

Muller cites topics or areas that should have been explored and were not, and he has the confidence to report others very briefly. Even when "subscribing to the consensus" on some issues he faithfully records "tiresome complications" or "practical difficulties" that he feels must be faced. So honest, positive, and broad-gauged a study of the English predicament deserves to be read widely. Long before I finished it I began to plot strategy: how to con or cajole my fellow teachers into reading it.

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Rebecca Caudill's

"DID YOU CARRY THE FLAG TODAY, CHARLEY?"

REVIEWED BY TOM WALTON

Ely Elementary School

Each year I attempt to find a few new books to add to my list of material to be read orally to my fifth graders. Last year our librarian recommended Rebecca Caudill's Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley? (Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 1966) as one of the books I might like to add. It met with so much approval from my ten-year olds that I took it along with me to use for a demonstration class in Children's Literature at U.M.D. during the summer. Though the age spread in the demonstration class increased to encompass nine to thirteen-year olds, the book was received with as great, or greater, enthusiasm.

In discussing this book with my two groups of children and the adults who observed the demonstration class, I found several reasons that made the book a wise choice for oral reading by the teacher and as a topic for discussion. Charley Cornett is a character who leaves no doubt as to his verisimilitude. He is five; his world is in a constant, humorous disharmony with that of his peers and the adults who are guiding his development. Either because of their own nearness to his age and problems or because of their contact with children of his age, both the children and adults could understand the problems toward which his curiosity could lead him. Charley is a person with whom it is easy to identify.

There are many ways to fit Charley and his story into areas of study if there is a need to correlate the book with subject matter. "Little School" is Appalachia's answer to the Headstart programs that receive comment in local papers. Mountain living blends into many areas

of study in the field of science. A five year old's need for activity, need for understanding adults, and need for getting the upper hand once in a while as he strives for independence will lend nicely to character studies and fill the need for children to see that adults don't always succeed in holding children down. A deeper study of reading skills will offer a chance to explore possible hidden implications in the expression "carry the flag" though it outwardly is a reward for good behavior in this book. Rebecca Caudill also uses some good similes and they make a fine reference if they are being studied as a class project in literary techniques.

For the teachers' own interest, the adult response to Charley and his antics is a terrific study of some very understanding people. It could be a rewarding experience to compare their own inward response as they identify with the book's adults.

I feel that Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley? is a rainy day book. Charley's uninhibited aggressiveness creates laughter and offers chances to guess at outcomes or reasons; rainclouds and darkness are soon forgotten. The illustrations and frequent opportunities for facial dramatization by an oral reader make it a delightful reading experience.

Tom Walton, elementary school teacher in Ely and poet, was a demonstration school teacher in a Summer Institute at the University of Minnesota - Duluth.