



AT THE LIBRARY

By Julie Winkelstein
May 12, 2006

“Joan Walsh Anglund became successful with her first book, *A Friend is Someone Who Likes You, in 1958...There’s something ineffably sweet about her creations, which are based in large part on people and places in her own life.*”

-From the Loganberry Books website
www.rob.com/loganberry

One of the ongoing jobs of a librarian is the weeding of books – that is, deciding whether or not a book will stay in the collection. Sometimes this is done if the book hasn’t been checked out for a long time or if it’s a non-fiction book that is out of date. But, particularly in the children’s collection, this is frequently done for condition. Well-loved children’s books are just that: well-loved. And so they wear out or have crayon scribbles or missing or torn pages. Some can be mended, of course, and we do that as long as possible. However, eventually a book reaches the end of its life.

It isn’t easy to remove a favorite book because it will leave a hole and so we try to replace as many as we can. Unfortunately, sometimes this is impossible, because many children’s are out of print. I was reminded of this recently as I was going over a list of recently removed books. As I looked up each of them, I discovered that

about half of them are now unavailable new.

This is an issue for all of us who deal with children and books. In fact, the Children’s Book Council (cbcbooks.org) just ended a poll in February 2006, asking “librarians, teachers, parents and kids to name a children’s book they would love to see reissued.” There were an amazing 1094 people who responded to the question – almost half of them were librarians. CBC posted the top ten books from the list: *Wish You Were Here*, by Barbara Shoup; *Hi, Pizza Man*, by Virginia Walter; *How Do I Put It On*, by Shigeo Watanabe; *The Fat Cat*, by Jack Kent; *Mousekin’s Golde House*, by Edna Miller; *Popcorn*, by Frank Asch; *Ant and Bee* (series) by Angela Banner; *The Big Fat Worm*, by Nancy Van Laan; *The Winter of Enchantment*, by Victoria Walker; and, *The Christmas Cookie Sprinkle Snitcher*, by VIP. I remember my children loving *How Do I Put It On*, and I was sad to

see that Kent’s *Fat Cat* is on the list, because it is a great book for storytimes.

When I was looking for more information about out-of-print books, I came across Loganberry Books, a bookstore in Cleveland, that also has an easy to use and friendly website. One of the features on their site is a list of books that are now back in print. I was surprised to see so many books listed that I either own or that are still in the library collection. For instance, the wonderful *Harry the Dirty Dog*, by Gene Zion has been re-released, as well as Russell and Lillian Hoban’s *Frances* books.

Many of the books listed on the either out-of-print books or re-released books are books that have continued to be popular with children generation after generation. A good example is *The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes*, by Du Bose Heyward. I got my home copy

of that book at a garage sale when my children were little. I was looking at it, when the woman who was selling it walked over to me and said “Are you familiar with this book?” When I told her I wasn’t, she said “Every child should hear this book – I’ll give it to you so yours can, too.” And she was right – my children loved it.