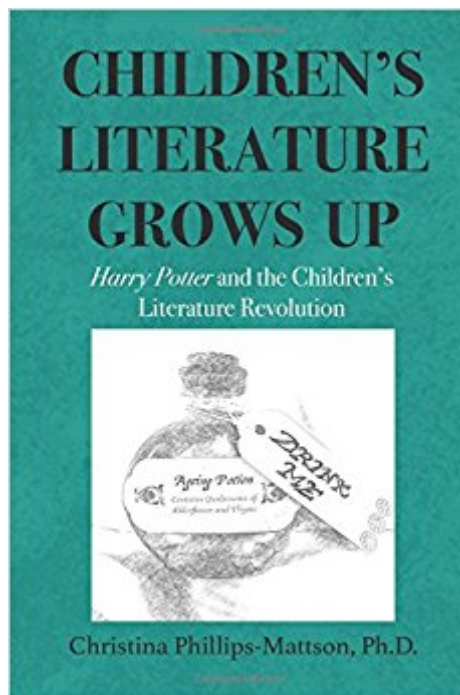




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Children's Literature Grows Up: Harry Potter And The Children's Literature Revolution



Synopsis

“Children know such a lot now,” Peter Pan once told us. A century later, in the Age of Information, they know even more. So shouldn’t their literature rise up to meet them? Isn’t it time for children’s literature to grow up? First conceived as her doctoral dissertation at Harvard University, with this extensive examination of J. K. Rowling’s series, Christina Phillips-Mattson argues that with the Harry Potter books we witness the beginning of a new era of children’s literature. Marking a departure from casual handbooks to the Harry Potter series, Phillips-Mattson provides the reader with a scholarly examination of Rowling’s novels as well as other contemporary fictions for children by such novelists as Philip Pullman, Lemony Snicket, Catherynne Valente, and Neil Gaiman—that is also entertaining and accessible. In order to demonstrate that contemporary fictions for children are as complex, multifaceted, and worthy of serious academic inquiry as adult literature, Phillips-Mattson takes the reader on an exciting journey through a highly detailed history of children’s literature and shows us how Rowling’s novels belong to a rich and varied literary tradition by placing Harry Potter alongside Greek mythology, classic fairy tales, Golden Age texts like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Peter Pan*, Jane Austen’s *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice*, Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*, and Geoffrey Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*. Employing the criticism of Henry James, T.S. Eliot, and Virginia Woolf, Phillips-Mattson responds to Rowling’s detractors and provides evidence of Rowling’s stylistic sophistication and complex narrative structure that underwrite the believability of her characters and her fictional world. An engaging, thought-provoking read for scholars, teachers, general readers of children’s literature, and Harry Potter enthusiasts, *Children’s Literature Grows Up* includes fascinating new research on spell language, intertextuality, moral agency, and psychological realism.

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Customer Reviews

This is a great book - the section on the history of children's literature and the phases that it has gone through was really interesting, and as a Harry Potter fan I also appreciated the in-depth analysis of the series (especially the parts on Jane Austen and how Rowling drew upon classic texts in her writing). I'm excited to read some of the other series referenced in the book - i'd almost forgotten how great a lot of "children's" literature is!

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