

Selection is a cooperative process which should involve staff and pupils, though the final decisions are vested in the library personnel. Teachers are subject specialists with the added knowledge of the needs, interests, and abilities of their pupils. It is the responsibility of the library staff to consult with them, to provide them with as much bibliographic information as possible, and to secure their assistance in the evaluation of materials. Pupils can be encouraged to use bibliographic sources and to make recommendations for materials in which they are interested or which they need.

The safest method for selection is, of course, a first-hand knowledge of the material itself; the next is the perceptive use of reliable lists. Factors to consider in evaluating lists include the reliability of the person or organization who prepared them and their recency. Many school districts now provide examination centers where books, films and filmstrips, tapes, and recordings may be previewed or examined. Where such service is available, teachers and librarians should be given the opportunity to become familiar with the materials and should avail themselves of this opportunity before recommending their purchase.

Many school districts, too, have developed statements of policy which govern their selection of materials. Such statements include the philosophy for selection, the agency and staff responsible for implementing the policy, the types of materials included, criteria and procedures for their selection, and procedures for handling problems which arise when a particular piece of material is questioned. When such statements are cooperatively developed, accepted and adhered to, they provide both guidance and protection for all who are involved in the selection of materials.

Three publications which are useful in the preparation of a policy statement are: *The School Library Bill of Rights* (endorsed by the American Association of School Librarians and The American Library Association, 1955); the joint statement of AASL-ACRL-DAVI on the relationship of all materials, adopted by the Executive Boards of the three organizations in 1958 (See p. 59 of *Standards for School Library Programs* (ALA, 1960 \$2.50); *Policies and Procedures for Selection of School Library Materials* (endorsed by American Association of School Librarians 1961); and *The Students' Right To Read*, prepared by the National Council of Teachers of English in 1962. (Council, 25¢)

*SOURCES OF SELECTION FOR PRINT MATERIALS

General Book Lists

Adventuring with Books: A Reading List for Elementary Grades compiled by the Elementary Reading List Committee, National Council of Teachers of English. Over 1,000 titles arranged in twelve categories. 1960. 190 pp. NCTE. 75¢.
1963 Supplement to *Adventuring with Books*. 30¢ (Free with *Adventuring with Books*.)

A Basic Book Collection for Elementary Grades compiled by Miriam Snow Mathes and others. More than 1,000 essential books for an elementary school library; includes tools for the librarian, and list of children's magazines. 7th ed. 1960. 136 pp. American Library Association. \$2.

A Basic Book Collection for High Schools compiled by Eileen F. Noonan and others. Approximately 1,500 titles for the high school library; includes paperback editions, magazines, and audiovisual aids. 7th ed. 1963. 192 pp. ALA. \$3.

A Basic Book Collection for Junior High Schools edited by Margaret Y. Spengler and others. Titles arranged by subject, annotated, and indexed. Also lists magazines. 3d ed. 1960. 144 pp. ALA. \$2.

Best Books for Children compiled by Patricia H. Allen. A list of 3,300 recommended books, grouped by age level and grade along with several subject groupings. Contains some suitable adult titles. 1964. 224 pp. Bowker. \$3.

A Bibliography of Books for Children. Association for Childhood Education International. Annotated list of about 1,700 books for supplementary reading by children ages 4 through 12. 1962. 132 pp. ACEI. \$1.50.

Book Bait: Detailed Notes on Adult Books Popular with Young People edited by Eleanor Walker. Descriptive annotations more detailed than usually found in such a list. Titles arranged by age and type of reader; follow-up titles also included. 1957. 96 pp. ALA. \$1.25.

Books for the Teen Age. Annual selection of 1,500 books, including both recent and older books. One-line annotations for books of the current year. Gives publisher but not price. Published each January. New York Public Library. 50¢.

Books For You compiled by Committee on the Senior High Book List, NCTE. Annotated list of leisure reading for high school students. Prices not given. 1959. 155 pp. NCTE. With 1961-62 supplement of 32 pp. 60¢.

Books of the Year. An annual, annotated list of books for children and about children, parents, and family life. Revised annually. Child Study Association of America. 50¢.

A Catalog of Paperbacks for Grades 7 to 12 by Lucile Boylan and Robert Sattler. Over 1,000 titles available in paper and useful for both curriculum and recreational purposes. 1963. 209 pp. Scarecrow Press. \$5.

*Unless otherwise indicated, all aids contain complete information for purchasing individual titles. Addresses of publishers are given at end of section.