

What is Children's Literature?



What makes a book a children's book?

- ❖ A child protagonist
- ❖ An issue that concerns children
- ❖ Developmentally appropriate plot
 - ❖ Younger children: linear (events mostly related in chronological order), limited time period, single narrator (point of view)
 - ❖ Older children: More complex plots, may have flashbacks and vary point of view
- ❖ Use of vivid, concrete language

How many children's books are there?

- ❖ 5000 new children's book titles are published annually
- ❖ More than 50,000 English-language children's titles are in print
- ❖ Tradition of publishing books for English-speaking children for 250 years

Who buys books for children?

- ❖ Public Libraries and School Media Centers
 - ❖ Teachers
 - ❖ Families
 - ❖ Commercial market has now surpassed educational market
 - ❖ New York Times (other major newspapers) review children's books
- ❖ Various State book awards;
Awards by magazines/journals
and professional organizations

What are Genres of Children's Literature?

❖ Informational Books

❖ Biographies

❖ Traditional Literature

❖ Poetry

❖ Contemporary Realistic Fiction

❖ Historical Fiction

❖ Modern (Authored) Fantasy

What are Formats of Children's Literature?

- ❖ Picture Books
 - ❖ Picture Storybooks
 - ❖ Wordless Books
 - ❖ ABC and Other Concept Books
- ❖ Transition Books
- ❖ Chapter Books



How Are Outstanding Children's Book Authors & Illustrators Recognized?

- ❖ Caldecott Medal
 - ❖ illustrator of best picture book (1938)
- ❖ Newbery Medal
 - ❖ author of best contribution to children's literature [CL] (1922)
- ❖ Awards for a Body of Work
 - ❖ Hans Christian Andersen Award
 - ❖ Biennially to one author (1956) & one illustrator (1966)
- ❖ NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children ('77-'82; Every 3 years since)

More Awards

- ❖ Various State book awards
- ❖ Additional Awards:
 - ❖ Carter G. Woodsen Award
 - ❖ NCSS, 1977; Since '80-winners for elementary and secondary
 - ❖ Coretta Scott King Award
 - ❖ 1970-started with award for black author
 - ❖ 1974-added an award for black illustrator
 - ❖ Mildred L. Batchelder Award (1968)
 - ❖ Orbis Pictus Award (1990)
 - ❖ Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction (1984)

Highest Paying Award...(At Taxpayer Expense)

- Astrid Lindgren Award
 - 5 Million Swedish Kronars (approx. \$700,000)
 - May go to writers, illustrators, promoters of reading
 - Work must reflect “spirit of Astrid Lindgren”
 - Purpose: increase interest in children’s/young people’s literature; promote children’s rights to culture on a global level
 - US Winners: 2003-Sendak (shared); 2006-Katherine Paterson
 - Latest (08) winner: Sonya Hartnett, Australia

American Library Association



[American Library Association's
Website](#)

Your Turn to Talk

- ❖ Think/Pair/Share
- ❖ *About how many children's books are published each year?*
- ❖ *Which of the markets for children's books is the largest (Commercial or Educational)?*
- ❖ *What makes a book a children's book?*
 - ❖ Must a book have a child main character? Explain.
- ❖ *Identify the genre of each book in your bag. Explain how you know.*
- ❖ *Identify the format of each book, & explain how you know.*