

identity and abilities. Her defiance effectively changes the tune of the men in the story, liberating herself in the process.

A marvellous complement to Yee's story are the illustrations by Harvey Chan. In fact, Chan, with the help of book designer Michael Solomon, all but steals the show. The soft colouring of the illustrations creates a strong sense of the past; the pictures themselves are beautifully evocative, bringing a Chinatown of old so much to life that one can almost smell and hear it. As in all good picture-books, the illustrations here tell their own story, or tell the story in their own way. For instance, Maylin's insistence that only she can make "Roses sing on new snow" as it should be made is playfully supported by the illustrations—only she wears rose-coloured clothing. However, what is most stunning about this book is the way the pictures are located on the page. Often, though not always, the pictures are cropped and positioned to follow the lines of their subjects, to emphasize postures, attitudes, antagonisms. The technique animates the dynamic tensions of both text and illustration, and lends a forcefulness to the illustrations which counters the quietness of their colouring.

Both of these books are revisionary: Bedard revises, for better and worse, Andersen's classic tale; Yee revises North American history with new folktales that recover old stories. If Bedard and Ricci's book is more problematical than Yee's and Chan's, it is no less interesting and certainly no less accomplished.

Marnie Parsons has taught English literature at Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Guelph and the University of Western Ontario. Currently she is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Western Ontario.

PLAY BALL

Take me out to the ball game, Maryann Kovalski. North Winds Press, 1992. 32 pages. \$12.95 cloth. ISBN 0-590-74030-X.

This book will bring particular pleasure to children who have experienced taking the subway to SkyDome to cheer the Toronto Blue Jays, but all children will enjoy its enthusiastic good spirits. Joanna and Jenny are real fans, chewing masses of bubblegum to get more baseball cards, and when Grandma takes them to a game, they enjoy the food and atmosphere with gusto. The text is mostly the lyrics of the title song—an added benefit to readers who like to sing. It is the sort of picture book you can spend some time on pointing out details to your listener, but don't try to explain the rule by which Grandma saves the game!

Sandy Odegard is the co-ordinator of the Women's Resource Centre at the University of Guelph and the grandmother of four.