

Defining Literature for Children

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Abstract: This paper aims to define the distinctive qualities of Children's Literature. Children's Literature is specially meant for children. Their world is quite distinct from the adult world. Children's Literature is a very powerful tool to impart moral values in Children. The world of imagination filled with fantasy and adventure helps in their moral development greatly. They become fit to face the society through the knowledge of grown up characters.

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I. Introduction.

Literature belongs to all the people, all the time and it is always challenging , refreshing and comforting. That is the quality and nature of Literature. Children's literature is quite distinctive from adult fiction. It helps children to explore their own thoughts and understand themselves. It moulds them and influences their views of life.

Children's books are different from adult books since they are written for a selected audience. Literature always educate children into a particular kind of culture.

Children's literature has a long history around the world. It has absorbed into itself the elements of folk, fairy tale and Oral tradition. In the early ages there were no books published for children. Only during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in Europe, books were published to support their formal school curriculum.

In the early printed literature of any society, there were traditional stories meant for all age groups. Gradually stories were written specially for children started appearing.

Earliest books for children were based on didactic traditional materials . The earliest books were entirely religious and instructional for improving their morals and manners.

Towards the nineteenth century, Children's books started appearing purely for enjoyment. Lewis Carrol' s , ' Alice' was the first of its prototype. This books happens to be the first novel written purely for entertainment.

The major literary genres of Children's literature are early childhood books, fiction, traditional literary biography, autobiography, informatial books, poetry and verse.

Children's books have a variety of formats like picture books , illustrated books , easy to read books , hardcover books, paperback books, series books etc.

The fiction stories have literary elements like characters , point of view, setting, plot, theme, style and tone play a vital role in creating distinct features in Children's literature.

These elements are important to create a world of fantasy , adventure, magic combined with imagination.

Thus Children's literature has a great responsibility to delight , teach , educate and finally mould children .It becomes a therapeutic tool and promotes dynamism, determination, hard work, and self confidence in children. Thus they are moulded to become able adults to face the society of adults world.

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