

Harper Books for the Children You Love



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By **ROBERT KRAUS**, pictures by the author. "We heartily recommend Robert Kraus's new quartet: *THE FIRST ROBIN*, *JUNIPER*, *THE SILVER DANDELION*, *SPRING-FELLOW'S PARADE*. Children will love the box, the books, and the story and pictures."—*The Gesell Institute*. 4 tiny ($2\frac{7}{16} \times 3\frac{7}{16}$ ") books in a boxed set, \$2.95 per set. (Separate large-size library editions, \$1.99* each.) **All ages**

THE NIGHTINGALE

By **HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN**, translated by **EVA LE GALLIENNE**, pictures by **NANCY EKHOLM BURKERT**. "What a book this is!... beautiful, exquisite, rare, enchanting, magical... And what an artist!"—*Publishers' Weekly*. **HONOR BOOK, Book Week Children's Spring Book Festival**. \$3.95. \$3.99* **All ages**

TOM AND THE TWO HANDLES

By **RUSSELL HOBAN**, pictures by **LILLIAN HOBAN**. A warm, witty story of boys and fist fights. "Strong reader identification for boys beginning to read."—*Virginia Kirkus' Service* (starred review). **An I CAN READ Book**. \$1.95. \$2.19* **Ages 4-8**

BERRIES GOODMAN

By **EMILY CHENEY NEVILLE**, winner of the 1964 Newbery Medal. The story of a city boy transplanted to the suburbs—and of a friendship destroyed by the power of prejudice. "Both worthwhile and a pleasure to read."—*Virginia Kirkus' Service* (starred review). \$2.95. \$2.92* **Ages 10-14**

BREAKTHROUGH TO THE BIG LEAGUE: The Story of Jackie Robinson

By **JACKIE ROBINSON** and **ALFRED DUCKETT**, illus. with photos. "Frank autobiography... looks to be the best thing in print for juveniles about Jackie Robinson."—*Virginia Kirkus' Service* (starred review). A Breakthrough Book, edited by Walter Lord. \$2.95. \$2.92* **Ages 10 up**

JAZZ COUNTRY

By **NAT HENTOFF**. A high school senior struggles to make his way in jazz country—from Greenwich Village to Harlem—in a realistic portrait of the world of Negro jazzmen. "A book with something important to say."—*Virginia Kirkus' Service* (starred review). **PRIZE BOOK, Book Week Children's Spring Book Festival**. \$2.95. \$2.92* **Ages 12 up**

*Net price for HARPERCREST Library Editions, available only to schools and libraries



Harper & Row

self. I had bought Bruno Munari's big, gay picture books to give away as presents. John found them first and was delighted with the surprises they held. But, to my interest, it wasn't always the bold, simple illustrations he responded to when he was still very young. He both liked and recognized all the animals he knew in Brian Wildsmith's highly individual *A B C*; and Gene Zion's *Dear Garbage Man*, with its pictures that are a tangle of detail, was a great favorite. It's a responsive, selective eye that children bring to picture books.

Alice Dalgliesh's *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* was our first real storybook—"grownup book," John called it. We read it when we did because John had said, "We only know one Jonathan," referring to a friend. I remembered the brave Jonathan who went over Hemlock Mountain, and thought he might be a nice second Jonathan to know. He was; and John immediately lent the book to his friend Jonathan, who reciprocated by lending John *Stuart Little*, by E. B. White. Although I knew it was too old for him, we read it anyway, a chapter or two a night, because the timing was perfect. John and his father had just finished making a boat to sail in Central Park, on the very pond where Stuart Little skippered the *Wasp*.

Other characters in books have long been John's friends. When he was almost three he met us as we came home from a wedding with just one question:

"Was Chouchou there?" Could there possibly be a wedding, even in Pittsburgh, without Françoise's charming donkey Chouchou? And policemen have always been captains to John because his first policeman friend was *Monsieur le Capitaine*, who gave Chouchou his freedom.

John is now at an age where friends and play come first; but books are the source of much of the play. Our winter days have been filled with dramatic activity, with many changes of costumes and roles in an afternoon. A small neighbor comes to the door saying, "I am a queen and I'm looking for a king." John answers with innocent gallantry, "I'll be your king." He is King Arthur, she is Guinevere. These ideas have filtered down to them from the older children; John will feel well acquainted with King Arthur by the time he is ready for the Round Table.

Now we have a second child, who, like most children after the first, thrives on neglect and her own resourcefulness. Kate was an easier baby than John and had an older brother to entertain her, so there wasn't the same need for early reading. But now, at eighteen months, Kate wants books in her life, too, and is making up for our late start. She takes a book to bed, and I hear her "reading" to herself far into her naptime. She is beginning with a program of independent reading, and I'm sure her pattern will be quite different from John's.

Picture Books

The Nightingale. By Hans Christian Andersen. Translated by Eva Le Gallienne. Illustrated by Nancy Ekholm Burkert. Harper & Row. 40 pp. \$3.95. This beautiful picture book presents with dignity, and in the manner of Chinese paintings, one of Andersen's most charming and meaningful stories. Especially pertinent in a mechanical age, *The Nightingale* should be cherished by a family and read aloud many times. One of the double-page spreads depicts the jeweled mechanical nightingale in its velvet box. The people were delighted with it, but the poor fisherman who had heard the real nightingale sing said, "Yes! It's pretty enough; it's a fairly good imitation, but there's something lacking—I can't explain just what it is!"

These pictures by Nancy Burkert came as a complete surprise although I'd admired her illustrations for an earlier book on the Harper list. All ages (but enjoyed more after 6 or 7).

Tom Tit Tot. An Old English Folk Tale. Illustrated by Evaline Ness. Scribners. 32 pp. \$3.25. This folktale, with its down-to-earth, country humor, has been a storytelling favorite with a number of librarians. In the present book it is given an elaborate

pictorial setting, perhaps overelaborate, and at times somewhat obscure for the type of droll story that it is. Two characters seem to suffer and they are the leading ones—"darter" and "that," the imp or impet whose name "darter" has to discover. In this presentation "that" is hooded; one never sees his changes of expression, his "grinning face of triumph." He does extraordinary things with his long, flexible tail, but at the end flies away on neat little blue wings. The story is told almost exactly as Joseph Jacobs told it, which is the way it should be. **Ages 4-8.**

Salt: A Russian Tale. Retold by Harve Zemach and illustrated by Margot Zemach. Follett. 32 pp. \$3.95. This seems to be the season for witless ones! In this picture book Ivan the Fool is the one who wins out; he also captured the New York *Herald Tribune* prize in the picture book group. When Ivan presents a wonderful new taste to the king, he is rewarded by being permitted to marry the princess. A charming and delightful picture book, *Salt* has an unusual character, "a gloomy giant with an enormous mustache, from which hung a huge pair of mittens drying after the rain." Children will like it and ask for rereadings. **Ages 5-8.**

The Lothrop Little Books: Brownie. By Hans Peterson. Pictures by Paul Galdone.

SR/May 15, 1965

Tom and Tabby. By Hans Peterson. Pictures by Ole Montelius. **Little Anna and the Magic Hat.** By Inge and Lasse Sandberg. Lothrop. Each, 30 pp. \$1.50. Of these tiny Scandinavian books two are simple statements, scarcely stories, about a dog and two cats. The third is a story-game: Anna, the title character, takes an amusing excursion into magic. To understand it a young child needs the earlier book about her, in which she meets the friendly tall man. Ages 2-3 (for Anna, perhaps 4).

Five Little Monkey Business. By Juliet Kepes. Houghton Mifflin 48 pp. \$3.50. This is a read-aloud book (except for the older children, who will also enjoy it), and you must be prepared to deal with the monkeys' names—Buzzo, Binki, Biki, Bulu, and Bali. They have been delighting children for some years, and in this book they play the most outrageous tricks. They are just plain bad, but no moral purist need worry; they reform (temporarily?) at the end. There are amusing pictures in very bright colors and black and white. Ages 4-8.

ABC of Buses. By Dorothy Shuttleworth. Illustrated by Leonard Shortall. Doubleday. 42 pp. \$3.25. The pictures in this bookful of buses are utilitarian, detailed, and amusing. As an ABC book it is not topnotch by any means, for in places letters have to be tortured to fit. However, because bus-riding is almost a universal experience, the book has its place, and there is plenty to look at in the pictures. Ages 2-6.

The Affable, Amiable Bulldozer Man. Written and illustrated by Elizabeth MacIntyre. Knopf. 38 pp. \$3. "Just think what a terrible thing it would be/ if your home was bulldozed away like a tree!" It happens all over our country and evidently in Australia, where the author-artist lives. The animals minded the destruction of their homes as much as people did—but for them it all came out happily. The rhymes are facile, the pictures amusing but ordinary. Ages 5-7.

From Ungskah 1 to Oyaylee 10: A Counting Book for All Little Indians. By Lucille Corcos. Pantheon. 82 pp. \$3.50. Try going into a bookstore and asking for this one! To translate from the Mohawk language, it is "From One to Ten."

All children can have fun with this book, but we'd like to try it on the Mohawk children living in Brooklyn and Long Island, whose fathers probably helped to build the Verazzano Bridge. Would they recognize their ancestors with bright red skins and a slightly cigar-store-Indian appearance? We hope they will find themselves sharing happily in the comic treatment now so popular in children's books. Good-natured fun is worth sharing. Ages 5-8. (6 to 9?)

The Magic Tree. By James and Ruth McCrea. Atheneum. 32 pp. \$3.25. It is interesting that within a year we have had two picture books about princesses that obviously owe something to a famous painting of a Spanish Infanta—and both of the picture-book girls are disagreeable and reform. One couldn't cry and learned to (Evaline Ness); the other, in this book, is

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WHITTLESEY HOUSE

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The Book of Daniel; illustrated in color by Paul Galdone. "Striking illustrations... forcefully convey the splendor of the scene, the drama of the situation."—*ALA Booklist*. All ages. \$2.75

ANATOLE AND THE POODLE

Eve Titus; illustrated in color by Paul Galdone. The mouse mag-nifique is back again—this time to rescue Juliette, a chic French poodle.

Ages 4-8. \$2.75

A B C

Edward Lear; penned and illustrated by the famous composer of nonsense verse. The first publication of this "gay and charming [alphabet] book... delicious drawings coupled with delicious verses."—*Publishers' Weekly*. All ages. \$2.50

BOOKS



M'TOTO

Alyce Shinn Fechter; illustrated by Bernard Garbutt. The stirring adventures of a baby elephant in the wilds of East Africa. "An outstanding animal book for children."—*Boston Globe*.

Ages 7-11. \$3.50

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By Ellen MacGregor and Dora Pantell; illustrated by Charles Geer. Miss Pickerell returns at last—with delightful and timely moon adventures.

Ages 8-12. \$2.75

FOR



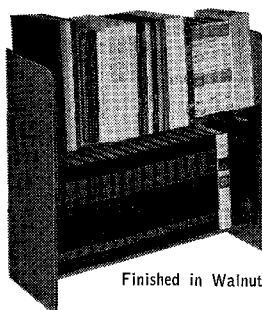
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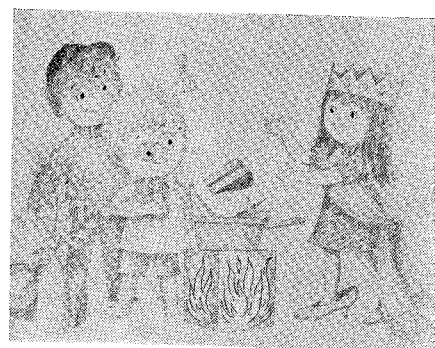
just plain cross and unhappy, but learns, perhaps with the help of the magic tree, that there is pleasure in gardening as well as in friendship. The McCreas have created a most decorative book, making good use of three colors and excellent design. Ages 4-8.

The Story of the Three Bears. A Nursery Tale. Illustrated by William Stobbs. McGraw-Hill. 32 pp. \$2.75. William Stobbs likes to do pictures in bright colors, which is probably why he sets this story in Norway, complete with Norwegian costumes on the bears. But among the colors he chose yellow was not one, so Goldilocks's hair is sometimes a kind of dusty pink, sometimes brown, which child readers may protest. Otherwise the book is attractive, with the story told much as it is in Leslie Brooke's *The Three Bears* (Warne). My heart belongs to Leslie Brooke, however, and to the story with its moral. A reviewer suggested that in reading it the moral should be left out. With this I don't agree: Goldilocks is presented as a disobedient, snoopy little girl, and she should get her just deserts. Ages 3-6.

The Kittens' ABC. Verse and pictures by Clare Turlay Newberry. Harper & Row. 32 pp. \$3.50. Published twenty years ago, *The Kittens' ABC* has now been reissued with pictures completely repainted. No kittens are more appealing, more furry than those by Mrs. Newberry; children will want to pat them, they look so real on the spacious pages. We welcome them back. Some of the alphabet rhymes are better than others; e.g., D is for dress or simply explains that kittens don't *have* to dress! Ages 3-7.

Castles in the Sand. By Crockett Johnson. Illustrated by Betty Fraser. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. 48 pp. \$3.50. Crockett Johnson has made many friends, first with his beguiling cartoon strip, *Barnaby*, then with his famous book character, Harold. Always there has been the play between fancy and reality so characteristic of children. In *Castles in the Sand* another artist's colorful illustrations are used, and the text seems to belabor the difference between reality and fancy—which at least the older child in the story should have established. The story begins with the well-worked theme of drawings coming to life, and the children do not seem to know whether they are in the story or out of it. Strange. I can only say "try it on children." The result at 4 and that at 8 should be quite different. Ages 4-8.

A Thousand Lights and Fireflies. By Alvin Tresselt. Illustrated by John Moodie. Parents' Magazine. 42 pp. \$3.50. No story to this one, but plenty of good color effects in very modern pictures, with pleasant-sounding words. As a comparison between city and country, however, this would seem only to confuse. Houses in the country do not "sit apart so they can look at one another." "A city sky is caught between tall buildings" will not mean much to a child. Perhaps it would be better to go back to some of Alvin Tresselt's far more successful descriptive books such as *Raindrop Splash!* and *White Snow, Bright Snow*. And, going back only a very short distance, there is this season's fine book *Hide and Seek* with Duvoisin's pictures. Ages 5-7.



—From "Little Plays for Little People."

Little Plays for Little People. Illustrated by Ilse-Margret Vogel. Parents' Magazine. 57 pp. \$3.50. The charm of this book lies in the pictures, and the simple costumes suggested. Although Judith Martin of *The Paper Bag Players* indicates how to make the costumes, children will need some adult help. The plays included are possible, but children do best with spontaneous plays of their own, and a mere suggestion of costume may suffice. Ages 3-8.

If I Were a Bird. By Gladys Conklin. Pictures by Artur Marokvia. Holiday House. 36 pp. \$3.50. The little boy who "narrates" this story tells what he would do if he were a certain kind of bird. In the attractive pictures he watches the birds and learns to listen to their calls. The notes of the calls are in the corner of each picture, and records for use with the book are also mentioned. The author suggests collecting bird feathers, but this seems rather a mature activity: the birds aren't always obliging about dropping them where they can be easily found. Ages 4-8.

Chie and the Sports Day. By Masaka Matsuno. Illustrated by Kazue Mizumura. World. 32 pp. \$3. Because of Masako Matsuno and the artist who pictures her Japanese children so skillfully, we have a group of fine picture books for younger children. This one is unusual in that it deals with a sporting event at school, in which a small sister helps her older brother win the three-legged race. Like American children, Chie wears as a proud badge of honor the small bandage earned when she skinned her knee in the race. Ages 5-8.

Middle Group

Chipmunk in the Forest. By Eleanor Clymer. Drawings by Ingrid Fetz. Atheneum. 62 pp. \$2.50. Chipmunk was an Indian boy who did not want to learn to hunt. He was afraid of the deep woods and of wild animals. So he stayed at home and took care of Little Brother. There came the day when he had to choose between fear and his little brother—lost in the forest. A pleasant story with attractive pictures, this is almost certain to win its way with children who have just learned to read. Ages 7-9.

A Letter to Anywhere. By Al Hine. Illustrated by John Alcorn. Harcourt, Brace & World. 48 pp. \$3.50. This book is a carnival of color, bold in its design and light-hearted in its pictures. The text may seem a little overshadowed by the display, but interesting facts in the history of communication will win out. Imagine what so simple a