

# Notable Children's Books of 1970

Notable Children's Books of 1970, selected each year by the Book Evaluation Committee of the Children's Services Division, American Library Association, aided by suggestions from school and children's librarians in 43 libraries, have been announced.

The 47 titles honored by inclusion in this year's list are notable for their honesty in dealing with their subject matter and for their authors' respect for the reader. The list is greatly enriched by numerous contributions from English and European writers and illustrators.

ADOLF, ARNOLD, comp: *Black out loud; an anthology of modern poems by Black Americans*, Drawings by Alvin Hollingsworth, Macmillan, \$4.95. A proud, candid, and vigorous collection representing the work of many young, unknown poets as well as of mature, recognized writers.

ADOFF, ARNOLD: *Malcom X*, Illus. by John Wilson, Crowell, \$3.75. For younger children, an introduction to the life of a black man who rose from poverty and crime to become a forceful, inspiring leader.

ALEXANDER, LLOYD: *The marvelous misadventures of Sebastian; grand extravaganza, including a performance by the entire cast of the Gallinaufry-Theatricus*, Dutton, \$5.95. An eighteenth-century court musician becomes the possessor of a magic violin in a fast-paced, comic, picaresque fantasy.

ANNO, MITSUMASA: *Topsy-turvy; pictures to stretch the imagination*, Walker-Weatherhill, \$3.50. Tiny elves, defying the laws of both gravity and perspective, tumble about the bright pages of a picture book without words, full of delightful visual tricks and puzzles.

BABBITT, NATALIE: *Kneeknock Rise*, Pictures by the author, Farrar, \$3.95. How people cherish their foolish illusions is shown in a gently satirical fable, told with freshness and artless clarity.

BERTOL, ROLAND: *Sundiata; the epic of the lion king*, retold, Illus. by Gregorio Prestopino, Crowell, \$3.95. In an important addition to African literature for children, the triumphant legend of Sundiata, ruler of old Mali, is told in graceful, cadenced prose.

BRENNER, BARBARA: *A snake-lover's diary*, Illus. with photos, Scott, \$4.25. Humorously written in the form of a boy's enthusiastic journal, the book presents a wealth of information for young herpetologists.

BURTON, HESTER: *Beyond the Weir Bridge*, Illus. by Victor G. Ambrus, Crowell, \$4.50. A thought-provoking, distinguished historical story of unshakable faith and political commitment—as well as of romantic love—featuring three young people in the strife-ridden period of England's Civil War.

- BYARS, BETSY. *The summer of the swans*, Illus. by Ted CoConis, Viking, \$3.95. A fourteen-year-old girl and her brain-damaged younger brother are the chief characters in a subtly told story dealing with the problems of the pain of adolescence and the tragedy of retardation.
- COOLIDGE, OLIVIA: *Come by here*, Illus. by Milton Johnson, Houghton, \$4.25. Superb characterization and a penetrating analysis of human situations distinguish the story of a tragically orphaned black child and her struggle for survival in the early years of the century.
- COOPER, SUSAN: *Dawn of fear*, Illus. by Margery Gill, Harcourt, \$4.95. In an uncommon war story, an English schoolboy is shattered by tragedy and a sudden awareness of adult hatred, violence, and fear.
- DEJONG, MEINDERT: *A horse came running*, Illus. by Paul Sagsoorian, Macmillan, \$4.95. Deeply felt experiences, rather than mere incidents, mark the story of a boy trying to cope with the devastation brought by a tornado to his parents, animals, and neighbors.
- DILLON, EILIS: *A herd of deer*, Illus. by Richard Kennedy, Funk, \$4.95. Story of a teenage boy and his adventures in tracking down a missing herd of deer, told with humor and a strong flavor of Irish village and countryside.
- EMRICH, DUNCAN, comp: *The nonsense book of riddles, rhymes, tongue twisters, puzzles and jokes from American folklore*, Illus. by Ib Ohlsson, Four Winds, \$6.50. An unusually attractive, extensive collection, delightfully illustrated, with impressive notes and bibliography.
- ENGDAHL, SYLVIA LOUISE: *Enchantress from the stars*, Drawings by Rodney Shackell, Atheneum, \$5.95. Three worlds at different levels of development represented in a rich work of science fiction that suggests some interesting philosophical questions for thoughtful young readers.
- FOSTER, LAURA LOUISE: *Keeping the plants you pick*, Illus. by the author, Crowell, \$4.95. An elegant, meticulously illustrated book describing various methods of preserving plants and flowers, along with suggestions for fashioning them into gift items and decorative arrangements.
- FUCHS, ERICH: *Journey to the moon*, Delacorte, \$4.50. Following a chronological summary of the Apollo 11 mission, a series of beautiful water color paintings conveys some of the wonder and excitement of the incredible achievement.
- GOBLE, PAUL AND GOBLE, DOROTHY: *Red Hawk's account of Custer's last battle: the Battle of Little Bighorn 25 June 1876*, Pantheon, \$4.50. A unique, handsome book in which a narrative of the famous battle, as witnessed by a fictitious Indian boy, shares the storytelling with brilliant, stylized pictures.
- GORODETZKY, DR. CHARLES W. AND CHRISTIAN, SAMUEL T.: *What you should know about drugs*, Harcourt, \$4.95. Color photographs illustrate a simple, clear, and forthright discussion of the characteristics and abuse of drugs, written by two specialists at the National Institute of Mental Health Addiction Research Center.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

## Library Education Program

Cora Paul Bomar was the luncheon speaker at the joint meeting of the Library Department of the Georgia Association of Educators and the Children's and Young People's Section of the Georgia Library Association in Atlanta on April 1, 1971. The topic discussed was "The Library Media Center: What Next?"

W. Hugh Hagaman conducted an inservice education workshop in instructional media for twenty-three teachers in the Mooresville City Schools during March-April, 1971, and served as consultant to the Distributive Education Department, School of Education, Virginia Commonwealth University, on their project to establish and operate a media center to serve the statewide distributive education program.

Mary Frances K. Johnson has been promoted to the rank of associate professor, effective July 1. Mrs. Johnson served as a member of the 1971 Institute Evaluation Panel for the U. S. Office of Education, evaluating proposals for institutes to be funded by Higher Education Act, Title II, B, funds.

Michael Molenda has been selected as a summer associate of the National Academy of Education. His two-month appointment will involve research on the future educational implications of cable television and the new video recording formats. For the last three weeks in May he will serve as consultant to a UNESCO seminar on microteaching being held in Madrid, Spain.

Sangster Parrott has been elected vice-president, president-elect of the Guilford Library Club (formerly the Greensboro Library Club). Miss Parrott will conduct a session on state and local documents for the Reference Workshop, "Reference Services for the Seventies — North Carolina Public Libraries," sponsored by the Printed Resources and Inservice Training Committees, Public Libraries Section, NCLA, to be held in Greensboro May 25-27, 1971.

## NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

(Continued from Page 57)

GRIMM, BROTHERS: *King Thrushbeard*, With pictures by Felix Hoffman, Harcourt, \$4.50. Handsome illustrations emphasizing pattern and design extend a folktale with a familiar theme—the humbling of a haughty princess.

HALEY, GAIL E.: *A story, a story*, an African tale retold and illus. by the author, Atheneum, \$5.95. Brilliant colored woodcuts illustrate a splendid Ananse tale from the Caribbean.

HARRIS, ROSEMARY: *The moon in the cloud*, Macmillan, \$4.95. An imaginative, suspenseful novel based upon the story of Noah and notable for its memorable characters and sparkling blend of comedy and fantasy.

- HODGES, C. WALKER, *The overland launch*, Illus. by the author, Coward, \$3.95. A vivid recreation of one wildly stormy night on the Devonshire coast in 1899 when a lifeboat was hauled thirteen miles by land to be launched for a rescue at sea.
- JOHNSON, JAMES WELDON AND JOHNSON, J. ROSAMOND: *Lift every voice and sing; words and music*, Illus. by Mozelle Thompson, Historical introduction by Mrs. Augusta Baker, Simple piano arrangement with guitar chords by Charity Bailey, Hawthorn, \$3.95. Known to many as the Negro national anthem, the song is accompanied by stark, dignified charcoal drawings.
- KADESCH, ROBERT R.: *Math menagerie*, Drawings by Mark A. Binn, Illus. with photos, Harper, \$4.50. Twenty-five ingenious mathematical experiments—clearly described and illustrated—utilizing inexpensive, readily available materials.
- KRAUS, ROBERT: *Whose mouse are you?*, Pictures by Jose Aruego, Macmillan, \$4.95. Bright red and yellow contrast happily with mouse gray in pictures for a brief text that has the satisfying simplicity of a nursery rhyme.
- LANGSTAFF, NANCY AND LANGSTAFF, JOHN, comps: *Jim along, Josie; a collection of folk songs and singing games for young children*, Piano arrangements by Seymour Barab, Guitar chords by Happy Traum. Optional percussion accompaniments for children. Illus. by Jan Pienkowski. Harcourt, \$5.50. A generous gathering, particularly suitable as an introduction to both music and poetry.
- LIONNI, LEO: *Fish is fish*, Pantheon, \$3.95. Wonderfully imaginative pictures, alive with color and movement, glorify a brief text with a familiar moral.
- LOBEL, ARNOLD: *Frog and Toad are friends*, Harper, \$2.50. In a fresh, wholly delightful, addition to the I Can Read series, the humorous adventures of the two animals are told in enchantingly simple words and pictures.
- MACBETH, GEORGE: *Jonah and the Lord*, Pictures by Margaret Gordon, Holt, \$3.95. Lively verses and vividly colored, stylized illustrations lend a humorous spirit to a picture book version of the Biblical fish story.
- MACKAY, DAVID: *A flock of words; an anthology of poetry for children and others*, Collected, introduced, and annotated by [the author]. Preface by Benjamin DeMott, Drawings by Margery Gill, Harcourt, \$5.95. Extraordinary unity and impact in a collection—wide-ranging in subject, time, and place—uniquely arranged in clusters linked by themes and subthemes.
- MCCNEILL, JANET: *The other people*, Little, \$4.50. Set in an English seaside resort, this story of a teenage girl is distinctive for its suspense, elegance of style, and remarkably subtle characterizations.
- MAYNE, WILLIAM: *Ravensgill*, Dutton, \$4.25. A half-century-old murder mystery and a family feud are both resolved in a tale—full of local atmosphere and unforgettable character—of two Yorkshire farm families.
- MONJO, F. N.: *The drinking gourd*, Pictures by Fred Brenner, Harper, \$2.50. A mischievous mid-century New England boy helps a Negro family to escape on the Underground Railroad in an excellent, well-illustrated I Can Read history book.

- O'DELL, SCOTT: *Sing down the moon*, Houghton, \$3.75. A young Navaho girl tells the proud, dignified story of the tragic degradation of a great people in their forced march to Fort Sumner in 1864.
- PEYTON, K. M.: *Flambards in summer*, Illus. by Victor G. Ambrus, World, \$4.95. Bringing to a close the trilogy about the Russell family, the mature substantial novel is as filled with incisive characterizations and intense human relationships as its predecessors.
- ROBINSON, JOAN G.: *Charley*, Illus. by Prudence Seward, Coward, \$4.95. An unsentimental, convincing story of an artistic, imaginative, but "difficult" girl who discovers that running away, though exciting, can be a desolate and frightening experience.
- SEGAL, LORE: *Tell me a Mitzi*, Pictures by Harriet Pincus, Farrar, \$4.95. Flat, comic-strip colors and deliberately homely, lumpish faces add earthy humor to the illustrations for three funny, unromanticized stories of urban Jewish family life.
- SEDAK, MAURICE: *In the night kitchen*, Harper, \$4.95. In an extraordinary picture book, a little boy's dream fantasy is set luminously against a transformed, darkened city, looking like the flat backdrop on an old vaudeville stage.
- SLEATOR, WILLIAM: *The angry moon*, retold, With pictures by Blair Lent, Little, \$4.95. Full-color paintings, executed with careful research and creative invention, heightens the dramatic quality of a Tlingit Indian legend.
- SUTCLIFF, ROSEMARY: *The witch's brat*, Illus. by Richard Lebenson, Walck, \$4.75. A crippled orphan boy, having learned the skills of healing from his grandmother, leaves his monastery home in the twelfth century to help found St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London.
- TOWNSEND, JOHN ROWE: *The intruder*, Lippincott, \$4.50. A sixteen-year-old boy and his native environment on the west coast of England are inextricably bound together in a compellingly real story of suspense.
- Vasilisa the beautiful, Tr. from the Russian by Thomas P. Whitney, Illus. by Nonny Hogrogian, Macmillan, \$4.95. Lovely full-color pictures on lightly textured paper illustrate a fine new translation of the familiar Russian Cinderella tale.
- WABER, BERNARD: *A firefly named Torchy*, Houghton, \$4.95. Explosive colors splashed on alternately light or dark backgrounds give strong visual impact to a story of a firefly whose glow was too bright.
- WALSH, JILL PATON: *Fireweed*, Farrar, \$3.95. Against a background of London during the 1940 blitz, two homeless teenagers meet and develop a poignant relationship in a haunting story made more powerful by the controlled intensity of the writing.
- WHITE, E. B.: *The trumpet of the swan*, Pictures by Edward Frascino, Harper, \$4.50. A voiceless trumpeter swan learns to read, write, and play the trumpet to woo his love in an engaging fantasy that ranges the continent from Ontario to Boston.
- WILDSWICH, BRIAN: *Brian Wildsmith's circus*, Watts, \$4.95. Strikingly brilliant water colors evoke an imaginary circus in an almost wordless picture book.