

goalies can exist. It show a team photo of the Vawn Cougars with the author "wearing rubbers over his moccasins."

Luck may come in handy, but the secondary characters of both books demonstrate the importance of friendship. When the teams are picked in *The Moccasin Goalie* one friend questions the exclusion of Moccasin Danny, a girl named Anita and a small boy name Petou. Later, Moccasin Danny accepts a league position only on the condition that Anita and Petou be allowed to play. The descriptions and actions of the secondary characters also provide spring-boards to discussion in *Smudge*. The near-blind and ill AIDS patients in the hospice become Smudge's rescuers. The challenged heroes in both books have lives enriched by the support and the sense of belonging that their friends give them. Friendship makes a difference to these people in their worlds. More attention is now given to recognizing the contributions of people with disabilities. These books fill a much-needed gap.

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Horses of a Different Colour: Two Horse Stories

Alice of Wonderfarm Goes to the Races. Ann Nelles. Illus. author. William Street Press, 1995. 32 pp. \$18.95 cloth. ISBN 0-9695097-4. *To the Mountains by Morning*. Diana Wieler. Illus. Ange Zhang. A Groundwood Book, Douglas & McIntyre, 1995. 32 pp. \$14.95 cloth. ISBN 0-88899-227-0.

Alice of Wonderfarm Goes to the Races and *To the Mountains by Morning* have many similarities, but it's the differences that are notable. Both are about horses whose lives are threatened. Old Bailey, in *To the Mountains by Morning*, knows that the horse trailer will be coming to take her away. Gumper, in *Alice of Wonderfarm Goes to the Races*, has been told he's being sent to the glue factory. There is a huge difference in the way these stories are told. We learn about Old Bailey and her life, and come to care about her, before the crisis occurs. Gumper, on the other hand, runs into problems immediately, and his character is never really developed.

Conversations in *To the Mountains by Morning* flow naturally and the descriptive passages are a pleasure to read. The Rocky Mountain Stables gets a new owner, Mr. Cuthbert. "It soon became clear that Mr. Cuthbert had never owned a riding stable before. He looked at the horses' feet instead of their teeth to see how old they were. He hung onto their tails to keep them still. All the while he was grading them." The language and sentence structure in *Alice of Wonderfarm Goes to the Races* is simpler and more child-like. "One morning, when Alice was sleeping on the cool grass in the early sun, her friend, Painted Dog, came running to find her. Painted Dog was a Dalmatian, who was covered with black and white spots."

Animals speak in both stories. Old Bailey is able to communicate with the other horses, and to understand what humans are saying. Gumper and his animal friends have even more exhaustive talents. All the animals are not only able to



communicate with each other, but also with humans. We expect that in certain types of stories animals will be able to talk to each other, but this added dimension of the animals and people being able to talk with each other is disconcerting. Why couldn't Gumper solve his problem just by speaking with his owner?

To the Mountains by Morning is the more realistic and believable book. The horses act like horses, even though they talk to each other, and Old Bailey's method of dealing with her crisis seems like a plausible action that a horse would be capable of doing. The illustrator, Ange Zhang, has created powerful-looking horses, humorous caricatures of the owner and the stable hand, and panoramic scenes of the wide-open spaces and sky of the foothills. Her detailed and colourful acrylic illustrations have lots of movement, both in their placement on the pages and in the actions they depict. *Alice of Wonderfarm Goes to the Races* is off-beat and the situations are ridiculous. Gumper's friends try a number of things in order to help him escape the glue pot, most well beyond the normal animal's capabilities. The dogs hold paintbrushes and paint spots on Gumper so he will look like a Holstein cow. The watercolour illustrations lack the power, vibrancy, and movement of Ange Zhang's, but they definitely suit the goofy nature of the story.

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