Nana's Literary Corner #9

While visiting the Waldorf School on the Roaring Forks in Colorado a few months ago, I was discussing this column with my host, Jill Sherer. She was kind enough to share with me some of her children's favorite titles, among them, a book that her twin sister, Jan Schubert, had written. Several of her other favorites were "Little Golden Book" stories, such as the Tawny, Scrawny Lion- one of my childhood favorites. Much to my delight, when I returned home, I discovered that Golden Book had combined a number of their classic favorites into hardbound collectors' editions and that Costco was selling four of these $27 books for under $7 each! Below are some recommendations from those editions plus a big thumbs up for The Sun Seed.

1. **The Sun Seed** Written by Waldorf Teacher, Jan Schubert. Rather than drawing or painting the "illustrations" for this book, Jan hand felted beautiful pictures for each part of the story (the book consists of photographs of these felt paintings). This sweet tale is about the journey of a sunflower seed from seed, to sprout, to plant, to giant sunflower and back to seed. "Every morning the great, glowing sun globe came to bathe the earth with his golden rays. 'Good morning,' the little plant whispered shyly." (perfect for Spring!)

From Golden Book's Animal Tales collection:

2. **The Saggy, Baggy Elephant** Written by Kathryn and Byron Jackson and illustrated by Gustaf Tenggren. This delightful little tale is about a lonely baby elephant, who is trying to discover who he is- especially after a parrot tells him that his ears are much too big, his nose way too long and his skin much too baggy.

3. **The Kitten Who Thought He Was a Mouse** Written by Miriam Norton and illustrated by Garth Williams. Another tale of an animal that is a bit mixed up as to his identity...this time a newborn kitten, eyes not even opened, finds its way into the home of a mouse family. Raised by the loving mice, he finds himself straddling the world of natural enemies.

4. **Animal Friends** Written by Jane Werner and illustrated by Garth Williams. The story of how Miss Kitty, Mr. Pup, Brown Bunny, Little
Chick Fluffy Squirrel, Poky Turtle and Tweeter Bird each finds a proper home.

5. **Tawny Scrawny Lion** Written by Kathryn Jackson and illustrated by Gustaf Tenggren. A delightful tale of how a little rabbit and his friends manage to satisfy the seemingly insatiable hunger of the Tawny Scrawny Lion...much to the delight of the other jungle animals.

From Golden Book's **Friendly Tales** collection:

6. **Seven Little Postmen** Written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Tibor Gergely. "Stamp stamp, clickety click,- The Machinery ran with a quick sharp tick. -The letter with the secret is stamped at last- And the round black circle tells that it passed- Through the cancelling machine- Click, Whizz, fast!" This delightful story of how a boy's secret was sent in a letter through the mail to his grandmother is told in rhyme filled with lots of images and sounds.

7. **Pussy Willow** Written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Leonard Weisgard. A tale of a soft, gray kitten and his search for his namesake—the pussy willow. During his travels, Pussy Willow meets many inhabitants of forest, meadow and sea.

From Golden Book's **Farm Tales** I recommend: The Boy With a Drum by David L. Harrison, illustrated by Eloise Wilkin and **The Fuzzy Duckling** by Jane Werner Watson, illustrated by Alice and Martin Provensen.

Note: There are also three other recently compiled Golden Book collections: Sleepytime Tales, Eloise Wilkin Stories and Inspirational Tales.