

2016

A Child's Book Shelf

Lillian Shaben
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Shaben, Lillian (2016) "A Child's Book Shelf," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol1/iss2/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

brides cake and the grooms cake, on the other. The guests then come to the table for a second course and after they have returned to their places, the girls pass the coffee. Thus maids are dispensed with quite effectively and yet a very attractive and delightful dinner has been served. The foods are all simple in their preparation and are of such a nature that much of the dinner can be prepared several days previous to the wedding so that there will be no hurry and anxiety at the end.

A menu suggested for this sort of meal is as follows:

Sweet Potato and Almond Croquettes
Creamed Chicken in Timbles
Peach Ginger Ale Salad
Hot Rolls Curled Celery Ripe Olives
Brides Cake Grooms Cake
Coffee

Recipes for these dishes may be found in another part of this issue. To many, the big difficulty of a wedding is the cake, (and what is a wedding without a cake, prophesying as it does the fate of so many of the guests). The cake problem need not present very great difficulties, however, even for the most inexperienced. In the first place, the cake can be made at home as easily as in any other place. This may be rather start-

ling to some but it is true nevertheless. In the second place the decorations usually seen on the exterior of a wedding cake have nothing to do with the interior of the cake, so the problem is not such a large one as it might seem. In every family there is always some one recipe for a white or spice cake which has been used again and again and has always met with wonderful success. It may not have the title of a wedding cake but what is to prevent its use as such? To insure success for the wedding cake use some recipe which is familiar and has always proved trustworthy. A white or spice cake should be used for the bride's cake and a dark cake for the groom's cake, (if a groom's cake is desired). A typical wedding cake should be made in a set of three round pans. The first of these pans should have a base of fourteen inches, the second a base of ten inches and the third a base of six inches. Each layer should be three inches deep.

After the cake is baked and cooled, the three layers are placed together and the entire mound covered with white icing. Coconut may be sprinkled on it to give a festive appearance and marachino cherries cut in the form of hearts help to carry out the wedding idea. If one is expert in the use of a pastry bag, the frosting may be applied

in this manner and molded into roses, petals and ribbons. A pink icing can then be prepared and the rose leaves colored with it. A paint brush is the best article for applying the paint. Thus even the proverbial fancy cake can be made at home and the biggest difficulty of a wedding is easily overcome.

In every branch of business in the universe, there is an effort to establish a more efficient standard and a more economical one. This movement has reached even to the home and there are constant inventions to make the work there more economical and labor saving. Why not extend this a bit further and revolutionize the type of weddings? The sunset wedding just described is but one of many of a similar nature, all of which may be given simply, inexpensively and economically. This makes it possible for a greater number of girls to have a wedding of their own and they need not feel that they have to compete with others who are able to give more elaborate ones. It is really the simple, homelike wedding, bearing a tone of sweetness that is the wedding of good taste. Why should not every girl have a wedding as she has dreamed of since childhood? For after all it takes only a bit of garden, a rose bush or two and

(Continued on page eleven)

A Child's Book Shelf

By LILLIAN SHABEN

HAVE YOU ever stood in a city shop and wondered, "Now what shall I take home to little Betty?"

If little Betty is more than three years old, why not buy her a book? If the children's books in your home do not represent any attempt to provide sensible entertainment or development of your child's mind, now is the time, before it is too late, to make a careful selection of reading matter upon which the young mind may feed.

The idea of a "child's book shelf" came to me last vacation when a neighbor said to me, wistfully, "I do wish we had some good books for the children, but I just can't buy books when they need so many other things." The right kind of food and clothing must be provided to keep the child well and strong but good reading cannot be left to chance. When circumstances prohibit the purchase of many books, the few that can be provided, should, at least, be carefully selected.

Two years ago I had the fun of helping select books for two school libraries, and last summer I chose twelve books for my two nieces and nephews. Sifting all the children's books I knew and liked down to twelve was no easy task so I read many books for children, old and new, and the opinions of the best authorities that I could find. Some of my results may help others in choosing books for children.

The first book in a child's literary life will, of course, be a picture book and the pictures will likely be colored because a child's sense of color develops before his sense of form. Then come pictured stories such as Mother Goose Rhymes. As a child outgrows nursery

rhymes stories will attract him more and he will listen eagerly, like all the children who have lived before him, to the Three Bears, Tom Thumb, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Grimms' and Anderson's Fairy Tales.

"Fairy Tales?"

Yes, of course! Just fancy some poor unfortunate child growing up without ever having heard of Jack and the Beanstalk and Little Red Riding Hood! A child is most interested in this kind of story up to the time he is about eight years old. He may know the stories before he is able to read them for they belong to the land of story telling and would lose most of their charm if children found them only in books.

Good illustrations are of real importance and one could not do better than to secure Nursery Rhymes illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith; some Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, written and illustrated by Howard Pyle; The Story of Siegfried by James Baldwin and illustrated by Howard Pyle.

For a child not eight years old, good books may be selected from the following:

Grimm, Fairy Tales.
Stevenson, A Child's Garden of Verses.
Eugene Field, Poems of Childhood, illustrated by Maxfield Parish.
Burgess, Stories of Animal Life.
Charles Kingsley, The Water Babies.
Rudyard Kipling, The Just So Stories.
Hans C. Anderson, Fairy Tales.
Potter, Stories for Children.

There are many good stories in magazines which are really worth while, but they should not be entirely substituted for the old standbys and how sorry

I should feel for the children who grew up without numbering the above named books among their childhood friends.

Between the ages of eight and twelve years a child becomes more interested in legends and adventure and generally his tastes in literature are then rather well indicated. The following books will suit him:

Joel Chandler Harris, Nights With Uncle Remus.

James Baldwin, Fifty Famous Stories Retold.

Hamilton W. Mabie, Poems Every Child Should Know.

Jacobs, Celtic Fairy Tales, Arabian Nights.

With these should go some books on nature such as those by Earnest Thompson Seton, John Burroughs, Rudyard Kipling and Andrew Lang. Then there are the Alcott books, Treasure Island, Tales from Lohengrin, Bits of American History and scores of others.

There can be no such thing as a list of best books that will suit every one. If there were, it would be a patent medicine but there are plenty of good standard books from which stories can be chosen to suit individual needs.

There are certain characteristics which are imperative in any child's books and they are as follows:

1. The book must make a direct appeal to a child's intelligence.
2. The book should have a definite aim, either instruction or pleasure.
3. It must have a good moral tone, be written in good English, and have good illustrations.
4. The type should be readable and the margins should be good.