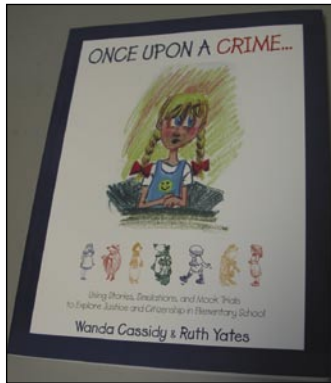


EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

Nova Scotia Teachers Union



The NSTU Equity Committee is pleased to provide book reviews for resources which may be beneficial to members dealing with equity issues. This month's book is entitled *Once Upon A Crime*, written by Wanda Cassidy & Ruth Yates and published by Detselig Enterprises Ltd. It uses stories, simulations and mock trials to explore justice and citizenship in elementary school.

“*Once Upon A Crime* identifies incidents in familiar stories where someone's rights have been interfered with, and then asks children to solve the problems that the hurtful behaviour has caused. Did Goldilocks wilfully trespass and destroy the property of the three bears? What crime did the wolf commit against the three little pigs? Is the wolf obligated to repair the homes? Was Peter Pan guilty of kidnapping? To find solutions to these, and other questions, students experience what it is like to investigate a crime scene, uncover important facts, weave these together into an argument supported with evidence and witnesses, and present their findings in a trial that simulates a court hearing. They also learn about other ways of resolving conflict through mediation, negotiation and restorative justice processes. By participating in these activities, children learn about the role law plays in their lives and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Students engage in critical thinking, hone literacy skills, and gain practice in resolving conflict.”

***The Teacher* has a copy of this book for giveaway! Please e-mail your name, school or campus and address by May 5 to 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7 or e-mail theteacher@nstu.ca.**

The winner of the “Getting Ready for Benjamin” book from the February Giveaway is Deb Zwicker. Ms. Zwicker teaches at Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea school. Congratulations!

The Teacher, April 2006