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Reviews--Children's Books

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REVIEWS—CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Nancy Weddle

CHILD STUDY CLINIC, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

I Hate It. By Miriam Schlein, ill. by Judith Gwyn Brown, Albert Whitman, 1978. 28 pp. reinforced binding, \$4.75. Ages 4-7.

This book is a colorfully illustrated account of things young children typically do not like, such as getting dressed up. The text is brief and highly predictable, and should delight young readers. The size of the book itself is just right for little hands. Teachers may want to read the story aloud as a beginning activity for student's writing their own *I Hate It* book.

Everybody Takes Turns. By Dorothy Corey, ill. by Lois Axeman, Albert Whitman, 1980. 29 pp. reinforced binding, \$5.95. Ages 4-6.

Sharing and taking turns is an important concept for young children to learn. The author presents a variety of situations to convey this social lesson to beginning readers. The text is somewhat artificial and stilted, but the topic of sharing is not easily handled when readability level is important. The vocabulary of this book is repetitious and controlled for easy beginning reading.

I'm Busy, Too. By Norma Simon, ill. by Dora Leder, Albert Whitman, 1980. 28 pp. reinforced binding, \$6.25. Ages 3-6.

Early childhood teachers will want to add this book to their read-aloud library. The author skillfully describes a day's activities of three pre-school children and their families. The busy day of the youngsters and their working parents is presented in a delightful, yet realistic manner. The detailed illustrations nicely enhance the text, clearly depicting a variety of activities. In our contemporary society, young children will easily relate to the busy families in the story.

The Hiding House. By Judith Vigna, Albert Whitman, 1979. 30 pp. reinforced binding, \$6.50. Ages 6-8.

This easy reading story tells of two girls who are special friends, and who have a special private place to play. A new girl, who moves into the neighborhood, creates a temporary disaster between the friends. The story ends happily as all three become friends and play together in the hideout. The author presents a realistic account of a child dealing with anger and hurt feelings in a friendship. Each

colorful illustration extends the text. Early elementary readers will enjoy this book as a read-aloud story or as independent reading.

The Skates of Uncle Richard. By Carol Fenner, ill. by Ati Forberg. Random House, 1978. 46 pp. \$4.95.

In this story Marsha dreams of becoming a champion figure skater and longs for her own ice-skates. Her dream is shattered when she receives Uncle Richard's "good old skates" for Christmas. As the story ends, Marsha's first skating lesson brings back smiles and dreams. This "hope-filled" story allows youngsters to relate to a young girls' dreams and frustrations. The black and white illustrations convey the moods of the text. Teachers may want to read this book aloud to the class as an effective discussion starter for creative story writing.

Gorilla Gorilla. By Carol Fenner, ill. by Symeon Shimin. Random House, 1973. 48 pp. \$4.95.

This is an enthralling account of the jungle life of a gorilla, birth to adulthood. The well-researched and accurate details of this animal life present a unique resource for the classroom. The story continues when Gorilla is captured and taken to a Zoo. The animal's difficult adjustment to a new life is depicted in a moving and compassionate way, through text and illustration. This unusual story may appeal most to upper elementary students. However, anyone who reads or hears it will visit the gorilla cage at the Zoo with greater understanding of this animal.

Galaxy I Series. By Harriett S. Abels, ill. by Rodney and Barbara Furan. Crestwood House, 1979. 47 pp. reinforced binding, \$5.95 each; Paperback, \$2.50 each.

This science fiction series of 9 titles presents the interstellar adventures of Captain Druce and his crew, Galaxy I. Each story is a separate, detailed account of the missions of Emergency Ship 88. The author combines a fast-moving plot with a timely topic which results in exciting space adventure. The illustrations, which often show only the characters, may have been more effective depicting the action of the text. According to the publisher, the readability level is from third to fifth grades. However, these and older readers may need additional help with concepts and specialized vocabulary before traveling through space in the stories.