

Media Review Editor's Message

"The innovative cities of the coming age will develop a creative union of technology, arts and civics."

So wrote Sir Peter Hall in his 1000 page treatise on how particular cities in the past have been not just a backdrop for innovation and creativity, but, because of how they are organized, have facilitated the emergence of a dynamic community (Hall, 1988). Hall is an internationally known geographer whose studies of urban environments have shaped policy-making in the UK and other nations for generations.

In the first section of this column I offer a review of a single author whose highly acclaimed work is being used by teachers around the world, in part because of the universal themes she addresses, and in part because of the way her ideas and her cityscapes are presented: as wordless books. Ideally this review of the collected works of Australian author and artist, Jeannie Baker, will help readers think about the "creative union of technology, arts and civics" in their own contexts.

In the section on recently released media, NCSS-published author Myra Zarnowski (USA) offers an insightful review of *Reading globally, K-8: Connecting students to the world through literature*, by Barbara Lehman, Evelyn Freeman, and Patricia Scharer (2010). Its authors are key members of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and long-time advocates for using international children's literature in classrooms.

Continuity, change, and opportunity are exciting concepts for social studies educators in this digital age. It was no accident that Internet developers redefined the term "forum" in order to describe an

online meeting place. An online forum such as this one should provide individuals within a shared profession with a virtual place to talk and share ideas, much as the stone forum did in ancient Rome. Readers are strongly encouraged to participate through the journal website (iajiss.org), and to join in discussions with reviewers and other readers about the reviewed texts and questions they raise.

The Media Review Column offers readers a place to share resources they have discovered and find useful, or perplexing, in their efforts to be the most effective social studies educators they can be. Please contact the Media Review Editor if you have a resource that you would like to have reviewed, or a resource you would like to review in a future edition of JISS.

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References

- Hall, P. (1998). *Cities in civilization: Culture, innovation and urban order*. London: Pantheon Books.
- Lehman, B., Freeman, E., & Scharer, P. (2010). *Reading globally, K-8: Connecting students to the world through literature*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.