

## Books to make the miles fly by

BY SUSIE WILDE

There's nothing like traveling together to help a family know one another in new ways. When my children reached ages six and ten, I realized they'd become my traveling buddies. My son shucks his attitude when he's my co-pilot; my daughter luxuriates in having her big brother to herself; and I am free of telephone calls and deadlines to give them full my attention.



This is a book you'll want to reread immediately. Suddenly you notice how the author has filled her story with smells, sights, and feelings of ocean and beach.



Estelle Condra's **See the Ocean** (Ideals Children's Books, \$14.95; ages 5-9) tells the story of Nellie who has loved the ocean for as long as she can remember. Nellie seems quiet compared to her two rowdy older brothers who jostle constantly. One of their yearly competitions comes while driving to a beach vacation when each tries to be the first to spy the ocean. As usual, Nellie sits quietly between them until, under a thick veil of fog, she claims she sees it. Her brothers accuse her of cheating and only then does she softly begin, "The ocean is an old, old man born at the beginning of time." There follows one of the most poetic descriptions of the ocean you'll ever read—one that will stun you as much as it stuns Nellie's family. Silent for a long time, they acknowledge her truth and another . . . that she can't see.