

NEWS

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COME-ONS: CUES TO BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN 9 - 13
by Barbara Doh and Mary Leggett

1. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, by Kenneth Grahame. Illus. by Ernest S. Shepard. Macmillan, 1908, 1933.

For the very first time in his life, Mole is in a boat. While Rat industriously sculls away at the oars, Mole is gazing at the sparkle and ripple of the water and dreaming little half-dreams:

"So-this-is-a-river!" said the Mole, pulling himself together with an effort.

"The River," corrected the Rat.

"And you really live by the river? What a jolly life!"

"By it and with it and on it and in it," said the Rat. "It's brother and sister to me, and aunts, and company, and food and drink, and (naturally) washing. It's my world and I don't want any other."

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS is the story of small animals, of their lives in the sunny meadow, by the glimmering river, in the deep forest, adventuring into the Wide World or retreating to the snug security of home. It is the story of four friends: Mole, Rat, Badger, and Toad.

Mole is friendly, eager, and a trifle timorous. He likes boating down the river with Rat. He looks forward greedily to delicious picnic lunches out of Rat's wicker hamper. He listens to the song the breezes carry through the reeds on the river bank, and he enjoys cozy evenings by the fireside with his friends.

Rat is a waterman. Born by the river and wise in its ways, he knows its swift currents, its placid backwaters. His small twinkling brown eyes miss little of the busy world he lives in - and Mole is an admiring audience to his tales of adventure. And Rat is brave. When Mole ventures too deep into the Wild Wood, it is Ratty who buckles on his sword, tucks his pistols in his belt, and trudges sturdily to the rescue.

Badger is a countryman, gruff, set in his ways, slow to action, but fearless in the defense of his friends. It is Badger, together with Mole and Rat, who wishes to reform Toad.

Poor Toad! Reckless, blundering, egotistical, lovable Toad - always off on some wild new enthusiasm! This time it is motor cars. Dressed in goggles and an enormous overcoat, Toad pictures himself as the Terror of the Highways as he drives madly over the winding roads in his shiny new car.

He doesn't really want to be reformed, and slips away from his patient friends who are trying to keep him safely at Toad Hall. His new escapade ends in disaster and unhappy Toad finds himself in prison. But he escapes and makes his way back home again in disguise, a sadly unrepentant Toad. Now Toad Hall is no longer his - and the question is, to whom will Toad turn for help?

The charm of the story lies in the animals themselves; they are real and their tiny world is real. The illustrations by Ernest Shepard add much to the book. They show Mole and Rat picnicking by the river; give us a glimpse of the comfortable study where Badger snoozes away, a red pocket handkerchief over his face; let us look at a vanquished Toad being led away to prison.

Three generations of children have enjoyed THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: the artless innocence of Mole, the sturdy kindness of Rat, steadfast Badger and bumbling, foolish Toad.

Children can go from THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS to THE HOBBIT by J.R.R. Tolkien. Mr. Baggins is a respectable, stay-at-home hobbit who unexpectedly embarks on a wild and glorious adventure with a magician and a band of dwarfs. The hobbit wished himself safe at home many times before the little band won their way to the dragon's mountain, slew the mighty Snaug, and defeated the goblins. The elements of magic and mystery combine to make THE HOBBIT an unforgettable story of imagination and quiet humor.

Older children and those who are good readers will want to go on to the three books included by Tolkien in THE LORD OF THE RING: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING; THE TWO TOWERS; and THE RETURN OF THE KING.

2. ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY, by Sidney Taylor. Illus. by Helen John. Follett, 1951

"A steps-and-stairs family" was what the friendly library lady called them; but, as twelve year old Ella told her, most people called the five little girls an "all-of-a-kind family."

The year is 1912. Ella, Henrietta, Sarah, Charlotte and Gertie live with their parents in a small East Side flat in New York City.

Although the family does not have very much money, there is plenty of warmth and love, and the friendship of the people who know them. There is the library lady who helps Sarah when she loses her precious library book. There is Charlie with his mysterious past; Charlie who knows just what small surprise will delight the children. There is the sight and sound of the East Side: the pushcarts, the bakeries, the pickle stands, the fish stores, and the sweet potato man.

Most of all there is Papa and Mama - for it is around them that the happy world of the five little girls revolves. Mama makes dusting a game, makes a special treat out of going to market. Papa is big and kind. He and Mama share with the little girls the peace of the Jewish Sabbath, the happiness of the Jewish feast days. On the eve of the Sabbath, Mama lights the four white

candles in the brass candlesticks on the table; Papa asks God's blessing on each child.

Fourth of July is exciting. There are red paper firecrackers to shoot off. And there are Roman candles, one for each little girl. Charlie shoots them off, one by one, as the children watch the colored balls of fire zoom up past the roof tops. But no one seems to know where Charlie came from or why he never talks about his own family.

Children will be delighted with the answer to the mystery about Charlie and will enjoy the pleasant humor and lively goings-on in ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY.

For further reading, there is MORE ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY and ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY UPTOWN.

Children will go on to read Ruth Sawyer's ROLLER SKATES, the rollicking story of Lucinda in New York City. Lucinda, as she announces to Mr. Gilligan, the hanson cab driver, is a^{part} orphan^{for} her parents have gone to Italy for the year and she is staying with the Misses Peters in their apartment.

New York in the 1890's is quite different from the city we know now - and Lucinda, flying about on her beloved roller skates, meets the most unusual people who turn out to be her friends. This year in the life of ten-year old Lucinda is an important one. She begins to understand the differences in people; she learns for the first time what it is to lose someone she loves.

Grahame, Kenneth THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. Macmillan, 1908, 1933.

Sawyer, Ruth ROLLER SKATES Viking, 1936.

Taylor, Sidney ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY Follett, 1951.
MORE ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY
ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY UPTOWN

Tolkien, J.R.R. THE HOBBITT Houghton, 1938.
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING
THE TWO TOWERS
THE RETURN OF THE KING

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

February 6 The Board of Trustees met in the board room at Plattsburgh Public Library. Those attending were: Mr. Paul Vogan, Mooers; Mr. John Stock, Tupper Lake; Mr. William A. Harvey, Saranac Lake; Mr. Claude R. Clark, Bloomingdale; Mrs. A. J. Hecht, Mrs. Allan Everest, Mr. Frank L. Carpenter, of Plattsburgh and Mr. Anthony F. Vecchio from Headquarters.

February 11 The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Plattsburgh. The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Lincoln

Barnett. Mrs. Barnett has been a trustee of the system since 1955. Official notification came from the Essex County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Clark had been reappointed to the C-E-F L Board of Trustees for a five year period, from January 1, 1965 to December 31, 1969. Mr. Vogan was elected President of the Board and Mr. Edward G. Hoit was elected first Vice President.

Present at this meeting were: Mr. Paul Vogan, Mooers; Mr. Claude R. Clark, Bloomingdale; Mr. William A. Harvey, Saranac Lake; Mr. Edward G. Hoit, Malone; Mr. Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., Elizabethtown; Mrs. James F. Mills, Fort Covington; Mr. John Stock, Tupper Lake; Mrs. Allan Everest, Mrs. A. J. Hecht, Mr. Wayne H. Byrne, and Mr. Frank L. Carpenter, Plattsburgh, and Mr. Vecchio, Assistant Director of the System.

March 18' The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held in Saranac Lake on Thursday, March 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the Hotel Saranac.

TECHNICAL PROCESSING NOTES

Packing slips Hereafter, no packing slips will be sent with newly processed books. A record will be kept at Headquarters as to the date the books are forwarded.

Simply check newly processed books upon arrival against order file and bill or jobber's packing list.

Book Cards and Pockets The book cards and pockets of newly processed fiction will no longer carry the initial F denoting fiction and the initial of the author.

Only the author's last name, title of book, and class number for non-fiction will be on book card and pocket.

SPRING LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The first librarians' meeting to be held this spring is scheduled for Monday, April 5, at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library. We hope all member librarians and trustees will plan to attend this meeting.

SYSTEM SPEAKER AT AREA MEETING

Mrs. Doh was the speaker at a meeting of a Home Demonstration Unit, held February 9 at the home of Mrs. Alfred B. Light in Plattsburgh. Mrs. Doh talked on selecting books for children - both in the library and as gifts for children.

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULES

New bookmobile schedules, containing changes in day and time for many stops, go into effect March 2. Each member librarian will

receive a copy for the area near her library.

MARCH-APRIL CALENDAR READY

The calendar for the next two months has been completed and will be mailed to all member librarians. Please note dates for meetings, delivery days, and television programs.

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION PROGRAM

The next system television program of stories for children, presented by Mrs. Doh of Headquarters, will be on Wednesday, March 10 at 1:40 p.m. on station W P T Z. Be sure to remind your patrons so that they can enjoy this once-a-month series of children's stories.

MEMBER LIBRARY VISITED

Mr. Vecchio visited the Westport Library on February 8 to help Mrs. Clark, Librarian at Westport, with weeding problems.

SYSTEM FEATURED IN THE BOOKMARK

A profile of the C-E-F Library, written by Mr. Berry and Mrs. Leggett, appears in the February, 1965 issue of THE BOOKMARK, a monthly journal published by the New York State Library. The article describes the beginning of the system, its services, and its plans for the future. It is illustrated with pictures of the bookmobile and the central library. Copies will be distributed to member libraries and system trustees.

DIRECTOR ADDRESSES AAUW

Mr. Berry was the speaker at a meeting of the American Association of University Women on Tuesday, February 16, in Plattsburgh. Talking about the system and its plan of service, he stressed the availability of books to everyone in the three counties through local public libraries and the C-E-F bookmobiles.

REFERENCE MEETING IN POTSDAM

Mrs. Allan Everest, C-E-F Trustee, and Mrs. Rose Waddell of Headquarters attended a meeting of the North Country Research and Reference Resources Council in Potsdam, New York, on February 18.

ANNUAL REPORTS

May we remind those member librarians who have not yet sent in their annual reports to do so as quickly as possible? Annual reports were due by February 15.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AUSABLE FORKS LIBRARY

A new sign, the gift of Mr. William Calhoun, has been erected in front of the library. Mr. Peter Gondek and Mr. James Shambo also cooperated in the project.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

An article in the December, 1964, and the January, 1965, issues of ELEMENTARY ENGLISH, published by the National Council of Teachers of English, mentions the Wilder home near Malone, the locale of FARMER BOY, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, and also speaks of Wead Library. Since many children have asked just where Farmer Boy lived, Mrs. Minnich, Librarian at Harrison Junior High School, Malone, has drawn a map of the area showing the exact location of the Wilder homestead. If enough area librarians are interested in obtaining a copy of this map, Mrs. Minnich has offered to give a copy to Headquarters so that it may be run off and distributed.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

Three new directors were elected to the Board of Trustees of this library at the annual meeting on February 3. New trustees are Mr. William G. Distin, Sr., Mr. George Tolhurst, and Miss Esther Mirick. Mr. John Duquette and Mr. William Harvey retired from the posts of president and treasurer. The trustees will meet soon to elect new officers. At this meeting members were informed of a substantial gift of money that had been left to the library by the late Lee Gray, lifelong resident of the village and owner of Gray's Bookstore.

*Anthony F. Vecchio, Assistant Director
Mary G. Leggett, Editor*