

# BOOKS

By DICK MILLER  
Highland School Librarian

SOME WEEKS AGO, this writer briefly discussed *NEW BOY IN SCHOOL*, by May Justus, which is the story of a seven-year-old boy and his experiences in a newly integrated elementary school where he is the only Negro in his classroom.

On the paper dust-jacket of *NEW BOY IN SCHOOL* there is printed a portion of a letter from a prominent Southern librarian who read the book in manuscript:

"The subject should be carefully presented as you have done in your story. This same story would be helpful in any situation where there is a racial adjustment. There are very few books on the subject and we especially need something for beginning readers."

This writer heartily agrees--we need something for beginning readers--and one of the best

books in this category is *FUN FOR CHRIS* by Blossom Randall, published by Albert Whitman and Co. in Chicago. It is not a new book as it was copyrighted in 1956.

As young Chris plays alone in his sandpile, he spies another little boy near his backyard gate. Chris, always a friendly child, invites the new boy to join him in the sandpile. He never notices Toby's brown skin.

A few days later a third boy, Jimmy, comes to the gate but

does not want to play with Chris and Toby.

This book for young children tells its story with skill and understanding. It is a warm, sympathetic presentation of the idea that children, regardless of their color, are the same everywhere, and it is charmingly illustrated with full color and black and white illustrations.

In the Foreword to *FUN FOR CHRIS*, Charlemae Rollins, Children's Librarian of the Chicago Public Library, states:

"It is extremely difficult to explain variations in skin color to young children who are usually unaware of these differences until they are pointed out to them. Parents and teachers are constantly faced with this problem and often ask for books which they can use in order to help children understand and accept all kinds of people. Chris' mother answers his first questions with honest simplicity. Young children will enjoy this warm story and adults will find Mrs. Randall's approach a refreshing and helpful one."

BLOSSOM RANDALL makes her home in Wichita, Kansas (also the former home of this writer) where her husband is a lawyer. The character of the boy, Chris, in her story is patterned after her real son, Chris.

Another book with a similar theme is *TWO IS A TEAM* (Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York) by Lorraine and Jerrold Beim. It, also, is one of the older books, copyrighted in 1945.

Ted was Negro and Paul was white and they both played together every day after school. They were just the same size and just the same age.

One day they decided to make a coaster, (the fore-runner of today's skate-board, perhaps) but Ted thought he knew best how to make it and Paul thought his ideas were better than Ted's. So they could not agree to work together, and each made a coaster of his own.

When next they met they decided to have a race. The results were disastrous and both coasters were wrecked, along with other damage to some innocent bystanders.

To pay for the damage they built a wagon from the two coasters and delivered groceries. Most important of all, they learned that they could accomplish more when they worked together.

The story is printed in large 24-point type and is easy on young eyes. Ernest Cricklow's

## TYPICAL BANTU NEGRO



Chief Kaiser Matanzima  
Chief Minister of the  
Transkei

## TYPICAL NEGROID HAMITE



Sir al-Khatim al-Khalifa  
Prime Minister of Sudan

beautiful paintings, many of them in full color, illustrate every page. Mr. Cricklow is a distinguished young Negro artist whose paintings have been shown in many of the major galleries. This is the first book he has illustrated.

Lorraine and Jerrold Beim are old hands in the field of children's books. They have co-authored many books, including *THE LITTLE IGLOO*, and singly they are responsible for several more. They write often of problems of adjustment to the social world.



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