

Picture books provide superb illustrations for young and old

And now for a look at picture books whose illustrations are worthy of being displayed in art galleries.

Mohawk artist C.J. Taylor returns to her roots for inspiration in retelling and capturing on canvas native legends. *Little Water and the Gift of the Animals* (Tundra, \$13.95 hc, ages 8 and up) originated among the Senecas.

Hunter Little Water has a deep affection and close relationship with the animals and because of this, he is able to call upon them for medicinal advice which will save the people in his village from a terrible sickness.

Taylor interprets an Oglala Sioux legend in *The Secret of The White Buffalo* (Tundra, \$13.95 hc, ages 8 and up). A white buffalo, in the guise of a beautiful woman, appears to a group of villagers who are suffering hardships and conflict. She introduces the peace pipe, the proper use of which she assures them will bring them prosperity and harmony.

Artist Laszlo Gal recreates the Norwegian version of Beauty and the Beast in *East of the Sun & West of the Moon* (McClelland & Stewart, \$19.95 hc, ages 5 and up).

A white bear agrees to provide a family with riches if he can take Ingrid, one of the daughters, away with him. Ingrid is well cared for in the bear's castle but unfortunately, her curiosity leads her to discover the true identity of the bear, who is actually a prince under a troll's spell.

Because Ingrid has disobeyed the conditions of the spell, the prince is carried off by the troll to a distant land, but with the help of an old woman, a dwarf, a giant, and four winds, Ingrid rescues the prince.

Artist-filmmaker Ludmila Zeman dreams one day of making a full-length, animated film based on the world's oldest story. Meanwhile, however, she has taken the 5000-year-old tale of god/king Gilgamesh and transformed it into picture books.

Her first book, *Gilgamesh the King* (Tundra, \$19.95 hc, ages 8 and up), shows how friendship can transform a tyrant into a caring king. In her latest book, *The Revenge of Ishtar* (Tundra, \$19.95 hc, ages 8 and up), Gilgamesh and his new friend, Enkidu, bravely save their city from the monster Humbaba and the angry

New religious classes for school board

Separate schools in Halton will now teach another division of Catholicism in the classroom.

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board recently approved classes which will promote the development of the Eastern Rite faith.

Such classes will meet the educational and spiritual needs of the growing Byzantine community in Halton, said Cliff Byrnes, director of education.

Initially the Eastern Rite classes will be offered from the junior kindergarten to grade 4 levels this September. It is anticipated that combined classes will be offered in junior/senior kindergarten, grades one and two, and grades three and four, based on projected enrolments. A new grade level will be added each year.

Most large separate school systems in southern Ontario have Eastern Rite schools within their jurisdiction.

BOOKS FOR KIDS

with ESTHER CALDWELL

goddess Ishtar.

Zeman's painstaking research took her to many museums, looking for clues about the ancient Mesopotamians who created Gilgamesh.

Richardo Keens-Douglas chose his native island of Grenada, also known as the Isle of Spice, for the setting of his tale, *The Nutmeg Princess* (Annick, \$5.95 pb, ages 4-7).

When Petite Mama, a little, old, hardworking woman, decides to pass on her delicious and thriving fruit crops to a younger generation,

she chooses two children who because of their honesty, selflessness, and caring attitude are the only villagers able to catch a glimpse of the nutmeg princess. Annouchka Galouchko has painted the detailed and magical illustrations, in vivid, tropical colours.

Also illustrated by Galouchko, *The Treasures of Trinkamalee* (Annick, \$5.95 pb, ages 7 and up) by Tim Leslie-Spinks and Alice Andres carries us off in rhyming verse to an exotic land where three greedy adventurers learn a lesson in bravery and generosity from the son of a sultan, who helps them escape, although they have been caught stealing jewels.

It is also the story of the beautiful Trinkamalee ruby, which travels through time to reach its rightful owner.



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