

## BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Sandi Frick-Helms, Ph.D, RPT-S

*When Sophie Gets Angry — Really, really Angry...*

(1999) written and illustrated by Molly Bang; Blue Sky Press Imprint of Scholastic Inc., NY; ISBN #0-590-18979-4, \$15.95 hardback. It is a shame to review this Caldecott Hono Prize Winner without being able to show the illustrations. Sophie gets angry at her sister and her mother is not sympathetic. Suddenly Sophie is angry. A whole page is taken up with the face of the irate child against a bright red background. Then, as the book says, "she kicks, she screams, she wants to smash the world to smithereens." The accompanying picture gives no doubt as to the extent of her anger. Sophie is in full tantrum mode. Even the cat is awed. When Sophie roars her anger, the huge, red roar billows out across two pages taking with it everything in its path—toys, furniture, books, and clothing. Each successive page shows us the progression of Sophie's anger and the pages almost shimmer with the heat of it. Then, **PABAMI** Sophie runs outside. For the rest of the book Sophie runs, she climbs a tree, she watches the water, feels the breeze, and hears the birds. Then she goes home and "Sophie isn't angry anymore." Molly Bang's illustrations make this book and show why it is so deserving of a Caldecott award. Children, who have this book read to them can see the kind of anger, that they often feel, displayed without comment. Just looking at Sophie getting ready to explode like a volcano, is enough to call up their own recent feelings of the injustices visited upon them by the world. Best of all, the author does not try to teach the lesson of what to do when one is angry, but rather slows children to draw that conclusion on their own. Hopefully, adults who read this book to children will be just as wise.

*I Hate You! I Like You!* (1997) written and illustrated by Tomek Bogacki; Frances Foster Books — Division of Farrar Straus Giroux, NY; ISBN #0-374-33544-3, \$14.00 hardback.

I found this book on a sale table and hope this doesn't mean it will quickly go out of print; because that would be a shame. It is possible that the rather bland drawings of two rather strange looking creatures, done in 3 and four colors do not appeal to adults. I have yet to find a child, client or grandchild, who wasn't entranced. The first creature is rather large and bulky with large eyes, small round ears, and a stick-figure tail. The second creature is much smaller with a pointed nose and red and green stripes circling his cylindrical body. Each page has only four words. Large creature walks up to small creature and says, "I like you!" Small creature responds, "I hate you!" Then, on the successive pages, small creature tells large creature the things it dislikes about large creature. "I hate you tail," (or "eyes, or teeth, or fur") says small creature. After each of these statements, the reader is shown how the offending part can be useful. After "I hate your tail," we see small creature hanging on to offending appendage, while large creature rescues him from drowning. At the end, after hearing how small creature realizes that just because someone is strange, doesn't mean they are scary. Again, the text does not make this point openly, but allows small creature to discover that strange creatures can be trustworthy and loveable. Children seem to inherently trust the message here. Hopefully, it will carry over to their experiences with "strange creatures" in their own lives.