

Beast
Master

ARRIETTY'S NOTES

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*Arrietty comes from
The Borrowers
by Mary Norton*

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To most students, the words, "Please write a book report," toll a knell. This is the time when enthusiastic book talks by teacher or librarian can be a great boon, for they reaffirm the written word and provide moments of contagious enjoyment--coaxing the lazy reader and improving students' choices. In these moments, too, the need can be stressed for critical comment in a report rather than a mere plot recital.

Here is a basketful of six fresh new books--three each for teen-age boys and girls--that will help to make book talks and book reports a pleasure for everyone concerned.

Boys who love to tinker, who feel more at home with engines than with words, will feel a strong kinship with Mick Martel in MORE THAN COURAGE. To Mick, son of a newly wealthy and ambitious French family, anything mechanical was more important than school studies, and poor grades often put him in trouble with his father. When Paulo, his friend, discovered an ancient motorcycle hidden since World War II Resistance days, Mick's first joyful thought was to recondition it, then try it in cross-country races.

The boys enlisted help from village friends, and secretly they began, step by tedious step, to restore the powerful machine to life. Mick began to try for good grades, so that no one could question the hours he spent away from home. With incredibly hard work and ingenuity the boys successfully reconditioned the motorcycle, but it was Mick who proved to have more than the courage needed to ride it in a grueling, dangerous race--he had the skill and stamina as well.

Michel-Aimé Baudouy, whom you will remember for his OLD ONE-TOE and BRUNO, KING OF THE MOUNTAIN,

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outstanding books for younger readers, here tells an original, exciting story in which father and son slowly learn mutual respect and tolerance.

In the business of flying, the battle of the practical mechanic versus the technician with a slide rule never lets up. In *PERILOUS WINGS*, Chief Technical Officer Robertson, Norwegian Air Force, graduate of the school of experience, found himself at odds with a young theorist over the cause of two plane crashes--with the unexpected result that Robertson nearly lost his life in an avalanche.

It all began when Squadron 317 was chosen to introduce a new supersonic jet, successfully used in other countries, into the Norwegian Air Force. After two crashes caused by fire at the root of the wing, the squadron's morale went to pieces, though no lives were lost. The Crash Commission's failure to find the trouble was especially depressing to Capt. Robertson, for his mechanics had assembled the wings. The third crash grounded the squadron, and in a last desperate attempt at a solution, pilot Geir Grand and Capt. Robertson agreed on an unsanctioned test flight that could bring the essential information--or death.

Leif Hamre's taut, action-filled story builds suspense until the reader feels he himself has been through the weeks of danger and uncertainty. *PERILOUS WINGS* is a fine companion to Mr. Hamre's *LEAP INTO DANGER* and *EDGE OF DISASTER*, widely read and also used with slow readers in senior high.

From supersonic flight we go to outer space, and our journey may prove one of the fastest on record, for we'll make the round trip in less than two minutes! Our destination: a planet named Korwar--and here it is that a young man discovers and plays out his highly unusual destiny.

When Troy Horan, an exile and day laborer, found temporary work in an exotic pet shop that imported animals from other planets, he made the astounding discovery that, with certain animals, he could hold wordless communication.

But why were they being brought to Korwar? Who or what was the controlling agent they seemed to fear and hate? The cats, the kinkajou, and the sharp-eyed foxes--their warnings had already saved him from mysterious accidents. The night the pet shop owner was killed, when all evidence pointed to Troy, he was forced to flee for his life with the animals.

How Troy eventually wins his bid for freedom and uncovers the plot in which the animals played a key role makes a compelling, top-flight science-fiction story. In *CATSEYE*, Andre Norton has another highly readable book that will prove as popular as *THE BEAST MASTER* and *STAR GATE*.

How would a girl react if she were involved in an automobile accident in which a boy was killed? Seventeen-year-old Eva, after recovering from her own minor injury and the stunning shock of the news, was surprised to find that her best friend Lena was reacting to the tragedy in a wholly unexpected way.

In a mature, realistic, and remarkably honest book, *SPRINGTIME FOR EVA*, we meet a Swedish girl of today, her family, friends, and first love, and explore her relationships to them. This is like a bit of life itself, for we see the warm affinity between Eva and her greatly loved stepmother, the family misunderstandings, and Eva's efforts to understand her emotions in love.

Karin Anckarsvärd's beautifully written novel is a complete departure from her successful stories for younger readers, and older girls will quickly recognize it as a book of stature.

When parents' rules and restrictions begin to seem unfair, a look at how a modern teen-age girl fares in another country, another culture, will offer enlightening comparisons.

For example, Tara, in *THE EMERALD CLUE*, lives in northern India with her closely knit family. Her grandfather, contrary to the tradition of a cloistered life for Indian women, indulgently allows her a liberal education--but friction arises when he finds it hard to accept the ideas

that stem from her schooling. As the story opens, Tara, early one morning, discovers the theft of her favorite horse, Raj, and picks up the priceless emerald that had fallen from its bridle. Refused permission by her grandfather to help in the search for Raj, she takes matters into her own hands, and before all is well again, not only does Tara help to find the horse, but she also meets the man she knows she will marry.

A colorful setting enhances this entertaining story by Jean Bothwell, and readers will enjoy her portrayal of a fascinatingly different heroine.

Though no girl ever thinks it can happen to her, it did happen to Mindy Madigan in *FOREVER AND ALWAYS*. What can you do when the boy you've gone steady with for a year and a half in high school breaks off for no reason on graduation night? Mindy knew by heart all the good advice she'd given to friends, "Men! Don't worry about them; there'll be another along in a minute," and all the rest of it. But it didn't seem to work for her. Feeling out of things, she faced a long, bleak summer--until she began to help out fluttery Miss Jenji at the little museum of local history. Involvement in research work a college student was doing there and her own growing enthusiasm for the museum, which also caught up her family, drew Mindy into a new pattern of living and thus gave her a new perspective on her life.

As in *THE SHINING MOMENT*, Mildred Lawrence writes of young people with sympathy, sound values, and abundant humor.

Vital Statistics about the Books Mentioned

MORE THAN COURAGE	Grades: 7-10	\$3.00
OLD ONE-TOE	Grades: 4-6	\$3.00
BRUNO, KING OF THE MOUNTAIN	Grades: 4-6	\$3.00
All by Michel-Aimé Baudouy		
PERILOUS WINGS	Grades: 7-10	\$2.75
LEAP INTO DANGER	Grades: 7-10	\$2.95
EDGE OF DISASTER	Grades: 7-10	\$2.75
All by Leif Hamre		
CATSEYE	Grades: 10-12	\$3.25
THE BEAST MASTER	Grades: 10-12	\$3.00
STAR GATE	Grades: 10-12	\$3.00
All by Andre Norton		
SPRINGTIME FOR EVA	Grades: 9-12	\$2.95
By Karin Anckarsvärd		
THE EMERALD CLUE	Grades: 7-10	\$3.25
By Jean Bothwell		
FOREVER AND ALWAYS	Grades: 8-10	\$3.00
THE SHINING MOMENT	Grades: 8-10	\$3.00
Both by Mildred Lawrence		

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