

The Village School's Children's Book of the Month

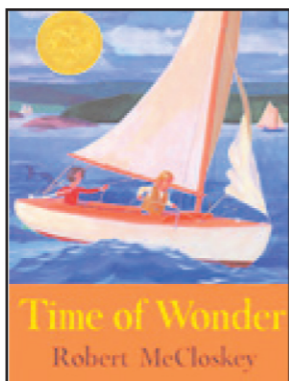


Martin Brown

A Time of Wonder by Robert McCloskey

(Reviewed by Martin Brown, Village School K-1 teacher)

This book is as timeless as the Maine landscape that it pictures and de-



scribes. First published in 1957, the book is as fresh and lively as ever. In it, Robert McCloskey leads us by the hand on a family summer vacation on the islands of Maine. If you have seen this coastline yourself, then the book will take you back there, evoking memories. If you've never seen this coastline, then let the wonderful watercolor illustrations give you an insight into the source of inspiration for the book.

McCloskey's love and appreciation of nature is apparent from the first pages when he describes watching clouds roll in across the water until, "It's

raining on you!" At this point we meet, through the illustrations, the two children whose family vacation is depicted in the book. We then follow traditional childhood vacation events including encounters with birds, sea mammals, boating, quiet, swimming, playing on the beach, storms and finally, departure.

The book has the feeling of a memoir of McCloskey's own childhood, which is evoked in his use of names, places and phrases such as, 'Over in Blastow's Cove, Harry Smith looks at the storm and says, "We're gonna have some weather," and On Cape Rossier, Fern Clifford listens to the sound of the bell off Spectacle Island and says, "She's gonna blow."

The illustrations are consistently excellent throughout its sixty three pages and range from seascapes and landscapes to close up family portraits.

Don't rush reading this book, like nature herself, it's worth taking the time to pour over each page and event. This is a wonderful book to savor for nature lovers of all ages.

Find it in stock now at Bruce's Brower in Athol.