



"This man works for a rich farmer. He has been working for him for years. He has been underpaid, beaten, treated mean, but for some reason he never has left the place. The reason is that when he was a little boy he was first brought to this place by his father. He has grown up with the present farmer, his boss now, and the present farmer's sister. As he grew up he grew to love the farmer's sister, and the farmer hates him because of all the attention given him. He is strong and handsome. The farmer hates him because he himself is frail and jealous of the other man's strength. He lived under these cruel conditions, beaten, all because of his love for the sister. Finally the farmer, who had great influence over his sister, was forcing her to marry some man to get his money. This was the day of the wedding. He had just heard that the farmer's sister was found dead in her room. She had killed herself to avoid marriage. The man realized that now he had no reason to stay and that at last he could have revenge without hurting the one he loved. He went into the house and killed the farmer he had grown up with—choked him to death with the powerful muscles of his hands—muscles that the farmer had forced him to build. He did not try to escape from the police after they found that he had murdered the farmer. He confessed to the crime and was hung on a tree right in front of the great house he should have owned. He was buried alongside of the farmer. The farmer's grave separated his and the girl's. They were separated in death even as in life."

When asked where he got the idea for the story, Jimmy said "The beginning is taken almost directly from 'Wuthering Heights.' The end is more my own—more tragic."

Jack also sees a crime story in this picture, but his version, inspired in part by movies and books, is much less violent than Jimmy's and again has a happy ending:

"This boy was brought up in a bad neighborhood. He was adopted by some rich people. While living there, he was influenced by a gang to tell them where the safe was and the combination, for the people trusted him with the combination. The gangsters got caught and squealed on the kid. He was sent to the reformatory. The people wanted to give him another chance, because they liked him. They thought it wasn't his fault. After two years in the reform school he was given a pardon. He got out and now he's working, hoping he can make a new start. He turned out to be a good citizen."

In the stories of these high school boys and girls, aggression is followed by punishment in monotonous sequence, Dr. Symonds found. A sequence repeated over and over again was to have the aggression of robbery or personal attack followed by the arrival of police, arrest, trial, conviction and punishment. Punishment meted out by these high school authors is severe—often life imprisonment or the electric chair.

Aggression Themes

Stories were obtained from 20 boys and 20 girls on 42 pictures. Every boy and girl told at least three stories including themes of aggression. But love was a common theme, too. Altogether 17 boys and 19 girls included at least three themes of love in their stories.

Dr. Symonds warns against using stories such as these to divine anything about the life history of the boy or girl telling them. The story teller does put himself into the tale, but caution must be used in interpretation. The boy or girl author may appear in the role of any, or all the characters of his creation. And it is not the least difficult for him to identify himself with a character of the opposite sex or a different age level. In fact, stories contain various displacements and disguises to hide the identity of the actual persons toward whom the feelings expressed in the story are directed in real life.

The psychologist can learn much about personality from the study of such stories, Dr. Symonds concludes, but he must proceed by indirection and must learn all he can about the individual before attempting to interpret his phantasies.

The complete set of the pictures drawn for the purpose by the artist Lynd Ward, together with the results of Dr. Symonds' study of the imaginings of high school boys and girls, are contained in a new book just published, *ADOLESCENT FANTASY* (Columbia University Press).

Science News Letter, August 20, 1949

BOTANY-CHEMISTRY

Heavy Doses Of 2,4-D Kill Water Hyacinth

➤ **WATER** hyacinth, at once the most troublesome and the most beautiful of the South's aquatic weeds, can be effectively controlled with heavy treatments of the

weed-killing chemical, 2,4-D, where lighter treatments have failed in the past. It promises to rid Southern rivers and lakes of blocking mats of vegetation that do tens of millions of dollars' worth of damage every year.

A team composed of scientists from Tulane University, the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research and the Army Engineer Corps have been conducting experiments under controlled field conditions. They have found that a spray laying down the equivalent of eight pounds of 2,4-D per acre will kill the water hyacinth and cause the masses to sink. It is important that this sinking occur; floating masses of dead hyacinth would be almost as bad as the living mats, so far as channel obstruction is concerned.

Water hyacinth is a tropical plant brought to this country originally as an ornamental. It has spikes of beautiful lavender flowers, and floats by means of air-containing pithy swellings in its leaf-stems, while its long roots trail in the water. Besides blocking navigation on rivers and lakes, it ruins them as habitats for ducks and fish, and also offers favorable breeding spots for some species of mosquitoes.

Science News Letter, August 20, 1949

Words in Science— ANTI-HISTAMINE

➤ **HISTAMINE**—you say it his-tam-in, stressing the his—is a chemical normally formed in the body. Among other actions, it stimulates stomach secretion.

It is now believed that release of too much histamine in the body can play a part in allergies and can also bring on vomiting and diarrhea.

So the drugs now commonly used against hay fever, asthma, hives and other allergies are anti-histamine chemicals; they counteract the histamine in the body.

Among the anti-histamine chemicals are benadryl, thephorin, trimeton, and thenylene hydrochloride.

Science News Letter, August 20, 1949

F you are interested in acquiring distinguished but inexpensive books for your science library, you will want a copy of Harvey Brace Lemon's *FROM GALILEO TO COSMIC RAYS* for only 98c. This 450-page work was published at three dollars and provides an intelligent, lucid account of the evolution of physics through Galileo, Newton, Boyle, Dalton, Einstein, et al. Gerald Wendt in the *N. Y. Herald Tribune* says, "In all the years that I have been reviewing scientific books I have often been fascinated but I have seldom used exclamation points. But this book deserves a fanfare . . ." Two other noted books now offered by us at drastically reduced prices: Warren Weaver's *THE SCIENTISTS SPEAK* at 98c (regularly \$3.75) and Raymond Ditmars' *THRILLS OF A NATURALIST'S QUEST* at 98c (originally \$3.50). Add 7c postage per book ordered. Ten-day cash-back guarantee. Send for **FREE CATALOG** listing many other outstanding titles in **SCIENCE, PHYSICS, NATURE** and **APPLIED MATHEMATICS**. Savings up to 75%.

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