang called the Black Angels; they are engaged in incidental escapades of extravagant nature. Characters are overdrawn, and the pace of action is relentless; writing style is poor, depending on exclamations, strained similes and emotion-laden adjectives. The illustrations augment the effect of a comic book set in print.

R Dufek, George John. Through the Frozen Frontier; The Exploration of Antarctica; illus. with photographs. Harcourt, 1959. 192p. \$3.25.

The author, a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy, was in command of four Operations Deep Freeze, the four-year program (1955-1959) that was a part of the International Geophysical Year. The first part of the book describes the Antarctic and its bird and animal life, and gives a brief resume of the early explorations of the land. This material has been reported in many other books for young readers, but is useful background for the second—and longer—half of the book. This second portion is most interesting: detailed observations by a participant, told in an informal and anecdotal style. The author gives more than information; he conveys a real feeling of the atmosphere of Antarctica and of the spirit and determination of the men who leave the comforts of civilization to live at a polar base camp.

Ad Faulkner, Nancy. Small Clown; illus. by Paul Galdone. Doubleday, 1960. 64p. 1-2 \$2.

Designated as an easy reading book, this is the story of dreams-of-glory achieved partly by accident. On his eighth birthday Pete, who wanted to be a clown as his father was, asked if he might perform in his brand-new clown suit. The Circus Man (the author might have been more accurate in naming the ringmaster) was reluctant, but all the other circus folk asked that Pete be given a chance. Because he had put his shoes on wrong, Pete's feet hurt, so he hopped in a funny fashion that amused the audience. A little overdrawn as a success story, but the achievement of a wish and the atmosphere of the circus combine pleasantly for beginning independent readers.

NR Fox, Lorraine, illus. The Nursery Book. Grosset, 1960. 21p. \$1.50. 4-5 yrs.

A book with very limited use. Very heavy pages open to show eleven double-page spreads that illustrate eleven titles of popular nursery tales. The only lettering on the page is that of the title being illustrated: "3 Little Pigs" or "Hansel and Gretel" for example. The drawing is colorful, stylized, and quite attractive; it is not always easily identifiable and there seems no reason to use the book when one can find attractive editions of nursery tales so easily. The book seems to be little more than an illustrated catalog of titles.

NR Ga'g, Flavia. Chubby's First Year. Holt, 1960. 28p. illus. \$1.95.

4-5

yrs.

A small book that recites the activities of a kitten through the calendar year: a verse on each page is faced by an illustration of Chubby, the kitten, engaged in some fashion more or less related to the month. Not useful as it might be as a way to learn the names of the months since the relationship is so slight and the month appears only as a heading to the verse. The verses scan and rhyme, but have no originality. The illustrations are pedestrian and sentimental.

R Gallant, Kathryn. The Flute Player of Beppu; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Coward-3-4 McCann, 1960. 44p. \$2.75.

The story of Sato, a small Japanese boy who loved the music of the flute player. One day Sato found a flute and decided that he would tell nobody until he had learned to play the instrument. When it came out that the flute player had lost his flute, the boy realized that he had the property of someone else. Reluctantly he decided to return the flute; he told the flute player how he loved music, and the musician promised to give lessons to the honest, earnest boy. The writing has a gentle, pleasant quality; there is unity in the plot and there are fine values in the behavior of the boy and in his great love of music.

NR Govan, Christine (Noble). Mystery at Plum Nelly; by Christine Noble Govan 4-6 and Emmy West; illus. by Irv Docktor. Sterling, 1959. 176p. \$2.50.

Another mystery story featuring the detective prowess of the group of children who have formed a club called the Lookouts. This time they become involved in a local show of arts and crafts; an old woman disappears, and so does the overpriced painting that she has just purchased. The youngsters are instrumental in capturing the culprits who had secreted some film in the frame of the picture. One of the men had been selling radar secrets to another, the latter an agent for a group that was selling to communists abroad. Not a believable plot, not very good as a mystery.

R Grimm, Jacob Ludwig Karl. The Shoemaker and the Elves; written by the 2-4 Brothers Grimm; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Scribners, 1960. 32p. \$2.95.

A lovely picture book edition of a favorite tale, with print suitable for independent reading; also useful for reading aloud to younger children. The story of the poor cobbler who returned the kindnesses of two small elves who helped him is supplemented by the artist in charming fashion. The softly colored illustrations have vivacity and variety; they also have the charm of a period piece in the details of costume and background.

R Gruenberg, Benjamin C. The Wonderful Story of You; Your Body—Your Mind—Your Feelings; by Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie (Matsner) Gruenberg; 7-10 illus. by Lee J. Ames. Garden City, 1960. 182p. \$2.95.

An excellent book about human growth, explaining the morphology and physiology of the body from conception to adulthood. The final chapters discuss individuality, maturation, and human relationship; they present in very dignified fashion the development of sex feelings and the processes of sexual relations and conception. Although the book seems to oversimplify for its intended audience it does succeed in being lucid, honest and authoritative. The illustrations are helpful although they have minor errata. For example, an explanation of the way in which food is kept out of the epiglottis refers to figure 5, which is not shown. The index is extensive; and the volume is in handsome format, with clear type, wide margins and attractive page layout.

NR Guggenheim, Hans. The World of Wonderful Difference; written and illus. by 4-5 Hans Guggenheim. Friendly House, 1960. 50p. \$2.50.

A book that has a very good purpose: it pleads for an end to discrimination. Unfortunately, the way in which the author has combined flippancy, moral lesson, prose, rhyme, varied typesize, tenses and genders creates only confusion. Picture-book format and vocabulary are not well-suited to each other. An example of the style follows: in writing of laws, ". . . one that is graver than any other, which is why it is called the law of gravitation. Before the law of gravitation, all men and all things are equal, all over the world. Now here is something that will explain this law, if you throw an apple into the air in Kalamazoo, it will come down again the same way it would in Lima, Peru."

NR Guy, Anne Welsh. A Book of Tongues; illus. by Elizabeth Rice. Steck, 1960. 2-3 48p. \$1.75.

The author describes the ways in which various members of the animal kingdom use tongues; the style is occasionally reminiscent of the "Believe it or not" feature, and at the same time it is condescendingly coy. Some of the illustrations are quite unattractive; the amount of nature information to be gained from the book is very slight and of dubious interest; the book seems to serve no particular purpose.

NR Hahn, Emily. June Finds a Way. Watts, 1960. 148p. \$2.95. 7-9

June has been unpopular at each new school because she was so brainy that she was ostracized as a Quiz Kid. This time she is determined to join in school activities and become one of the gang—but it doesn't work. Finally she decides to play dumb, to the dismay of her teachers; she nearly flunks until the school football hero tells her to be herself. Also she becomes his girl. Although the author has a brisk and competent style, the story is not convincing, either in the attitude of the heroine or in the reaction of her schoolmates. The characters are differentiated, but they are superficially drawn, with some of the adult characters quite wooden.

Ad Hammett, Evelyn Allen. I, Priscilla; drawings by Ellen Moore. Macmillan, 5-7 1960. 202p. \$3.

The story of a small band of pioneers who traveled, in 1635, from their homes in Dorchester, Massachusetts to a new settlement on the Connecticut River. Told with Priscilla Grant, age twelve, as the central character, the book is based on the diary of the author's ancestress. The writing style is stiff and the pace of the action slow; the atmosphere and the dialogue are convincing, however, and the innumerable detailed accounts of daily life in the period are interesting.

M Hartwell, Nancy. The Place on Wishbone Alley. Holt, 1960. 185p. \$3. 7-9

A time-tested recipe. Father dies, leaving widow and two daughters an old house in a small town; mother is the helpless type; older daughter loves to cook; there is no good restaurant in town. The ingredients are put together with some competence and the details of the restaurant business are interesting but the style cannot overcome the limitations of the plot. In a formula ending, the pretty young mother remarries and the older daughter becomes engaged.

Ad Hartwell, Nancy. Wake Up, Roberta. Holt, 1960. 186p. \$3. 7-9

Roberta and her four brothers had been very much under the thumb of their father since their mother's death. They'd always traveled about, since father was an Army man. Now Roberta wanted to stay in the small town they had come to, but she had to learn a lot about the way to be a girl. The writing has pace, and there are some variations on the usual teen-age novel. Bobby isn't snubbed by the "best" girls, and she very quickly sees through the conceited senior boy. It is just a little pat to find a

trunk full of valuable old dolls that give Bobby money for clothes, an exhibit for a hospital fete, and a new hobby. Good values, and an absence of the melodramatic, very natural conversation.

R Hayes, Florence (Sooy). Alaskan Hunter; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Houghton, 5-7 1959. 248p. \$3.

The story of two Eskimo boys who leave their igloo village for a year of hunting and trapping while visiting a somewhat more modern Eskimo community. The hunting episodes are vividly described; the characters are distinctively drawn; the most interesting aspect of the book is, however, in the picture it gives of the adjustment of the Eskimo to the invasion of the white man and his culture. A stimulating book.

R Haywood, Carolyn. Annie Pat and Eddie; written and illus. by Carolyn Hay-2-4 wood. Morrow, 1960. 187p. \$2.95.

Enjoyable as ever, another story about Eddie and Annie Pat; here they are at the seashore for the summer, and many of the diverting episodes have to do with a Children's Theater. Smooth style and artless humor, pleasant line drawings. The action never bogs down, yet all that happens to Annie Pat and Eddie is perfectly natural and believable.

NR Hewett, Anita. Elephant Big and Elephant Little; And Other Stories; illus. by 3-4 Charlotte Hough. Barnes, 1960. 64p. \$2.25.

The title story and eight others in the volume are about jungle animals, although a Princess appears in one in a style reminiscent of a Wilde fairytale. The writing seems imitative; both the conversation of the animals and the lessons they learn are like a Kipling animal story. The plots have little originality or humor, and the stories are burdened with a large amount of conversation that is rather heavily jovial.

R Hinchman, Catharine (Sellew). Torchlight. Little, 1960. 215p. \$3. 7-10

An unusual teen-age love story. The Windham family has taken under its wing a young man who is a Hungarian refugee. Troubled and insecure, Jimmy causes the Windhams much concern; especially sympathetic is Cindy Windham, who falls in love with Jimmy. The story gives a good picture of the adolescent as Cindy and her friends meet their differing problems; it also presents understandingly (if a bit dramatically) the difficulties of the refugee. Adequate characterization, excellent family relationships.

M Howard, Vernon Linwood. Pantomimes, Charades and Skits; illus. by Doug 6-8 Anderson. Sterling, 1959. 123p. \$2.50.

Some of the games suggested in this volume may be useful, but others seem so obviously similar that it is hardly necessary to list them. The pantomiming ideas are quite obvious ones, such as saying "Come here" by beckoning; a few suggestions are misleading, such as sniffing to indicate "I smell fresh pie." The charades are often quite complicated but have no advice on performance: For example, a player acts out the name of his dog using the strangest name possible, such as Barkerboy or Cat-chase; it is up to the audience, says the author, to guess the unusual name—there is no clue to the performer on how to do this.

R Ireson, Barbara, ed. The Barnes Book of Nursery Verse; illus. by George K-2 Adamson. Barnes, 1960. 286p. \$4.95.

A wide selection of poems, riddles, and jingles to read aloud; illustrations are gay, fanciful black-and-white drawings interspersed amongst the poems on the pages. A useful book for the home as well as for library collections. Indexed by first lines, and by authors; the titles of selections are listed under the author's name. The book

is divided loosely into subject areas or form; some of the themes are, for example, Country Things, Riddles, Songs, Sense and Nonsense, and Walks, Rides and Journeys.

Ad Janice. Angelique; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House, 1960. 32p.
K-2 \$2.25.

The story of a pet duck who lived a very happy life in a Paris garden . . . until her owner brought home a poodle. Coco made life miserable for Angelique, so she ran away; but watching a sparrow defend its nest, Angelique realized that she, too, must protect herself. Once Coco had been put in his place, the two pets got along very well. When Angelique had ducklings, Uncle Coco was as proud as the proud mother. The illustrations have a light and lively attraction that echoes the vivacity of the text; both have delightful Parisian touches. The concept of guarding one's home is rather adult, and the fact that Angelique produces progeny on a do-it-herself basis, with no drake mentioned, may be misleading.

NR Johnston, Johanna. Close Your Eyes; illus. by Dagmar Wilson. Dodd, 1960.
4-6 30p. \$3.
yrs.

A small child describes some of the things that one can see in imagination when one's eyes are closed: snowflakes and rainbows, skyrocketes and birthday cakes. While the book may be useful to encourage a child to use his imaginative powers, it is static, suggesting sights rather than events. The illustrations are adequate but not unusual; the text has some bits of fresh imagery, but it also has statements or transitions that may prove confusing. For example, it mentions water drops sparkling in the sun, and proceeds "The sparkle of water is sparkle of - (next page) FIRE!"

R Kenworthy, Leonard Stout. Leaders of New Nations; illus. by Samuel Kweskin.
7-12 Doubleday, 1959. 336p. \$3.50.

Studies of leaders of twelve countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Since the careers of the twelve men are inextricably meshed with the recent history of their countries, the studies are as much reports on the emergent nations as they are biographical. The writing style is sober and packed with detail, most informative. The men whose roles are examined are Bourguiba of Tunisia, Nkrumah of Ghana, Mohammed V of Morocco, Ben-Gurion of Israel, King Hussein of Jordan, Jinnah of Pakistan, Nehru of India, Diem of Vietnam, Magsaysay of the Philippines, Nasser of Egypt, Nu of Burma, Rahman of Malaya, Senanayake of Ceylon, and Sukarno of Indonesia.

M Kessler, Ethel. Kim and Me; by Ethel and Leonard Kessler. Doubleday, 1960.
3-5 27p. illus. \$2.
yrs.

In a read-aloud picture book, a boy of three tells about all the things that he can do, but his baby sister Kim cannot. He knows that there was a time when he was as helpless as Kim is now; he can see that there are some charms in a baby sister despite her inadequacies. The text maintains the child's viewpoint, but the writing style is dull and the book would be more useful if it extended to include the notion that the baby will some day be three also, and then she will be able to do what her brother now can.

R Kettelkamp, Larry. Drums, Rattles, and Bells; written and illus. by Larry
4-6 Kettelkamp. Morrow, 1960. 48p. \$2.75.

In his usual precise and simple style, Mr. Kettelkamp describes the four basic groups of percussion instruments: drums, rattles, bells, and keyboard. For each group of instruments there is a brief description of the earlier forms, an explanation of the way in which this type of percussion instrument is made, and some description of the various types used today. The instructions for making instruments at home require ma-

terials that are inexpensive or free, and ones easy to procure; directions for assembling the instrument are clear. A useful book; as with his other books, the author has been wise in limiting the scope of the book to a fairly narrow and well-defined subject.

M King, Martha Bennett. Papa Pompino; pictures by Jan B. Balet. Rand McNally, 4-6 1959. 36p. \$1.50.

Papa Pompino is a former clown who lives a simple and happy life; he is beloved by the children to whom he is teaching tricks. Papa meets a frail lad of ten and his burly bodyguard; they are a threat to him because the boy—H. M. T. Dunlop III—is heir to the land on which Papa has built his home. A lost will is found, it is declared invalid, H. M. T. makes out a new will after having stepped in with a knockout blow to save Papa in a fistfight with the bodyguard. A rather confusing storyline, but humor in the writing and a delightful lilt to the language lend color. Illustrations are stylized and attractive. A Slottie toy is included with the book.

M Kinney, Harrison. The Kangaroo in the Attic; illus. by Alain. Whittlesey House, K-2 1960. 32p. \$2.50.

A read-aloud fantasy about a kangaroo. Two little girls, having seen on television a commercial about a cereal product that will make a child grow and jump like a kangaroo, go on a cereal jag. From a Hopple-Dopple box comes a baby kangaroo; it grows . . . and grows . . . until its head crashes right through the roof. Such humor as the addiction to a favorite cereal may be more amusing to adults than to children, but there is appeal to the child in the combination of fanciful and everyday happenings. The illustrations are lively and humorous.

M Kirn, Ann. Tinkie. World, 1960. 30p. illus. \$2.75.

3-5
yrs.

A tall picture book for reading aloud, with illustrations in pink, red and green: soft and effective, but a bit repetitive. Tinkie McCafferty moves to a new town, and the other children laugh at her unusual name, so she goes hunting for another Tinkie. Each day of the week Tinkie tries a different animal; finally she hears a lamb's bell go "TINKIE-tinkie," so she takes the lamb to the children and they all dance around the lamb. The Tinkie Lamb goes home with Tinkie McCafferty to have lunch. The illustrations are charming, but the story is rather thin—the ending being anticlimactic, since the child didn't actually find anyone named Tinkie and since she solved her problem by simply appropriating a lamb.

R Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Boomerang Hunter; illus. by W. T. Mars. Holiday 5-8 House, 1960. 172p. \$2.95.

An unusual and absorbing story of a young Australian aborigine whose tribe is suffering from hunger because of a long drought. Balulu and his dingo go off alone into the wilderness to hunt game and to find green pastures; their story is both suspenseful and satisfying. Good outdoor writing and a remarkable unity of construction.

Ad Knight, Clayton. The Real Book about Our Armed Forces; by Clayton and K. S. 7-10 Knight; illus. by Clayton Knight. Garden City, 1959. 215p. \$1.95.

A survey of the development of each branch of the armed forces, with topical arrangement within each section. The separate sections discuss the Army, the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Merchant Marine Academy, and the Air Force. Topics are treated briefly; the Civil War is covered in four pages in the section on the Army and in 5 pages in the naval history. There is some disadvantage in the chronological separation. Not usable as a reference source because of brevity and lack of index, the book is probably best considered as additional material for readers interested in military topics. It is regrettable that the role of women in the armed forces has

been ignored in this volume.

R Lansing, Alfred. Shackleton's Valiant Voyage; illus. with photographs.
6-10 Whittlesey House, 1960. 220p. \$3.95.

Abridged by the author, a shortened version of the original title, Endurance. The abbreviation has been made in the historical background material; all of the material from diaries has been kept intact. The book records dramatically the fate of Shackleton's crew when, in 1915 in Antarctica, the ship Endurance was crushed by pack ice. The book captures and maintains the atmosphere of peril and desolation, the desperate courage of the crew, the urgency of the struggle to reach civilization. Extremely well written, this account is more exciting than many of the other books on the subject.

M Laschever, Barnett D. Getting to Know Hawaii; illus. by Harris Petie. Coward-3-5
McCann, 1959. 64p. \$2.50.

A fairly superficial survey of the fiftieth state, poorly organized. The author has written down to his readers in a familiar style that is jarring. There is a certain amount of historical information given, and the author has made explicit a positive attitude toward the interracial harmony prevalent on the islands. Save for these values the material in the text is presented in a brochure fashion; all of the material, including the history and the record of racial integration, are available elsewhere.

Ad Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. The Chinese Daughter; written and illus. by
3-4 Eleanor Frances Lattimore. Morrow, 1960. 125p. \$2.50.

A warm and disarming story, simply told, of a small Chinese girl adopted by an American medical missionary in China before the war. Ai-li was a happy girl, but the comments of some of the American children—especially after her younger sister was born—made her increasingly conscious that she was different. She tried going to a school for Chinese girls . . . she visited her real parents; she found, much to the joy of her adoptive parents, that it was with the people she knew best that she wanted to stay. A moving and affirmative testament of brotherhood. There may be some explanation needed for the fact that giving a child for adoption—as Ai-li was—was a practice that has been more common in China than in the United States.

Ad Lobdell, Helen. Captain Bacon's Rebellion. Macrae, 1959. 192p. \$2.95.
6-9

A romantic novel based on early colonial history. A rebellion against the dictatorial governor of Jamestown, Governor Berkeley, was led by Nathaniel Bacon during the reign of Charles II. The story is told from the viewpoint of a young volunteer, Leigh Martinson, who matures during the course of the battles against Berkeley and the Indians. Leigh falls in love with the Governor's niece, who later sees the "right" side; there is a Martinson family quarrel that is quite patched up; Leigh has a last-minute reprieve from hanging when a letter arrives from the King. Wirtling style is adequate and the historical material unusual, but the book is weakened by a hackneyed plot.

R Lobsenz, Norman. The First Book of National Parks; illus. with photographs.
4-7 Watts, 1959. 85p. \$1.95.

A useful handbook, more suitable for quick reference than for reading through, and useful for quick reference even at the high school level. Some quite brief background information on our national parks and on the ranger service is given and is accompanied by a double-spread location map. A page or two is devoted to each national park; its special features are described, and information is given about the way in which the site was discovered—and by whom. The photographs of some of the scenic wonders of the parks are striking. At the back of the book are lists of National Park Service Regional Offices, information centers, statistics, and an index.

Ad McCall, Edith S. The Buttons and the Whirlybird; pictures by Jack Faulkner.
2-3 Benefic, 1959. 64p. \$1.44.

One of a series of supplementary readers for the primer level. The Button family goes for a helicopter ride, one of the children having won the trip as a prize. The family is so big that a large size helicopter must be used. Fairly static and dull as to plot, but the book is useful because it provides a continuous story at primer level.

R Malcolmson, Anne (Burnett). Miracle Plays; Seven Medieval Plays for Modern Players; adapted by Anne Malcolmson; illus. by Pauline Baynes.
6-9 Houghton, 1959. 142p. \$3.

First published in 1956. An unusual and a most interesting book. The author has simplified and adapted seven medieval plays for the use of young actors, giving some suggestions for action throughout the scripts. The preface describes the evolution of miracle plays and tells of the ways in which they were performed; it is also made very clear by the adapter that any changes she has made are for a specific purpose, so that the reader may understand how the material in the book deviates from the original, and why. An excellent glossary is appended.

Ad Matthias, Virginia Park. The Big Bending Tree; pictures by David Stone.
3-4 Watts, 1960. 120p. \$2.95.

Susy was eight years old, she was an only child, and she was lonesome. She didn't like the new house in the Kentucky mountains; when she did meet some other little girls, she thought they were odd and rather backward. But as time went on, Susy found more and more to like about the country people and about their way of life. A very pleasant story of adjustment to a different pattern. Good developmental values in the family and peer-group relationships, and in the attitude toward economic differences. The use of the mountain dialect in conversation, while authentic, becomes just a little tedious.

Ad Moore, Lamont. The First Book of Paintings; An introduction to the appreciation of pictures. Watts, 1960. 69p. illus. \$1.95.

An introduction to the elements and principles of painting; the text uses famous paintings to illustrate these qualities. Except for those reproductions which are used to demonstrate the use of color, the pictures are in black and white and are not clearly reproduced. The elements discussed by Mr. Moore are line, shape, space, light, and color; the principles are those of pattern, rhythm, balance, contrast, and unity. Each aspect is illustrated by one to four paintings; each painting is reproduced on a full page, with text on the facing page. In describing the element of unity, for example, the author analyzes the work of Velasquez, Van Dyck, Raphael, and Mondrian. The explanations are simple enough to be understood by a reader who has no knowledge of artistic technique, but it is doubtful whether the limited examples will enable a neophyte to transfer the knowledge so as to analyze other works of art.

M Moore, Mary Furlong. Your Own Room; The Interior Decorating Guide for Girls; illus. by Laura Jean Allen. Grosset, 1960. 80p. \$2.95.

A book on interior decorating written in an excessively slangy style, but giving good advice on color, furniture arrangement, and the modernization of old pieces of furniture. A section on furniture styles and periods is interesting, but gives rather superficial coverage. Charts of color-combinations are useful, but the pages devoted to sample rooms seem less so, since renovation to this extent implies more expense than most adolescent girls can manage. An excellent idea, but the language will limit usefulness.

Ad Musgrave, Florence. Sarah Hastings; with drawings by Mary Stevens.
6-9 Hastings, 1960. 160p. \$3.

The story of a teen-age girl during the days of World War I. Sarah's father is a Methodist minister, and has been called to a new church in a West Virginia mining town. Sarah finds that she has to choose between conforming to the mores of the "best" girls or be left out, and she courageously decides to stick to her principles. Today's teenagers may be amused at Sarah's problem—to dance or not to dance—but may see that it is the age for the same type of problem. Sarah is also involved in the town's prejudice against a German family; a problem solved, unfortunately, by having the German father act heroic in a mine disaster in a rather pat solution. The writing style is occasionally stilted, and the hostility between Sarah and another girl emerges in a way that seems inconsistent with Sarah's principles and upbringing. However, the story has pace, and the period in which the book is set is of special interest because it is so infrequently used as background.

Ad Newell, Homer E. Window in the Sky; The Story of Our Upper Atmosphere; 10-12 illus. by Gustav Schrotter. McGraw-Hill, 1959. 111p. \$2.75.

An authoritative book, but one which is written in so dry a style and for so special an audience that its use will be limited. The author describes the parts of the upper atmosphere and some of the phenomena peculiar to it; chapter headings indicate the fact that a reader unfamiliar with physics or chemistry will be at a disadvantage: "Collision Frequency and Mean Free Path" or "Solar Radiation and the Upper Atmosphere." Both the vocabulary and the scientific terminology have a textbook quality. Glossary and index are appended.

R Nordstrom, Ursula. The Secret Language; pictures by Mary Chalmers. 2-4 Harper, 1960. 167p. \$2.75.

An absolutely delightful story about two eight-year-old girls at boarding school. None of the experiences that Vicky and Martha have are unusual; none dramatic; yet all of the details of their year make absorbing reading. Vicky is homesick and Martha is a rebel; as they adjust to each other and as they adapt themselves to the pattern of school life, both girls find satisfactions and both grow up a little. The writing style has a gentle humor, a warm understanding, and an easy narrative flow that seems effortless.

M Otto, Margaret (Glover). The Little Brown Horse; illus. by Barbara Cooney. 4-6 Knopf, 1959. 30p. \$2.50.

yrs. The little horse had two friends, a cat and a chicken. They usually played together, so when they were not around one day, the horse went looking for them and found that the hen had had chicks and the cat had had kittens. "Then suddenly the little brown horse had an idea!" He ran back to the barn, and there were his parents with a baby sister for him. A slight story, with a heavily coincidental turn. The concept of a horse putting two and two together gives an erroneous impression of the animal thought processes. Illustrations are charming in soft black, brown, and white.

R Picard, Barbara Leonie, ed. The Iliad of Homer; illus. by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. 7-10 Walck, 1960. 208p. \$3.50.

An excellent retelling of the epic poem, in a handsome book with illustrations that are appropriate in feeling and striking in execution. The volume is made more useful by a brief prologue and an epilogue, and by a list of names mentioned in the book, each with an identifying phrase. The chief asset of the book is, however, the writing style: it has sonority without being boring and it has a truly classic flavor.

Ad Pratt, Alice Day. Animal Babies; new illus. by Kurt Wiese. Rev. ed. Beacon, 3-4 1959. 125p. \$3.50.

Revised edition of the 1941 publication, in which twenty-six stories about different

animals are told in very simple style. Most of the stories are about mammals, but there are some about fish, birds, butterflies, etc. The stress is upon birth and growth; the treatment has dignity as well as accuracy. The forms of the stories are varied: some are third person, some first; some are written matter-of-factly, in others the animals have names. The writing style itself is a bit tedious, but the book is most useful. Illustrations are realistic, and the author has succeeded admirably in two of the stated goals: to emphasize kindness to animals, and to describe (as well as is possible at this level since the approach is oversimplified for the child old enough to read the text independently) the functioning of instinct. The book is perhaps better used with the first and second grade child as a read-aloud book.

Ad Priestley, Lee. A Teacher for Tibby; illus. by Theresa Sherman. Morrow, 3-4 1960. 96p. \$2.75.

The story of a pioneer family in Michigan who organized their neighbors to build a schoolhouse. Spurred on by the burning desire of eight-year-old Tibby, and under Pa Averill's leadership, the land was cleared and the cabin put up; the problem was finding a teacher. Pretty Cousin Martha decided to stay and teach school when she fell in love with the bachelor brother of Tibby's best friend. An adequate frontier story, although the plot is unoriginal; there is a good balance between main theme and minor episodes. The writing style is a little ponderous in both narrative and dialogue.

Ad Rees, Elinor. At the Bank; illus. by Gene Holtan. Melmont, 1959. 31p. \$2.50. 2-4

A book that is useful as an introduction to some of the services of a bank. Jack opens a savings account; he watches his father cash a check, write a check, and place a bond in a safety deposit box. Explanations are given clearly, but the illustrations are not always pertinent or illuminating. The material in the text never becomes too complicated, since the author has not included any of the more complicated banking procedures. The style is a bit dry, and one of the procedures described is no longer in use in some banks: the hand-recorded deposit in a bank book.

M Rose, Elizabeth. Wuffles Goes to Town; by Elizabeth and Gerald Rose. Barnes, 1-3 1960. 31p. illus. \$2.95.

When Mr. Dingleberry was invited to visit a friend in town, he took with him his dog Wuffles, who had a marvelously keen nose. Wuffles caught the scent of a burglar as he robbed a jewelry shop, and chased the man all over London. Wuffles became a hero and decided that London wasn't such a bad place, after all, despite the crowded streets. A slight story with a lack of proportion in the action sequence (the chase) which is long and involves too many people. Illustrations are in both color and black and white; they tend to be overly busy, but those in color are attractive because the artist uses color so well.

M Rowe, Viola Carson. Promise to Love. Longmans, 1960. 182p. \$2.95. 7-9

A fairly routine teen-age love story about a high-school couple who are in love, have a misunderstanding, become involved with other people, and make up. The lesson Barbara learns—that there is no room for pretense when one really loves—is stated, but the lesson is not too well illustrated by the story. Barbara and Chuck seem to be upset and to drift apart because of very slight reasons. The relationship between Barbara and her mother is sympathetically drawn.

NR Rubicam, Harry C. Men at Work in Hawaii. Putnam, 1960. 126p. illus. \$3. 4-5

A poorly written book about the industrial aspects of Hawaiian life. The major portion of the book describes the raising and processing of sugar, pineapple and coffee—

with two chapters devoted to the macadamia nut. The style is remarkably like that of a brochure from an advertising firm or the local Chamber of Commerce: facts interspersed with "cute" remarks and personal touches. The author is given to remarking blithely "as you know" in preface to presenting a fact. There is also a tendency to be condescending in tone: for example, "This happy worker is stirring 300 pounds of . . ." There is one sentence devoted to the achievement of statehood in a five-page chapter on Hawaiian history.

NR Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out What the Signs Say; by Martha and Charles 1-2 Shapp; pictures by Vana Earle. Watts, 1959. 41p. \$1.95.

Large print for easy readability, but the fact that the rather cluttered drawings also have words that distract the eye make the pages less attractive than they might be. The authors discuss the fact that signs give different kinds of information: some tell where, some how, some which way; some say "no" and some show danger; some have no words at all. It may be somewhat confusing that some of the categories overlap. The glossary does not, unfortunately, include all the words that are in the signs that are pictured, giving only the words in the text.

R Sleigh, Barbara. The Kingdom of Carbonel; illus. by D. M. Leonard. Bobbs-4-6 Merrill, 1960. 287p. \$3.50.

A sequel to Carbonel, The King of the Cats. John and Rosemary find a potion that enables them to understand animal talk, and so are entrusted with the care of Carbonel's royal offspring in his absence. They pit their wits against a witch and her apprentice, they enjoy a flying rocking-chair, they help their feline friends defeat a rival group of cats in a struggle for power. Good writing style, with amusing characters and a pleasant blend of fancy, everyday realism, and humor.

R Slobodkin, Florence. The Cowboy Twins; written and illus. by Florence and 4-7 Louis Slobodkin. Vanguard, 1960. 28p. \$2.95.
yrs.

A charming picture book to read aloud. Ned and Donny, when they wanted to play cowboys, always assumed the names of Cowboy Steve and Cowboy Jim. And that's what they told the people who asked "What are your names?" when the twins were exploring the town. That's why their mother had trouble finding them when the boys didn't show up for lunch . . . at first. Then Mother remembered how her twins pretended, and she tracked down the two cowboys, who were happily ensconced in somebody's kitchen. Children will enjoy knowing that Mother is giving the wrong answer while they know the right one, the perennial appeal of reader knows best. Genuinely childlike and ingenuous, with illustrations that are Slobodkin at his best.

M Sootin, Laura. Let's Go to a Concert; illus. by Robert Eggers. Putnam, 1960. 3-5 47p. \$1.95.

An introduction to symphonic performances for the beginning concertgoer. The different instruments of the orchestra are described and illustrated, and the disposal of the orchestral sections on the stage are diagrammed. Musical training of the performers and the conductor is discussed, as is the work of some of the non-performing contributors: the music librarian, the business staff, and the community supporters of the organization. Rehearsal and performance procedures are described; there is little technical discussion of the music itself. The text gives useful information, but the information may well be too little for the child who has familiarity with concert performances and too much for the reader to whom all of the facts are new.

M Steffan, Jack. Mountain of Fire. Day, 1959. 191p. (Your Fair Land Series) 7-9 \$3.50.

Although one of a series about National Parks, the book is less related than others

in the series to the theme; it is more centered on the Indians of the Atsugewi tribe. Paka, the young warrior who becomes chief, is the first to realize what the encroachment of white settlers may mean; he leads his people to a safe place on the Mountain—Lassen Peak. The Indian characters are well drawn, but the white men are quite stock characters: very good or very bad. Another weakness of the story lies in the fact that Paka has visions that actually materialize: his dream that the Mountain will protect his people is substantiated by Lassen's eruption. The book does not fulfill the purpose of the series and the writing style is pedestrian.

M Steiner, Charlotte. Good Day! Which Way? Knopf, 1960. 32p. illus. \$2.95.
3-6 yrs.

Although the book jacket states that the story is written in verse, this is a prose picture book in which the only rhyme is that used as picture captions and separated by two pages. This is the story of Little Rabbit, who didn't know his right hand from his left, and therefore got lost when he couldn't follow directions on the way to school. Grandfather solved this with the magic rabbit-family book; with pictures of family on the left and objects on the right, Little Rabbit soon learned left from right. There will surely be interest in a problem shared by all children, but the book makes rather heavy weather of the solution and there is not much in the behavior of the animals that is rabbit-like.

Ad Steiner, Charlotte. Karoleena's Red Coat; written and illus. by Charlotte
4-6 Steiner. Doubleday, 1960. 43p. \$2.50.
yrs.

A pleasant read-aloud picture book about a child's experiences when starting school in a small Austrian town. Set earlier in the century, the story is engagingly illustrated with period drawings. Karoleena has a little trouble integrating with the group because she wears the wrong coat and eats the wrong food, but her talent at diabolio wins her friends, and she soon has the happy experience of making a Best Friend. The facts that the other girls are unanimously unfriendly, that Karoleena must conform, and that she wins their affection by a device are far from serious in this slight book; they may be nevertheless discouraging to a small pre-school child who faces the new experience.

Ad Sterling, Dorothy. Creatures of the Night; illus. by Winifred Lubell. Double-
4-7 day, 1960. 125p. \$2.95.

Information about insects that are dormant by day and active at night. The text throughout the major portion of the book is quite straightforward; only in the beginning of the volume does the author use a popularized style. Informal in approach and easily readable, the book is loosely organized: it loses strength as scientific information because of this. The illustrations are excellent; an index and a bibliography are appended.

Ad Switzer, Gladys L. Betwixt and Between. Follett, 1959. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.50;
7-10 Library ed. \$3.45 net.

A good period story, set in rural Iowa early in the century. Olivia Harper, eighteen years old, is teaching school and "boarding around"; she learns to respect the German and Bohemian families in the community rather than to be amused by them. The action is concerned chiefly with Olivia's two suitors and her indecision about which one to marry. The interest is, however, less in the action than in the picture of the period with myriad details of costume, speech, and customs to give verisimilitude. Characterization is good, although not deep; the book may be limited in its appeal to the reader by a static quality in the writing style.

NR Symonds, John. Elfrida and the Pig; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Watts, 1959.
4-5 48p. \$2.95.

An extremely fanciful story, with a style that is too sophisticated for the age to which the subject-matter will appeal most. Elfrida, a very clever little girl, is not allowed to have toys. She talks to the pig who lives next door; he takes her for a moonlight ride to visit Mr. Manypenny, who has a house full of dolls who sweep, practice ballet, etc. Elfrida takes one doll home and is permitted to keep it; she is able to repay the Pig by saving him from being butchered for Christmas. Ornate writing, engaging illustrations.

Ad Tefft, Bess Hagaman. Ken of Centennial Farm; illus. by William Marsh.
4-6 Follett, 1959. 127p. Trade edition, \$2.75; Library edition, \$2.85.

Adequate albeit prosaic style, and with special appeal rather than wide interest, a book that tells some of the experiences of a boy of eleven on a large modern farm. The characters are believable, although superficially described; the action is minimal; information is good and the developmental values of responsibility, co-operation, and family relationships are well presented.

Ad Vance, Marguerite. Willie Joe and His Small Change; illus. by Robert Mac-
4-6 Lean. Dutton, 1959. 116p. \$2.50.

A turn-of-the-century story about a boy of eleven. Willie Joe, ambitious and determined, was a puzzle to the other members of his family, who lazily drifted through life at the plantation home that had once been a showplace. Willie Joe's desire to become a sea captain made him anxious to do any kind of work to get small change, but his family loyalties made him willing to sacrifice his small hoard to help others when they needed it. An excellent story for period and for southern atmosphere; characterization is good and writing style lively. There is some discrepancy between the interest that will be engendered by the age of Willie Joe, and the level of comprehension needed to appreciate the rather penetrating picture of the southern aristocracy past its prime.

Ad Villarejo, Mary. The Art Fair; written and illus. by Mary Villarego. Knopf,
3-5 1960. 40p. \$2.75.
yrs.

Mary and Martha were twins who went to art school; all the children were working very hard getting ready for an art fair. At the fair, all the pictures were on exhibit when it began to rain; the twins decided their pictures might as well stay up since they were pictures of people in the rain. The girls won first prize because the judges thought the drawings were the wettest, rainiest pictures of rain that had ever been painted. A slight, rather static but pleasant text with illustrations of great simplicity in blue, green and yellow with just a line or two of type on each page. Although technique is good, there is a marked repetitiveness in the illustrations. Small listeners will probably enjoy seeing in this picture book an activity with which they are so familiar, and will also be likely to enjoy the somewhat accidental basis on which the prize was awarded.

NR Walklet, John J. Adventure in Williamsburg; photographs by Carrol Seghers.
4-5 Holt, 1960. 48p. \$3.

An oversize book of posed photographs with text by the director of publications for Colonial Williamsburg. Photographs are of a boy of six and a girl of five as they spend a day playing in and about the famous town that has been restored to its original eighteenth-century condition. The text borders on brochure style as it describes the activities of Jan and Brucie in various Williamsburg spots, although the author has tried to present a narrative. The children engage in ploys of dubious safety: they go for a boat ride alone, they are left alone to meddle with machinery in the shop of the cabinetmaker, they chase geese. The text is for independent reading, suitable for children too old to be interested in the activities of smaller children; for information

about Williamsburg there are other sources. For reading aloud to children the ages of Jan and Bruce, the text is too much saturated with references to the past and with coy appreciation of the cuteness of little children. The appeal in photographs of children is less to other children than to adults.

Ad Waller, Leslie. Numbers; illus. by Shannon Stirnweis. Holt, 1960. 46p. (A 3-4 Book to Begin On) \$2.50.

A rather generalized discussion of the evolution of number systems, with comments on their usefulness and on the fact that they serve as a common language to all men. The concepts presented are not difficult, but the commentaries are not always relevant. Not a complete explanation of the functioning of numbers, and therefore the book will probably serve best to evoke or to sustain interest in arithmetic by relating numbers to historical or familiar everyday facts.

M Waller, Leslie. Time; illus. by Elizabeth Dauber. Holt, 1959. 48p. (A Book 2-4 to Begin On) \$2.50.

An explanation of the divisions of time for beginning readers. Unfortunately, the author attempts too much and therefore gives several aspects of the topic a most cursory treatment. The book discusses the concept of time and its passage, the history of time-measurement, the devices that measure time, and the causes of change: earth's movement around the sun and on its own axis. Some of the explanations are misleading, for example, "The cave man marked the passing of time by cutting notches in a stick. Each day he cut one notch. He found that from one winter to the next was 365 notches . . . or 365 days." No explanation of how he knew enough to start a new series on the 366th day. It also seems extraneous to explain, to a reader who is presumed capable of comprehending solar orbit, that time passes even when you don't think of it.

R White, Anne Terry. The Golden Treasury of Myths and Legends; adapted from 6-9 the world's great classics; illus. by Alice and Martin Provensen. Golden Press, 1959. 164p. (A DeLuxe Golden Book) \$2.95.

An impressive collection of tales, adapted in excellent style that has pace, dignity and a fine feeling for the literary flavor of the genre. Illustrations are remarkably handsome, distinguished in technique and the use of color. Most of the adaptations included are from the Greek; other selections in the book are based on Beowulf, the Volsung legend, the Song of Roland, the Persian Rustem and Sohrab, and the legend of Tristram and Isolde.

SpC Wolcott, Carolyn Muller. At Jesus' House; pictures by Paul Galdone. Broad- 1-2 man, 1959. 32p. Trade edition, \$.60; Library edition, \$1.

A book about the boyhood of Jesus, describing the activities of one day; the simple text and pleasant illustrations give a picture of the culture of that day as well as an impression of the pattern of the life of Jesus as a child. Despite the fact that the writing style moves abruptly from one incident to the next, the book will be appropriate in religious education collections for beginning independent readers.

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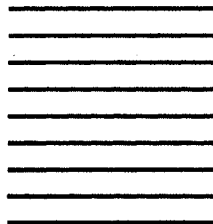
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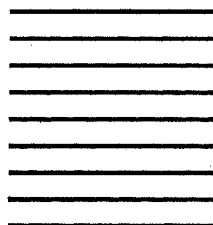
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Books for You; a list for leisure reading for use by students in senior high schools. Prepared by a committee of the National Council of Teachers of English. 155p. \$.60. Order from the NCTE, 704 S. sixth St., Champaign, Illinois. Divided by subject and annotated.

"Children's Books of 1958-59." NEA Journal, November, 1959. Graded and briefly annotated.

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Junior Booklist. Current books chosen by the Independent Schools Education Board. 1960. 59p. \$.50. Selected by teachers and librarians for pre-school through ninth grade. Write to Esther Osgood, Executive Secretary, Independent Schools Education Board, Milton 86, Massachusetts.

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Library Materials for Gifted Children. Mary K. Eakin, comp. 19p. \$.20. Bibliography No. 5, Instructional Materials Bulletin. Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The Opportunities That Books Offer. Dorothy Broderick, comp. Titles in five areas: character development, the handicapped, intergroup relations, creativity, and relationship of youth and the community. Available from the Children's Book Council, 50 W. 53rd St., New York 19, N. Y. Single copies free if a stamped and self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Recent Easy Books for First Grade Children. Patrick Groff, comp. Available from Mr. Groff at San Diego State College, San Diego, California. \$.30 plus stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Senior Booklist. Current books chosen by the Independent Schools Education Board. 1960. 48p. \$.50. Selected by teachers and librarians for students in grades 9-12. Write to Esther Osgood, Executive Secretary, Independent Schools Education Board, Milton 86, Massachusetts.

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