

## NON-SEXIST CHILDREN'S BOOKS

An introductory list prepared and distributed in Fall 1987 by the Montgomery County (Maryland) Chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women), at (301) 236-0069, in cooperation with the Child Care Technical Assistance Office of Montgomery College, at (301) 424-2912

### PRESCHOOL

- Bang, Molly. Ten, Nine, Eight. Greenwillow 1983. A black father puts his toddler daughter to bed.
- Brenner, Barbara. Bodies. E.P.Dutton 1973. Photographs of boys and girls using their bodies, sometimes shown nude.
- Brownstone, Cecily. All Kinds of Mothers. McKay 1969. Shows mothers of different races loving their children while working inside or outside the home.
- Cooney, Barbara. Miss Rumphius. Viking 1982. A girl is inspired by her grandfather to do "something to make the world more beautiful."
- Eichler, Margrit. Martin's Father. Lollipop Power 1971. A boy is nurtured by his father.
- Felt, Sue. Rosa-Too-Little. Doubleday 1950. A hispanic girl discouraged from getting a library card because of her young age successfully struggles to achieve her goal.
- Goldstein, M.B. Fish for Supper. Dial 1976. Wordless book about an intrepid grandmother who goes fishing daily.
- Klein, Norma. Girls Can Be Anything. Dutton 1973. A girl is convinced that she can become a doctor, a pilot, or even president.
- Maury, Inez. My Mother the Mail Carrier/Mi Mama La Cartera. Feminist Press 1976. Spanish/English story of a hispanic single mother and her daughter.
- Merriam, Eve. Mommies at Work. Knopf 1961. Shows mothers working at various interesting jobs outside the home.
- Portnoy, Mindy Avra. Ima on the Bima: My Mother is a Rabbi. Kar Ben 1986. A girl describes her mother's activities as a religious leader.
- Rice, Eve. Benny Bakes a Cake. Greenwillow 1981. A boy makes his own birthday cake.
- Sendak, Maurice. Outside Over There. Harper 1981. A brave girl rescues her baby sister from goblins.

Van Woerkom, Dorothy. The Queen Who Couldn't Bake Gingerbread. Parents Magazine Press 1975. A king and queen learn to judge others by their qualities rather than their appearance, in addition to learning self-reliance and mutual consideration.

Van Woerkom, Dorothy. Becky and the Bear. Putnam 1975. A clever girl deals with a bear.

Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over. Houghton 1972. A boy learns that other boys also crave the security of a stuffed animal.

Zolotow, Charlotte. William's Doll. Harper 1972. A boy's nurturing play is encouraged.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Facklam, Margery. Wild Animals, Gentle Women. Harcourt 1978. Women pursuing the exciting field of animal behavior, studying various animals including chimpanzees and sharks. Gr. 5+

Greenfield, Eloise. Rosa Parks. Crowell 1973. Story of the black woman whose refusal to be intimidated on a public bus helped to inspire the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Gr. 2-4

Greenwald, Sheila. Give Us a Great Big Smile, Rosy Cole. Little 1981. A young female violinist faces the problems of fame. Gr. 3-5

Griffen, Judith Berry. Phoebe and the General. Coward 1977. A colonial-era girl thwarts a spy trying to kill George Washington. Gr. 2-4

Herzig, Alison Cragin. Oh Boy! Babies! Little 1980. A class of boys learns how to care for babies. Gr. 4+

Jordan, June. Kimako's Story. Houghton 1981. A Japanese-American girl becomes an explorer while dog-sitting for her neighbor. Gr. 2-4

Klagsbrun, Francine. Free to Be You and Me. McGraw-Hill 1974. Collection of poems and stories discouraging stereotyping. Gr. K-2

Konigsburg, Elaine. A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver. Atheneum 1973. Recollections by Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, who flouted 12th Century convention with her courage and wit. Gr. 5+

- Lurie, Alison. Clever Gretchen and Other Forgotten Folk Tales. Crowell 1980. Girls overcome obstacles as fairy tale heroines. Gr. 4+
- Magorian, Michelle. Goodnight, Mr. Tom. Harper 1982. Formerly-abused boy flourishes under the loving care of a foster father. Gr. 5
- Moskin, Marietta. Lysbet and the Fire Kittens. Coward 1973. A girl responds to a fire by sounding the alarm and rescuing her pet cat and its new kittens. Gr. 2-4
- O'Dell, Scott. Island of the Blue Dolphins. Houghton 1960. Brave girl lives alone on Pacific island. Gr. 5+
- Reiss, Johanna. The Upstairs Room. Crowell 1972. Two sisters hide from the Nazis in a Dutch farmhouse. Gr. 4+
- Slepian, Jan. The Alfred Summer. Macmillan 1980. Four young outcasts, two of them handicapped, cooperate to build a boat. Gr. 5+
- Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy. Viking Press 1955. Young Japanese boy ridiculed for being different is finally appreciated for his unusual talent. Gr. K-2

#### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- DePauw, Linda Grant. Founding Mothers: Women in America in the Revolutionary Era. Houghton 1975. Includes biographies of soldiers, spies, and activists. Gr. 6+
- Kherdian, David. The Road from Home: the Story of an Armenian Girl. Greenwillow 1979. Woman driven from Turkey who arrives in the United States as a "mail order bride" must deal with many challenges. Gr. 6+
- Lord, Athena V. A Spirit to Ride the Whirlwind. Macmillan 1981. Thirteen-year-old girl comes to realize the importance of political involvement during 1836 textile strike among women workers in Lowell, Massachusetts. Gr. 6+
- Speare, Elizabeth. Witch of Blackbird Pond. Houghton 1958. Defending another woman from witchcraft accusations requires bravery. Gr. 6+
- Taylor, Mildred. Let the Circle Be Unbroken. Dial 1981. Conditions in rural Mississippi during the Depression call forth the courage of an eleven-year-old girl. Gr 6+

#### SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL TITLES

- Adell, Judith and Hilary Klein. A Guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books, Vol I. Academy Press Unlimited (176 W. Adams Street,

Chicago, Ill. 60611) 1976. Obtainable from Montgomery County Public Libraries, Gaithersburg Regional Library.

Children's Services, Department of Public Libraries. "Persons First." Montgomery County Dept. of Public Libraries 1983. Obtainable from Montgomery County Public Libraries, (301) 279-1401.

Father Gander. Equal Rhymes Amendment. Larcheveque, Inc. 1985. Obtainable from publisher at Box 454, Indianola, Iowa 50125 for \$11.95 including shipping.

1987 Early Childhood Books. A catalog of Gryphon House. Obtainable from the publisher at 3706 Otis Street, P.O. Box 275, Mt. Rainier, Md. 20712, or call toll-free (800) 638-0928.

McBride, Brent and Jim Levine. "How to Start a Father Child Group." Bank Street College of Education 1987. Contains a list of books showing fathers in nurturing and non-traditional roles. Obtainable from the publisher at 610 W. 112th Street, New York, N.Y. 10025 for \$5.00.

Ms. Magazine. Back issues of the last ten years, available in many libraries, contain information on non-sexist books for young people.

Pogrebin, Letty Cotton. Growing Up Free. McGraw 1980. Obtainable by calling (212) 719-9800.

Racism and Sexism Resource Center. Bulletin on Interracial Books for Children and related catalog. Council on Interracial Books for Children. Obtainable from the publisher at 1841 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Sadker, Myra and David. Now Upon a Time. Harper & Row 1976. Obtainable from Montgomery County Public Libraries.

Shaffer, Susan. "101 Books for Summer Reading." Mid-Atlantic Center for Sex Equity. Obtainable from the publisher at 5010 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, or call (202) 885-8536.

Sprung, Barbara. Non-sexist Education for Young Children. Citation Press (for Women's Action Alliance). Obtainable from the publisher at 50 W. 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

Wilms, Denise and Irene Cooper. A Guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books, Vol. II. (1976-85). Academy Chicago (425 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60611). Obtainable from the Cheshire Cat Bookstore, 5512 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015 for \$8.95.