Note: your annotations must include:
- ◇ personal connections
- ◇ quotation from synopsis
- ◇ quotation from novel

Reference List

Basiliere, Michael. Black Bird. Toronto: Knopf Canada, 2003.

As a teenager in the early 1970s, I watched many late night horror films. Images have remained with me from certain films, such as Island of Terror and Vincent Price as The Abominable Dr. Phibes and in The Return of Dr. Phibes. What seems to be common to these three movies is a blend of campy humour (they were so bad, they were great) and grisly, gruesome, gory action. Recently, then, when I came upon a novel written by a writer who demonstrates "comic brilliance and a delight in the macabre" ("Black Bird"), I was intrigued. Since Black Bird is also a first novel by a Canadian writer, reading the book fits in with an ongoing project to improve my knowledge of contemporary Canadian writers.

Bemrose, John. The Island Walkers. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2003.

Having worked for more than a decade in retail, I am interested in the lives of working people, so it is a great day when I find a book in which the "masses come into focus as isolated individuals" (Charles). ~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~ ~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~ ~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~~ ~~ ~~~, "a balanced but gut-wrenching working-class novel" ("Island Walkers")~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ "the sense of place is so important in setting the tone of the book. ... there is a sense of despair and shallowness that comes along with one-industry towns" (Joe).~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~ ~~~~ : "His wife's complaints might seem to sink into him without a trace, snow into dark water, but they could achieve a critical mass" (Bemrose 122). ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~ ~~~~~ .

"Black Bird." Synopsis. Online. chapters.indigo.ca. October 13, 2003.

Charles, Ron. "A Union of Laborers Can't Unify the Heart." Christian Science Monitor. Online. Powell's.com Review-A-Day. 2 March, 2004.

Couture, Danielle. "TDR Interview: Michel Basilières." TDR: The Danforth Review. <http://collection.nlc-bnc.ca/100/201/300/danforth/2003/03-10/features/interviews/michel_basilieres.htm>, March 2, 2004.

"Island Walkers." Synopsis. Online. booksmatter.com. March 2, 2004.

Joe. "Island Walkers." Review. Meniere's Talk Forums: Your Front Porch. <http://www.menieres.org/forum/index.php?showtopic=13&st=60>, March 2, 2004.

Shahrasebi, Natalie. "Black Bird." Customer Review. Online. chapters.indigo.ca. October 13, 2003.