

## *At play*

“Participaction” invites Canadian young people to get outdoors and do some exercising. Books offer another invitation: to get inside the world of imagination — and play mental games. Word games, fantasy stories, tales of sports heroes, all involve the child reader in the play of mind. And as the child psychologists tell us, child’s play is serious business, essential to learning and growth.

This issue of *CCL* is concerned with books that challenge young readers to the free play of imagination. We range from a study of Daniel Sernine, major science fiction writer in Québec, to a theoretic analysis of the way any fantasy works. We also remember Claude Aubry, a story-teller who encouraged readers to let the mind play with legends of the past, with animal fantasy, and with natural magic. We also take a more literal look at the question of play, in an assessment of books by players of that quintessential Canadian sport, ice hockey. Appropriately, a little boy dreaming of hockey appears on our cover, drawn from an excellent book by the eminent Québec writer Roch Carrier.

Focusing on play, on sport, and on fantasy, this issue of *CCL* also focuses on work and criticism by francophone Canadians. Associate Editor François Paré, who assembled this issue, found French-speaking critics and reviewers in Edmonton, Waterloo, Ottawa and Montréal — and in Dijon and Provence in France, where students of children’s literature serve as ambassadors abroad for Canadian work.

*CCL*’S effort to be bilingual seems particularly important nowadays, when schools are buzzing with talk of French immersion and core French Courses. Books from Québec presses offer a wonderful way of turning official bilingualism into fun for young Canadians.

Cover design: from *The hockey sweater*® 1984, Sheldon Cohen: illustration; Roch Carrier: text, Sheila Fischman: translation, and its separate French language edition *Le chandail de hockey* both published by Tundra Books.

L’illustration de la page couverture est tirée de *Le chandail de hockey*, par Roch Carrier et illustré par Sheldon Cohen. Courtoisie des Livres Toundra.