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# INTROSPECTIVE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
COOPERATIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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Spring 2005

## 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.

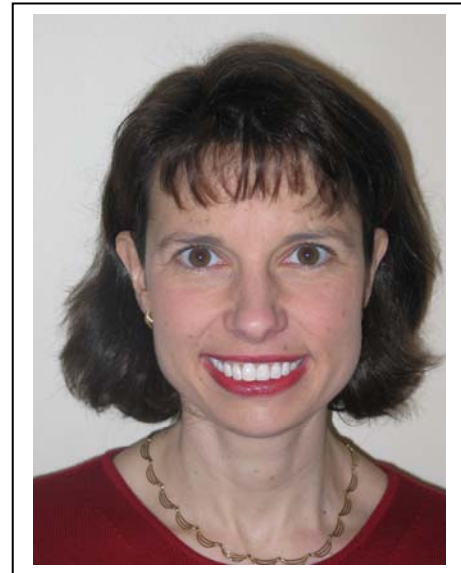
<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/crc/cscl.html>

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## MARGARET PETERSON HADDIX

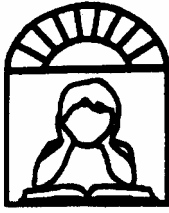
### Featured Author - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference



The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Book and Reader Conference will be held at Fort Meigs Elementary School, Perrysburg, Ohio on Monday, October 17, 2005.

Ohio author Margaret Peterson Haddix will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Her books have been recognized by the Young Adult Library Services Association as Best Books for Young Adults, the Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies list and the International Reading Association to name a few. Some of her book titles include: *Running Out of Time*, *Don't You Dare Read This Mrs. Dunphrey*, *Just Ella*, *The Girl with 500 Middle Names* and the *Among the Hidden* series.

Registration information will be distributed in September.



## Book Review Sessions

Book review sessions conducted by CSCL Board members and volunteers 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@bgnnet.bgsu.edu

**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:

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### **MAZZA Collection – 2005 Summer Institute - Children's Picture Books Windows on the World**

June 20-24, 2005 – The University of Findlay

Keynote speakers include: Clare Beaton, Alexandra Day, Diane deGroat, Susan Jeffers, David a. Katz, Judy Cohen, Marcus Leonard, Deborah Kogan Ray, Eric Rohmann, Anita Silvey, Chris Soentpiet, Eric Velasquez, Rosemary Wells.

Graduate or Undergraduate Credit is available. Registration closes June 15, 2005, or earlier if the maximum participation limit (300) is reached.

For more information contact:

Benjamin Sapp, Deputy Director  
419-424-4560 / Email: sapp@findlay.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  
Retired, Bowling Green State University

### **CSCL Board Receives Award**

The 2004 University Libraries Friends Award was presented to the Cooperative Services for Children's Literature Board in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the University Libraries. The Award was part of the 2004 Authors and Artists Reception sponsored by the Friends of University Libraries, BGSU.

## Bringing Books to Life: Engaging School-Age Students in Book Reviewing

Last fall, Sara Bushong, Head Librarian of the Curriculum Resource Center, and I wrote a Bowling Green State University grant entitled “Bringing Books to Life: Engaging School-Age Students in Book Reviewing.” The grant was fully funded by a campus organization called PCA or Partnerships for Community Action. Sara’s interest in the project stems from her desire to establish an outreach coordinator position for the CSCL in area schools, and my interest in the project is an ongoing wish to see the arts integrated into the Ohio Dept of Education’s curriculum through the work of professional teaching artists. Lastly, the CSCL regularly receives courtesy copies of picture books from publishers, and in return, the publishers would like to have some of their books reviewed by school-age students. Here’s how the three elements came together.

We constructed the grant so that I would go out to the schools in my capacity as a professional teaching artist. After an initial planning session with teachers, I went into the classroom and brought a book to life for the students by involving them in theatre, music, and dance type activities based on the themes in a specific picture book. After this aesthetic work, I read the actual picture book to the class, making connections to the curriculum and encouraging students to use rich language in describing the book. Finally, I introduced the set of 2004-05 books from the CRC for them to review, and left the set of books with them. The elementary and middle school student reviews will be published in an upcoming issue of *Introspective*.

Since Sara and I both teach children’s literature here at BGSU, we also developed a picture book reviewing

assignment for our BGSU students. During spring semester, BGSU students wrote excellent reviews using rich language to describe both text and images in pictures. The top BGSU reviews are published in this issue of the CSCL newsletter.

The grant also allowed for us to sponsor a little “competition.” The authors of the top picture book reviews in all classes (BGSU, elementary and middle schools) received a hardbound copy of the book they reviewed. The school library also received a copy.

The grant activity was very successful. The overall goal of the grant was mostly a fact-gathering mission. A detailed description for the position of a CSCL Outreach Coordinator will be written up this summer.

### Schools visited:

South Main Elementary (Nancy Seeburger 1<sup>st</sup> grade)  
Glendale Feilbach (John Duckworth 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Roberta Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
Fairfield Elementary (Barbara Coleman, Danielle Williams, Judy Virost, all 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Otsego Middle School (Amy Laukhuf-Fitch, 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Milton Elementary (not yet completed/will contact in the fall)

Stacey Osborn, Project Co-Director  
Professional Teaching Artist – [stacey@bgnnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:stacey@bgnnet.bgsu.edu)



Fairfield Elementary, Maumee City Schools

# Book Reviews

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

Arnold, Tedd. *Even More Parts: Idioms from Head to Toe*. Dial Books, 2004. ISBN 0803729383. \$15.99. Ages Birth to 4.

With a blend of text and word bubbles, *Even More Parts*, the follow up to *Parts* and *More Parts*, tells the story of a young boy who hears crazy things every day when he goes outside. Not knowing that the phrases he's hearing are just ways that adults express themselves, he hears things like "I lost my head," "I'm tongue tied," and "I put my foot in my mouth" and takes extra precautions to make sure he doesn't lose any of his body parts. Describing his spunky, very easy-to-read text with cartoon-like, bubble gum illustrations, Arnold feeds children's imaginations, providing them with the illusion that the things in the illustrations might actually happen. Young children might not fully understand the sophisticated humor Arnold uses in his book, but they will get a laugh from his very rich illustrations.

Kiandra Graham, BGSU Psychology Major

Brandle, Bine. *Flushi, The Sock Monster*. Kane/Miller, 2004. ISBN 1929132697. \$15.95. Ages 5-8

This delightful and humorous story about a young girl who discovers a monster in her sock is very descriptive and age-appropriate. The young girl's experiences with the sock monster and the amusing games that they play will please readers and provide them with a rush of excitement. Brandle's entertaining plot and laughable language make readers eager for more. From the young girl's painful loss of the sock monster to their high-spirited reunion, readers will experience a wide range of emotions. Brandle's artwork enhances the mood of the story with brightly colored illustrations and impressive detail. Young readers will enjoy the vivid, perfectly suited colors and expressive faces. The free-spirited plot and happy ending make this story an overall success.

Ashley Jakupcin, BGSU Psychology Major

Culyer, Margery. *Please Say Please*. Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Scholastic Press, 2004. ISBN 0590292242. \$15.95. Ages 3-6.

With repetitive phrases and spunky text, Culyer exercises a playful yet polite way to teach proper manners. The colorful, child-like illustrations make Penguin's party guests burst with energy. In addition to animated pictures, the author uses simplistic onomatopoeic language which brings

the story to life. This interactive guide to manners has candid humor and is suitable for young children.

Abigail Meier and Pam Hutchinson, BGSU Early Childhood Majors

English, Karen. *Hot Day on Abbot Avenue*. Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe. Clarion, 2004. ISBN 0392985277. \$15.00. Ages 6-9.

As the fat sun looms in the air above Abbot Avenue, Renée and Kishi vow that they will never be friends again. They spend their afternoon sneaking peaks at each other, knowing neither would raise a white flag of defeat on this "never-speak-to-her-again-even-if-she-were-the-last-person-on-earth" day. Suddenly, a chant, visually winding around the pages' illustrations, begins to echo in the distance. Soon, the pangs of the day are erased with a few hops of double dutch and the sweet taste of a shared blue ice pop. This lyrical story awakens the senses in a harmonious blend of engaging text with cut paper and found-object collage, sending the reader on an everyday journey with everyday magic. The illustrations' hues seem to melt off the page in an arresting whirlwind of activity. The energy provided by Steptoe's illustrations enhances the innocence of the text, allowing the words to capture the beauty of each moment of the story. A subtle message, emphasizing the challenges of friendship and forgiveness, is sure to please children of every age.

Marissa Mizer, BGSU Education Major

Godwin, Sam. *The Drop Goes Plop: A First Look at the Water Cycle*. Illustrated by Simone Abel. Picture Window Books, 2005. ISBN 1404806571. \$22.60. Ages 5-8.

Mama bird takes her inquisitive baby bird and readers on an adventurous journey through the life of the water cycle. Godwin creatively intertwines factual information with a simple heartwarming story through the use of animated text and speech bubbles. The text "travels" correspondingly as it runs through the various phases of the water cycle. The index contains a colorful illustration that reviews and summarizes the concept of the water cycle with vocabulary that is kid friendly. Soft, delicate colors illustrate the story and make for an eye-appealing lesson to young readers who are grappling with a new concept. The collaboration between mother and child in the learning process is delightful and gently promotes further inquiry into more specific aspects relating to the water cycle.

Kristen Lammers and Kara Green, BGSU Early Childhood Education Majors

Lasky, Kathryn. *Humphrey, Albert, and the Flying Machine*. Illustrated by John Manders. Harcourt, 2004. ISBN 0152162356. \$16.00. Ages 4-8.

Boring! At least that's what brothers Humphrey and Albert think of Princess Briar Rose's birthday party, until an evil, menacing witch puts a deep sleeping spell on all the guests. When the boys wake up almost one hundred years later, they come up with a plan to find a handsome, young man to kiss Princess Briar Rose and remove the curse. On their quest, they meet an eccentric inventor named Daniel Bernoulli, who is *not* handsome and certainly *not* boring! With the help of the two boys, crazy Daniel creates a flying machine that plays magnificently into the story line of breaking the spell. The humorous and witty writing style, along with the entertaining and zany illustrations, are sure to create a smile. A wacky twist on a classic sleeping beauty tale leaves *unbored* readers guessing 'til the end.

Karly Yohe, BGSU Digital Art Major

Stewart, Sarah. *The Friend*. Illustrated by David Small. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004. ISBN 0374324638. \$16.00. Ages

Stewart shares a charming story of the friendship between an energetic "decidedly odd" girl, Belle, and her sweet, caring housekeeper, Bea. Mischievous little Belle finds a way to make everyday chores less mundane, but when she sneaks off to the beach on her own one afternoon, Bea comes to her rescue—showing immense strength, concern, and love. Stewart's non-sing-songy rhymes create a picture of Belle's energy and enthusiasm for life. Small's engaging illustrations give readers the urge to embrace both Belle and Bea. He shows the constant strength of Bea through steady, calm features, and vividly portrays Belle's energy through over-exaggerated expressions and wildly curly hair. *The Friend* is a charming and beautiful story of an unlikely friendship between two people, and encourages readers to be thankful for special friends.

Anne Krutsinger, BGSU Early Childhood Education Major

White, Mark. *The Lion and the Mouse: A Retelling of Aesop's Fable*. Illustrated by Sara Rojo. Picture Window Books, 2004. ISBN 14048-02169. \$18.60. Ages 3-5.

Mark White introduces Aesop's classic fable in a simplistic manner. Mouse arises from an afternoon nap in search of a snack and finds himself at the mercy of Lion who is kind enough to give Mouse his freedom. White conveys Aesop's original story in a direct manner as he moves readers from page to page without including particulars that may take

away from the uncomplicated story line. This straightforward writing style matches Rojo's sharp images. Her calm tones done in gouache suggest the haze of a jungle background while vibrantly colored main characters take prominence. The warm and friendly characters communicate kindness and acceptance for one another, leaving readers with a feeling of triumph at the conclusion of this indispensable tale.

Dana Abbott, BGSU Interpersonal Communications Major

Willems, Mo. *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!* Hyperion, 2004. ISBN 0-7868-1869-7. \$12.99. Ages Birth to 4.

The familiar pigeon from Willems's first book *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* is back in this new, beautifully written book. This time around, a duckling wants a sample of the "taste sensation" that the pigeon has found. Willems does another wonderful job of creating an innocent duckling who simply wants to know what it's like to taste a hot dog. "Each morsel a joy!" "A celebration in a bun!" proclaims the pigeon, not quite willing to share his hot dog with the duckling, who can be seen carefully taking notes. The illustrations, drawn by an experienced hand, brilliantly capture the essence of a child. Willems does a splendid job of involving the audience when the pigeon asks readers "Can you believe this guy!?" Adults and children alike will fall in love with the simple illustrations and playful story line.

Danielle McPhillips, BGSU Early Childhood Major

Winch, John. *Two by Two*. Holiday House, 2004. ISBN 0-8234-1840-5. \$16.95. Ages 4-8.

In this satisfying retelling of Noah's Ark, fiction author and illustrator John Winch uses an animal's view to tell the delightful tale. When the animals realize their last hope lies in one dry spot, they join a man and his wife in their boat. Eventually the rain subsides and the sun beautifully shines once more with man, wife and animals sharing the boat. The artistic style given to the man and wife help show their caring expressions toward the animals. Readers can feel the warmth color as they turn each page. The realistic paintings and textured backgrounds give the pages a crisp, bold look. The variety of animals will keep children's interest alive, and the poetic style and imaginative writing will keep adult readers engaged. Winch's story is inspirational and simple, yet incisive. Children and adults of all ages will appreciate the gentleness of this charming read.

Jennifer Langevin, BGSU Early Childhood Education Major