



## **Specific Features Of Children's Literature**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article about Specific features of Children's Literature. When we think of a children's story today, we probably think of it as entertainment, rather than as a tool for moral instruction. Children's literature includes books, poems and plays meant for children. Even though the genre is defined by its audience, children and adults alike enjoy stories intended for children. Children's literature is an age category opposite adult literature, but it's sub-divided further due to the divergent interests of children age 0-18.

### **KEYWORDS**

Children's literature, Defines children's literature, A literary genre, Traditional literature, Fiction, Non-fiction, Biography, Poetry and verse, Scholarship on children's literature, young-adult fiction, comic books, genres.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Children's literature is for readers and listeners up to about age twelve and is often illustrated. The term is used in senses which sometimes exclude young-adult fiction, comic books, or other genres. Books specifically for children existed by the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Scholarship on children's literature includes professional organizations, dedicated publications and university courses. There is some debate on what constitutes children's literature. A much-overlooked type of

children's literature is work written by children, such as *THE YOUNG VISITERS* by Daisy Ashford or the juvenilia of Jane Austen or Lewis Carroll, written to amuse brothers and sisters. Perhaps the most common definition of Children's literature is those books intentionally written for children. Nancy Anderson, associate professor in the College of education at the university of South Florida in Tampa. Defines children's literature as all books written for children, "excluding works

such as comic books, joke books, cartoon books, and nonfiction works such as comic dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference material”

Some of this work, of course, is also very popular among children and adults that THE NEW YORK Times created best seller list. Often no consensus is reached whether a given work is best categorized as adults or children’s literature, and many books are marketed for both adults and children.

### **THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS**

The most restrictive definition of children’s literature are those books various authorities determine are “appropriate” for children, such as teachers, reviewers, scholars, parents, publishers, librarians, retailers, and the various book-award committees.

Parents wishing to protect their children from the unhappier aspects of life often find the traditional fairy tales, nursery rhymes and other voyages of discovery problematic, because often the first thing a story does is remove the adults influence, leaving the central character to learn to cope on his or her own: prominent examples of this include Snow White, Hansel and Gretel, Bambi and A Series of Unfortunate Events. Many regard this as necessary to the story, after all, in most cases the whole point of the story is the characters’ transition into adulthood. The broadest definition of Children’s literature applies to books that are actually selected and read by children. Children chose many books, such traditionally sense, they also choose literary classics and recognized great works by modern writers, and often enjoy stories which speak on multiple levels. In the opinion of novelist Orson Scott Card: one makes a good case for the idea that children are often the guardians of the truly great literature of the world, for in their love of story and unconcern for stylistics fads and literary tricks, children unerringly gravitate toward truth and power.

Someone who enjoyed Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland as a child may come back to the text as an adult and see the darker themes that were lost on them as younger readers.

In addition, many classic books that were originally intended for adults are now commonly thought of as works for children. Mark Twain’s Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was originally intended for an adult audience.

Today it is widely read as part of children’s school curriculum in the United States.

A literary genre is a category of literary composition. Genres may be determined by technique, tone, content, or length. Nancy Anderson, associate professor in the College of Education at the University of South Florida in Tampa has delineated six major categories of children’s literature, with some significant subgenres:

1. Picture books, including board books concept books, pattern books and wordless books.
2. Traditional literature: there are ten characteristics of traditional literature: 1) unknown authorship, 2) conventional introductions and conclusion, 3) vague settings, 4) stereotyped characters, 5) anthropomorphism, 6) cause and effect, 7) happy ending for the hero, 8) magic accepted as normal, 9) brief stories with simple and direct plots, 10) repetition of action and verbal patterns.

The bulk of traditional Literature consists of folktales, which conveys the legends, customs, superstitions, and beliefs of people in past times. This large genre can be further broken down into subgenres: myths, fables, ballads, folk music, legends and fairy tales.

3. Fiction including the sub-genres of fantasy and realistic fiction. This genre would

also include the school story, a genre unique to children's literature in which the boarding school is a common setting.

Non-fiction

Biography, including autobiography

Poetry and verse

## CONCLUSION

Children's literature is an age category opposite adult literature, but it's sub-divided further due to the divergent interests of children age 0-18.

Picture books appropriate for pre-readers ages 0-5.

Early Reader Books appropriate for children age 5-7. These books are often designed to help a child build his or her reading skills.

Chapter book appropriate for children ages 7-11.

Short chapter books, appropriate for children ages 7-9.

Longer chapter books appropriate for children ages 9-12.

Young- adult fiction appropriate for children age 13-18.

The criteria for these divisions are just as vague and problematic as the criteria for defining children's books as a whole. One obvious distinction is that books for younger children tend to contain illustrations, but picture books which feature art as an integral part of the overall work also crosses genres and age levels. *Tibet Through the Red Box* by Peter Sis is a one examples of a picture book aimed at an adult audience.

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