

Understanding Children's Books

A Guide for Education Professionals



Prue Goodwin



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Los Angeles • London • New Delhi • Singapore

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For Bill and all the children, students and colleagues
with whom I have ever shared children's books.

Contents

<i>About the Author</i>	ix
<i>About the Contributors</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
1 A world of children's books	1
<i>Prue Goodwin</i>	
• Why enthusiasm for and enjoyment of children's books is so vital for everyone working with children and young people	
• The business of publishing	
• Ways to develop professional knowledge of children's books	
2 Babies really do need books	11
<i>Liz Attenborough</i>	
• The development of children's books	
• Ways to share books with babies	
• Some great books to use with babies	
3 Literature for the very young	21
<i>Margaret Perkins</i>	
• Ways to share texts with young children	
• How to select good books to share	
4 Learning to be a reader: promoting good textual health	33
<i>Vivienne Smith</i>	
• The pedagogy of reading	
• Developing active readers	
• Good books to foster healthy reading habits	
5 Traditional tales: the bedrock of storytelling	43
<i>Ann Lazim</i>	
• Traditional stories and a wide range of narrative	
• Tales from many cultures	
• Modern versions of old stories	

6	Fiction for children and young people: the state of the art <i>Catriona Nicholson</i>	55
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How children's literature has developed over the centuries • Contemporary children's literature 	
7	Into new worlds: children's books in translation <i>Gillian Lathey</i>	65
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history of, and new directions in, translations of children's books • Different trends in writing for young people • Ways to access translated books for young readers 	
8	More than information: engaging hearts and minds with non-fiction <i>Nikki Gamble</i>	73
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction books that can have a great impact on young readers • Making sure that reading for pleasure is part of the plan • Developments in the production and design of children's non-fiction books 	
9	Poetry for children <i>Michael Lockwood</i>	85
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is 'good' poetry for children? • How poetry aimed at children has evolved • Ways of sharing poetry 	
10	Picturebooks: looking closely <i>Judith Graham</i>	95
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why picturebooks are so important for young readers • Visual terminology • Different sorts of picturebooks 	
11	The powerful world of graphic texts <i>Mel Gibson</i>	109
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different types of graphic texts • Ways to share them with young readers • How to evaluate graphic texts 	
	<i>References</i>	119
	<i>Index</i>	126

About the Author

Prue Goodwin is a freelance lecturer in literacy and children's books and works part-time with trainee teachers at the University of Reading. In 2005, Prue edited the second edition of *The Literate Classroom*, a collection of articles by leading teacher educators published by David Fulton. *The Articulate Classroom*, on speaking and listening, was published in 2001 and *Literacy through Creativity* in 2004. Prue regularly returns to the classroom to introduce children to a range of literature and to encourage wide, voracious reading.

About the Contributors

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Nikki Gamble is an education consultant specializing in children's literature, drama and arts education. She is Director of Write Away, an organization that seeks to promote literature and the arts in education. Nikki was formerly a primary and secondary school teacher and subsequently taught students on primary teacher training programmes. She continues to work with children, young people, teachers and families in both formal and informal educational contexts. Recent publications include *Family Fictions* (2001), with Nick Tucker, *Exploring Children's Literature* (2008) (2nd edition forthcoming, Paul Chapman Publishing), with Sally Yates and *Guiding Reading* (2006) (2nd edition), with Angela Hobsbaum and David Reedy.

Dr Mel Gibson has run training and promotional events about comics, picturebooks, manga and graphic novels for libraries, schools and other organizations since 1993 when she contributed to *Graphic Account* on developing graphic novels collections for 16–25-year-olds, published by the Youth Libraries Group (YLG). She is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Northumbria. Her doctoral thesis was on British women's memories of their girlhood comics reading. She is a National Teaching Fellow and is also Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Award judge for Northern YLG. She teaches modules in both 'Children's Literature in Context' and 'Picture Books and Comics for the Developing Reader'.

Judith Graham, although officially retired (and enjoying grandmotherhood), still works occasionally at Roehampton University and in the Faculty of Education in Cambridge. Her interests are in all areas of literacy and children's literature. She is the author of *Pictures on the Page* and *Cracking Good Books* (NATE, 1990 and 1997), co-editor, with Alison Kelly, of *Reading under Control* and *Writing Under Control* (David Fulton, 2007 and 2003) and co-author, with Fiona Collins, of *Historical Fiction: Capturing the Past* (David Fulton, 2001), an edited collection of pieces on historical fiction for children.

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Dr Michael Lockwood taught in schools in Oxford before becoming Lecturer in English and Education at the University of Reading, where he is course leader for the BAEd English programme. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of knowledge about language for primary school pupils, teachers and ITT students, and children's

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Dr Margaret Perkins has worked in initial teaching training for many years in different institutions. She has taught across the whole primary age range, although is predominantly an early years teacher. Her research has been into teachers as readers and the teaching of reading. She has a keen interest in children's ideas about and response to popular culture. In 1998 she co-authored, with Diane Godwin, *Teaching Language and Literacy in the Early Years*, published by David Fulton.

Dr Vivienne Smith was a primary teacher in Suffolk before completing a doctorate and moving into higher education. She now works as a lecturer in the department of Childhood and Primary Studies at the University of Strathclyde, where she teaches in the language team and pursues research interests in children's literature, critical literacy and the development of children as readers. She has been a passionate reader of children's books for many years, and, for some time, has been particularly interested in how the best picturebooks and lift-the-flap books orientate children towards becoming engaged and active readers of all sorts of texts.

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