

Canadian children's literature. The medium is the message, and the message here is that glitz and superficiality characterize a world whose values are desperately confused, if not pernicious.

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## CONNECTING BOOKS AND PEOPLE

**Connections: paperback reading for young people.** Fay Blostein. Ontario Library Association, 1988. 276 pp., paper. \$12.95 ISBN 0-8869-028-6.

Whenever a new publication by Fay Blostein appears, those of us who work with young adults take special notice. Over the years, Blostein has proven to be one of the most astute and knowledgeable proponents of quality literature. Her earliest bibliographies were effective for their thematic approach. Her *Invitations, celebrations* (O.L.A., 1980), an instant bestseller in the library world, combined thematic bibliographies with a potpourri of creative and practical ideas for using books with young people. It remains a valuable working aid for teacher-librarians.

Now, Blostein has chosen young adults themselves to be the prime consumers of her latest contribution to this field. The Foreword is directed specifically to them, and if they are to comprehend what the book is all about and how to use it, it is essential that they read it. Three general themes establish connections young people will make with themselves, with their family, friends and acquaintances and finally with their world and its issues. The format involves the reader: questions are posed which demand thinking, if not answers. Titles are then listed which relate in some way to the questions, and activities suggested are relevant to the interests of teenagers. The first sixty-one pages are devoted to these questions and lists.

Having made the connections, the reader proceeds to "Finding the connections". Listed alphabetically by title are the books cited earlier by title alone. The reader will discover complete bibliographical references, brief motivating annotations, an indication of reading level, a subject heading, and perhaps a reference to an award listed at the beginning of the book.

In "Afterthoughts", Blostein questions the reader further and provides suggestions for ongoing activities. The book concludes with a subject index and a list of titles of well-known biographical reference books.

The book is attractive; its format, appealing. The use of a variety of types, heavier and lighter print, and an interesting use of space will catch the eye of a young reader.

A serious problem does remain: how to get the books into the hands of those for whom it is intended. Librarians will find the themes, the lists, the choice of materials, the ideas for discussion and activities so useful that the ones for whom it has been written may never see the book in its entirety. If the book is placed on the shelf with other bibliographies chances are the reader will not be drawn to it. What it requires is display and talk. Several copies distributed to English departments, left on library tables, displayed and mentioned to parents' groups will give it the exposure it needs.

And, is it worth it? Yes, indeed, for in one compact volume there are listed in an appetizing way almost all the significant fictional titles for young adults which have been written in the last decade. Parents, teachers, teacher-librarians, and most of all the readers for whom the books are intended will be rewarded by *Connections*.

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## LE MYSTÈRE DE LA RUE DULUTH

**Le mystère de la rue Duluth.** Paul de Grosbois. Montréal, Paulines, 1987. 80 pp., 5,25\$ broché. ISBN 2-89039-129-9.

Le mystère de la rue Duluth raconte l'histoire de deux adolescents, Benoît et Gabrielle Dupré, aux prises avec une bande de malfaiteurs dont, fort heureusement, ils déjoueront les projets, après une aventure pleine de vivacité et d'animation. L'auteur, Paul de Grosbois, en est à son troisième récit et témoigne d'une évidente maîtrise du roman d'aventures pour jeunes lecteurs, genre qui doit allier en un dosage subtil la simplicité à la délicatesse. Or, Grosbois sait tracer une intrigue claire et bien délimitée par un découpage aisément compréhensible de l'action: quatre chapitres (Une matinée particulière; Benoît et Gabrielle enquêtent, Pris au piège, La fuite), assortis d'un prologue et d'un épilogue, en assurent et en explicitent la progression. Grosbois commence par faire appel au jeune lecteur, autant pour attirer son attention que pour guider son décodage de l'intrigue: "Ce lundi de juillet réservait à Benoît et Gabrielle Dupré une aventure qu'ils n'étaient pas près d'oublier. Voyez plutôt." (Prologue, p.5), puis dispose ses chapitres comme autant de points de repère dans le déroulement de l'action: de la sorte, nul ne peut en perdre le fil conducteur. C'est ainsi que la découverte fortuite d'une note mystérieuse cachée dans une bouteille de Pepsi (ch. I) entraîne une réaction de curiosité