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For Young Readers

TINY LIVING THINGS, by Edouard Cauvin. 1973. Sterling Publishing Co., New York. 102 p. \$3.50 (hardback).

This is a narrated photographic essay designed to stimulate juvenile reader interest in and awareness of small arthropods indigenous to south temperate regions. Excluding a section on pseudoscorpions and centipedes, the organisms discussed are classical to children's literature. The format is very similar to Fanning and Brevoort's *Insects From Close Up*, but the narration is less prosaic and erudite. The book is well done and will be effective in enticing middle-school readers to explore nature through closer observation.

A. C. Haman
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls

OUR DIRTY WATER, by Sarah M. Elliott. 1973. Julian Messner, New York. 64 p. \$4.79.

One result of the environmental crisis has been the production of a number of excellent books that point out the problems and offer positive countermeasures. This book hits hard at violators: meat packers, food process-

ors, chemical industries, farmers, and others. A section of the book deals with actions that can be taken to reverse the alarming trends. Suggestions include visiting local industries and asking what steps are being taken to protect the environment, performing simple environmental experiments, and making results available to the news media.

The elementary-age child who is aware of environmental problems or the child who is in the process of learning about those problems will find this a helpful book.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

WHAT COLOR ARE YOU?, by Darwin Walton. 1973. Johnson Publishing Co., Chicago. 63 p. \$4.95.

This book attempts to teach the young reader a scientific basis for differences in skin color and to examine how differences in skin color make no difference in human quality. The first point—examining the science of pigmentation—is heavy, with difficult terminology and in didactic style. The second point—the sociologic effects of pigmentation—comes off much better and should help to develop mutual human respect and basic self-respect in young readers. The use of color photographs

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gives the book a lift and adds a nice dimension of realism.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
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HOW PLANTS TRAVEL, by Joan Elma Rahn. 1973. Atheneum Publishers, New York. 58 p. \$4.95 (hardback).

This book is about plants and the many ways they travel. The material is interestingly woven to explain that seeds and disseminules are moved away from the mother plant by many means.

Suggested experiments or ideas are given throughout the book, to reinforce learning by doing: wind travel is explained by reference to mushrooms and dandelions; water, by a floating experiment; and plants that disseminate themselves, by a tiddly-winks game. The last chapter is devoted to explaining exactly what part of the plant travels—the seeds, fruits, offshoots, bulbs, or spores. The author mentions that, living or dead, disseminules help to make possible the continuing life of plants and animals on earth.

The general category for this book would be intermediate level because of content and vocabulary. Most of the illustrations are very simple, clear-cut line drawings, and they add to the book; however, many of the illustra-