# 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, Various State book awards;
 Families Awards by magazines/journals and professional organizations
 Commercial market has now surpassed educational market

New York Times (other major newspapers) review children's books

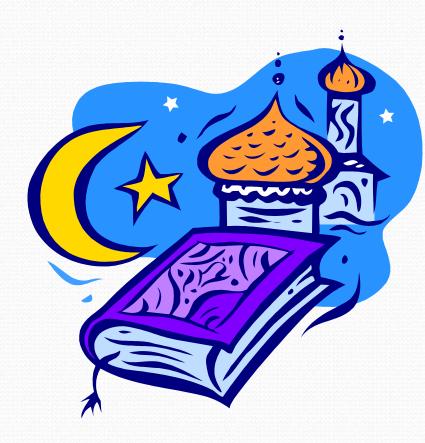
# What are <u>Genres</u> of Children's Literature?

- 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**



<u>American Library Association's</u> <u>Website</u>

## 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?
  - <u>Must</u> a book have a child main character? Explain.
- Identify the <u>genre</u> of each book in your bag. Explain how you know.
- Identify the <u>format</u> of each book, & explain how you know.