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## Of Cabbages and Kings: Reviews of Books for Children

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#### Author Bio

Nicole Armstrong is a native Detroiter with 9 years experience teaching in lower elementary students in high-performing urban schools. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan and master's from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. When she's not teaching, she loves to read, write, and skate. Her favorite children's authors are Eric Carle, David Shannon and James Marshall.

Shannon Dusute is a senior at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan studying Elementary Education and Spanish.

Julie Kayganich is a senior at Madonna University studying language arts for elementary education. Julie will be student teaching in January and completing her degree in May 2014. She currently serves as the Editorial Assistant for the MRJ and is a student of Dr. van Belle's at Madonna University. Julie enjoys reading and reviewing children's titles for the journal, as well as sharing her favorites with students with whom she works.

Tara Mulvany has a master's degree in literacy education from Madonna University and is currently in her seventh year of teaching. She teaches at Our Lady of Refuge Catholic School in Orchard Lake.

Nicole Podsiadlik is an early childhood education student at Madonna University.

Katie Renner is a recent graduate of Madonna University and the former Editorial Assistant for the MRJ. As an English major, she is passionate about supporting students' creativity as readers and writers. She believes that books can open up a new world for students and is always looking for another great read to dive into. Currently, she is working as a long-term sub for Plymouth-Canton Schools in Plymouth, Michigan.

Rhonda Turner is an educator for Battle Creek Public Schools. She graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in science and has been a classroom teacher for 15 years.

Maggie Wunderlich is a paraprofessional who helps teach English as a second language to a diverse group of students in Plymouth Canton, Michigan. She has written a middle grade novel titled *Visibly Every After*. As an undergraduate student at Madonna University, she is pursuing a teaching certificate in elementary education with a language arts major and an emphasis on supporting English language learners. She is happiest when she can combine her passion for teaching children and for writing.

Melanie Zamborowski is a first grade teacher and certified reading specialist at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington, Michigan. She holds a master of arts in Teaching Literacy Education from Madonna University.

#### Comments

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Culture Books Reviews. Of Cabbages and Kings: The History of Allotments by Caroline Foley, book review. How the seeds of revolt led to a growth industry. Annalee Mather. Six years ago, I inherited a quarter-sized allotment plot, and my concerns centred on how to accommodate a lone, straggly gooseberry bush into a four-raised box-bed rotation scheme. After a run-in with the site manager and committee-level discussions on the shade of green we had painted our shed, the realities of co-existing with fellow plot holders on a five-acre site sunk in. Your personal patch of rented land is a precious thing; plot holders who had cultivated the same soil for decades and spent the day in their ramshackle retreats were, in this case, faced with an influx of a younger, mor I love my children and love being with them — in theory. But in practice, you must fill those hours of togetherness with something that doesn't make you or your children squirm with impatience. This year, we learned to fill those hours by playing cards. In February, in a hut deep in the New Zealand bush, our friend Gary taught our children a card game called cabbages and kings. In an intergenerational game of cabbages and kings, adults can do their best, playing the game in a way that's interesting to them. Maybe you're a card counter, springing your kings and queens on your opponents only when the jokers and aces have been played. Maybe you save your pairs until the last possible moment, then unleash them all in a flurry. Written by a less able hand than O. Henry's the book might have been a sad jumble, perhaps comprehensible to none but the Walrus—but as it is, one finds a joy in its every obscurity." - - The New York Times Book Review, Dec. 17, 1904). Great mysteries are often meta-mysteries. Looking backwards through a prism (now a commonplace critical contortion) Cabbages and Kings foreshadows many shadings: "At Swim-Two-Birds", "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote", "Tyrants Destroyed", "The Continuity of Parks". - - Elliot Gage. O. Henry spent his first years as a writer in Austin, Texas, and the University of Texas maintains a 219-item collection of his works at the Portal to Texas History (reference to publicly-available items which may not be in public domain offered to enthusiasts).