



2003

Creation

AnnMarie Hamar

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Hamar, AnnMarie (2003) "Creation," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 4 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss4/2>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

McDermott, Gerald. *Creation*. Illustrated by Gerald McDermott. Dutton Children's Books, 2003. ISBN 0525469052. \$16.99.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar;

Reading Level: Preschool;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Folklore;

Subject: Creation; Creation--Juvenile literature; Book--Reviews;

McDermott bases his text of the *Creation* on Genesis 1:1 through 2:3 of the Hebrew bible. He additionally uses diverse sources such as the illuminated Bibles *Moralisées* of thirteenth-century France to give his account. God describes how He created the earth, the heavens, and all living creatures. "I was before time. I was everywhere," He says, "My spirit moved over the deep. I floated in darkness." The text is minimal, but the carefully chosen words convey a feeling of power and reverence. As the *Creation* progresses the illustrations become especially appealing by increasing in detail and color. The first painting shows the separation of the light and the dark. The penultimate illustration shows a swirl of colors containing beasts and sea creatures, all surrounding the figures of a man and a woman. The final painting is of an embryo that is above the text, "I am all this. All this I AM." The illustrations use colors often depicted in the art of the American Southwest, while the figures are occasionally reminiscent of those seen in ancient cave paintings. In his introduction, McDermott explains how different parts of the book were conceived in different places such as Santiago, Chile and Tokyo, Japan. Artistic influences from these and other cultures can be found in his work. McDermott's minimal text and detailed illustrations combine to make a work that is both powerful and moving.