

---

---

# INTROSPECTIVE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
COOPERATIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Spring 2002

---

---

## Welcome

Welcome to the spring issue of INTROSPECTIVE, the newsletter of the Cooperative Services for Children's Literature (CSCL).

## Children's Book Center

The Children's Book Center is a joint venture between The Cooperative Services for Children's Literature (CSCL) and the Jerome Library of BGSU which endeavors to make high quality recent children's books available to Northwest Ohio librarians and educators through a variety of forums including an onsite examination center at the Curriculum Resource Center.

The books received in the Center are recently published children's and young adult's books donated by participating publishers. Members of CSCL use the books in making presentations to Northwest Ohio educators and librarians. A limited circulation period is in effect because of this arrangement with CSCL. The books may be checked out by BGSU students, faculty and staff for a three week loan period.

<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/crc/cscl.html>

## WILL HILLENBRAND

### Featured Author - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference



The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference will be held at Fort Meigs Elementary School, Perrysburg, Ohio on Monday, October 21, 2002.

Ohio author/illustrator Will Hillenbrand will be the keynote speaker at the conference. He believes "a child's imagination is both the origin and the destination of picture book art." To learn more about Mr. Hillenbrand visit <http://www.willhillenbrand.com/>

If you would like to suggest Book and Reader Conference workshop speakers or session topics, please contact Libby Hostetler, Chair, CSCL Board.

Email: [hostge@wcoil.com](mailto:hostge@wcoil.com)

Phone: 419-358-4200

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference
- 2 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference
- 3 Book Reviews
- 5 UT – Sandberg Children's Literature Institute
- 5 Mazza – Summer Institute, Univ. of Findlay
- 6 WebQuests and Children's Literature



**INTROSPECTIVE** is the official newsletter of the Cooperative Services for Children's Literature. We welcome your comments and letters.

For submission information or other correspondence, contact the editor at the following address:

Sara Bushong  
Curriculum Resource Center  
Jerome Library / BGSU  
Bowling Green, OH 43403  
sbushon@bgnet.bgsu.edu

## CSCL Board Members

Sara Bushong  
Bowling Green State University  
Melissa Cain  
The University of Findlay  
Linda Dobb  
Bowling Green State University  
Kathy East  
Wood County District Public Library

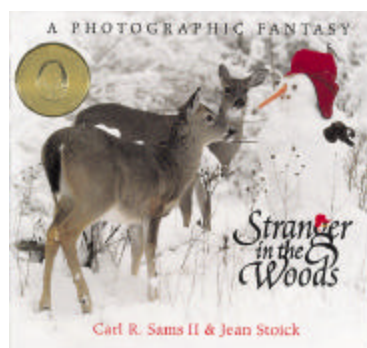
Vicki Hardesty  
Retired Librarian, Findlay Schools  
Libby Hostetler  
Lima City Schools  
Rebecca Hunt  
Toledo Public Schools  
Rona Klein  
Bowling Green State University

Chris Miko  
Bowling Green State University  
Kathy Potratz  
Perrysburg Schools  
Gaynelle Predmore  
Bowling Green State University  
Barbara St. John  
Bowling Green State University  
Alexa Sandmann  
University of Toledo

## Blending Art and Nature with Children's Books 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference

Laura Sams, videographer, enchanted participants during *The Hughes Moir & Bonnie Chambers Lecture* by describing the creation of the videocassette and CD-ROM of the popular children's book *Stranger in the Woods*. The Reading Railroad of Sylvania, Ohio arranged for participants to purchase the book, videocassette and cd-rom; additional books were also available on a variety of topics related to the conference theme. The Conference was held at Ft. Meigs Elementary School, Perrysburg, Ohio on Monday, October 22, 2001 from 4 pm – 8 pm.

Workshop sessions enhanced the theme with sessions such as Art and the Environment (Colette Palamar), Project Learning Tree (Niki Kale), Multicultural Literature (Alexa Sandmann), Art Education and Eric Carle (Ginger Bowerman), Nature as your Classroom (Chris Gajewicz), 5,000 Ways to Enhance Your Curriculum (Marilyn Mavis) and COSI Environmental Resources (Andrew Campbell)



Related Conference photographs appear on pages 3 and 5.

## Book Review Sessions

Book review sessions conducted by CSCL Board members can be scheduled at your school or library. Board members will bring books to your school or library for presentations before school, after school or in the evening. A wide variety of curriculum-related topics are represented in the Children's Book Center collection.

Book review sessions or Caldecott Read-Ins have been scheduled at Bowling Green City Schools, Bluffton College, Fremont City Schools, Lima City Schools, and Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools.

For more information, or to schedule a book review session at your school or library contact:

Gaynelle Predmore  
419-372-2956 / predmor@bgnet.bgsu.edu

# Book Reviews

Bowling Green State University students wrote most of the reviews in this issue of *Introspective*. To review books for this newsletter, contact Sara Bushong, BGSU at 419-372-7909 / Email: sbushon@bgsu.edu

## FEATURED REVIEW

Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. Clarion, 2001. ISBN 0395978270. \$15.00. Ages 11 and up.

*A Single Shard*, the 2002 Newbery Medal book by Linda Sue Park, meets and exceeds the expectations one should be able to assume is within the covers of a winner. Though in recent years books have surfaced about artists such as *Starry Night* (Van Gogh), the books have tended to focus on the more famous American and European artists, usually painters. Park takes the reader into a non-western culture and era of which students know little, shares firsthand the struggle the artist experiences in the midst of creating a masterpiece and the completion of a piece as the clay and glaze take on lives of their own once the potter has ended his work. Park skillfully weaves these things into the universal story of a child growing into adulthood. She has crafted a beautiful and moving story of a 12th century Korean boy, his adult companion with whom he lives under a bridge and a potter who has immersed himself in his work because he is a man of perfection but also because he is a man in mourning for his dead son.

12 year old orphan Tree-ear repays a debt to Min by digging and working the clay Min needs for his pottery. The boy hopes his hard work will eventually lead to Min teaching him how to create beautiful vessels on the potter's wheel. Time and again his hopes diminish as Min treats him with near disdain, regardless of how hard Tree-ear tries to please Min. As frustrating as the experiences may be Tree-ear is always bolstered up by his old friend Crane-man who shares stories about his life each night to help Tree-ear fall asleep. Crane-man was born handicapped but had learned how to survive on his own and wanted to teach Tree-ear to be both independent and yet to know that Crane-man was "family" on which he could depend. Tree-ear gains strength and confidence as a result of what he has learned from Crane-man and thus when Tree-ear realizes a way that he can be most useful to Min, he volunteers to do so, traveling to the palace to show Min's work to the royal emissary for a possible commission. Though Min has misgivings about this boy doing a "man's" job, he is too old himself to undertake such a journey. He carefully packs his celadon wares and sends Tree-ear on his way for the adventure of a lifetime.

The reader gains insights into the Korean culture of potters long ago whose celadon wares became well-known throughout the world and whose work was often commissioned for the royal palace. Park's words and phrases effectively create mental pictures that place the reader under the bridge with Tree-ear and his trusted friend Crane-man, with Min as he hovers over the potter's wheel and with Tree-ear as he sees his master's pottery being thrown over a cliff by bandits he encounters on his journey to the palace.

Middle grade students may not choose a book set in 12 century Korea on their own but they might do so after an art, history or literature teacher's encouragement through a read aloud session. *A Single Shard* will need the extra exposure to draw students into it, but once they begin reading they will be hooked.

Submitted by Libby Hostetler, Chair, CSCL Board



Book and Reader Conference participants create art out of environmental materials in a session called *Art and the Environment: Using Active Learning Techniques* presented by Colette Palamar, Environmental Programs, BGSU.

## REVIEWS

Barasch, Lynne. *The Reluctant Flower Girl*. Harper Collins, 2001. ISBN 0060288108. \$14.89. Ages 4-8.

April's big sister Annabel was about to get married and leave home. Annabel was April's best friend. April was determined to do whatever she could to stop the wedding. But when she saw how sad her sister was when the ring popped out of the box and rolled on the church floor, April had to retrieve it to make her sister happy. When April returned to her room after the wedding there was a box on her bed. Inside was the bride and groom from the top of the wedding cake, and attached to it was a note inviting April to a sleepover at her sister's house. Teachers could use this book to let children know that no matter what happens they are not alone.

Amber Fahey, BGSU Early Childhood Major

Bateman, Teresa. *Harp O'Gold*. Illustrated by Jill Weber. Holiday House, 2001. ISBN 0823415236. \$16.95. Ages 4-8.

A young minstrel had only a trusty harp to play to make a living. Although he was a good musician, he was only able to get jobs playing for poor people. One day, he was given the opportunity to trade his old harp for a golden harp. After that, he was able to play for the rich and became rich himself, but he was not happy. Eventually, he traded the golden harp back for his old one and became truly happy again. Children will learn the values of being unselfish and that often simple things result in much happiness.

Laura Calvelage, BGSU History Major

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *Pop! A Book About Bubbles*. Harper Collins, 2001. ISBN 0060287012. \$15.89. Ages: 4-8.

Children look forward to sunny days so they can go outside with friends. A favorite children's activity is blowing bubbles. As young children they are fascinated to watch the bubbles float through the air, often wondering how they do it. Luckily, the author gives us an entertaining and informative way to explain this soapy situation. In *Pop! A Book About Bubbles*, Bradley uses photographs of children blowing bubbles to explain everything from what bubbles are made out of to why they are always round.

Whether teaching a class a lesson about air pressure or thinking of something to do on a sunny day at recess, the bright photographs make this book a perfect addition to any classroom or home library.

Megghan Michael, BGSU Special Education Major

Jackson, Donna M. *Twin Tales: The Magic and Mystery of Multiple Birth*. Little, Brown, 2001. ISBN 0316454311. \$16.95. Ages 9 and up.

*Twin Tales* gives a general overview of twins. The book explores the different ways that twins can be conceived and the special bond they share in and out of the womb. The text discusses the differences between identical and fraternal twins as well as supertwins. Interwoven through the text are stories about famous or legendary twins. A chapter on twin research and the significance it has on the nature vs. nurture debate in modern science is included along with a section on twins within the animal kingdom. In the back of the book is a list of terms used throughout the book.

Many children are interested in twins. Students may better understand family relationships and the bonds family members have with each other through this title.

Nicole McHugh, BGSU, Early Childhood Major

McDermott, Gerald. *Jabuti, the Tortoise: a Trickster Tale from the Amazon*. Harcourt, 2001. ISBN 0152004963. \$16.00. Ages 6-12.

Jabuti is a tortoise who plays beautiful music. All of the birds in the rain forest love his music, but the vulture does not. He is jealous of his popularity with all of the other pretty birds. So, the vulture tricked Jabuti into riding on his back and dropped him to the ground. Jabuti's shiny shell cracked into pieces, and the vulture was happy. However, the birds went looking for Jabuti and put him back together again. Jabuti played his music once again, and everyone was happy – except the vulture.

This trickster tale sends a message not to talk to strangers or trust the wrong people. Also, the illustrations are vivid and enjoyable to look at while reading.

Ann Senne, BGSU, Technical Communications Major

McFarland, Lyn Rossiter. *Widget*. Illustrated by Jim McFarland. Farrar, 2001. ISBN 0374384282. \$16.00. Ages 6-8.

This book is about a homeless dog named Widget, who finds a great place to live. The problem is that six cats live there, and they don't like dogs. Widget tried to stay there by acting like a cat. He purred, played with a toy mouse, used the litter box, and climbed trees. One day, the owner, Mrs. Diggs tripped on a toy and was injured. Widget and the cats tried to get help by purring, but no one heard them. Widget then started to bark, and quite surprised, the cats joined him. Neighbors heard the barking and came to help Mrs. Diggs. She and the cats were then very pleased to have a dog in the house with them. The illustrations in the book are an effective use of cartoon-like images with realistic features.

Widget tries to become something he is not to be accepted. At the end, Widget performs a good deed by being himself. This story could begin a classroom discussion about the values of diversity and individuality.

Karen Hoover, BGSU Early Childhood Major

O'Neill, Linda. *Imagine Having Asthma*. Rourke Press, Inc., 2001. ISBN 1571033793. \$23.93. Ages 6-9.

This book includes general information about asthma as well as specific characteristics experienced by children with asthma. A variety of vocabulary words (highlighted in bold print) that may be difficult to pronounce or understand are included. Each page of text is accompanied with a visually appealing photograph. At the bottom of each page, there is a brief sentence summarizing the photograph.

Early childhood students could benefit from this book, especially if they or their classmates have asthma. Students recently diagnosed with asthma will learn valuable information from this non-fiction text. The "Imagine" series was written to familiarize children with people unlike themselves promote empathy towards others.

Kelly Newman, BGSU Early Childhood Education Major

Roff, Sue and Don E. Wilson. *Bats*. Benchmark Books, 2001. ISBN 0761411372. \$19.95. Ages 9-12.

This book is very informative about the habitat, body structure, actions, life cycles and classifications of bats. The text illustrates in great detail the many factors that determine where bats live, such as climate, plants (food source), and location. The effective illustrations allow the reader to gain a better understanding about appearance and actions of bats, such as hanging upside down to sleep. The book not only includes great facts and illustrations, but also appeals to visual learners through charts.

Jaclyn Broerman, BGSU Early Childhood Education Major



Ginger Bowerman, Fort Meigs Elementary School Art Teacher involved Book and Reader Conference participants in *Art Education and Eric Carle*.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Sandberg Children's Literature Institute

June 17-21, June 24-28, 2002 – 1:30-5:15 p.m.  
The University of Toledo at Scott Park Campus Auditorium

Institute speakers include: Paul Many, Floyd Cooper, Jane Kurtz, Louise Borden, Rodman Philbrick, Pam Munoz Ryan, James Howe, Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard, Paul Janescko, and Antoine N. Kabwasa

Graduate or undergraduate credit is available. For registration assistance, call 419-530-4849

For more information contact: Dr. Alexa Sandmann at 419-530-2614 or e-mail [asandma@utnet.utoledo.edu](mailto:asandma@utnet.utoledo.edu)

---

## MAZZA Collection – 2002 Summer Institute

July 22-26, 2002 – The University of Findlay

Keynote speakers include: Chris Demarest, Barbara Elleman, Melanie Hope Greenberg, Cheryl Harness, Deborah Nourse Lattimore, James Melvin, Barry Moser, Bernard Most, Jan Ormerod, Keith Polette, Anne Rockwell, Nicole Rubel, Suzanne Tate, Iza Trapani, Mike Wimmer

Graduate or Undergraduate Credit is available. Registration closes July 18, 2002, or earlier if the maximum participation limit (350) is reached.

For more information contact:

Benjamin Sapp, Deputy Director  
419-424-4560 / Email: [sapp@findlay.edu](mailto:sapp@findlay.edu)

---

## WebQuests and Children's Literature

WebQuests are lesson plans based on an inquiry-oriented process with most, if not all, of the activities and related resources involving the navigation of the Internet. Students often work in small collaborative learning groups to complete a task involving the acquisition and integration of subject discipline knowledge culminating with a project designed to encourage critical thinking through the synthesis of information.

To learn more about WebQuests visit:  
<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/webquest.html>

CyberGuides includes K-12 WebQuests related to children's titles. (<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/cyberguide.html>)

CSCL Children's Book Center titles have been utilized to create WebQuests. To view them visit:  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/crc/net.html>

