Canadian publishing scene today.


Learning to Swim


This beautiful book is discovered, like one perfect shell, with a shock of pleasure. Deceptively simple prose and sly humour spin a timeless tale of siblings at the seashore. Young or old, readers have all been a Stella trying to share something loved with someone loved; or a Sam, overwhelmed by the world's complexity.

The text's comforting message is both concrete and metaphorical. Stella says star(fish) fell from the sky; when Sam points out they might have drowned, Stella explains "they learned to swim." Sam will follow suit, in the water and in life.

Whimsical illustrations employ a horizon line which suggests the immensity of the world viewed from a child's perspective. Shimmering colours hold the promise of a perfect summer's day.

Troon Harrison teaches creative writing and is the author of eight picture books and a YA novel.

Harper Winslow's Inspirational Writing


"Learn from me. Let my story inspire you": A pompous young writer speaks these words in Don Trembath's newest novel, A Beautiful Place on Yonge Street.