

au beau milieu de XXe siècle, ces attaques d'Indiens et ces stéréotypes dont on avait pu croire qu'ils avaient depuis longtemps disparu?

Puis il y a la langue, à laquelle on trouverait bien des choses à redire, surtout concernant le dialogue qui manque tellement de naturel. Les quelques bribes d'anglais gagneraient également à être plus . . . anglaises. Quant aux illustrations, elles n'apportent pas grand chose à une histoire dont on peut sincèrement se demander si elle a de quoi inspirer la jeunesse.

En somme, l'aventure, le merveilleux, pour nous séduire, n'ont pas nécessairement besoin de vastes horizons. Ils se trouvent bien souvent sur le seuil de notre porte.

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## Mildly Silly Sally

*DIANE MEACHER*

*Silly Sally and the Picnic with the Porpoises*, Frank M. Tierney. Illus. by Ann Crook. Borealis Press Ltd., 1973. 26 pp. \$3.95 paper. ISBN 0-919594-123

*Silly Sally and the Golden-Pail*, Frank M. Tierney. Illus. by Wendy Irvine. Borealis Press Ltd., 1977. 37 pp. \$3.95 paper. ISBN 0-919594-794

*Silly Sally and the Little Pumpkin*, Frank M. Tierney. Illus. by Wendy Irvine. Borealis Press Ltd., 1978. 30 pp. \$4.95 paper. ISBN 0-919594-93-x

*Silly Sally in the Tire and Mrs. Corrigan*, Frank M. Tierney. Illus. by Wendy Irvine. Borealis Press Ltd., 1979. 30 pp. \$4.95 paper. ISBN 88887-065-5

*Silly Sally and the Picnic with the Porpoises*, the first book in Frank Tierney's "Silly Sally" series, deals with a young girl who goes to school one morning and finds the class is going on a picnic. A very speedy "air-bus" whisks them off to a Nova Scotia beach. The children go swimming and encounter a school of porpoises who give them rides on their backs. Soon some Black-Sharks attack, and the porpoises quickly take the children to underwater rooms where they are safe. Here they meet starfish, sunfish, and others, and have a big party. Finally, the children return to the beach and are given turns driving the "air-bus" back to their school.

Few schools would arrange a trip at such short notice; most children would probably wish school trips could be that spontaneous! But once launched, the story of the school trip moves from one imaginative scene to another without awkwardness. The "Black-Sharks" provide the suspense of danger, which is overcome and easily explained. Children respond well to the fantasy of underground rooms and friendly animals; indeed, this underwater adventure might help reassure some children who are afraid of submerging.

It is a pleasure to see the use of Canadian landmarks such as the Parliament buildings, and Montreal. The illustrations however are not consistent: they appear stiff and formal; so too the dialogue seems forced, and the children speak more formally than most real children do.

In Mr. Tierney's next book, *Silly Sally and the Golden-Pail*,<sup>1</sup> Sally goes on an adventure to the moon. The illustrations by Wendy Irvine now show Sally as a delightful girl with pony-tail and freckles who could be found in almost any Canadian neighbourhood. The characters in this second book are more animated and add to the excitement and suspense, and Mr. Tierney's dialogue is more natural here. One night Sally is lying in bed wishing she could have some yellow moonwater from the Golden-Pail. Then Star-Girl comes to take her to her moon, transporting her by a special star escalator. When they arrive, the Moon-People explain how their Golden-Pail was stolen by the Mud-Snouts who live in underground tunnels and caverns. Sally and her dog search through the tunnels, unearth the Golden-Pail, are chased by the Mud-Snouts and return the pail safely to the Moon-People. After everyone happily drinks the Moon-Water, Sally is returned home.

The theme of a visit to a populated moon or world is one almost every child has thought about when looking at the stars. The author should use fewer compound words (Moon-Water, Moon-People, Star-Girl, and so on) and more original names. There is a pleasant surprise at the end of the book — a special page from the story to colour.

In the third book, *Silly Sally and the Little Pumpkin*, Sally has an adventure on Hallowe'en. Sally goes out trick or treating in her kangaroo costume with two friends. When they cross through a field Sally trips and

drops her pail of candy. She has tripped over a small pumpkin; she decides to take it home with her. She must leave her candy since she cannot carry both. When she returns for her pail it is gone. This adventure has a magic ending, nicely handled.

The illustrations certainly show a typical Hallowe'en trip. The costumes are the kind seen in every neighbourhood and the houses are suburban Canadian homes right down to the initialled aluminum doors. The mother in these illustrations is very stereotyped, always aproned, and busy, in three out of four scenes, working in her shiny kitchen.

The author overdoes the use of italics for no good reason. Narrative and dialogue seem repetitive, but children will thoroughly enjoy the reading.

In his latest book, *Silly Sally in the Tire and Mrs. Corrigan*, Frank Tierney doesn't use fantasy. Sally and her friend Karen are rolling a heavy tire back and forth along the driveway. It rolls out onto the sidewalk and knocks into "crabby" Mrs. Corrigan and her groceries. Trouble ensues, but Sally and Mrs. Corrigan – and neighbour's dog – all come to happy terms before the story ends.

Again Wendy Irvine provides stimulating illustrations. The scenes are set very realistically and the chase scene involving Mrs. Corrigan and the dog is exciting to follow – although it is difficult to believe that "crabby" Mrs. Corrigan can so suddenly become a great friend to Sally.

Pre-school children and beginning readers will like to hear all these "Silly Sally" stories and to look at the delightful illustrations. Tierney writes very well when dealing with children's fantasy, and creates believable and amusing plot, setting, and characters. Of course Sally does not really warrant the nickname "Silly" since her silliness consists of the normal actions of everyday children. But Frank Tierney's books should do the important job of helping ordinary Canadian children begin to laugh at their own silly selves.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Another book by Frank Tierney, *Silly Sally and the Snowman* (1975) was reviewed in Issue #7 of *CCL*.

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