

méandres ordinaires de la description. Les très nombreuses ellipses d'espace ou de temps habilement pratiquées, concourent à ne faire apparaître que l'essentiel de l'action.

Cette action nous intéresse parce qu'elle pique l'imagination mais tout autant et surtout parce qu'elle émane d'un bon petit bout d'homme. Marlin a notre sympathie. Il est patient, réfléchi, travailleur, audacieux, consciencieux, sensible, affectueux et généreux. Oui, il ment quelquefois, mais quoi, devrait-il se jeter tout bonnement dans la gueule du loup? (Certains lecteurs pourraient aussi préférer ne pas le voir resserrer ses lacets de chaussures sur les sièges du métro; mais, dans cette époque laxiste, ne font-ils pas figure, aux yeux de la génération du jour, de maniaques d'un autre âge? . . .)

La jeunesse, on l'a dit, se reconnaîtra en Martin. Elle y verra son aversion du compromis, ses révoltes, ses clins d'oeil à la marginalité, ses réponses aux invites de l'inédit, ses essais d'émancipation. Autre raison sûre de rencontre: l'éveil de l'amour, avec ses hésitations, ses gaucheries, ses élans, ses immenses espoirs, ses baisers rapides mais grisants. Martin ne voit déjà plus en Nathalie la petite camarade d'enfance. Son coeur lui dit qu'un sentiment nouveau est né. Le petit garçon s'estombe et le jeune homme s'affirme: une page se tourne.

Aller retour s'adresse aux jeunes de 8 à 14 ans et plaira, à n'en pas douter. Il s'est vu décerner en 1986 le prix de Littérature de jeunesse Cécile-Rouleau. Et en 1987 il obtenait le prix littéraire Alvine-Bélisle, Reconnaissances d'un talent certain.

Joseph Pesséat est professeur au collège Vanier à Saint-Laurent où il enseigne le français langue seconde.

STREETPROOFED AND PREPARED FOR COURT

So, you have to go to court!: A child's guide to testifying as a witness in child abuse cases. Wendy Harvey. Illus. Anne Watson-Russell. Butterworth, 1986. 42 pp. \$5.95 paper. ISBN 0-409-80519-X; **The lookout! Book: A child's guide to street safety.** Cindy Blakely and Suzanne Drinkwater. Illus. Barbara Klunder. Viking Kestrel, 1986. \$9.95 cloth. ISBN 0-670-81205-6.

The lookout! Book and *So you have to go to court!* reflect concerns of our times, child abuse, child molestation, and child abduction. In a sense, these books are necessary; however they are a sad commentary on our society. Like sex education, they are difficult topics to treat objectively. How *do* you warn children about their dangerous surroundings without unduly scaring them?

Starting from two different assumptions, these two guides fill the need.

So you have to go to court! is after the fact. It assumes that young children have been abused and are now at the court stage. It helps children and adults to understand the process and to cope with children's feelings when called upon to testify as witnesses in child abuse cases. Testifying in court is not easy, and Wendy Harvey and Anne Watson-Russell have understood the fears. They have written a clear, step-by-step guide to children about what to expect. Informative, easy to read, and well organized into three chapters, it contains a table of contents, a glossary, and a page of tips. The chapters cover the process before, during and afterwards. Each page addresses a question or a concern. Boldface type focusses on the main ideas, and Carlos Freire's line drawings, accompanying each page, illustrate the text effectively. Advice is simply stated: "Take your time to get ready to talk. Once in your chair, take a look around the room. You will see some people you learned about on your visit." Caring adults or parents are encouraged to read to young children. For older ones, it is recommended that an adult be on hand to answer questions. If you have a child who is faced with testifying in court *So you have to go to court!* will make the task easier.

On the other hand, *The lookout! Book* is aimed at prevention. Authors Cindy Blakely and Suzanne Drinkwater have chosen a more humorous approach to guide children to "think safe, play safe." Its appealing cast of animal characters has "Beeper" acting as conscience. On each two-page illustration, Beeper asks questions to trigger further thoughts about *street safety*. This includes the usual problems, such as *playing safely near water*, crossing the street, obeying signs, as well as the more delicate issues of child molestation and abduction. Blending the two in a pleasant context makes the hard issues non-threatening and less scary for both adults and children. Its simple advice at the end assures children they are loved no matter what.

Barbara Klunder's full colour illustrations contain plenty of details for dialogue between parent and child. The animals point out potentially dangerous situations which can become springboards for discussion. Children are given opportunity to react to what is taking place. In "Safe and unsafe places," (see figure 1) children are asked to identify two safe places and why they are safe. Beeper then asks, "When are safe places unsafe?" A "snakes and ladders" board game in the book adds to the fun. Children are encouraged to make decisions with a list of "what ifs."

Written by two concerned mothers, *The lookout! Book* covers the block. Parents will want to read this book *with* their children. It is a useful tool for sensible streetproofing of children.

Kathlene R. Willing, educational consultant and President of CANSCAIP, is the author of computer books for children including, *The primary computer*