

Virginibus Puerisque

The Saturday Review's Guide to the Season's Books for Children

Title and Author	Age and Sex	What It's About	Our Opinion
I AM A PUEBLO INDIAN GIRL <i>E-Yeh-Shure</i> (Morrow: \$1.50)	6-8 Both	Short prose-poems about Indian life. Both author and artist are Indians. The text, however authentic, is outweighed by the beautiful pictures.	Special
MOUSEKNEES <i>William C. White</i> (Random House: \$1.75)	8 and up Both	Mouseknees (real name Victor; job, hotel boy) was a happy, but truth-seeking native of Tobago. Fresh, flavorful yarns; fitting illustrations by Avery Johnson.	Good read-aloud
THE TALKING STONE <i>Caroline Cunningham</i> (Knopf: \$1.75)	8-10 Both	A collection of Indian and Eskimo legends that are unusual in their authenticity and charm.	Easily read folk-lore
BEN AND ME <i>Robert Lawson</i> (Little, Brown: \$1.50)	8 and up Both	Memoirs of a smug, sagacious mouse who made his home in Ben Franklin's cap and who, time and time again, set the famed inventor on the right track.	Illustrations far surpass text
FIRE, THE MASCOT <i>Paul Brown</i> (Scribners: \$2.)	8-10 Boys	Fire is a Dalmatian dog who belongs to Engine Company No. 1. A good deal about Dalmatians and fire-fighting both.	Irresistible
SKIPPACK SCHOOL <i>Marguerite de Angeli</i> (Doubleday, Doran: \$2.)	Up to 10 Both	A Pennsylvania school in the 1700's. Eli Shrawder's family settles near German Town, and he finds a kind schoolmaster. Beautiful pictures.	Nice little story
HOMEMADE DOLLS IN FOREIGN DRESS <i>Nina R. Jordan</i> (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.)	9-14 Girls	Fashionable homemade dolls, their costumes and settings, from inexpensive materials, described simply and clearly. Interesting craft.	Fun
PONY FOR SALE <i>Ann Stafford</i> (Knopf: \$2.)	10-14 Both	The summer activities of four English children chiefly concern their ponies and their Aunt Mary's dog kennels. A horse show is an important event.	Harmless
PLAYS FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS <i>Tobitt & White</i> (Dutton: \$1.50)	10-16 Both	Careful notes on music and dancing, with stage directions, make these four plays for religious holidays unusual.	Worth while for groups
THE DUKE DECIDES <i>John R. Tunis</i> (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.)	12-16 Boys	The Harvard track star of "Iron Duke" goes to Berlin on the U. S. Olympic team to win the 1500-meter race. Mr. Tunis turns X-ray on intercollegiate and Olympic sports; it's not a pretty picture.	Good reading
THE BOY'S BOOK OF PHOTOGRAPHY <i>Edwin Way Teale</i> (Dutton: \$2.)	12 up Boys	History of photography, cameras, and photographic methods. How and why to do things that will make good pictures. Some mention of possible careers.	Good handbook
HEROES ON YOUR STAMPS <i>John Gregory</i> (Knopf: \$2.)	12 up Boys	Biographies of great figures of our national life found on American stamps. Should create added interest for boys already collectors and perhaps interest some who have not yet started.	Well-handled, interesting idea
FLIVVER TO CAMBODIA <i>Guy de Larigaudie</i> (Putnam: \$2.)	Older Boys	The journey of two French boy scouts from Paris to Cambodia in a Ford. Their experiences, hardships, courage, and luck.	Good but naive account
POTTERY OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS <i>Helen E. Stiles</i> (Dutton: \$2.50)	Older Children & Adults	An accurate and well-illustrated treatise on American aboriginal pottery.	Excellent book
THE SINGING TREE <i>Kate Seredy</i> (Viking: \$2.)	10-12 Both	A Hungarian background . . . and the coming of the war before this one. Handsome pictures.	Serious
THE TREASURE HUNTER <i>Isabel Proudfit</i> (Messner: \$2.50)	12-16 Both	An able, sympathetic biography of Robert Louis Stevenson, attractively illustrated by Hardie Gramatky.	Good
FLYING HOOF'S <i>Edited by Wilhelmina Harper</i> (Houghton Mifflin: \$2.)	10 up Both	A collection of twenty-four stories about horses from a varied selection of authors.	Fine

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TO _____

The New Books

(Continued from page 19)

strained and her materials well integrated, she could more easily be praised. In outlining the case records of a young electrician, a friendless engineer, an Italian cobbler, an elderly clerk, a communist teacher, a lady physician, and a specialty buyer Miss Adams presents many facts about WPA, and much criticism.

WPA was bureaucratic; many projects were foolish; much labor was badly allocated; corruption was not infrequent; communistic activities were rampant; personal responsibility was undermined. The facts are substantially correct and the criticism is usually warranted, yet the reader is unsatisfied.

Since Miss Adams fails to raise the basic question whether relief accelerated or impeded recovery, her specific carpings must be ruled out *de minimis*. And though her stories carry conviction, the author never really comes to grips with the other crucial issue, namely, whether relief fundamentally altered the psyches of the workers.

That some men take advantage of relief; that others lose their instinct of workmanship; that still others develop neurotic symptoms—all this and more is common knowledge. But it would be uncommon knowledge to learn the frequency of, and the conditions under which, these developments occur. And it would also be uncommon knowledge to learn the frequency and the conditions under which relief reduced competitiveness, heightened the instinct of workmanship, and contributed to the solution of neurotic difficulties.

Miss Adams believes that in posing the question "Is WPA primarily work or is it primarily relief" she has dis-

covered a basic dilemma. The reviewer suspects sophisticated rhetoric, for WPA is "primarily work-relief." The geographic and occupational distribution of the unemployed, the exigencies of the federal and state budgets, the preconceptions of the administrative personnel, force WPA to vacillate between work and relief. And vacillate it must until agreement about objectives is approached.

Miss Adams's book is valuable for inciting us anew to appraise our objectives and techniques. Unfortunately, she contributes little to aid us in our difficult task.

E. G.

PERSONALS

ADVERTISEMENTS will be accepted in this column for things wanted or unwanted; personal services to let or required; literary or publishing offers not easily classified elsewhere; miscellaneous items appealing to a select and intelligent clientele; exchange and barter of literary property or literary services; jobs wanted, houses or camps for rent, tutoring, traveling companions, ideas for sale; communications of a decorous nature, expressions of opinion (limited to fifty lines). All advertisements must be consonant with the purposes and character of *The Saturday Review*. Rates: 10 cents per word including signature. Count two additional words for Box and Number. Payment in full must be received ten days in advance of publication. Address Personal Dept., *Saturday Review*, 420 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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