

Call for papers

Modern Language Association Conference 1989, New York City, Children's Literature Special Session.

Submissions are invited for a special session on the conflict between the author's adult consciousness and the child's nature, interests, and perspectives in literature for children. Papers are sought that analyze the inherent tension within children's literature that arises from the fact that children and adults frequently have conflicting interests, yet adults write for children. Whereas early children's literature almost invariably took the side of the adult in adult-child conflicts, modern children's literature tends to take the perspective of the child. Yet this creates at times a paradoxical tension within the writer of children's literature, who imaginatively identifies with or recreates the identity and interests of the child. Since actual relationships between children and adults involve issues of power, literature for children reflects struggles over authority, control, and rebellion. How are these themes treated by authors of different periods? Scholars are encouraged to consider these and related questions from a variety of perspectives: psychological, stylistic, feminist, historical, and others.

Papers should be designed to be presented in 15-20 minutes. They should therefore be no longer than 7-10 pages in length. Please submit a cover sheet with the author's name and three copies of the paper without identification. Submit papers for consideration to J.D. Stahl, Department of English, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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