



Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons Teacher's Book Review



Halloween Night, written by Marjorie Dennis Murray
illustrated by Brandon Dorman
Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, October 24th, 2012.

Picture books have come a long way in the areas of illustration and subject matter. No longer are they reserved only for bedtime activities or for children. Many such books are written now with adult subtexts, resulting in a much wider readership. The quality of illustration is such that picture books are fast becoming collector items among people, whose interest is in the area of fine art.

Some of my favourite picture books have seasonal or holiday themes. Today's book celebrates Halloween. It is a story about a weird and wonderful collection of ghosts and goblins who gather in an old deserted mansion to celebrate the night with a huge feast, as they wait for the young trick-or-treaters in the neighbourhood to arrive. Unfortunately the children, who expect an assortment of candy treats are invited in to dine on a buffet of toads and lizards and mice, instead. Terrified, they all run away into the darkness of the night. The reader is left wondering if the outcome was an unplanned disappointment or, in fact, a deliberate ploy on the part of the assorted ghosts and goblins, so that they might enjoy leaving with their large take-out bags of leftovers.

The text of the story is told in rhyming couplets and mimics the rhythmic sound of another old favourite holiday story, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The illustrations are bold and detailed and designed to amuse rather than frighten the reader. It is a great book to take home and enjoy on your own or better still, to share with a little brother or sister, this week, while the excitement for Halloween is at its peak!