

Two polar bears snuggle in the snow under the startling green of the Northern Lights. A fairytale-like opening—"This story happened many springs ago"—leads to the introduction of Missuk, a young Inuit girl who prefers soapstone to seal fur.

If only Missuk could carve snow geese as well as her father does! But despite his teaching, she still can't "find the graceful bird in the stone." She overcomes her frustration by instead imprinting geese in the snow while happily honking to the migrating birds overhead. Her patterns play an unexpected role in a night of gales and snowy spirals.

Author Anne Renaud has lived in Northern Quebec and her experiences there inspired this gentle Arctic tale, her fourth work for children. She pays careful attention to small details, such as the sewing of a seal-fur mitten with a caribou-bone needle, and this gives her story a powerful sense of place.

Geneviève Côté has illustrated several children's books and won a prestigious Governor General's Literary Award in 2007 for her illustration of *La petite rapporteuse de mots*. Her intriguing mixed-media illustrations use a limited range of colors, predominantly blue, lilac, and brown, to capture the essence of the frozen land. The style is simple: noses, for example, are represented by triangles. Yet she portrays a broad range of emotions, such as Missuk's wide-smile experience of serene geese-imprinting joy.

As the tale closes Missuk is bubbling with a newfound confidence, and her delight is contagious. This memorable story of life in the far north will leave the reader with a smile as wide as that of Missuk herself. (September) *Julie Falkner*



Mo and Jo: Fighting Together Forever

Dean Haspiel and Jay Lynch

Raw Junior, Hardcover
\$12.95 (40pp)
978-0-9799238-5-2

Sibling rivalry is an age-old theme in children's books. Dean Haspiel and Jay Lynch give it a rousing twist with their cartoon characters, Mo and Jo. *Mo and Jo, Fighting Together Forever*, combines familiar sibling arguments with bad guys and superheroes to create a book young children will relish.

The story begins with a typical brother and sister who fight over just about everything. Their favorite superhero is Mojo. In the first three pages they discover their mailman Mister Mojowski is actually the real Mighty Mojo! When he retires to Miami, he gives his suit and all his powers to the stunned brother and sister.

They fight over the suit and end up tearing it in half. Their mother makes two costumes out of the one and in doing so splits the powers in half. The battle over who has the better power begins.

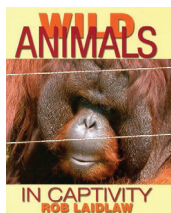
When they face real trouble and try to fight it separately, they learn how much more power they have together.

The full-color cover draws attention, with Mo and Jo in brightly colored red and yellow superhero costumes. Mo has the upper—very stretched out—hand on her brother Jo. The comic book layout with speech bubbles makes the story easy to follow and keeps the action moving at a quick pace.

Lynch helped create *Wacky Packages* and *Garbage Pail Kids*. Haspiel illustrated Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon's *The Escapist*.

Children are forever trying to discover who they are and find their own talents. The constant bickering may get tiresome for adults, but Lynch and Haspiel have tapped into emotions and excitement that are relevant to their desired audience. Their combined enthusiasm for comic book characters helped to create a book with illustration and story depth. (September) *Troy-Michelle Reinhardt*

MIDDLE READERS



Wild Animals in Captivity

Rob Laidlaw

Fitzhenry & Whiteside,
Hardcover \$19.95 (48pp)
978-1-55455-025-8

Animals in the wild frolic lustily, romping over rocks and traipsing through the woods. Zoo animals, especially those in too-small spaces, pace endlessly out of boredom, tracing the same path inside a fence.

These were the images that motivated biologist Rob Laidlaw to study and, in turn, work for the improvement of the lives of animals in captivity as part of Zoocheck, a wildlife protection organization. He saw a brown lizard in the wild (in Kuala Lumpur) that scampered and zipped about a garden. Later that same day, he saw the same kind of lizard in an aquarium, where it sat motionless the whole fifteen minutes he watched it.

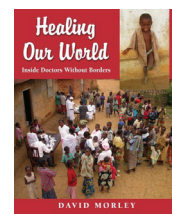
Wild Animals in Captivity will cause readers to wonder about the reason behind zoos. According to Laidlaw, there aren't many good reasons. He says breeding programs are "not an effective or useful conservation tool" and only two species (Arabian oryx and California condor) have been successfully released into the wild.

His arguments, bolstered by numerous photos taken at actual zoos and featuring real animals, while not totally anti-zoo, are definitely not pro-zoo. He's in favor of making zoo habitats resemble natural habitats as closely as possible if releasing animals into the wild isn't a choice. He speaks highly of "sanctuaries," where an animal can roam for days without seeing a fence.

The scariest parts for some children may be the descriptions and pictures of antiquated zoos, with "concrete cages and grottos" that were "designed for visitors and zookeepers, not wild animals." Bored bears trying to peer over giant cement walls are shown opposite images of bears playing "follow the leader" on a log.

A useful section with "10 Ways You Can Help Animals in Captivity" continues to tout sanctuaries and wildlife parks over zoos and also encourages research and fundraising. (May) *Jodee Taylor*

YOUNG ADULT



Healing Our World: Inside Doctors Without Borders

David Morley

Fitzhenry and Whiteside,
Softcover \$14.95 (121pp)
978-1-55455-050-0

Whenever someone is tempted to lament that there is little good in the world, she should be encouraged to read this book. Any page will reveal the kindness and generosity of humankind, especially in members of the Nobel Peace Prizewinning Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders. A Parisian-born organization, MSF is the largest "independent medical-humanitarian organization" in the world. Since 1971, MSF volunteers (e.g., doctors, engineers, epidemiologists, mechanics, and so on) have gone "...where the need for medical care is greatest, setting up emergency rooms in tents, running mobile clinics to treat people injured in earthquakes, and attacked in civil wars, helping victims of AIDS and other diseases, and feeding malnourished children."

Black-and-white photos show MSF volunteers in action: in Asia, a volunteer surveys the destruction of a tsunami; in Kenya, a doctor examines a patient who may have tuberculosis; and in Liberia, staff members dash toward a clinic carrying an injured child. Sidebars in part one offer facts about the organization's history, mission, and principles while part two shares the author's journal entries that describe what it was like to help people in El Salvador, Congo, and Zambia. When the author reaches Kilwa Island in Zambia, where MSF helps HIV/AIDS patients, he writes, "One patient has a badly abscessed tooth. Any infection can make HIV worse, so we are encouraging her to...visit a dentist.... Since she is one of our patients, we will transport her and pay her medical fees...."

From 1998 to 2005, the author was executive director of the Canadian section of Médecins Sans Frontières. Under Morley's leadership, the organization enjoyed increased funding and volunteers. He has written about issues impacting society in the *Globe*, the *Toronto Star*, and the *International Herald Tribune*, and he is the co-author (with Elizabeth Morley) of *Under*