



For Kindergarten  
And Primary  
Age Groups

## Books To Entice Young Readers Of Varied Tastes

RECENT CHILDREN'S BOOKS by Ohio authors illustrate the diversity of book fare for the kindergarten and primary age group. Even at this first stage in reading, boys and girls demonstrate definite tastes and demand books that meet their individual interests. Here are four books to entice a variety of young readers—one just for girls, a real boy's story, a first book of nature study, and one for the child who is a dreamer.

### WHAT WILL I WEAR?

*What Will I Wear?* by Helen D. Olds, a native of Springfield, is as youthfully feminine as ribbons and ruffles. Little girls who like to dress up in special clothes will sympathize with Pam and her predicament when wearing the wrong dress twice spoils her fun. Pam loved the cow-

- BOY AT BAT** by Marion Renick. *Charles Scribner's Sons*, 1961. Pp. 32, \$2.95.  
**NOBODY'S BIRTHDAY** by Anne Colver. *Alfred A. Knopf*, 1961. Pp. 44, \$2.75.  
**HUMMINGBIRDS** by Betty John. *Follett Pub. Co.*, 1960. Pp. 32, \$1.00.  
**WHAT WILL I WEAR?** by Helen D. Olds. *Alfred A. Knopf*, 1961. Pp. 32, \$2.50.

REVIEWED by Miss Nancy Young, assistant librarian of the Grandview-Arlington Public Libraries, a native of Columbus who graduated from Ohio State and earned her MLS at Western Reserve. She is one of the judges of Juvenile books for this year's Ohioana Book Awards.

girl outfit Daddy and Mother sent from out West—the shirt had fringe all around the bottom and there were boots with jewels. She wished that she could wear it all the time. When she was chosen to present flowers to the Governor and his wife, she couldn't resist putting on the cowgirl costume instead of her best yellow dress that Mother had said she could wear. Her embarrassment that day leads to another comedy of errors in which she wears the party dress to a picnic. Many lively and amusing illustrations by Lisl Weil perfectly complement this gay little story, easy enough for second-graders to read themselves. Young ladies should love it and learn an entertaining lesson about appropriate dress that mothers will also appreciate.

#### BOY AT BAT

Boys of six or eight who would scoff at such frivolity in books can thank Marion Renick of Columbus for *Boy at Bat*. Here is a story for the youngest baseball fan—the pre-Little-Leaguer who finds himself left out of the neighborhood games. Mark finds that the gift of his first ball and glove doesn't turn him into a baseball player in the eyes of the older boys. Typical give and take and jargon of young boys at play give the story a down-to-earth reality. An eventful first game as a substitute base runner includes Mark's rescue from a tree by the fire department. His first time at bat he hits a long ball that wins him the respect of the boys and the nickname of "Lefty," and leaves him with dreams of even greater glory. Paul Galdone's brightly colored illustrations add to the fun for primary readers and will make this a

favorite read-aloud story for even younger ball fans.

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

Beginning readers who want books with information will find *Hummingbirds* by Betty John, of Cleveland Heights, just right—a little book, easy to read and beautifully illustrated, which presents facts in a straightforward way. Reading about these fascinating little birds can not fail to arouse a child's interest in nature study. The different kinds of hummingbirds are described, their nests, eggs, feeding habits, and how they fly. The young birdwatcher is even given tips on how to attract rubythroated hummingbirds. This is a book that is sure to convince children that learning is fun.

#### NOBODY'S BIRTHDAY

In contrast to the everyday realism of the above books is *Nobody's Birthday* by Anne Colver, a Clevelander, with illustrations by Marvin Bileck. This is a delicate confection of a book in which story and finely detailed pictures in sherbet pastels describe such a birthday as might be found in a child's dream. All the ingredients of a perfect birthday are here—gifts, good things to eat, decorations and favors—with only an owner for the birthday missing. The brief plot describes the children's search for the owner who must be found before all these wonders can be enjoyed. After much asking, an old man is discovered who has long ago lost his birthday, and all the delights of the wonderful birthday are shared by him and the children. This is a story of more limited appeal, but one that will be enjoyed by the young boy or girl who likes to dwell in the world of the imagination.