

Table of Contents

Editorial

DARK REALISM	3
--------------------	---

Criticism

WHO'S SPEAKING? THE VOICES OF DENNIS LEE'S POEMS FOR CHILDREN <i>Perry Nodelman</i>	4
REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION: BARBARA SMUCKER'S DAYS OF TERROR <i>Cory Bieman Davies</i>	18
PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEW REALISM IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE <i>Gary Paterson</i>	26

Review-Articles and Reviews

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS <i>Lorraine McMullen</i>	33
FEMALE CHARACTERS IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS <i>Donna O'Connor</i>	37
THE EVE OF WAR <i>Helen Rodney</i>	41
THE HOLOCAUST - FROM THE INSIDE <i>Edra Bayefsky</i>	43
DIVORCE, NORTH AMERICAN STYLE: WHAT IT DOES TO KIDS <i>Eleanor Swainson</i>	44
HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH REALITY <i>Robert Munsch</i>	48
NEW PICTURE BOOKS <i>Carol Anne Wien</i>	51
THE PUPPET WITH A SOUL <i>Muriel Whitaker and Jetske Ironside</i>	55
UNE COLLECTION CONSACRÉE AUX TEXTES DRAMATIQUES <i>Louise Filteau</i>	60

PUNCTUATION FOR THE PRIMARY READER	
<i>Sarah VanderBurgh</i>	67
GOOD THINGS FROM SMALL PRESSES	
<i>Judith Carson</i>	70
THE CHILDREN ARE COMING, THE CHILDREN ARE COMING	
<i>Kathlene R. Willing</i>	75
HUBERT EVANS: WHITTAKER IN THE WILDERNESS	
Kieran Kealy	80
ADVENTURE STORIES WITH A DIFFERENCE	
<i>Flora G. Little and Jean Little</i>	83
BOOKS REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE	88

The cover design, from Robert Munsch's The Boy in The Drawer, is by Michael Martchenko, and is reproduced courtesy of Annick Press Ltd.



Editorial: Dark Realism

The anarchic child on our cover is Michael Martchenko's illustration of the latest of Bob Munsch's stories. (*The Paper Bag Princess*, who announced to her supercilious prince, "You are a toad!" was till now our favourite among Munsch's marvellously disruptive children.) The theme of disruption emerges in several ways in this issue. Dennis Lee, says Perry Nodelman, catches the voices of childhood anarchy. Cory Bieman Davies traces a quieter disruption of traditional values in Barbara Smucker's *Days of Terror*. Gary Paterson suggests the historic sources of the growth of "dark realism" in books for children, and raises general questions about its value. Several of our reviewers also note modern concern with the darker elements of children's experience – divorce, confusing changes in traditional roles, the impact of war and of persecution. The whole question of "dark reality" – the presentation in children's books of violent and distressing scenes, or of violence and rebellion within the child's own psyche – is an urgent issue for writers, parents, teachers, librarians, and publishers.