

# Criteria for Selecting Children's Literature

The titles listed in this document have been carefully selected to adhere to the criteria as set forth on page 54 of **Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum** (1996). The selections

- provide motivating and challenging experiences suitable for the learner's age, ability and social maturity
- elicit personal, thoughtful critical responses
- represent a range of styles and literary structures
- have literary merit
- use language effectively and responsibly, and use language that is essential to the work
- broaden students' understanding of social, historical, geographical and cultural diversity
- develop sensitivity to and an understanding that reflects individual differences such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, class and political/social values

While every book listed in this document has received a careful review according to the criteria listed above, teachers should always exercise particular care in selecting or recommending texts for classroom study and discussion. Teachers are in the best positions to know both their students and the communities in which they live. The section entitled Resources in **Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum** (pp. 54-56) provides further guidance to teachers in the selection and presentation of learning resources.

The broad selection of literature listed in this document

- includes prose and poetry that deal with issues and ideas related to children's experiences and their evolving understanding of themselves and the world, texts that they perceive as relevant to their own lives
- balances traditional works with more contemporary ones, including works which bring new or previously neglected voices into the classroom
- allows students to explore their own and others' cultural and literary heritage
- includes works that can be paired or linked to provide for intertextual connections
- provides support to each of the four main components of the grades 4 -6 reading program — guided reading, shared reading, independent reading (at home and at school), and read aloud
- provides support to both the independent and the collaborative writing components of the grades 4-6 curriculum

Teachers and administrators may continue to refer to **An Annotated Bibliography of Children's Literature** for additional assistance when selecting learning resources for their classrooms and school resource centres.

