

quent également bien aux deux sexes, et ce monde où Ram grandit finalement — chacun à sa place, productif et heureux, dominant par l'amour cette technologie dont nos enfants n'ignorent pas la menace potentielle — est souhaitable pour tous, sans égard au sexe ni finalement à l'âge.

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### HOCKEY SWEATERS AND PICTURE BOOKS: MATCHING THE EXTERNAL IMAGE WITH THE INNER CONTENT

**The hockey sweater**, Roch Carrier. Trans. Sheila Fischman. Illus. Sheldon Cohen. Tundra Books, 1984. 24 pp. \$14.95, 5.95 cloth paper. ISBN 0-88776-169-0, 0-88776-174-7.

There was a time when every little boy in Quebec day-dreamed of becoming a famous hockey player. Roch, the hero in *The hockey sweater*, is one of those boys. The story is set in a snowbound village in rural Quebec, with a wonderfully detailed background of churches, country stores and outdoor skating rinks. Roch plays hockey, dreams of hockey, lives for hockey. All the children wear the Montréal Canadien's sweater, with Maurice Richard's famous number nine flashing on each and every one. When Roch's sweater becomes too old and ripped to wear, his mother mail-orders one from Eaton's. It finally arrives and Roch is crestfallen: it is a Toronto Maple Leafs' sweater. Being obliged to wear it, he is ridiculed and treated unfairly by the coach, a curate on skates. Roch breaks his hockey stick in righteous anger and is promptly sent off to ask God's forgiveness in the church. The story ends with Roch praying for "a hundred million moths that would eat up my Toronto Maple Leaf's sweater." Tundra Books, a Montreal-based publishing house, is quite well known for its "art books" for children. Most of these books are illustrated in a colorful, naïve — and in this book in particular — sometimes awkward and busy style. Some of the scenes are quite charming: the double page spread where Roch joyfully runs out of the post office with his parcel lets us peek into the windows of the "casse-croûte" (snackbar) and the post office as well as view of a lively street scene. Most children will enjoy the often humourous details, although younger children might be confused by the crazy perspectives and over abundance of visual information. But precisely what age group will thoroughly enjoy this book? It is definitely a picture book, but a child old

enough to understand and enjoy Roch Carrier's story may not be attracted to this format. *The hockey sweater* (the original title in French *Une abominable feuille d'érable sur glace* had much more "panache") will be a great favourite with parents who want to tell their children about the times when hockey players asked forgiveness for breaking their sticks. Sweet memories.

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## WARS WITH INTERNAL DRAGONS

**Lost and found**, Jean Little. Illus. Leoung O'Young. Viking Kestrel, Penguin, 1985. 82 pp. \$10.95 cloth. ISBN 0-670-90835-0; **Different dragons**, Jean Little. Illus. Laura Fernandez. Viking Kestrel, Penguin, 1986. 123 pp. \$12.95 cloth. ISBN 0-670-80836-9.

"People who live doglessly / Remain a mystery to me," says Jean Little in a self-revealing bit of verse published in *When the pie was opened* (1968). Little's main child (and adult) fans will recognize the confirmation of a motif of several of her books for young readers. The poem continues:

Dogs, several or singular,  
Help you discover who you are,  
And then dogs, courteous and kind,  
Help you to live with what you find.

*Lost and found* and *Different dragons*, two of Little's most recent children's novels, are aimed at a somewhat younger audience than her usual one. The protagonists are small children whose stories are told with pronounced economy and verbal simplicity. But both are in the Little tradition as demonstrations of their author's abiding faith in the power of a dog to bring out the best in a decent human being, however sad, mad, or momentarily at war with the world.

Lucy Bell of *Lost and found* is sad as her story begins. Having just moved to Riverside (Jean Little's fictitious small-town setting for a number of