Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, here an excerpt from this article: Margaret Laurence is so famous for her Manawaka cycle of adult fiction—The Stone Angel (1964), A Jest of God (1966), The Fire-Dwellers (1969), A Bird in the House (1970), and The Diviners (1974)—that most people who read her work are not aware that she also published four books for children: Jason’s Quest in 1970, Six Darn Cows and The Olden Days Coat in 1979, and The Christmas Birthday Story in 1980. Strangely, her four children’s books have been virtually ignored by critics—strangely because her adult fiction is so much studied. Janet Lunn begins her 2001 essay, “To Find Refreshment in Writing Children’s Books: A Note on Margaret Laurence’s Writing for Children,” with this condemnation: “Margaret Laurence wrote four books for children. The only thing that is interesting about them is that she wrote them at all. They might be called a footnote to her adult fiction and criticism, but they are not really even that. They are irrelevant, not only to Laurence’s larger body of work, but to the larger body of literature for children in Canada” (145). I disagree with Lunn’s opinion: not only is Laurence’s children’s fiction relevant to her adult fiction, as I hope to demonstrate here, but it also makes a significant contribution to Canadian children’s literature.
"Snow Angels and Monarch Butterflies: Margaret Laurence’s Children’s Fiction." Canadian Children’s Literature 3. 1 (Spring 2005) 115-134. Print. "D. H. Lawrence, From Playwright to Novelist: The Daughter-in-Law and "Fanny and Annie." Etudes Lawrenciennes: Lawrence, Poet and Playwright 30 (2004) 135-57. Print. "Temples and Tabernacles: Churches in the Fictional Microcosms of Robertson Davies, Margaret Laurence and Alice Munro." The International Fiction Review 30 (2003) 65-77. Print. Monarch Butterflies do not have lungs, but have tiny vents called spiracles along the sides of the thorax and abdomen. Air enters the spiracles and is dispersed through the body by microscopic tubes called tracheae. Monarch Butterfly wings usually span about 10 centimeters (a little over 4 inches). Monarchs usually weigh 0.25 to 0.75 grams. It would take about 50 butterflies to weigh one ounce. Monarch Butterflies apparently see all the colors we see and at least one more; they seem to see ultraviolet light. Butterflies have very keen senses of smell, and Monarchs seem to smell chemicals disch "Miss Laurence is the best fiction writer in the Dominion and one of the best in the hemisphere."—Atlantic. “[Laurence] demonstrates in The Stone Angel that she has a true novelist’s gift for catching a character in mid-passion and life at full flood….  "The Stone Angel is a good book because Mrs. Laurence avoids sentimentality and condescension; Hagar Shipley is still passionately involved in the puzzle of her own nature….  Laurence’s imaginative tact is strikingly at work, for surely this is what it feels like to be old."—Paul Pickrel, Harper’s. Margaret Laurence (Author). 4.3 out of 5 stars 110 ratings. See all formats and editions Hide other formats and editions.  The Stone Angel is an excellent example of the realism and compassion present in all of Margaret Laurence’s writing. - - For great reviews of books for girls, check out Let’s Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14. - - From 500 Great Books by Women; review by Sonja Larsen. And this author, Margaret Laurence, is a genius, because she takes a real bitch like Hagar… and she cleverly juxtaposes her present with her past and the aging mother/mother-in-law with her aging, adult kids, and writes, "How you see a thing—it depends which side of the fence you’re on." But as a teen, when I still had active paternal grandparents who hadn’t yet lost a child (a tragic death which aged them overnight), I don’t think I would have quite enjoyed this bleak story very much. All in all, I would certainly recommend to readers, but think I wouldn’t really choose it as classroom novel. ...more. I thoroughly enjoyed Margaret Laurence’s depiction of a 90 yr old woman looking back on her life as she grudgingly adjusts to her final years. ...more. flag 17 likes · Like · see review.