

Youngsters understand language of imagination

By Corinne Abbott
staff writer

Most authors and illustrators like feedback. They enjoy hearing from their readers. It gives them an idea of who they are and what they think about the book.

But, Dori and Pierre LeClerc, a Bloomfield Township husband and wife team who've published two books for children believe in trial by fire.

They regularly give programs at Metropolitan-area elementary schools, exploring with the children some of the thoughts and questions in their books. Each time a book is put together, Pierre LeClerc introduced their pro-

gram for an audience of first graders at St. Hugo Elementary School this month. "We are coming here to share with you the love of reading and writing books."

He is the writer and Dori LeClerc is the illustrator of these two books which are a warm mixture of fantasy and philosophy.

Before entering the business world Pierre LeClerc taught philosophy at Wayne State University. And, as parents of three young daughters, both he and his wife regularly are a part of the world of the very young.

THEIR books, "What Color Are Your Eyes?" and "What is That Up on Top of

the Weeping Willow?" printed by McKay Press of Midland, both are concerned with the sense of sight. The LeClercs want to continue with more for the other senses.

Pierre LeClerc, with his pleasant, friendly manner, would read some of the books, stop, pose questions and then listen to the eager hand-raisers.

For not only did the questions deal with color and things seen, they quickly focused on the feelings of those in the audience, all taking off from the thoughts in the gentle prose of the book.

As soon as he asked the first graders, "Has your heart ever turned a deep

purple blue?" they nodded in assent and the hands shot up waiting to answer "When I'm sad," "When I'm lonely!"

And so without his telling them, they put into words that colors represent feelings as well as fact.

Working in a subtle bit of science, he asked, "What makes spring leaves glow green?"

Back came the answers - rain, sun, water, vitamins.

Then he asked, "Have you ever heard of chlorophyll?"

THE THIRD graders, as expected, had more sophisticated answers to

"When might your heart turn a dark purple blue?"

"When you're angry," "When you're sad," "When you're scared," "When it gets cold."

One gentle-looking little girl in the back of the room said softly, "When you meet somebody you haven't seen for a long time and you're kinda shy."

Dori LeClerc took the illustrations from thumb nail sketches to the finished art work in the book. All of the youngsters were particularly interested in the process of reproducing full color with the use of color separations.

All knew the primary colors and that blue and yellow make green and red

and blue purple. But to see it actually happen as Dori LeClerc demonstrated, turning the clear pages of the color separations, each of which had part of her painting in one color only, to show how color is accurately reproduced by the printer, was a mysterious revelation.

She held up one of the illustrations from "What Color Are Your Eyes," a full-color landscape with a suggestion of eyes in the rolling curves and hollows.

"You don't really see eyes like that, do you?" she said, adding with a smile, "that's called creative license."

It all seemed completely logical to children whose energies thrive on creative license.

Foundation gives 18 art grants

Grants totaling \$21,450 were awarded by the Michigan Foundation for the Arts (MFA) to 18 organizations throughout the state.

Announcement of the awards was made by Lois Silberg, president of MFA's board of trustees.

MFA is a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting Michigan art and artists. It is supported entirely by corporate, foundation and individual contributions and is not related to the state-funded Michigan Council for the Arts.

The recipients of the awards are Alma College, for prizes in a juried printmaking competition; the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association, for a prize in a juried fine arts competition; Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, for best of show in a juried small sculpture competition; the Harbinger Dance Company, Detroit, to produce a dance program for children; Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, to support a dance performance by Khoros Inc.; the Michigan Water Color Society, for awards in a juried competition; the Meece Theatre and Performing Arts Center, Flint, for first prize in a juried playwriting competition; the Attie Theatre, Detroit, toward production of three plays; the Lansing Art Gallery, for all prizes in a juried fine arts competition; Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Rochester, for a fiber installation; lectures and workshop; Oakway Symphony, Farmington, for a young artist competition; Michiganians '84 sponsored by the Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, for first prize in a juried glass competition; BoarsHead Theater, Lansing, to support director for one year; Plymouth Symphony, for first prize in a young artist competition; the Poika Concert Society, Sibleyville, for support of an orchestral program for students at the Pontiac Center, for two dance performances; and the Michigan Very Special Arts Festival, Lansing, to support six artists-in-residence for handicapped students.

MFA was established in 1967. Over the years, it has awarded over \$1,000,000 to Michigan artists and cultural organizations, according to Barrie Werb, the Foundation's executive director.



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Situated on approximately 1/4 private acre with beautiful landscaping is this very sharp home decorated in neutral colors. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, hardwood floors, huge finished rec room with bar and more. \$113,000. (H-46830)




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PRIME BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE HOME



As you drive up the circular drive you see this stunning pillar colonial on approximately an acre with well manicured lawns, sprinkler system and outside lighting.




Walk into the spacious marble foyer and view a two level living room, family room and solarium.


This super home has 6-8 bedrooms, 6 full and 2 half baths, alarm system wired to Bloomfield Township Police and Fire, central air and many amenities too numerous to mention.

Everyday living and gracious entertaining are made easier with a lower level that just doesn't stop. A kitchen with barbecue, card room with sink, dark, room, office, children's playroom with built-ins, laundry room and guest quarters.


Call today for additional information and your private showing. \$1,100,000. (H-49127)




A huge kitchen with eating space, breakfast room and formal dining room accommodate the large family and facilitate entertaining.




SOUTHFIELD - Quality custom home with custom decor has 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, large foyer, finished basement with darkroom, automatic sprinklers and alarm system. \$92,000. (H-46868)



OPEN SUN. 2 to 5 - 1185 Lakeside, Birmingham. Between Oak and Quorton. Quorton Lake Estates - Handsome family home in prime area has beautiful bay windows, hardwood floors, family room with cathedral ceilings, paneled library and lovely yard. 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. \$245,000. (H-47137)



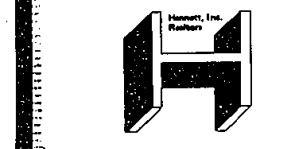
WEST BLOOMFIELD. Terrific Pebble Creek condo has contemporary feel with lots of storage. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, private patio off den, living room with fireplace and full basement. \$125,000. (H-47092)



OPEN SUN. 2 to 5 - 967 Southfield Rd., Birmingham, N. of Lincoln and S. of Maple. Walk to town from this charming home with contemporary decor. 4 bedrooms (master with sitting room), living room with fireplace, new kitchen, hardwood floors and recessed lighting. \$124,900. (H-48951)

OPEN SUN. 2 to 5 - 1551 Georgetown, Bloomfield Hills, W. of Squirrel Rd. and S. of South Blvd. Private, clean and quality construction describe this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath unit. Family room with fireplace and finished rec room. \$37,000. (H-49296)

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