

Finding What You Need ... About Children's Literature

The study of children's literature involves the assessment of a work's literary elements, such as style, language and character, as well as an evaluation of its suitability for certain age groups and its effectiveness as a teaching tool.



REFERENCE WORKS

Use reference sources to

- Become familiar with literary genres and themes common to children's literature
- Find background information about works and writers
- Literary dictionaries and encyclopedias provide brief discussions about writers and literary topics.

Examples -

R 808.8 Arb Arbuthnot Anthology of Children's Literature

This work contains representative samples of types of children's literature.

R 011.62 Lim A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children's Picture Books

R 028.162 Gil Best Books for Children: Preschool Through Grade 6

JP 011.62 Fre Books Kids Will Sit Still For: The Complete Read-Aloud Guide

This is not a reference book, but it is a very good resource for read-aloud, class, and activity preparation.

R 028.162 Chi Children's Books and Their Creators

This book provides discussion and critical evaluation of writers of children's books and discusses topics in children's literature such as fairy stories and poetry.

R 820.9 Hun Children's Literature

Provides a history of children's literature and information on writers, series,

works and topics.

R 813.01 DLB Dictionary of Literary Biography

This series provides biographical information, bibliographies and sources of critical information. The introductions to the volumes often provide good discussions of the literary period covered in the book. Refer to the latest volume with a cumulative index to find your writer. Of particular interest are v. 22—American Writers for Children, 1900-1960; v. 61—American Writers for Children Since 1960; v. 121—British Writers for Children, 1880-1914; v. 160—British Writers for Children, 1914-1960; v. 161—British Writers for Children Since 1960; v. 163—British Writers for Children, 1800-1880.

R 809.892 Int International Companion Encyclopedia of Children's Literature

This book provides an overview of children's literary criticism, discussing theories of criticism, literary types, illustration and international children's literature.

R 809.89 Jun Junior Book of Authors/Junior Book of Authors and Illustrators

A multi-volume set that provides biographical and some critical information.

R 809.892 Maj Major Authors and Illustrators for Children and Young Adults

R 809.034 Nin Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism

See the section on 'Children's Literature.'

R 809.89282 Car Oxford Companion to Children's Literature

Provides information about literary topics in encyclopedic form, including authors, genres, works and key characters.

R 820.9 Twe Twentieth-Century Children's Authors

R 820.9 Wri Writers for Children

Information on writers who established careers before the mid-20th century.

BOOKS

Use the on-line catalog to find books.

- 'Children's Literature' is the most productive search term.
- Combine subject terms 'children's literature' and 'criticism' to find books cri-

tiquing children's works.

- To find information about the use and evaluation of children's books, try 'children and books' or 'children's literature and evaluation.'
- Find information (critical or biographical) about an author by using the name as a subject.
- If searching by subject does not retrieve enough information, try searching by 'Words or Phrase.'
- To limit your search to juvenile material, enter search terms and scroll down to 'type.' Select 'juvenile' or 'juvenile easy.' You can also search by location ('juvenile collection').

PERIODICALS

Use the following indexes to locate articles in magazines and newspapers.

O – online P - Print

Academic Search Premier (O)

Use this database to find citations and full-text articles. Look for reviews or limit your search to scholarly journals for literary criticism.

Book Review Digest/Book Review Index (P)

A source of citations for book reviews. A good source for reviews of older works.

Credo (O)

Credo is an online reference database, and has general and specialized dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Education Digest (P)

A source of citations to articles, including articles on children's literature and its use, in professional journals of education.

Facts on File (O)

This online reference source provides background information and some critical information about literature.

Humanities Index (P)

This index provides citations to articles in scholarly and professional journals.

JSTOR (O) - in-library use only

Find scholarly articles about children's books here.

LION (Literature Online) (O)

This is a source of scholarly criticism of the works of classic children's writers and some contemporary writers.

ProQuest (O)

Use 'Newspapers' or 'National Newspapers' to find reviews. 'Research Library Core' allows you to find magazine articles. Limit your search to the 'Humanities' and/or 'Arts' modules or to scholarly journals to find critical information.

INTERNET

Many writers such as C.S. Lewis and Judy Blume have websites. Also, the full text of many classic stories and fables can be found on the 'Net. Examples;

Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature—

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/baldwin/baldwin.html>

BUBL Link – <http://bubl.ac.uk/link/c/childrensliterature.htm>

Caldecott Medal Homepage – <http://www.ala.org/alsc/caldecott.html>

Celebrating Diversity Through Children's Literature—

www.multiculturalchildrenslit.com

Children's Literature Web Guide –

<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown>

Digital Librarian – <http://www.digital-librarian.com> (select 'Children's Literature')

Hans Christian Andersen Center – www.andersen.sdu.dk/index_e.html

Kay Vandergrift's Special Interest Page –

<http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/>

Kay Vandergrift's Children's Literature Page –

<http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/ChildrenLit/index.html>

Librarians' Index to the Internet (go to 'Arts and Humanities, then 'Literature and books' and select 'Children's Literature or 'Teen/Young Adult Literature) – [http:// lii.org](http://lii.org)

Muller's Reviews (by Fred Muller, middle school media specialist and SCCC librarian) – www.mullersreviews.com

National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature – <http://www.nccil.org/>

Newbery Homepage – <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>

Yahoo – http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/humanities/Literature/Genres/Children_s/

Please see the reference librarian if you have any questions or need help with search strategy.

Angela Camack - 6/09