

## **Books for Children and Young Adults that Use Reflective Writing as a Literary Technique**

### **Katharine Davies Samway**

- Cleary, Beverly. (Illus. Paul O. Zelinsky). (1983). *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. New York: Dell.  
In this novel, intermediate grade student, Leigh Botts, whose parents have divorced, writes letters to his favorite author. He also writes in his journal.
- Cronin, Doreen. (Illus. Betsy Lewin). *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type*. New York: Simon & Schuster.  
A humorous picture book about Farmer Brown's cows who like to type and use their talent to get the farmer to improve their living conditions. Letters are integral to this story.
- Cushman, Karen. (1994). *Catherine Called Birdy*. New York: HarperCollins.  
An historical novel (set in the Middle Ages in England) in the form of diary entries written by the young female protagonist, Birdy.
- Boas, Jacob (Ed.). *We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust*. (1995). New York: Scholastic.  
The diaries of five Jewish teenagers who died in concentration camps during WWII: Éva Heyman, David Rubinowicz, Moshe Flinker, Yitzhak Rudashevski, and Anne Frank. They were originally from Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, and Holland.
- Fanelli, Sara. (1995). *My Map Book*. New York: HarperCollins.  
Though not strictly speaking a book written using reflective writing, there are shared aspects. Written from the perspective of a young child, this is an intriguing collection of hand-drawn maps (e.g., of her bedroom, face, tummy, day).
- Fanelli, Sara. (2001). *Dear Diary*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.  
In this book, a group of human and non-human diarists record their day. Fanelli uses hand lettering with collages and drawings to show how the same day and events are experienced by the different characters (e.g., Lucy, chair, ladybug).
- Filipović, Zlata. (1994). *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo*. New York: Viking.  
The diary of a 13-year-old girl living in Bosnia when it was attacked by Serbia. She wrote the diary as a series of letters to Mimmy, her dead fish.
- Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*. (originally pub. in 1947; 1967). Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday  
The real diary of a young teenage Jewish Dutch girl, Anne Frank, who lived in hiding for two years during WWII, until she was taken to Auschwitz and then Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where she died.
- Holliday, Laurel (Ed.). (1995). *Children in the Holocaust and World War II: Their Secret Diaries*. New York: Washington Square Press.  
This book contains the diaries of 23 young people aged 10-18 who wrote diaries during WWII in Europe. They were Jews and non-Jews and were living in Poland, Holland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, Russia, Belgium, Israel, England, and Denmark when they wrote their diaries.
- Kinney, Jeff. (2007). *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. New York: Amulet Books/Abrams.  
A series of 14 (soon to be 15) books in which the story is told through diary entries. The author is a cartoonist.
- Koutsky, Jan Dale. (2002). *My Grandma, My Pen Pal*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

In this picture book, a grandmother and her granddaughter exchange letters and cards over the years. In this way, their lives are recorded.

Moss, Marissa. (2000). *Hannah's Journal: The Story of an Immigrant Girl*. New York: Harcourt.

The illustrated diary entries in this historical fiction book record the journey of an 11-year-old Jewish Russian girl, Hannah, as she travels by train and boat to New York in the early 1900s. The font resembles handwriting.

Moss, Marissa. (2001). *Rose's Journal: The Story of a Girl in the Great Depression*. San Diego: Silver Whistle/Harcourt.

Set in 1931, the author uses a journal format to show readers what it was like to live during the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression in the U.S.

Orloff, Karen Kaufman. (Illus. David Catrow). (2004). *I wanna iguana*. New York: Putnam. A picture book written as a series of letters between a young boy and his mother.