



Canadian Children's Literature
Littérature canadienne pour la jeunesse

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We're pleased to announce that *CCL/LCJ* Associate Editor Mavis Reimer has been named the Canada Research Chair in the Culture of Childhood at the University of Winnipeg. The Canada Research Chairs Program, a major funding initiative of the federal government of Canada, has become the keystone of the government's strategy to invigorate Canadian research, innovation, and know-how.

Reimer, who organized *Performing Childhood*, the international Children's Literature Association Conference last June in Winnipeg, leads cutting-edge research into the idea of "home" in Canadian children's literature—a concept influenced by our country's history as a former colony, a population comprised of both newcomers and Aboriginals, and by our proximity to the United States.

"I'm very pleased to take up the Canada Research Chair in the Culture of Childhood at The University of Winnipeg", says Reimer. "In accepting this position, I am conscious that I am building on long-standing strengths of this University in research into the cultures and texts of young people, research pioneered in the University's Department of English by Kay Stone and Perry Nodelman. In the global and globalizing world of the 21st century, this research seems to me of urgent importance. Texts for young people are increasingly traveling across national borders, and must be understood within larger systems of cultural politics."

University of Winnipeg Dean of Arts Neil Besner comments:

"We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Reimer's research recognized in this important way. Dr. Reimer's innovative work in the area of Canadian children's literature and, more broadly, in the culture of childhood grows out of one of The University of Winnipeg's long-standing areas of excellence in research and teaching."

"This appointment reflects very well on the quality and significance of research undertaken at The University of Winnipeg," adds University President Lloyd Axworthy. "It confirms yet again that the University engages in excellent research, and we attract some of the world's finest researchers. Our students, and the citizens of Winnipeg and Manitoba, will reap the benefits of Dr. Reimer's ground-breaking work."

A five-year, \$500,000 appointment, this Canada Research Chair is unique in its focus on the culture of childhood. The overall objective of Reimer's research is to account for the cultural work of texts directed to children and youth, to understand how actual children assume the burden of meaning assigned to the metaphorical figure of the child, and to encourage the creation of critical and resisting young readers.

Reimer, associate professor in The University of Winnipeg's English department, is the author of many publications on children's literature, the editor of two books, and co-author with *CCL/LCJ* Editor Perry Nodelman of *The Pleasures of Children's Literature*, widely used as a textbook in children's literature courses across North America.