

## Mini-Reviews



Illustration from *Bibi and the Bull*

*Bibi and the Bull*. Carol Vaage. Illus. Georgia Graham. Red Deer College P, 1995. Unpag. \$8.95. ISBN 0-88995-178-0. *Sailor: The Hangashore Newfoundland Dog*. Catherine Simpson. Illus. Joanne Snook-Hann. Tuckamore, 1998. Unpag. \$8.95. ISBN 1-895387-1.

Both of these stories are about the need for a reason, a defining moment in which to show courage. Catherine Simpson's *Sailor: The Hangashore Newfoundland Dog* is about a whimpering Newfoundland dog who is uncharacteristically afraid of the water. When his young owner Ike cannot coax him in, everyone teases Sailor, calling him the "hangashore" dog. One day Ike follows older boys who are playing on the dangerous icy ballycarters, the floating pieces of ice on the ocean. Ike slips, falls in, and is about to drown. The "hangashore" dog rescues him and becomes a hero in the face of danger.

Carol Vaage's *Bibi and the Bull* is also about danger. Visiting her grandfather's farm, Bibi is warned to avoid the dangers in barns, roadways, and pastures. Suddenly, she finds herself in an encounter with a loose bull. Little Bibi imitates the bull as he sniffs, snorts, paws, and bellows, and he retreats in confusion.

Joanne Snook-Hann's illustrations render the Newfoundland world full of the colour of personality and place. Georgia Graham's detailed illustrations of the farm are resplendent, delineating Grandpa's farm from the other, indistinctly-drawn farms surrounding it. Even the lightning, which flashes from the sky only at the defining moment of courage, legitimizes and delineates Bibi's act of bravery. However, one must hope that no children who visit a farm will remember this story and decide to challenge a bull on its own turf: bulls usually have more courage than this one does.

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