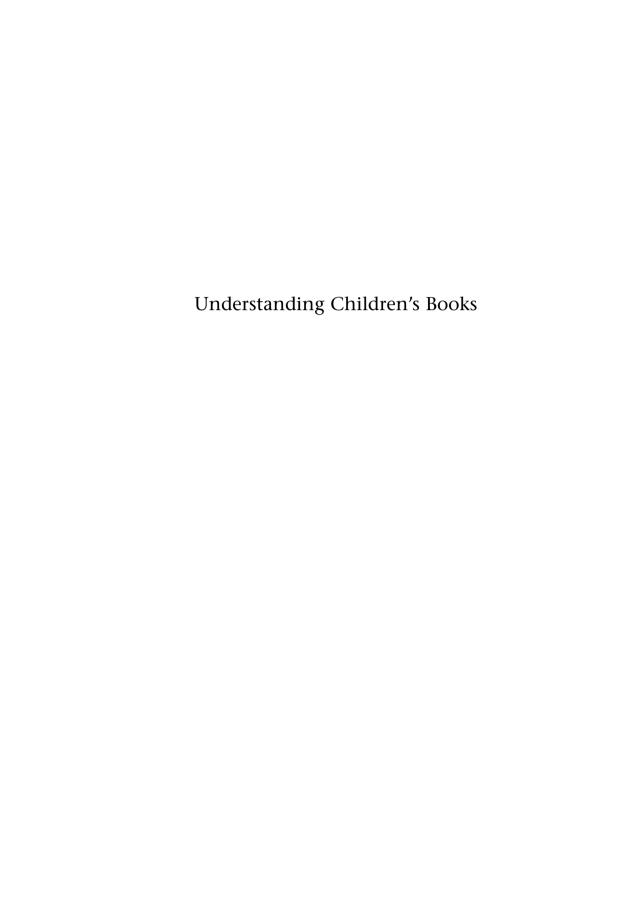
Understanding Children's Books

A Guide for Education Professionals



Prue Goodwin





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Figure 4.1 © Child, L. My Uncle is a Hunkle, Says Clarice Bean (2000), Orchard Books.

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

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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

Liz Attenborough manages 'Talk to Your Baby', the early language campaign of the National Literacy Trust, encouraging parents and carers to talk more to children from birth to 3. Liz was a children's book publisher for 24 years, including 12 years as Publisher of Puffin Books. From January 1998 to September 1999 she was Director of the National Year of Reading, a government campaign to encourage reading for pleasure across the community. The following year she studied for an MA in Child Studies at King's College, London.

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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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Catriona Nicholson was a teacher in primary and special schools before becoming a Lecturer in English and Education at the University of Reading. She has been a co-director of CIRCL and was a tutor on the MA in Children's Literature. Recent publications include contributions to: The Cambridge Guide to Children's Books in English (2001); Children in War: The International Journal of Evacuee and War Child Studies (2004); Literacy Through Creativity (David Fulton, 2004); Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (Thomson Gale, 2006)

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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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