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**THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO
GRADUATE
LIBRARY
SCHOOL**

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED
WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22

July - August, 1969

Number 11

New Titles for Children and Young People

Abell, Elizabeth. Flower Gardening; illus. by A. D. Cushman. Watts, 1969. 84p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad 5-9 A good book for the beginner, giving advice on soils, watering and fertilizers, and on the planning and preparation of a garden bed. The text describes bulbs, corms, tubers, and roses in some detail; other flowers are included in general lists such as "easily-grown perennials" or "flowers for sunny windows." There is some discussion of pest control, of starting seedlings, potting, et cetera but none of these is covered in great detail. The emphasis is on plants that are easy to grow, so that there are many popular flowers omitted; the text has an occasional error in spelling or in giving the pronunciation of the name of a flower. A list of basic garden tools, another of sources of supplies (the kinds of stores rather than specific addresses) and a third of the location of state agricultural experimental stations are appended, as is an index.

Arundel, Honor. The Two Sisters. Meridith, 1968. 156p. \$3.95.

R 6-9 Although attention moves, with each chapter, from one of the Cafferty sisters to another, the whole is remarkably smooth and the author achieves (perhaps in part by this device) both a feeling of the family as a unit and a sense that Maura and Caroline are distinct and separate people, each the center of her own world. Maura is old enough to be irritated by her father's lack of responsibility and annoyed by her mother's acceptance of it; Caroline is young enough to be dazzled by her father's glib charm—just as Maura had once been. The changes that take place are realistic: Maura, with marriage and maturity, understands her parents better and Caroline, a pre-adolescent, begins to feel the independence and perception that mark the beginning of maturity. A sensible and sensitive story of an Edinburgh family.

Asch, Frank. George's Store. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 44p. illus. \$2.95.

M 5-6 yrs There is an antic humor here that has a childlike appeal, but the story is slight and the illustrations crowded and comic-grotesque, with George, his dog george, and his wife and children all sporting moustaches. George and george try to guess, when customers come through the door, what they will ask for. The dog is not good at this, but George is infallible—until a woman comes in who wants him. And so they are married. And they all live together in the back of the store.

Ashford, Jeffrey. Grand Prix Monaco. Putnam, 1968. 127p. \$3.29.

Ad
7-10
Dick had never wanted anything else. Despite his uncle's hostility, the boy had gone to every race he could, and had wanted only to be a racing driver. When he failed his exams, Dick got a garage job with Harry, and it was Harry—dependable, loyal, and generous—who made it possible for Dick to race again after he had had one crash. His period of preparation for the Grand Prix is more interesting than the description of the race itself, although that has almost the tension of the real thing. It is the intrigue behind scenes, the small tricks on the road, the jockeying for position both professionally and socially, that give the book a verisimilitude that makes it better than most racing stories.

Avery, Gillian, comp. School Remembered; An Anthology for Young Adults; comp. and ed. by Gillian Avery. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 252p. \$4.95.

R
7-
Much of the material in this most interesting anthology is autobiographical, and the descriptions of schools and lessons—although they vary in time and setting—have an appealing universality. The first section of excerpts is entitled "The Prison" and the classrooms are that, whether it is a convent school, an eighteenth century school for orphans, an African boys' school, or the village school in Alsace-Lorraine. The second part of the book comprises accounts in which learning is eagerly sought, either for its own sake or as a path to a career.

Bayne-Jardine, Colin Charles. Mussolini and Italy. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 120p. illus. \$4.50.

R
8-10
A detailed and sober resume of Mussolini's life and career, of the political and emotional climate after World War I that made a dictatorship possible, and of the bitter conclusion of 1945. Mussolini reached his goal by a combination of propaganda, hard work, and a tightly organized political machine, and his tenet was that only in war does man achieve his true nobility; yet it was the pressures of a war that exposed Il Duce's weaknesses and, in the train of his aggression in Abyssinia, his friendship with Hitler, and his role in the Spanish Civil War, led to his downfall. Objective and well-organized, the book gives a good picture of World War II from the Italian viewpoint as well as a candid one of Mussolini. A list of important dates, a brief bibliography, and an index follow the epilogue that describes Italy since 1945.

Benchley, Nathaniel. A Ghost Named Fred; pictures by Ben Shecter. Harper, 1968. 62p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

R
2-3
Despite the accumulation of haunting objects (scurrying mice, bats, gloomy deserted house) as well as the ghost him-or-itself, this is a cheerful, rather meandering book. The illustrations are engaging, the story amiable enough for the read-aloud audience as well. George, an imaginative child used to playing alone, went into an empty house to get out of the rain; there he met an absent-minded ghost named Fred, who knew there was a treasure but had forgotten where. Only when Fred opened an umbrella for George's homeward journey did the treasure materialize. Of the stack of coins that fell out, George kept one and decided he would never tell anyone about it.

Bischoff, Julia Bristol. Paddy's Preposterous Promises; illus. by Ingrid Fetz.

Scott, 1968. 160p. \$3.95.

Ad 4-6 The story of a Michigan farm family at the turn of the century, episodic but amiable, mildly humorous, and giving perhaps more successfully a picture of rural life than it does a sustained narrative. The five Haley children are bemused by the blarney of the new hired man, Paddy, into doing a large number of his chores. Paddy promises them something as a reward each time, and the children enjoy the surprises, but the marvelous swing turns out to have been made with essential hay-ropes, and the stilts from a treasured piece of wood. Paddy's last promise is preposterous: he is going to build them a "doojin," a contraption that can fly . . . but just after Paddy has left the farm, father reads in the paper that "Two brothers by the names of Wilbur and Orville . . ."

Bond, Jean Carey. Brown Is a Beautiful Color; illus. by Barbara Zuber. Watts, 1969. 39p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.33 net.

Ad 5-7 yrs The point of the book is not really that brown is a beautiful color but that A - many objects are brown and B - brown people are beautiful. The illustrations are brisk, vigorous, and often so busily detailed that the tight binding seems to push the pictures together. The rhyming text is not without fault ("Brown can be lighter, or darker as well/ Shiny, or dull like a rusty old bell/ It can be coffee or tawny—in fact/ Some brown you will find to be practically black.") The idea has merit, the message is worthy, the execution is overextended.

Bothwell, Jean. Defiant Bride. Harcourt, 1969. 159p. \$3.95.

Ad 6-9 A story set in India in the sixteenth century, when the Emperor Akbar came to Lahore to chasten the Sultan of Chak and annex Kashmir. In his train was a young groom, Faizi, who was injured and taken in by a nomad tribe; nursed back to health by the lovely Zayda and her grandmother, Faizi wooed and won the rebellious girl who had refused to marry her family's choice, a startling defiance of custom. The writing is competent, the plot placid; the most interesting aspect of the book is that it brings to life a place and period that are of historical interest.

Bouchard, Lois Kalb. The Boy Who Wouldn't Talk; illus. by Ann Grifalconi. Doubleday, 1969. 76p. \$3.50.

M 2-4 All of the other members of the family applied themselves enthusiastically to learning English when they came from Puerto Rico. Not Carlos. He hated having to learn another name for something he already knew, he felt irked because he couldn't read English, and it was embarrassing not to be able to make himself understood. He just stopped talking. He drew or pointed or nodded or made signs, which both his family and his teacher accepted. Then Carlos met a blind boy and the only way he could communicate with Ricky was to talk; so he talked. The writing style is adequate, the plot seems contrived, and the solution to a real and not unusual problem is one that is more fortuitous than responsive.

Brown, Marcia Joan. How, Hippo! Scribner, 1969. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.44 net.

A small hippopotamus stays very close to his mother, dozing during the day and feeding companionably at night. His mother taught Little Hippo

Ad 3-5 yrs the different kinds of roars: "How! Hello!" or "How! Watch Out!" and he used them from the safety of his mother's shadow, but the first time he strayed, Little Hippo got into trouble and had to be rescued by Mother Hippo, roaring "How! Crocodile!" The plot is rather patterned, the illustrations extremely attractive woodcuts in quiet colors.

Brown, Margery W. That Ruby; written and illus. by Margery W. Brown. Reilly and Lee, 1969. 155p. \$3.95.

Ad 4-6 The story of a hostile newcomer in a sixth-grade classroom. Ruby was big and tough; she rejected any overtures toward friendship, and one of the girls suspected that Ruby sometimes stole small objects. The conversion of Ruby is believable enough, but it is also patterned and predictable, with part of her acceptance being due to a dramatic deed (saving other tenants in an apartment fire) and a kind one (pinch-hitting as cook when there is a hitch in preparation of a festive dinner at a classmate's house). The sixth grade class is interracial, and the book has no problems of prejudice or integration; most of the rancor that Ruby rouses is in other black children. The writing style is adequate, the situation and its episodic development convincing, and the ending (Ruby joins the Girl Scouts to make it a 100% enrollment in the class) pat.

Caudill, Rebecca. Contrary Jenkins; by Rebecca Caudill and James Ayars; illus. by Glen Rounds. Holt, 1969. 34p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R K-3 Vigorous, comic illustrations capture the obdurate bravado of Ebenezer Jenkins, called Contrary, in a charming tall tale for the read-aloud audience. "Too bad you're in such a big hurry," called Dan'l, as Contrary set off to see his brother in Kentucky. So, of course, Contrary stopped off for dinner and stayed almost three years. His various adventures are hilarious, and the writing style has the true storyteller's cadence and rhythm.

Clapp, Patricia. Jane-Emily. Lothrop, 1969. 160p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.56 net.

Ad 6-9 A rather pleasant combination of a sedate love story and a taut ghost story in which a child feels the presence of an evil spirit. Jane was invited to spend the summer at her grandmother's home, and the eighteen-year-old aunt with whom she had been living came along to keep the orphaned child company. Jane insisted from the beginning that the spirit of Emily was there, and Louisa was more irritated than worried; as the summer went by it became clear that some peculiar events could, however, only be attributed to the intervention of the spoiled and malicious Emily who had died at Jane's age. Louisa's romance with a young doctor progresses with modified rapture, a matrix rather than a foil for the occasionally slow-moving but suspenseful story of the supernatural relationship between Jane and Emily.

Downer, Marion. Long Ago in Florence; The Story of the della Robbia Sculpture; illus. by Mamoru Funai. Lothrop, 1968. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.35 net.

R 3-5 A simply-written account of the work of Luca and Andrea della Robbia, with reproductions of some of their sculpture. The line drawings of the

illustrator give little save some architectural or costume details. The author describes the search made by Luca for a way to make an enamel glaze for clay, and his discovery of that lost technique; she points out the special genius of Luca in his sculpture of children and the wreathed plaque that is so distinctively della Robbia. A placid book, useful for students interested in art but probably too static for some children.

Downie, Mary Alice, comp. The Wind Has Wings; Poems from Canada; comp. by Mary Alice Downie and Barbara Robertson; illus. by Elizabeth Cleaver. Walck, 1968. 95p. \$5.95.

R
4-7 An absolutely delightful anthology, some of the selections about things peculiarly Canadian, some on topics of a serious nature, and some of deft absurdity. There are folk-like poems translated from the French, some particularly nice animal poems, and some very conventional selections. The illustrations have a great deal of vitality and are as varied as is the poetry.

Du Bois, William Pène. Porko von Popbutton; written and illus. by William Pène Du Bois. Harper, 1969. 80p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

R
4-6 If there was one ambition the President Coolidge School for Boys had, it was to beat its Canadian rival in the annual hockey game. The Coolidge goalie was eliminated and the game saved by Pat O'Sullivan Pinkerton, otherwise known as Porko, whose victory was due to the very bulk that earned him his nickname. Two-hundred-seventy-four pounds of thirteen year old boy can melt a lot of ice, and Porko, left alone, shot into the undefended net to score the only goal. Having been under the thumb of his Negro roommate (the regular goalie) Porko returns the next year, considerably thinner, to lord it over his nervous new roommate. Third in a series of books on the seven deadly sins (Lazy Tommy Pumpkinhead, Pretty Pretty Peggy Moffitt) the story has the blithe and exaggerated mood, the bland presentation, and the totally engaging illustrations that are the author-artist's trademark.

Ellentuck, Shan. My Brother Bernard. Abelard-Schuman, 1968. 30p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.33 net.

R
K-2 The scrawly, lively drawings of Bernard and his family have a hoydenish humor that is a pleasant accompaniment to the plaintive tale of Bernard's little sister. The story has the rambling air of a small child's commentary, and the familiarity of the incidents should appeal to the small listener. Bernard claims he was stolen from his cradle by a band of gypsies. "My brother Bernard says Mama isn't his real mother." (Happy little girl having her new dress pinned; gloomy boy turning his back.) "He says Papa isn't his real father." (Wistful boy bent over his homework watching little sister run to greet father.) The cruel parents not only refuse to kiss Prince Bernard's hand, they actually send him to his room supperless for hitting his sister. Sister sneaks in with a peanut-butter sandwich . . . "And Bernard made me a princess and he let me try on his crown."

Felton, Harold W. Nat Love; Negro Cowboy; illus. by David Hodges. Dodd, 1969. 93p. \$3.25.

Episodes from the life of the Negro cowpuncher who in 1854 went

Ad
4-5 west to see what a fifteen-year-old could find in the way of adventure make a book that is not a full biography but that gives a vivid picture of the Old West. A champion rider and shot, Nat Love wrote an autobiography on which these anecdotes are based. The stories are full of action, written in a brisk style that is rather heavily sprinkled with dialogue.

Fiore, Evelyn L. Mystery at Lane's End; illus. by Harold James. Doubleday, 1969. 144p. \$3.50.

NR
6-9 Patty Mason and several other young people come to the old house called "Lane's End" to participate in a VISTA program in a Spanish neighborhood. For no reason they can understand, all VISTA programs are sabotaged; the cash box is pilfered, marijuana is found in the house, an eleven-year-old disappears. Patty is instrumental in saving the day. She entices hostile people into amicability and then into helping plan programs; the staff discovers that much of the trouble has been due to one man who was running a food racket. All of this is so patterned, and written in a manner so trite, with characters so stereotyped, that the book would have no merit were it not for the fact that one important idea emerges: it is difficult to be always receiving and always thankful, and still to like the person who is the donor, especially when the recipient of charity feels that the donor thinks he is doing a favor.

Fitzhugh, Louise. Bang Bang You're Dead; by Louise Fitzhugh and Sandra Scoppetone; pictures by Louise Fitzhugh. Harper, 1969. 32p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad
3-4 An oversize book, the pages distinguished by an effective use of wide, white space in which the ferocious figures of two groups of children are distributed; in black and white, the pages have a rugged vitality. Four friends who amicably alternate in accepting the roles of bad guys in playing "Bang, bang, you're dead," are startled when another group of four challenges their claim to the accustomed play-territory. A genuinely hostile encounter takes place, after which they all decide that nobody won, everybody was hurt, and that it would be wiser in the future to play together as an octet. The treatment is insubstantial, the message worthy, and the story not as original as one might expect from the innovative Miss Fitzhugh.

Fletcher, Helen Jill. Put on Your Thinking Cap; illus. by Quentin Blake. Abelard-Schuman, 1968. 125p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.33 net.

Ad
4-7 A new book of puzzles is always welcome, and this is the usual compilation of riddles, mathematical puzzles, pattern-puzzles, word manipulation, problems with a catch, et cetera. The scrawly illustrations are mildly amusing, and most of the problems are both simple and clearly stated. There are, however, some instances of ambiguous language and some answers that may not satisfy—for example, a word-puzzle in which there is no indication given that an alternative answer is possible.

Forman, James. My Enemy, My Brother. Meredith, 1969. 250p. \$4.95.

R
7-12 Dan was sixteen when he got out of the concentration camp, an emaciated young Jew who hated war even more than he hated the Germans, a boy who wanted to be the enemy of no man. A long and hazardous trek

from Poland to the coast, a trip during which one companion dies and Dan himself is captured by the British (as an illegal Israel-bound infiltrator) and escapes, and a voyage across the Mediterranean finally brings Dan to the kibbutz where his two friends live. He becomes a shepherd and, despite increasing Arab-Israeli tension, makes friends with Said, an Arab shepherd. They lose each other when hostility erupts into war, and Dan—sickened by the killing—looks forward to the future with painful ambivalence. The book closes with a brief episode in which Said, now in the Arab army, looks at the bleak prospects ahead and wonders if his people, displaced and distraught, will ever again see their homeland. The author shows both viewpoints with understanding; he makes no judgments; he pleads only for peace. The story, although at times moving with ponderous detail, gives a vivid if depressing picture of the bitter plight of the young in wartime and a grim one of their struggle to escape. Thoughtful and impressive, the book has a taut mood of suspense that is never quite dissipated.

Glass, Paul. Singing Soldiers; A History of the Civil War in Song; selections and historical commentary by Paul Glass; musical arrangements for piano and guitar by Louis C. Singer. Rev. ed. Grosset, 1968. 300p. illus. \$6.95.

R
6- First published under the title The Spirit of the Sixties (Educational Publishers, 1965), a quite impressive collection of Civil War songs. In addition to a long and informative introduction, the authors explain their modernization of the piano settings (all fairly simple) and provide some background information for each song. Topically grouped, the songs—with the compilers' notes—do indeed have historical as well as musical value. The book is oversize, the pages lie flat for group use or piano rack, and illustrations are reproductions of old prints; a selected bibliography is appended.

Grifalconi, Ann. The Toy Trumpet; story and pictures by Ann Grifalconi. Bobbs-Merrill, 1968. 30p. \$4.95.

R
4-7
yrs All that Tomas had ever wanted, since he was four, was a shiny trumpet just like the one his big brother played. He had asked his mother, but she only smiled; Tomas wanted to lead the parade, but his father asked what a little boy of five could do with a trumpet. Then Tomas was six, and he had six centavos; when he found a pink plastic trumpet in the market he was overjoyed: it was just the right size, just the right color, just the right sound for leading a parade. The story is written with warmth and a gentle humor; the illustrations are bold in execution and gay with color, yet they share the simplicity of the text.

Gross, Sarah Chokla, comp. Every Child's Book of Verse; illus. by Marta Cone. Watts, 1968. 302p. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$4.46 net.

R
4-6 An anthology that includes many familiar poems, many contemporary selections, and some light-weight chants and riddles. Each section "Animals - Real and Invented," "Today I'll Remember," "Happenings" is preceded by a separate table of contents; title, author, and first-line indexes are appended. A useful book, its illustrations rather bold and harsh in red or green, but not unusual in what it includes. The fact that page cita-

tions under the author entries do not distinguish between individual poems is a disadvantage.

Halacy, Daniel S. Century 21; Your Life in the Year 2001 and Beyond. illus. by Susan Gash. Macrae, 1968. 182p. \$3.95.

Ad 7-10 A detailed prognosis of many facets of life in the future, some of the ideas being projections of progress already made and other conjectures based more on the rate of progress than on accomplishments. The author describes a computerized world with its increased leisure, automated services, controlled weather, new sources of energy, and new ways to travel—both on the earth and in space. The book has the combined appeals of interesting information and fascinating science fiction; it is weak in not always distinguishing between fact and conjecture and in covering so many topics that none is explored more than superficially. An index is appended.

Harris, Christie. Let X Be Excitement. Atheneum, 1969. 236p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.43 net.

R 7-12 In You Have to Draw the Line Somewhere and Confessions of a Toehanger, Mrs. Harris described, in lively narrative style and in first person, her daughters' careers. Here the vivacity and the light, amusing style are again evident; the first-person is used again (remarkably convincing, too) and the book tells the story of the author's son. His search for a career is interspersed with stories of hikes, college sports, courses of study, and part-time jobs; his choice of a career makes for excitement indeed, since Ralph becomes a test pilot.

Holl, Adelaide. Moon Mouse; illus. by Cyndy Szekeres. Random House, 1969. 35p. \$3.50.

Ad 3-5 yrs Soft illustrations in black and white with effective touches of yellow are realistic in depicting background and a bit sweet in portrayal of a small mouse named Arthur and his mother. Mother Mouse had told her son that the moon was very far away, past the edge of the meadow, past the fields of golden wheat—and that she had heard, but didn't believe, that the moon was made of cheese. One night Arthur went off alone, and finally saw the moon at the edge of a tall building; he climbed up and in, and there it was, a big, round, golden cheese. Later, seeing a crescent moon, Arthur's mother agrees, smiling, that it's a good thing he didn't eat it all up. Gentle, quite pleasant, but not highly imaginative or substantial.

Hudson, Robert G. Nature's Nursery; Baby Mammals. Day, 1969. 127p. illus. \$3.69.

M 4-6 Although the author is well qualified to write in the field of biology, this is a book with only minimal browsing use, being too random in organization and too erratic in the kinds of facts given (within a series of similar topics) to be truly useful as a source of information. Photographs are furnished for some animals and not for others. The author discusses the distinguishing characteristics of mammals, describes some in quick sketches, and cites some of the protective measures used by animal mothers, camouflage, animal homes, etc. The material is not unusual, the only exception to this being the compilation of cross-files of adult

and juvenile names in species. A glossary, an index, and a bibliography are appended.

Hull, Katharine. The Far-Distant Oxus; by Katharine Hull and Pamela Whitlock; with an afterword by Arthur Ransome. Abridged ed. Macmillan, 1969. 279p. \$4.95.

R
5-7 First published over thirty years ago, a long and charming story, now abridged, about the sustained imaginative play of a group of English children. Vacationing on Exmoor, six children carefully map out a country along the river, which they call the Oxus. Determined to follow the river to the sea, they go off on their own, floating a raft "under the pagan protection of Ahura Mazda." The dialogue is lively, the children engaging, and their adventures as believable as their imaginations are boundless.

Hunter, Mollie. The Ghosts of Glencoe. Funk and Wagnalls, 1969. 191p. \$4.50.

R
6-9 First published in England in 1966, a story of the Massacre of Glencoe in the seventeenth century, based on historical events and illustrated by maps and by reproductions of portraits of some of the participants. The fictional approach gives poignancy and strength to the facts, the story of young Ensign Stewart only one incident in the struggle between the English and the Scots, but an illuminating one. Loyalties were divided in the army, some of the Scottish-born officers sympathetic to the rebel clans and others vindictively vengeful. Ensign Stewart, torn, finally chooses to warn the rebels when an attack is planned. The story has pace and momentum, the use of first person giving both a period flavor and an authenticity.

Jackson, Robert B. The Gasoline Buggy of the Duryea Brothers. Walck, 1968. 67p. illus. \$3.25.

R
5-9 Few inventions have so quickly affected the lives of so many as did the gasoline-powered automobile; the story should be interesting to anybody and quite irresistible to old car buffs. Stately, bearded gentlemen sit stolidly in the high-wheeled and literally horseless buggy, in old photographs of cars with forgotten names or names that are still selling: Benz, Renault, Daimler. The searing details of the first race in the United States are fascinating; the race was won by the Duryea brothers (Chicago to Waukegan and back; ten hours, twenty-three minutes) who, one year later, began the American automobile industry by building motorcars that were "Noiseless, Odorless, No Vibration, Starts Automatically from Seat . . ." Ralph Nader, where were you when we needed you?

Koren, Edward. Don't Talk to Strange Bears. Windmill/ Simon and Schuster, 1969. 30p. illus. \$4.95.

Ad
K-1 A fanciful story, the combination of crisp modernity in the dialogue and of the fanciful situation an appealing one. The illustrations are filled with details that are amusing, but they are difficult to see. A small bear, Nat, goes for a walk in a magic wood and is told by his mother not to talk to any strange bears. He doesn't. He does talk to a group of mythological beasts at a board meeting, and some beavers building a dam (complete with trucks and steamshovels) and others, since none of them is a strange bear. The beasts tell him, "We are busy, busy, busy," and the beavers say, "Go home, kid," while the animals in the forest library say,

"Shhhhhhhhhhh!" So, having talked to no strange bears, Nat goes home. A bit repetitive, and anticlimactic in closing, but the nonsense humor is engaging.

Land, Barbara. The Telescope Makers; From Galileo to the Space Age. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 245p. illus. \$4.50.

R 8- Although many of the astronomers whose investigations and discoveries are described here are familiar to readers of science biographies, there are some less known names in this most interesting book. The subjects whose research is described are Lippershey, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Herschel, von Fraunhofer, Rosse, Hale, Schmidt, Reber, and Friedman. The writing has vigor and clarity, the author bringing in enough about other astronomers to make the book useful as historical material. The explanations of recent developments (the radio telescope and the rocket telescope) are clear, as are the diagrams. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Larrick, Nancy, ed. Piping Down the Valleys Wild; Poetry for the Young of All Ages; illus. by Ellen Raskin. Delacorte, 1968. 247p. \$4.95.

R 3-6 A pleasant, quite comprehensive collection that includes little unfamiliar material; the selections range widely in source, somewhat less widely in mood. The poems are grouped in subject areas, with an index of first lines and an author-title index appended. The compiler's introduction is addressed to adults and discusses reading aloud to the young; this plus the fact that so much of the poetry is for quite young children suggests that the book may be best suited to a home collection, although it should be useful in any collection of books for children.

Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Bird Song. Morrow, 1968. 127p. illus. \$3.25.

Ad 3-4 Bird Song is the small farm in South Carolina where eight-year-old Julie lives with her dead father's parents; her mother works in a northern city and visits Julie every Christmas. Julie's mother marries and plans to take her daughter home, but the plans are halted by Julie's measles, a business trip, and the advent of a baby brother. At the close of the story, Julie prepares to join her mother and stepfather, having had time to adjust to leaving the home and the grandparents she loves. The writing is very simple, the construction episodic, and the mood very low-keyed. Although the restrained mood may be a limiting factor to some readers, many girls will be charmed with the realism of the setting, the rural flavor, and the large looming of small events.

Lexau, Joan M. Archimedes Takes a Bath; illus. by Salvatore Murdocca. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 56p. \$3.50.

R 4-6 A sprightly story that very deftly weaves into the fictional matrix some scientific facts. Xanthius is a boy slave who has been detailed by King Hiero to see that the absent-minded Archimedes gets to his meals and baths. "'I do not need you,' Archimedes said. 'Long ago you saved my life,' Xanthius said. 'When I was a baby you fell over me and brought me to the king.'" Archimedes keeps stumbling over things . . . and he keeps thinking, and he keeps resisting the boy's efforts to get things done on schedule. Meanwhile he explains some of his inventions and he comes up with the most famous in-the-tub-discovery of all time. The

almost-cartoon style illustrations are admirably suitable for the sophisticated nonsense of the tale. A brief epilogue gives some facts about the life and work of Archimedes, pointing out which characters in the story are fictional.

McGovern, Ann. Black Is Beautiful; illus. by Hope Wurmfeld. Four Winds, 1969. 34p. \$3.50.

Ad K-3 A series of photographs (some competent compositions, some hazy shots of children) accompanies a text in which a few poetic lines on each page reiterate the message of the title. "Zig-zag of lightning. Thunder crack; Stormy sky; the clouds turn black. Black is beautiful." Or, "Puppies in a window. A tankful of fish. Bright ribbons in black hair. Black is everywhere. Black is beautiful." The text is slight, the repeated asseveration that being black is beautiful—a welcome message but rather flimsily based on the prevalence of black in objects around us. See also Bond's Brown Is a Beautiful Color.

Mann, Peggy. When Carlos Closed the Street; illus. by Peter Burchard. Coward-McCann, 1969. 71p. \$3.86.

R 3-5 Another story about the heterogeneous urban neighborhood of The Street of the Flower Boxes. Here the enterprising young hero, Carlos, solves the problem of no play space by closing off the street for a ball game between two rival gangs. He finds that the police take a dim view of tied-up traffic, and learns both that one must go through channels and that the heretofore-feared police can be friendly and helpful. The all-neighborhood turnout and integrated jamboree at the close of the story seems a large dose of sunshine, but the setting and the people are real and sympathetically depicted, and the story should be, because of the background, useful as well as enjoyable.

Mayne, William, ed. William Mayne's Book of Giants; illus. by Raymond Briggs. Dutton, 1969. 215p. \$4.90.

R 4-6 A delightful collection, with a light-hearted preface by the compiler, notes on author and story preceding each selection, handsome illustrations, and big, clear print. For reading aloud, for storytelling, or for independent reading. Among the more familiar tales are "Jack the Giant-Killer" and "The Selfish Giant"; among the newest, Janet McNeill's "He Who Laughs Last." The book, first published in Great Britain under the title The Hamish Hamilton Book of Giants, has tales of every mood in the nineteen included.

Mellersh, H. E. L. Minoan Crete. Putnam, 1968. 143p. illus. \$5.95.

R 8- Profusely illustrated with drawings and photographs (some in full color) this sophisticated and informative book is written by a British educator and should have great appeal for any reader interested in art or archeology. Or history. The material is well-organized and the subject fascinating even if familiar to the reader since the writing is both thoughtful and witty. What Mr. Mellersh achieves is a sense of affinity with the Minoans, a vigorous portrait of a vigorous people. A brief bibliography and an index are appended.

Mitchell, Donald, comp. Every Child's Book of Nursery Songs; arranged by

Carey Blyton; illus. by Alan Howard. Crown, 1968. 175p. \$3.95.

R
3-7
yrs

A very satisfying collection, brimming with old favorites (versions selected by the compilers) and spiced with some selections not as well known; there are many familiar musical games and the accompaniments are as simple as they can be. The illustrations, chiefly black and white, have an antic charm. The selections are not grouped in any pattern but are in alphabetical order from "Aiken Drum" to "Where Are You Going To, My Pretty Maid?"

Nichols, Ruth. A Walk Out of the World; illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Harcourt, 1969. 192p. \$4.25.

R
5-6

Tobit and Judith lived in an apartment in the middle of the city, but they were quiet children who loved to wander alone into the forest nearby. Thus begins a fantastic adventure story. They wander into a land in which a royal household, long in exile, welcomes them as descendants of their own king; they take upon themselves the task of ousting the wicked usurper who has ruled for five hundred years; they are set upon by kobolds and rescued by a dwarf race, and they magically move between their own home and the fantasy world with no passage of time. The fantasy is elaborate and the writing style deft, so that each episode is convincing and the mood of haunting mystery sustained.

Niemeyer, Marie. The Moon Guitar; illus. by Gustave E. Nebel. Watts, 1969. 151p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.33 net.

M
5-6

The setting for this adventure-mystery is San Francisco's Chinatown, the protagonist a twelve-year-old girl who resents the strict discipline that her grandfather, American-born but old-fashioned, maintains. Su-Lin longs to go to slumber parties, to try out for the school orchestra, to be American as well as Chinese. She and her friend Tracy Webster are sure that they can uncover the mystery of a lost family treasure, the moon guitar; they do better than that when—after a long, long chase sequence—the retrieved guitar turns out to hold a priceless scroll. Great publicity ensues, a testimonial dinner is held, Su-Lin's father puts his foot down (in her behalf and in defiance of his father) and even Grandfather admits that the girl-child hasn't shamed the family. Although the author's attitude toward her characters is warm and friendly, the characters themselves are, in varying degrees, stereotyped. The mystery and the children's role in solving it are quite contrived; the information about Chinese-Americans is interesting information but it is obtrusively introduced.

Phelan, Mary Kay. Midnight Alarm; The Story of Paul Revere's Ride; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 131p. \$3.75.

R
4-6

As in Four Days in Philadelphia - 1776, the author describes the details of four action-packed days that precede an historical event of the American Revolution. As Revere moves about the city, he mulls over the situation, giving the reader ample background (should he need it) for an understanding of the crucial nature of the immediate events. The book culminates, of course, with Revere's ride to Lexington and his capture (and mysterious release) by the British. The writing is brisk, the pace of action maintained, and the historical details smoothly incorporated; there is no feeling of suspense but the personal focus and

moderate tone give a feeling of verisimilitude that makes familiar material have surprising interest.

Richoux, Pat. A Long Walk on a Short Dock; decorations by George Porter. Morrow, 1969. 252p. \$4.50.

R
6-9 A good first-person story about a pivotal summer in a girl's life. Terry, fifteen, is not yet ready for the dating game and is scornfully aware that an attractive new girl at the lake resort is merely pretending an interest in sailing. Vicki gets plenty of attention from Carl, the local boy who is an excellent sailor and who, Terry finally realizes, has been as convinced for years as she herself has, that they have nothing in common. The new rapport between the summer visitor, Terry, and the native, Carl, is reached in a completely believable way, and the story is free of the trademarks of the patterned summer-romance book: there is not really a triangle situation, and the dance Terry bribes a younger boy to take her to ends with Terry and her escort grimly dancing. The writing style has ease and flow, and there is just enough about sailing for the buff and not too much for the land-bound reader.

Sanford, David E. My Village, My World; illus. by Gustave Nebel. Crown, 1969. 190p. \$4.25.

Ad
5-7 Nikos and his teacher thought that the boy should go on after his sixth and final year of school, but that would mean leaving the village and the family could neither afford the cost nor afford to do without the help of their only son. A small farmer in a Greek fishing village, father explained patiently that money was needed for the girls' dowries, that education wasn't necessary—but Nikos longed to learn. His opportunity came when a wealthy man, grateful because his grandson's life had been saved by Nikos, made it possible for the boy to attend a two-year agricultural training school. There is comparatively little action and much discussion throughout the book, slowing its pace but giving depth and color to the picture of life in a small Greek community, with all of the ramifications of personal and familial patterns.

Scarry, Richard. The Supermarket Mystery; written and illus. by Richard Scarry. Random House, 1969. 34p. \$1.95.

M
3-5
yrs Sam Cat and Dudley Pig are asked by Grocer Dog to find out who has been stealing food from his supermarket since the only way out is through the check-out counter. Sam and Dudley don disguises—Dudley a female, and Sam a sack of potatoes. After two false accusations the culprit is discovered, escapes, traps Dudley, and is in turn trapped by Sam. The details of the busy drawings are often funny, and the wild improbability of the plot will appeal to any-kind-of-action lovers, but the humor often lies in destruction or embarrassment, and the plot is heavily charged with contrivance and coincidence.

Schick, Eleanor. City in the Summer. Macmillan, 1969. 29p. illus. \$4.50.

Ad
4-7
yrs The precise drawings of a crowded urban neighborhood show tenement buildings, fire escapes, garbage cans, and people of every color and ethnic background lounging, talking, and playing in doorways and on the sidewalk. One small boy is friendly with an elderly man who raises pigeons on the roof; together they take a trip to the beach. The pictures

should appeal to small children, partly because of the clean lines and busy details and partly because of the whole conception of one kind of city scene. As a story this is limited by the lack of pace.

Schiller, Barbara, ad. Audun and His Bear; retold by Barbara Schiller; illus. by Esta Nesbitt. Holt, 1968. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Ad 3-5 A version of the Icelandic legend about the young man who spends three years' savings on a white bear, gives his prize to his king, has several adventures and returns home laden with gifts and goods. Like the version by Feagles (Autun and the Bear; Scott, 1967) the writing is direct; here it is simpler but has little period flavor. The illustrations are boldly designed and sometimes jarring; the story has pace and a trace of humor, with some minor details that differ from the version by Feagles.

Sherry, Sylvia. The Liverpool Cats; illus. by Ilse Koehn. Lippincott, 1969. 153p. \$3.95.

R 5-7 Rocky O'Rourke is a tough kid, and his gang, the Cats, reigns supreme in the section of Liverpool called St. Catherine's Square. Rocky dreams of getting revenge on the man who framed his brother Joey—at least, Joey says he was framed. When Joey gets out of prison, Rocky becomes aware that his brother is involved in what proves to be major crime; although he is not above petty thievery, breaking and entering, and occasionally inspired lying, Rocky is—at the end of the story—clearly going to escape becoming another Joey. The characterization is good, as is the dialogue; the plot is loosely constructed and the story line seems propped with ancillary material, but as a realistic and interesting study of delinquent slum children, this is solid stuff.

Showers, Paul. A Baby Starts to Grow; illus. by Rosalind Fry. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 33p. (Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Books) \$3.50.

Ad 2-3 In the author's preceding book, Before You Were a Baby, the lucid text described conception and reproduction with simplicity and dignity; it gave stages of growth in the womb and concluded with the baby's birth. Here there is a considerable amount of overlapping and duplication of information, but the discussion of foetus and embryo is given a somewhat different emphasis. The text is clear and useful, but there is so little real difference between the books that this would seem to have value only where additional material was needed.

Smith, Theresa Kalab. No Home for a Kitten; written and illus. by Theresa Kalab Smith. Steck-Vaughn, 1969. 32p. \$2.95.

NR 1 Adequately illustrated although the pictures are repetitive and unimaginative, the very slight story of a homeless, nameless kitten. He plays with a chipmunk and a squirrel, tells a skunk he is hungry and is led to some overflowing garbage for dinner for two, falls in a trash pail and is discovered by a large cat. The stilted story ends with the cat saying "You poor little kitten! My Name is Big Sam. I will take you home with me. You will have a home. And my family will give you a name. What will it be?"

Surge, Frank. Famous Spies. Lerner, 1969. 63p. \$3.95.

NR
5-6 Fourteen brief accounts of the exploits of spies, with a small amount of biographical background and an emphasis on their careers. The lives of spies have, of course, an element of dramatic action that usually makes interesting reading. Here the style of writing is so awkward as to jar the reader: "After his mother tried to murder him several times, the boy king, feeling unwanted and insecure, fled into exile in the mountains." Or, "He is one of the few spies in earlier American history who is studied and respected by people who study and respect professional spies."

Taylor, Florence M. A Boy Once Lived in Nazareth; illus. by Len Ebert. Walck, 1969. 36p. \$3.75.

R
K-2 The clean lines and cool colors of the double-page spread illustrations echo the simplicity and gravity of a book that tells of the quiet life of a small boy. "Long ago and far away," it begins, "a boy once lived in Nazareth." The boy works with his father; he lies alone on the hillside, dreaming; he sits at the rabbi's knee to study; he plays, worships, ponders, "with clear, all-seeing eyes, with heart responsive to each person's need . . ." "His name was Jesus," the book ends. There is no stiffness in the dignity and reverence of the text; it is sedate, and this is a limitation on its immediate appeal to the young listener who is not aware of the subject.

Taylor, Theodore. The Cay. Doubleday, 1969. 137p. \$3.50.

R
7-10 Torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent boy and an old man are shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island. Phillip, who has received a head injury, goes blind and is quite dependent on the old sailor, Timothy, who cares for him with infinite wisdom and compassion. By the time Timothy dies, Phillip—who at first disliked the man because he was black—realizes that he has been trained to be self-sufficient and that every act of Timothy's had been based on loving kindness. The story is very well written, the bleak setting a foil for the dramatic situation. The two characters and their relationship are developed with skill; pace and suspense are artfully maintained.

Thayer, Jane. Andy and Mr. Cunningham; illus. by Meg Wohlberg. Morrow, 1969. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.14 net.

R
4-7 yrs A charming story about imaginative play. Determined to preserve the personality of his alter ego, Mr. Cunningham, Andy manages to go through pleasant small-boy activities as Andy and to be dignified Mr. Cunningham whenever it suits him to be. There is almost an impasse when Mother says that it is unfortunate that Andy can't accept a birthday party invitation, but Mr. Cunningham quickly volunteers the information that Andy will be back by then.

Turkle, Brinton. Thy Friend, Obadiah; written and illus. by Brinton Turkle. Viking, 1969. 32p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.77 net.

R
2-4 All those readers who delighted in the small Obadiah Starbuck, Nantucket Quaker of long ago, will welcome his reappearance. Here Obadiah is irritated by a sea gull that follows him—until the day he helps the bird when something is tangled in its beak; then his feeling changes. And that is how Obadiah discovers that one way to feel friendly is to do

something for another. As his brothers and sisters tease Obadiah and his mother comforts him, the reader sees charming pictures of a large and loving family. The lovely illustrations are beautifully composed, with a skilful use of color and a wonderful way with light.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. One Day in Summer; illus. by Richard Fish. Random House, 1969. 28p. \$3.95.

Ad K-2 A quiet book that does not tell a story but describes the small adventures of a boy at the seashore; most of the day he is alone, exploring the manifold delights of a summer day. The static quality will limit appeal to readers, although there is a vivid evocation of atmosphere that will appeal to children who are familiar with the environment, an appeal that should be enhanced by the soft, realistic pictures with their sense of space and freedom.

Vlahos, Olivia. The Battle-ax People; Beginnings of Western Culture; illus. by George Ford. Viking, 1968. 223p. Trade ed. \$6.95; Library ed. \$6.43 net.

Ad 7-10 A long and interesting account of the intricate movements of peoples in the Near East and on the continent of Europe from the first warrior horsemen of the Caucasus who buried their dead with battle-axes to roving bands of Viking raiders thousands of years later. The writing is solid but vigorous rather than dry, with flashes of humor; the information is substantial, but the book is almost overwhelming in its coverage and the consequent fragmentation. A time chart showing movements of peoples, an extensive divided bibliography, and an index are appended.

Waller, Leslie. New Sound. Holt, 1969. 142p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

R 7-10 A high school dropout tells his story, and it is far from the formula tale in which the lack of jobs and the feeling of being socially isolated convince the dropout that he must at least complete high school. Stanley Novotny was a bum, according to his father, a musical bum. They had a fight and Stanley went to Chicago's Old Town to make his own way, and—via pot, Nashville, a combo, and some hot discs—became Stacy Nova, the samba-rock king. Stacy tells his own story and the crisp, slangy style makes both his success and his decline vivid; he comes, in the end, to a conventional life in a small town, but there isn't a moral or an injunction in the book.

Webb, Christopher. Eusebius, the Phoenician. Funk and Wagnalls, 1969. 188p. \$4.50.

M 6-8 The story of a Viking foray into Britain begins with the visit of Eusebius the Phoenician to the land of the West Vikings. Eusebius discloses to Lord Sigurd that he seeks the Cup from which Jesus drank, the Cup of Eternal Life which he believes to be in the White Island. Eusebius and the warriors that Sigurd provides have many adventures before the Phoenician finds Joseph of Arimathea and the Grail, and much of the first part of the story has the brooding grandeur of Viking chronicles; this strength is vitiated, however, as the book progresses and the episodes become both more repetitive and more confusing—repetitive in pattern and confusing in the mingling of historic and fanciful.

Wechsberg, Joseph. The Pantheon Story of Music for Young People. Pantheon, 1968. 144p. illus. \$4.95.

Ad 6-9 Despite the mass of information, this is an uneven book that seems not comprehensive enough for the young person with musical background and too superficial in explaining details for the reader with none. The text is printed in double columns with a profusion of illustrations; there is considerable attention devoted to baroque, classical, and romantic music but scant attention given to modern music. The text on "Music in the United States" amounts to less than two columns. An index is appended.

White, Florence M. Your Friend, the Tree; illus. by Alan E. Cober. Knopf, 1969. 55p. \$3.50.

M 3-5 Attractive black and white pictures illustrate a series of brief descriptions of fifteen different kinds of trees, the pictures not being intended to be used for identification. The text is occasionally coy ("It is then strained, pressed . . . to be made into useful things that people need. How many things do you have made of rubber?") and it includes irrelevancies, but it does give descriptive detail about the trees and some facts about the ways in which they are useful to people. As a source of information, the book is limited by the arbitrariness of selection, yet it gives readers a good idea of the wide range of products that come from trees and, to a lesser extent, the importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance.

Wirtenberg, Patricia Z. All-Around-the-House Art and Craft Book; photographs by Patricia Z. Wirtenberg. Houghton, 1968. 103p. \$5.

Ad 4-7 A compilation of suggestions for projects, most of them simple and few requiring materials that might not ordinarily be found in the home. The photographic illustrations are in unnumbered sequence; occasionally they are less than clear. A double-page spread is devoted to each topic, and the instructions are usually clear enough so that this amount of space is sufficient. The book should be very useful despite the fact that instructions (text or photographs) are not always adequate, because the book has such a variety of materials, techniques, styles, and objects to present.

Wojciechowska, Maia. "Hey, What's Wrong with This One?"; illus. by Joan Sandin. Harper, 1969. 72p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad 4-6 They all wanted her for a different and special reason, but each of the three boys wanted a mother more than anything in the world. Their father assured them that no woman would be able to stand their fighting (look how short a time each housekeeper stayed) but the boys laid plans anyway . . . and one day the youngest invited a very pleasant woman he had run into—literally—in a supermarket to live with them. When the story ends the very pleasant woman is ensconced in the kitchen helping father prepare a meal. Most of the book consists of amusing arguments between the boys and uncomfortable confrontations with their despairing father. The solemn discussions of mother-getting are fun, but the pattern becomes repetitive and the subject may appeal to a limited audience.

Yolen, Jane H. The Inway Investigators; Or the Mystery at McCracken's Place; illus. by Allan Eitzen. Seabury, 1969. 80p. \$3.75.

David, the president of a small but dedicated organization, tells the

Ad
3-5

story of the queer goings-on at the old house that the club had formerly used as a meeting place. The children suspect the looks of the tough men who drive a truck in and out each day, and they can see no reason for the new wall, high and topped with jagged glass. When David's dog disappears, he gets over the wall looking for his pet and he finds trouble. The men in the McCracken house are an organized gang of pet-stealers who sell the animals to researchers. Spurred by fear of losing his own pet, David fights; he is helped by his friends and his uncle; the police arrive and the thieves are caught. The writing style is just a bit cute at times, but the book has plenty of action and not too many characters; the children's interest and their contribution are within the bounds of credibility, and the theme of pet-snatching is a serious matter that is handled just seriously enough.

Zaidenberg, Arthur. How to Paint with Water Colors; A Book for Beginners. Vanguard, 1968. 60p. illus. \$3.95.

R
4-6

Mr. Zaidenberg is at his best, as here, when he is giving instruction about an art medium rather than about drawing a category of subjects; the book would be more useful if some of the illustrations and reproductions were printed in color, but the text is clear and informative. Among the topics and techniques discussed are equipment, drawing, watercolor pencil, dry-paper or wash, and wet or dry brush. Minor helpful hints are included, as are several reproductions of works of art.

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