

to life.

The artwork of Deborah Drew-Brook-Cormack sums up Kevin's feelings beautifully. His pained expressions in the classroom and in the psychologist's office tell us much. The five two-page illustrations not only support the story quite well, but with some innovation could easily be used without the text to stimulate creative writing.

Although Dr. Levinson missed the opportunity to write a piece of powerful fiction, she has managed to provide enlightenment in a greatly misunderstood subject.



Fig. 1

Kathlene Willing, M.Ed., Teacher and author of *The primary computer dictionary*, has worked with exceptional children at her learning centre, *Education In Progress*, in Toronto.

A BOY AND HIS DOG REVISITED

Molly: the dog that wouldn't quit, Charles Perkins. Gray's Publishing Ltd., 1984. 130 pp. \$6.95 paper. ISBN 0-88826-092-X.

Originally published by Longmans Canada in 1966 under the title *Molly*, the book was also released in the United Kingdom a year later and in the United States in 1968 with the title *Wilderness friend*. In its first go round, the work received favorable critical response and was included in the biography section of the second edition of the *Junior High School Library Catalog* (N.Y.: H.W.

Wilson, 1970) and in the fiction portion of Irma McDonough's *Canadian Books for Young People* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1978). Despite the latter selection tool's categorization, *Molly* is supposed to be a true "boy-and-his-dog" story.

As a lad of eight in Prince George, B.C., Charlie Perkins fell out of a tree and fractured his ankle. While Charlie was bedridden, his father brought him a St. Bernard pup and the dog became Charlie's close companion over the next five years. Molly shared in all of Charlie's activities from camping to tobogganing to playing the outfield in baseball games. Molly's friendly nature made her popular with the local children, and her oversized doghouse came to be the neighbourhood clubhouse.

Within the community, Molly was both heroine and villainess. She acquired the former mantle after she rescued a child from drowning in an abandoned, waterfilled gravel pit. Gradually though, the latter perception came to be the one more popularly held as Molly's natural instincts to protect her young master led her to "attack" other children when they behaved aggressively towards Charlie. Charlie's young friends understood the absence of malice in Molly's behavior, but their parents, and especially the town gossips, saw only the torn clothes and the "torrents" of blood from scratch "wounds". The local R.C.M.P. sergeant volunteered to keep Molly, but again Molly's protective nature got her into trouble when she savaged a cowardly man who tried to kill her and her pups with a pitchfork. Only memories of Molly's former heroism saved her from a death sentence, and she was banished from Prince George and sent to live with an elderly lady in a remote community fifty miles away. And there the story might have ended except that five years later Charles Perkins saw Molly's picture on a magazine cover and discovered that Molly, "the dog that wouldn't quit", had received a medal for saving three children from drowning in a raging river.

Because the book's time setting remains vague, its contents are not dated for modern audiences; however, the subject matter and the book's gentle pace would make *Molly* much more appropriate for today's children in upper elementary grades rather than junior high.

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TO CHANGE, OR NOT TO CHANGE. . .

Wm. Jay and the farm, Susan Hiebert. Borealis Press, 1984. 62 pp. \$5.95 paper. ISBN 0-88887-898-2; **When an osprey sails**, Patricia McKenzie-Porter. Nimbus Publishing, 1984. 160 pp. \$9.95 paper. ISBN 0-920852-26-2.