



Frame of Reference

Annette Goldsmith, editor

Welcome to our second issue, exactly four months after our launch on International Children's Book Day. Since it took almost a year to plan and post the first issue, four months seems like not very long at all. We do intend to have more frequent updates, perhaps quarterly, with mini-updates in between, so please keep visiting our site.

So far the response to *The Looking Glass* has made all the work worthwhile. In addition to the **Letters to the Editor**, we've received all sorts of encouraging words from friends and colleagues. It is a lot of work (strictly volunteer), but also a lot of fun, and we invite you to join in with your ideas and submissions -- see our Guidelines for Submission.

In this issue we introduce two new columns. **The Caucus-Race**, named for the seemingly random yet connected game the Dodo explains to Alice, is our look at related links on the Internet. Children's literature aficionados need to keep up their strength during all that surfing, so we offer a food column, **Pig and Pepper**, to fortify mind and body. You won't be able to resist Jackson's New York Blueberry Cheescake, an original recipe by our intrepid Cook.

While you're enjoying your real or virtual cheesecake, dip into Jeffrey Canton's **Looking Glass Lore** for the first in a series about the books of Janet Lunn. Then have a good laugh with **In the Twinkling of an Eye**, the humour column. Claire Mackay's poem, "Trivial Pursuit", is a lighthearted look at the Romans' contribution to the dissemination of information. And Joanne Schott will amaze and delight you once more with her latest **Acrostic X-1**. For those of you who were stumped by her earlier **Acrostic X**, the solution is now available in both graphic and text format. If you happen to be training anyone in the field of children's books, print off the acrostics for an enjoyable and challenging exercise.

Two of the articles from our first issue are still posted, so do take a look if this is your first visit. Kathleen Bailey's **Mirrors and Windows** is a thoughtful comparison of two young adult novels, one Canadian, one American, which deal with the Chinese railway workers. **Spyglass**, the gossip column, dishes out the dirt -- but we've run out of dirt, so we need your help! Send all your gossipy children's book world anecdotes to column editor, the MaD hAtTeR.

Alice's Academy, the scholarly component of *The Looking Glass*, will be updated October 2. Don't miss "The Aryan Alice and Other International Misunderstandings", Jeffrey Garrett's brilliant exposition on pictorial translations of Alice, before it goes **Down The Rabbit Hole** (i.e. into the archive), where you'll find the rest of our first issue. From "The Aryan Alice" (which has nothing to do with neo-Nazis) we'll explore the totalitarian implications of Ladybird Books in "Me and My Ladybirds: or 'Mummy, They're All the Same!', Lissa Paul's elegant indictment of basal readers.

The October update will also feature an inspiring piece by Gidi Koren, an Israeli children's writer and doctor at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, who has developed an extraordinary book-based performance for his young patients. Laughter, tears, food for thought -- you'll find them all in *The Looking Glass*.

Annette Goldsmith