Basic Reference Materials for Children’s Literature: An Annotated Bibliography

Jacqueline Faustino

This is a selective bibliography of a variety of basic reference materials in the field of children’s literature. The list is restricted to those books included in the 1978-79 edition of Books in Print. It is divided into four sections—reference, bibliographies, biographies of authors and illustrators, and storytelling. As a selection bibliography it may provide a reference for children’s librarians, reference librarians, and branch librarians.

Reference

A critical approach to children’s literature. Studies basic concepts, types, and teaching literature to children. Includes an annotated bibliography of best books for children, excerpts, and illustrations.

A study of fiction for girls in relation to its own time and how it’s regarded now. Includes a selective bibliography and one of the works discussed.

The essays are divided into four sections—fantasy, style, the child and books, and vision and art.

A study of the teenager and how reading fits into his world. It discusses the various types of teenage reading and has a bibliography for each type. Also includes a guide to reference books.

Written for the elementary school teacher, this book contains ideas for activities to get children involved with their reading. Also includes a chapter on controversial issues in children’s literature.

A discussion on the elements of literature—character, plot, setting, point
of view, style, tone, theme, and special problems in children's literature. Bibliography at end of each chapter.

A general survey of children's literature—its history, criticism, and various types. Color plates and black and white illustrations.

A thematic arrangement of book talks for older children. Some information on the book, excerpts, themes and other suggestions for presenting the book are given. Variety of topics—family, friends, values, problems, etc. Author/title index.

A study of children and adolescents and the literature written for them. Types of books for preschoolers, elementary, junior, and senior high school students are discussed. The appendices list suggestions, selection aids and award winners. There is an author, illustrator, title, and subject index.

A text for the elementary school teacher. Studies the development of children's literature. Divided into types of books such as fantasy, poetry, realism. A few illustrations.

Essays and criticism on history, subjects and issues in children's literature. Includes chapters on genres, foreign literature, and awards.

A study of children and books which are written for the "inner" child—mystical books. Discusses the books, their authors, and the child and his world.

Textbook on children's literature, history, types, and how to develop a literature program. Includes bibliographies.

An editor of children's books writes about her ideas on books from various aspects, i.e. writing, illustrating, editing, and publishing.

An illustrated critical study of children's literature in the 19th and 20th centuries. Lanes notes the poor examples as well as the good.

A collection of writings on racism in children's books. The five parts of the book look at basic criteria, racism in Newbery winners, modern and early examples, and racism in publishing.


A critical look at the detective series books for girls. The author writes on quality, stereotypes and their influence on the young girls who read them.


An extensive history of children's books from earliest folklore up until the 1950's. Looks at individual authors and books which are children's classics.


Ideas for luring children from TV and movies to books. Suggestions for parents, libraries, independent studies, stage, and a production center.


A list of best books compiled from reviews in the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books. Includes title, development values, use, reading level, subject, and types indexes.


Textbook on children and books and types of literature.


A collection of writings by 20th century authors and critics on topics such as fairy stories, comics, fear, classics, and the value of children's literature.


A guide to picture books by subject headings from the Sears List of Subject Headings. All books were published before January, 1974.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

An annotated bibliography of non-sexist books for children and young people. The books are divided into sections for pre-school through 3rd grade, 3rd-7th, and 7th-12th.


Kujoth, Jean. Best-Selling Children’s Books. Metuchen, N. J.: Scarecrow Press, 1973. The 958 titles chosen are arranged in a variety of ways. Complete information and brief notes are with author entry. Other sections are title, illustrator, date of publication, number of copies sold and subject.

An annotated list of fiction and non-fiction arranged by subject area.

An annotated list. Same format as the bibliographies for elementary and senior high students.

An annual bibliography of books popular with teenagers. Most of the titles are in print. Arrangement is by subject with a title index. Highlights are given for each subject and annotations are limited to one sentence.

Briefly annotated guide to fiction series for grades 3-9. Except for a few, the series were begun after 1954.

White, Marian et al. eds. High Interest—Easy Reading for Junior High and Senior High Students. 2nd ed. Urbana, Ill.: NCTE, 1972.
This annotated bibliography is for reluctant readers in junior and senior high schools. The titles are arranged by subject and some titles may be found under one or more subjects. Level of difficulty is designated only by a "J" for junior high and an "S" for senior high.

This bibliography of books for retarded and reluctant readers is arranged by subject. An annotation and the estimated grade level of difficulty is given for each book. There is also a list of books in series, magazines and newspapers, an author index, and a title index.

BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

Commu, Anne. Something About the Author. Chicago: Gale Research. 1971. v.1+
One of the few sources on contemporary authors which provides pictures of authors. Widely used by children as well as children's librarians.

255 autobiographical or biographical sketches of authors and illustrators of books for children and young people. Includes photographs and in some cases reproductions of the author's signature.

A dictionary of true-to-life and imaginary fictional characters in books for children and young people. Briefly discusses the character in the context of the book and, to some extent, the author's approach to him. Illustrations, some color plates.
Short interviews with contemporary authors of books for older children. Includes photographs of the authors and a list of Newbery Award Winners from 1922-1973.

Brief biographical sketches and critical essays of nineteen American, British, and Australian children's authors. Includes comments by the authors themselves and bibliographies of their works.

Brief biographical information on 216 authors of children's books. List of Newbery and Caldecott winners up to 1970.

Biographies of illustrators of children's books. The authors have tried to include illustrators whose biographical information was difficult to locate. All recipients of the Caldecott Medal from 1938 until the time of publication are included.

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STORYTELLING

A manual for storytellers with background information on the art, its purpose and values, selection of stories, preparation, and presentation. Also includes chapters on storytelling for children with special needs, publicity, and a list of stories to tell.

A handbook for storytellers with sources, how-to's for preparation and carrying-out, multimedia aids, and program ideas.

An introduction to myths, legends, and fairy tales for storytellers. Also how to adapt for ages and present in the classroom. Selective bibliography.

Developing and carrying-out story hours for the very young child. Discusses the child, the environment and the teacher. Includes book list and related activities such as games and records.

A list of stories either briefly annotated or with brief excerpts. Separate lists of poetry and stories to read aloud, collections and recordings. There is a subject index by country, hero and festival, and author/title index.

This list is broken down by age group. It also includes lists of stories for holidays, storytelling aids, and an alphabetical list.

Basic guide to selecting, learning, and presenting a story. Also includes two chapters on poetry and dramatics and bibliographies of stories to tell and background material.

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