



Literature for Children: A Short Introduction (8th Edition)

By David L. Russell

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Literature for Children: A Short Introduction, 8/e is a concise, accessible, text that provides a solid understanding of the foundations of children's literature across its various genres from picture books to folk literature. In his usual engaging style, popular author David Russell stresses that students need to first appreciate literature in order to later use and teach it effectively in their own classrooms. The text's user-friendly format includes a wealth of real examples from literature, and its concise presentation allows students to spend more time reading actual children's books. Substantially updated to bring the text and its resource lists in line with today's most current scholarship, the Eighth Edition includes a list of the winners of the Orbis Picture Awards for children's nonfiction, annotated recommended booklists, and discussions of important topics such as the Common Core curriculum, using technology in the classroom, teaching folktales, twenty-five uses of poetry, and critical approaches to literature that demonstrate a variety of ways of reading children's books.

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Editorial Review

Review

This book allows teachers and students to get an introduction to the world of children's literature. The strength of this book is in the way its material is presented. The author has some interesting perspectives, which help engage students. It allows future teachers to take the material and create a lesson plan. Its accessible style and illustrations support the concepts presented in a very easy-to-follow way. -- **Gail Dichtman, Moraine Valley Community College**

A very concise, no frills companion to a short or compacted course on children's literature. This book excels in its concise approach and its focus on the historical and mechanical aspects of children's literature in general. -- **Lee Edward Allen, University of Memphis**

From the Back Cover

This concise, accessible text gives students a solid understanding of the foundations of children's literature across its various genres from picture books to folk literature. In his usual engaging style, popular author David Russell stresses that students need to first appreciate literature in order to later use and teach it effectively in their own classrooms. The text's user-friendly format includes a wealth of real examples from literature, and its concise presentation allows students to spend more time reading actual children's books.

Substantially updated to bring the text and its resource lists in line with today's most current scholarship, the Eighth Edition includes these significant changes:

- **A variety of pedagogical suggestions** give prospective teachers ideas they can put to use in their classrooms:
 - **NEW! The Orbis Picture Awards for children's nonfiction** have been added to the appendix. It complements the other lists of book awards and addresses the heightened emphasis on nonfiction in today's school curricula.
 - **NEW! Annotated recommended booklists** on diversity, picture books, fantasy, realistic fiction, and nonfiction, follow the chapters assisting students in selecting appropriate children's books.
 - **NEW! How to use technology in the classroom** is discussed in Chapter 3, emphasizing the importance of integrating various types of technology into today's teaching practice.
 - **NEW! The use of folktales in the classroom** is discussed in Chapter 8.
 - **NEW! 25 things to do with poetry** give students fresh ideas for teaching the genre.
- **NEW! A new discussion on the Common Core State Standards** helps prospective teachers align their literature instruction to this critical component of today's teaching (Ch. 3).
- **NEW! Critical approaches to literature** are discussed in Chapter 9, demonstrating a variety of ways of reading children's books and increasing the text's accessibility to students in English and literature departments.

About the Author

David L. Russell has taught children's literature courses at Ferris State University in Michigan for over 30 years. He is the author of *Patricia MacLachlan* and *Scott O'Dell*, both Twayne critical biographies, as well

as numerous scholarly articles in various journals. A member of the Children's Literature Association, for which he served as Treasurer and Publications Chair for several years, he is currently co-editor of *The Lion and the Unicorn*, one of the premier professional journals in the field of children's literature.

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