1985

Best Books From 1984-85

Children's Book Review

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BEST BOOKS FROM 1984-85

The BYU Children's Book Review is written by people with different areas of expertise who like to read and talk about children's books. We enjoy hearing the responses of others to the books we read. In fact, we enjoy disagreeing about books and have discovered there's nothing like a heated argument to stimulate the thought processes. So we dreamed up the idea of selecting the best fiction and nonfiction books read during 1984-85 to pass on to you readers. We looked forward to a rousing and stormy session as we made the final selection. The session was a disappointment as to a passionate exchange of views (there were too many new members to the group who felt obliged to be gentle about disagreeing but hopefully they'll get over that) but not a disappointment as to the books selected. They are fine books and we highly recommend the following list of thirteen books.

Fiction

MachLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah Plain and Tall.*
Two lonely children and their widowed father wait hopefully as Sarah gets acquainted with them to see if she wants to marry their father and join the family.

Magorian, Michelle. *Back Home.*
The story of the painful adjustment a young English girl and her friends and family have to make when she returns from the safety of America to her mother in England after World War II is over.

A picture book that shows everyone in the house completely and blissfully asleep until one little buzzing fly sets off a chain reaction that wakes everyone up.

Numeroff, Laura. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.* Illus. by Felicia Bond.
If you give a mouse a cookie, his requests never stop, as you will discover in this humorous picture book.

A Japanese American child tells how her Japanese mother learned to eat with knives and forks and her American sailor father learned to eat with chopsticks because each wanted to please the other.

The republished version of King Arthur with Pyle's swift-flowing narrative and detailed black-and-white full-page drawings put us squarely in the age of the knights of the roundtable.

Scribner's have reprinted the classic tale of Robin Hood with the N.C. Wyeth illustrations. The Wyeth paintings have an innocent sunny quality that matches the tone of the story of the hero of Sherwood Forest.
Nonfiction

A collection of poems by Eve Merriam. Her humor and play with sounds and rhythms make her poetry a sensory delight.

Judith Viorst puts the wishes of children into humorous verse. If you were in charge of the world, wouldn't you cancel Monday mornings?

Hague, Michael. *Mother Goose*.
New illustrations and collections of Mother Goose Rhymes are numerous, but don't miss this one by Michael Hague.

Behn, Harry. *Crickets and Bullfrogs* and *Whispers of Thunder*. Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins.
A new collection of Behn's many lovely verses on nature selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins.

A biography of the independent spirit of the middle ages--Eleanor of Aquitaine. You'll enjoy reading it with Elaine Konigsburg's *A Proud Taste for Scarlet & Miniver*.

Cusack, Margaret. *The Christmas Sampler*.
A very personal statement of what Christmas means.