

about her craft: "To me, writing a first draft is like lifting a huge hunk of marble out of a quarry. Once I have the hunk out, I can begin to carve it into a statue. Revising is where the fun and artistry of writing begin." Later in the piece she says, "Students ask me about imagery, as though once the story is written, the author goes back and sticks in the metaphors and similes like raisins on a gingerbread man. But to have power, imagery must grow out of the story itself."

It is fortunate and rare when a writer and reader meet face to face over the text. *Books That Invite Talk, Wonder and Play* affords an opportunity which is next best and this is its strength. Absent from the face to face is the dialogue that allows the writer to hear the reader and turn what that reader says back into the "carving" process. Paterson's comments about the craft of writing must be more limited and general in nature, but still, the notion of growth and changeability come through loud and clear.

This is a valuable classroom reference book for teachers and children in kindergarten through grade eight.

ANNE HUNT *University of New Brunswick*

Y. L. JACK LAM, GRAHAM HULBERT, & BEVERLY BAILEY. *Students in Trouble: A Casebook*. Calgary, AB: Detselig Enterprises (1996). 89 pp. \$13.95. ISBN 1-55059-134-7.

The authors of *Students in Trouble* have put together a book of case studies to help school personnel face a variety of crises brought about by difficult students and situations. The book is for use by school staff as a means of promoting discussion about difficult situations caused by societal influences on schools.

This little book covers many possible scenarios. The section about students challenging the rules addresses the use of firearms, truancy, theft, and cheating. A section on aggression looks at particular issues such as use of obscenity, stalking, and vandalism. The book includes a chapter on sexual issues, such as prostitution and sexual assault. One chapter looks at how family issues such as divorce, addictions, poverty, and abuse affect students' performance in school. Lastly, the book deals with such general issues as suicide, failure, and physical injury.

The individual case studies are divided into three sections, each one relating to particular students in particular situations. First, the authors present a bit of history about the student; then they detail the particulars of the event that led to a need for intervention. Finally, the authors

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present lists of questions addressed to administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, people interested in school law, and, ideally, a team of the above people. The authors intend these questions to spark problem-solving sessions that will help schools develop policies or solutions for each of these situations. Hopefully, too, the school personnel will see the value of a team approach to problem solving, which, according to the introduction, is the ultimate objective of the authors.

In spite of these good intentions, the book stops short of providing either answer or suggestions. Its mandate is to promote discussion only. While the book provides a needed service by raising the questions and causing school personnel to address the issues, it takes them no further.

However, in spite of this limited use, the book acknowledges problem situations and forces school personnel to ask probing questions about those issues. The book's format is useful and easy to follow, clearly differentiating the various types of "troubles" that can befall students.

I believe, that in spite of its limitations, this casebook will prove a useful tool for school personnel to sensitize themselves to the problems that face school children in the 1990s and into the new millennium.

AUDREY BERNER *McGill University*

DAVID BOOTH. KAREN RECZUCH, *Illustrator*. *The Dust Bowl*.
Toronto: Kids Can Press (1996). Ages 4 - 9.
\$16.95. 32 pp. ISBN 1-55074-295-7

One of David Booth's most wonderful accomplishments with *The Dust Bowl* is his ability to bring to life the trials, tribulations, frustrations, and rewards of life as a farmer on the Canadian prairies. His story-telling prowess is proven strong as he gracefully weaves his readers through a tale revolving around natural cycles of death and rebirth.

The story centres around a young boy's fear that his father and grandfather will sell his beloved farm because of the seemingly unending dry spell. Matthew's family must have *faith* that the rains will come, *patience* to wait out the dry spell and *courage* to face the hardships before them: namely, the battle to save their land. For Matthew, comfort lies in the knowledge that eventually, as it has in the past, fortune will come full circle and there will be prosperity once again.

Through a flawless integration of text and illustration, Booth and Reczuch offer a sympathetic view of the farmer's life and the hardships