

A dog story that is a real tear-jerker but the tears are more for the boy than for the dog. No words are wasted and the drama and mystery will hold any reader who is willing to read and to believe. Read it aloud to grades four or five; they will not want you to stop. Could be read in 3 or 4 sessions. 9-12.

Simon, Seymour. ANIMAL FACT/ANIMAL FABLE. ill. by Diane de Groat. Crown, 1979. 44 pp. \$7.95.

The fable is a short statement with a full page humorous illustration; the fact is revealed when the page is turned and the text, also with drawings, offers a scientific explanation to prove or disprove the fable. The pictures done originally in water color and colored pencils, are printed in four colors. 6-10.

NEW BOOKS

—for readers in middle school,
junior high school, and senior high school
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Adler, C. S. THE MAGIC OF THE GLITS. ill. by Ati Forberg. Macmillan, 1979. 112 pp. \$7.95.

In attempting to entertain a despondent eight-year-old girl, a twelve-year-old boy invents Glits, creatures who grant wishes and produce joy fizz. As he works to pull her out of her depression over her mother's death, he discovers stores of creativity within himself and develops from a self-centered athlete to a thoughtful, sensitive, more mature person. The girl emerges as a strong, intelligent person whose silence masks her ability to solve her own problems, providing a surprise ending. Adults are depicted realistically, if not a bit negatively. Dialogue clearly and economically reveals how characters relate to one another. Black and white illustrations are beautifully done.

Anderson, Margaret J. IN THE CIRCLE OF TIME. Knopf, 1979. 181 pp. \$6.95.

From a Scottish circle of stones, a lame boy and an American girl are transported 200 years into the future to discover a simple, free, peaceful people threatened by enslavement to a race still dependent on technology. Much action and suspense with narrow escapes. Ending suggests the artistic boy's leaving his own hard-working parents to live with his

friends from the future. Includes interesting predictions of how future societies will be structured. 10-14.

Caroselli, Remus F. *THE MYSTERY COTTAGE IN LEFT FIELD*. Putnam, 1979. \$7.95.

Many suspenseful moments in this story of a 12-year-old who, in befriending an old woman and a young librarian, finds himself threatened by a gangster. Clear characterizations with a variety of types. Written in modern idiom rather than that of 1929 in which it is set. Nice variety of characters. Includes many incidents and details extraneous to plot. 10-14.

Dickinson, Peter. *TULKU*. Dutton, 1979. 286 pp. \$8.95. Clearly drawn but complex and somewhat enigmatic characters. Much action and suspense. Dialogue effectively individualizes characters and reflects development. Some vivid description. Boy protagonist changes from devout but narrow-minded son of a Christian missionary in China to a young man whose beliefs are broader and more mature because of exposure to Tibetan monks and an English actress. 14 and up.

Drabble, Margaret. *FOR QUEEN AND COUNTRY: BRITAIN IN THE VICTORIAN AGE*. Seabury, 1979. 144 pp. \$8.95. Gives an interesting, detailed and fairly balanced view of life and arts of Victorian Britain. Written in an active verbal style and filled with examples (pictorial and other) of Victorian art, crafts, customs, fashions and contemporary reports of life of various social classes. Bibliography supplements the many references cited in the text to works from or about the period. A fairly detailed index. Likely to stimulate further reading on the subject. 14 and up.

Hall, Lynn. *DOG OF THE BONDI CASTLE*. Follett, 1979. 123 pp. \$6.95. A retelling of the medieval story of "The Dog of Montargis" in which a dog is allowed to formally accuse and challenge his master's murderer to combat. Presents a clear, detailed and unromantic view of medieval life. Action-packed, suspenseful with clearly motivated and individualized characters, including the dog, Griffon, who plays a major role in the story. Framing device is somewhat clumsy. 10 and up.

Duran, Cheli. *KINDLING*. Greenwillow, 1979. 153 pp. \$6.95. 1970 Crete, ruled by the military, is seen through the eyes of a high school boy who, at his father's suggestion, attempts to set fire to a forest above the village to clear it for

crops. His romantic view of rebellion changes and he begins to perceive some of the complexities of adult life after a fire rages out of control. Effective character development and dialogue. Fast moving but thought-provoking. 12 and up.

Huddy, Delia. *TIME PIPER*. Greenwillow, 1979. 247 pp. \$7.95. A variety of clearly drawn characters with the main character a boy of about seventeen interested in math and science. The disappearance of the 12th century Hamelin children, blamed on the pied piper, is explained as part of a 20th century experiment with a time machine. Exposes British small town injustices and cruelties perpetrated against those who fail to conform to the norm. A fast-moving semi-mystery. 12 and up.

Grohskopf, Bernice. *BLOOD AND ROSES*. Atheneum, 1979. 256 pp. \$8.95.

Much information about William Caxton and his contributions to the art of printing and the English language painlessly incorporated into this complex story of a boy's stealing a valuable manuscript for a ghost while he learns to accept his mother's remarriage. Time travel and the nature of time and death explored. Effective character development. Realistic depiction of variety of adults. Much suspense and examination of adolescent concerns. 12 and up.

McCord, Jean. *TURKEY LEGS THOMPSON*. Atheneum, 1979. 242 pp. \$8.95.

A story of an independent 12-year-old girl who must assume responsibility for much of the housework and care of her brother and sister. Turkeylegs develops from a bully and tomboy who resents her family to a somewhat withdrawn and thoughtful person. The vividly drawn main character is complex, believable and captivating. The beginning is better than the plot continuation where there is some belaboring of weaknesses especially those of the other characters. 11-15.

Sutcliff, Rosemary. *SONG FOR A DARK QUEEN*. Crowell, 1978. 181 pp. \$6.89.

A suspenseful and action-packed story of a legendary British tribal queen who wages war against the occupying Romans, to keep her kingdom and avenge the abuses she and her daughters have suffered. Told primarily from the point of view of the Queen's harper, but interspersed with letters from a Roman tribune to his mother. Character of queen well-developed. Likely to generate much interest in early British history. 12 and up.

Menius, Opal. NO ESCAPE. Elsivier/Nelson, 1979. 129 pp. \$6.95.

A teenage boy solves the mystery of his father's suicide and several other deaths and saves a girl from murder by a vengeful Satanist. Lots of action and suspense. Some episodes contrived and characters unbelievable. Reads like a T.V. melodrama but is very exciting and fast-moving. 12 and up.

Murphy, Shirley Rousseau. THE WOLF BELL. Atheneum, 1979. 182 pp. \$8.95.

A suspenseful, self-contained first volume in a promising new trilogy. Effective blending of traditional fantasy elements with interesting new character types and imaginative incidents. Fairly complex and interesting characters, best appreciated by older readers with an understanding of how sexual alliances influence adult relationships and social behavior. Establishes many possible directions for subsequent volumes, with use of a time warp, a hidden tunnel for future escapes and an enormous statue with a concealed door. 15 and up.

Stone, Josephine Rector. PRAISE ALL THE MOONS OF MORNING. Atheneum, 1979. 172 pp. \$7.95.

Suspenseful science fiction adventure in which two teenage girls travel through time. Explores idea of enslavement to drugs, to primitive creatures and to an advanced technological system. Typography emphasizes shift in time and point of view from one girl to another. Structurally interesting. 12 and up.

Wrightson, Patricia. THE DARK BRIGHT WATER. Atheneum, 1979. 223 pp. \$7.95.

The song of a water spirit, who has been tossed by a storm and trapped in underground caverns, haunts Wirrun, an Australian Aborigine who has heroically fought the ancient ice creatures in THE ICE IS COMING. The spirit's displacement disrupts the whole order of a world populated by water and earth spirits, creatures of shadow and ancient gods. Contains some stunning description. An engaging story with clearly drawn characters and a distinctive style and tone. Getting acquainted with the many unfamiliar creatures and rituals makes the reading a bit slow. 12 and up.