

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS
AGES 10 to ADULT

By Constance Gremore

Beatty, Patricia. That's One Ornery Orphan. Morrow, 1980. 224 pp. \$7.95

In her efforts to avoid going home with a German immigrant farmer for fear of being hitched to his plow, Hallie works as a hired girl for a fanatic preacher whose sister is incapacitated by "bile beans," a doctor and an actress. Her good intentions can't prevent the series of comic misadventures that send her back, again and again, to the orphanage. Creates a clear sense of what life was like for an orphan in late 19th century Texas. Hallie's dialogue is especially colorful and idiosyncratic. Builds effectively to a happy ending. Author note at end explains how accurate period details were built into the story.

10-14

Bond, Nancy. Country of Broken Stone. Atheneum, 1980. 271 pp. \$10.95

A skillful blending of a highly suspenseful, action-packed story with one of friendship slow to develop, together with a story about how a recently-married couple and their children from previous marriages adjust to new family life. Effective variety in pacing. Clear and contrasting characterizations are emphasized by use of several English dialects. Ran's thick Northumberland dialect may present problems for many readers. Shows values, lifestyles and personalities in conflict on many levels. 10-14

Briggs, K. M. Kate Crackernuts. Greenwillow, 1980. 224 pp. \$9.95

Clever and loving "Kate Crackernuts" fights to protect and release her stepsister Katherine from the wicked enchantments her own mother devises. An exciting, action-paced story set in 17th century Scotland and England during a period of civil strife. The Scottish dialect aids in setting the mood and

period but sometimes obscures the meaning. Includes much lore on witches and magic. 12 and up

Carr, Philippa. The Song of the Siren. Putnam, 1980. 338 pp. \$10.95

An English historical romance about a beautiful, adventurous sister and a good, kind but plain sister who leads a dull life. Story is told alternately through the eyes of each. Some mystery and suspense with a number of extraneous episodes. Ends melodramatically with the wicked sister's death by poison and the kind sister's regaining her health and attaining happiness. Adult

Clements, Bruce. Anywhere Else But Here. Farrar, 1980. 152 pp. \$8.95

First person narrative of 13-year-old Molly whose father sells most of their worldly possessions to pay off the bills of his bankrupt business. Includes an interesting variety of contrasting adult characters. Molly is clearly drawn and proves to be independent and capable of handling business matters while showing compassion and understanding for a child she dislikes. Plot is a bit implausible and Molly's situation would seem very grim except for her spiritedness and general good humor. 11-14

Davies, Andrew. Conrad's War. Crown, 1980. 120 pp. \$7.95
Conrad's mania for war is cured after he finds himself, his father and his dog transformed into soldiers and prisoners-of-war and thrust into WW II. Fast-reading. Full of action and suspense, but much of the humor may escape most young readers. 12 and up

Green, Phyllis. The Empty Seat. Elsevier/Nelson, 1980. 128 pp. \$6.95

A boy learns a great deal about life, people and relationships when he spends the summer with his dying grandmother. Some adventure and suspense generally kept within the realistic limits of the book. Interesting variety of characters and

incidents. 11-14

Hassler, Jon. Jemmy. Atheneum/McElderry, 1980. 175 pp. \$7.95

At her alcoholic father's insistence, Jemmy, a half-breed Chippewa, drops out of high school to assume full-time house-keeping duties for the family and is selected to pose as a model of an Indian maiden for monumental mural. Jemmy seems unfeeling as she accepts every new role and situation without question or excitement, making her a steady and deliberate character, but one difficult to understand or care about. Realistic in detail with a variety of characterizations. Set in Minnesota. 12 and up

Haugaard, Erik Christian. Chase Me, Catch Nobody! Houghton Mifflin, 1980. 210 pp. \$7.95

Haugaard carefully selects the imagery that his 14-year-old Danish narrator, an outsider and an innocent, uses to describe the people and scenes he encounters on a trip to Nazi Germany. He thus creates a character who fits his age and the period of the story. The choice of language and detail, especially in recounting schoolboy pranks and conversations, add humor to a story which is, at times, suspenseful and frightening and always told with objectivity. 10 and up

Hodges C. Walter. The Battlement Garden: Britain from the Wars of the Roses to the Age of Shakespeare. illus. with photographs. Houghton Mifflin/Clarion, 1980. 144 pp. \$10.95

A general history of English civilization highlighting developments in education, religion, navigation and theatre. Many portraits, illustrations of ships, sights of London, and household, print shop and schoolroom scenes add interest to a text which needs some tightening and better organization. Very good index and bibliography. 12 and up

Hoover, H.M. Return to Earth. Viking, 1980. 172 pp. \$9.95

After a long absence from Earth, the governor of a space colony returns in 3307 to find his ancestral mansion stripped of its

art works and a population duped and drugged by a power-hungry religious leader. Assassinations, a fire, attempted murders and a riot fail to prevent the governor from aiding the new Corporate Director, a 15-year-old girl, to a safe rule and helping to break the destructive hold of the Dolmen. The girl develops effectively from a rather selfish child to a competent, self-controlled, and even wise Director. Several other strong female characters. Fast reading. 12 and up

Hurmence, Belinda. Tough Tiffany. Doubleday, 1980. 166 pp. \$7.95

A humorous, episodic story told from the point of view of an eleven-year-old black girl who convinces her miserly grandmother to put her money in the bank, helps her pregnant sister to get to the hospital just in time, and saves her own bed from being repossessed by the furniture store. Tiffany has spunk and imagination. Other characters clearly drawn and individualized.

10-14

Lawrence, Louise. Cat Call. Harper, 1980. 214 pp. \$8.79
Seeing his small British village being turned into a suburban town, Barry, a town trouble-maker, answers the call of a cat god whose image has been unearthed during some building excavations. Book blends a modern conflict, a ritual re-enactment of an ancient battle with the story of a cult and witch hunt, taking off from ideas expressed in Yeats' "The Second Coming." Writing in a spare style, Lawrence creates an atmosphere of tension and suspense while raising some important philosophical questions. 14 and up

MacLeod, Charlotte. We Dare Not Go A-Hunting. Atheneum, 1980. 188 pp. \$8.95

Dialogue effectively individualizes characters in this mystery about a 1930's kidnapping. Combines suspense, clearly drawn characters and a touch of romance with a picture of Netaquid Island life early in the depression. The solution to the

mystery is bizarre, indeed, but not beyond observant Molly Bassett's logical capabilities and imagination. Fast moving. 12 and up

Peterson, Bernard. The Peripheral Spy. Coward, 1980. 210 pp. \$8.95

Spy thriller about a naive journalist who, because of minor smuggling work, finds himself threatened by Soviet agents. Suspenseful and fast-moving. The spies' levels of efficiency and sophistication are hard to believe. Clearly drawn characters. 14 and up

Ross, Marianne. Good-Bye, Atlantis. Elsevier/Nelson, 1980. 172 pp. \$7.95

A high school senior changes from a sun-loving hedonist to an idealist committed to achieving moral, scholarly and physical perfection when she comes under the influence of a boy in her class. When injuries she suffers in an effort to save him from drowning give her a series of blood clots and force her into a nursing home, she becomes sometimes hopeful, then bitter and hateful and, finally, resigned to her death. Interesting character development of both the girl and her boyfriend but parents appear totally incapable of understanding or helping their daughter. 14 and up

Shattuck, Roger. The Forbidden Experiment: The Story of the Wild Boy of Aveyron. illus. with old prints. Farrar, 1980. 220 pp. \$10.95

The non-fiction account of the life of a wild boy institutionalized and educated in early 19th century France. Includes excerpts from contemporary accounts of the boy's condition and progress of his education, with commentary on what his teachers should have done in view of current research on autism, deaf education and child development. Appendices cite other cases of interest and include a brief bibliography. Could be condensed to some advantage and will probably appeal only to those with

some research interest in the case, although as a study it suffers from the lack of an index. Does not attempt to fill out the boy's story with undocumented conjecture. 14 and up

Warner, Marina. The Crack in the Teacup: Britain in the 20th Century. illus. with photographs. Houghton Mifflin/Clarion, 1980. 160 pp. \$10.95

Written clearly and with vitality, this history chronicles the erosion of Britain's social classes and economic structures. Examines the struggles of women and labor for equality and justice and shows how the wars and industrial developments changed the nation. Discusses major movements in art, literature and theatre. Good index and bibliography. 12 and up.

Willard, Barbara. The Country Maid. Greenwillow, 1980. 192 pp. \$7.95

A shy, proper English girl from the country spends a year in London working as a maid in the 1920's. Gradually she loses her rural dialect and becomes caught up in the entertainments of London, spending most of her earnings on clothes. She abruptly discards her new life-style and returns home when her new relationships prove unstable. Effective use of individualized dialogue with variety in characterizations. Narration focuses on the girl's feelings and reactions but also includes selections from the journal of the daughter of the house, a would-be actress/author. 12 and up