

interest, you mentioned home schooling as an extreme. Did you ever consider home schooling?

Jim: No. If the only alternative to home schooling was the public school, we would home school. But our schools do exist, and we think they can do a better job than we can.

Kathy: Part of our baptismal vows is our calling to educate or to see to that education. Regarding formal education, we think that the school can do that better than our home.

GVS: So you're committed to the school. What are some of the ways a parent can show that commitment?

Jim: First of all, make sure that the tuition gets paid, and that it gets paid first. Parents have to make tuition one of the top budget priorities. Secondly, make sure teachers are paid adequately. Many of our teachers could get better paying jobs elsewhere. They make sacrifices to teach our children.

Kathy: And let the teacher know how much you appreciate what he or she is doing. Stand behind the school in the eyes of the children; let the child know that those at school are in authority over him.

GVS: Any other ways to show support? Kathy, you're a pretty fair artist. If you were asked to volunteer your time to teach a few art classes, would you do it?

Kathy: If someone were to ask, I'd do it in a minute.

GVS: How about you, Jim?

Jim: Men have to be ready to be board members. I feel awkward saying that, because I had to turn down a nomination to the board last year, due to extenuating circumstances. But I still think it's a father's responsibility to serve on the board.\*

Ed. note: Jim is as good as his word. Soon after this interview he was again nominated, he accepted, and was elected to a three-year term. ■■■

[illegible]

## Between the Bookends

Sue Looyenqa

## PRE-SCHOOL and PRIMARY

*Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?* by Nancy White Carlstrom, illustrated by Bruce Degen, Scholastic, Inc; New York, NY, 1989, 25 pp., (\$3.50 paper).

This book is quickly becoming a favorite of my pre-school and kindergarten daughters, who love its rhythmic cadence as we “march” through the day with

Jesse Bear in search of things to wear. Not only does Jesse wear "My shirt of red/Pulled over my head/ over my head in the Morning," he also dons "... the sun/On my legs that run/Sun on the run in the morning."

Books like this one take a child's view of something so mundane as getting dressed and stimulate his imagination to include the other "ornaments" of life with which he is clothed each day — all the way through to the hugs and kisses he wears with his pajamas at night.

Warm and humorous and full of the family love that surrounds Jesse Bear like a warm cloak, this book will find a special place in your heart, too.

*First Snow* by Emily Arnold McCully, A Harper Trophy Book,

Harper and Row Publishers, 1985; 33pp. (\$3.95 paper).

*First Snow* is a story without words, and one that will elicit a positive response from any three-to-five-year old that has ever had fun in the snow.

Bright illustrations fill every page — even the title page — telling the excitement of the first snow as a family of mice experiences its wonder.

Anyone who has ever perched at the top of an immense snowy hill, afraid to push off on his sled and take a chance on a thrill or spill, will identify with the littlest mouse's dilemma. The author-illustrator gives a wonderful view of things from the top of the hill looking down.

Young children will surely enjoy this book and adults will enjoy sharing it with them. ■■■

## INTERMEDIATE-JUNIOR HIGH

*Augustine, The Farmer's Boy of Tagaste* translated from the Dutch by P. DeZeeuw, J. Gzn.; Inheritance Publications: Neerlandia, Alberta, Canada: 1988, 93pp. (\$6.95 paper).

Though this volume is a small one, it is packed with interesting and relevant information about the life of St. Augustine of Hippo, one of the most notable of the early church fathers.

Augustine began his life in the small town of Tagaste in Northern

Africa, the son of a man called Patricius, a farmer and unbeliever until just before his death, and a devout Christian mother, Monica. This book chronicles Augustine's wayward youth and great spiritual struggles as he journeyed toward the place God had prepared for him in His church, a place of great spiritual warfare against some grievous heresies that were infiltrating the early Christian church. Young readers are introduced to some of these major

heresies: Manichaeism (to which Augustine himself subscribed for a time), Donatism, and Pelagianism.

Advanced intermediate readers and older would find profit in reading a book like this. Though it deals with much historical information that may be unfamiliar to those without much church history background, it is an interesting and inspiring way to be introduced to things of which every young Christian should become aware, events and people that have made an impact on our own Reformed faith. ■□■

*One-Eyed Cat* by Paula Fox, A Dell Yearling Book, Dell Publishing Co.; New York, NY; 1984, 216pp. (\$3.50 paper).

Ned Wallis is presented with the gift of a rifle by his adventurous uncle Hilary, but his father forbids the eleven-year-old boy to use it until he is fourteen. Ned, however, yields to temptation and retrieves the weapon from its storage spot in the attic one night in order to experience the thrill of using it "just one time." He fires the weapon but once at a shadowy creature lurking near the Wallis' barn and then retreats, unimpressed with

the forbidden gun's ability to bring satisfaction while heavy clouds begin to gather (symbolically) in the sky.

The burden of his disobedience and the deceit required to maintain his secret weigh heavily enough upon the young boy's heart, but his guilt is compounded by the appearance of a wild cat with one good eye and one maimed one. Ned, in anguish of soul, remembers the shadowy figure shot in his night of disobedience and concludes that he is responsible for the maiming of the cat. But how can he ever tell his gentle and trusting minister-father or his suffering invalid mother this awful thing about himself?

This book is a skillfully and sensitively written novel for children, but adults will find this Newbery Honor Book difficult to lay down as well. It deals with all aspects of the disobedience and cover-up as presenting a grievous situation for young Ned until his eventual confession and forgiveness. That is almost more than one would expect from secular fiction of our day. I highly recommend it as good wholesome reading. ■□■

## JUNIOR HIGH

*Morning Star of the Reformation*, by Andy Thomson, Bob Jones University Press; Greenville,

S.C., 134 pp., (\$6.95 paper).

John Wycliffe is the man whose story is the basis of this

historical novel. Called the "Morning Star of the Reformation" because he preceded the actual Reformation period, Wycliffe is primarily remembered for his English translation of the Bible, which became the best translation of the Scriptures into English for a century before William Tyndale's time.

The story is replete with historical facts and figures, interspersed with a few fictional characters representative of those who would likely have lived at this time. It is told from the point of view of one of these fictional characters, one William Ayleton, then ninety years of age. A "contemporary" of Wycliffe, he looks back at the wonderful events God has used to bring the written Word to high, and low-born, Englishmen through His

instrument, John Wycliffe, among others.

From the dusty road joining Leicester to Oxford and the University that was the cradle of the Reformation in England, one follows the young fourteenth century scholar through plague and political and religious turmoil which shaped his life and paved the way for the events of the Reformation in the next century.

This book is fascinating reading: exciting, enlightening, and encouraging for adolescent readers who struggle with their own spiritual battles. The publisher's note preceding the story expresses hope that the reader may be challenged by the story of "an intrepid and brilliant man challenged to treasure the Word and feed upon it for himself." Every home should own a copy of this. ■■■



from the  
TEACHERS' LOUNGE

One of the worthwhile projects funded recently by the Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies was Mr. Vern Huber's research in and writing concerning the history and philosophy of mathematics from a Christian perspective. Mr. Huber, the chairman of the mathematics department at Covenant Christian High School in Grand Rapids, has long been a mathematics scholar. And what he submitted to the Federation, after some additional, intensive study, was indeed scholarly work. In the nature of the case, one cannot expect to pick up the 53-page