



Frame of Reference

Annette Goldsmith, editor

"Boppitty, bibbitty, bop. Bang!" This line from Chris Raschka's *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* is a fitting introduction to the most musical issue of *The Looking Glass* so far. **Illuminating Texts** sets the mood with "The Jazz Riffs of Chris Raschka", Virginia Walters' appreciation of the author/illustrator who can approximate jazz on the printed page. Mary Beaty finds inspiration in her new home, Manhattan: her "Lullaby of Broadway" in **The Monitor** is a New York children's book travelogue with a beat. Then there's the midnight music of filk (yes, filk) songs based on children's fantasy and science fiction, as Doug Crane explains in **ykcowrebbaJ**.

Margo Beggs joins us as column editor of **Picture Window**, for which Michael Solomon provides an intriguing designer's-eye perspective on alphabet books. **Mirrors and Windows** is about transitions and transformations: Kathleen Bailey considers how a prince carries human values into his new (frog) world in Donna Jo Napoli's *The Prince of the Pond*. New environments can be trying: as I sat holed up in my husband's bunker-like office at the University of Miami, awaiting Hurricane Georges (thankfully, we only got a tropical storm), I longed for familiar Canadian weather. I longed for snow. Reading Beth Graham's article in **In the Twinkling of an Eye**, a lighthearted look at her preschooler's reading choices, I thought fondly of my favourite from the list: Roch Carrier's *The Hockey Sweater*, a quintessentially Canadian story, full of weather I understand. The hurricane watch also made Cupcake, my monkey puppet from England, nostalgic for the land of his birth. (All that rain, you know.) Cupcake, I'm sorry to say, is a bit of a rake. **Spyglass** has the scoop on the latest exploits of Cupcake and friends.

Rapunzel-like, Sue Eason lets down her academic hair in **Personal Reflections** to muse on ivory towers; her promised exploration of *The Unreluctant Years*, Part II, will appear in the next issue. Then there are the previously posted columns: the Dodo's **Caucus-Race** romp amongst author, illustrator and editor sites; the Cook's tasty entomological **Pig and Pepper** recipes; and Jeffrey Canton's reappraisal of the *Emily of New Moon* series in **Looking Glass Lore**.

Alice's Academy, the scholarly section, delves into gender issues with an essay about *Bill's New Frock*, by Judith Margison and E.J. Hyslop. Normally articles go **Down the Rabbit Hole** (into the archives) after two issues; we'll be keeping this one up a little longer. We're always keen to publish your articles, but are especially looking for contributions to **Alice's Academy**, which is peer-reviewed.

You'll notice that Joanne Schott's **Double Acrostic** has a new look. We've been playing with it, trying to improve the format. In this issue, we offer only one version (done as a table) rather than separate text and graphical versions. The new format loads faster and should also work for those of you using text-based browsers. If it doesn't, please let us know, and we can reintroduce the text version. We're always happy to hear your suggestions, criticisms, accolades... do contact us. We especially like getting letters to the editor.

By the way, October 1-7 is Universal Children's Week, which you might want to mark by sharing a musical children's book with a young friend. "Boppitty, bibbitty, bop. Bang!"

Annette Goldsmith is a Toronto children's librarian, reviewer, and storyteller living in Miami and cyberspace.