



# Changing Concepts of Childhood and Children's Literature

By Vanessa Joosen

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The varied collection of essays presented in this volume bridges the gap between continental and Anglo-American approaches to children's literature, and discuss the state of the art of what is topical in children's literature studies in Europe and the United States. Varied as the different subject areas under discussion are, considering different subgenres, historical periods, and geographical contexts, two main themes surface in nearly all the essays: ideology and children's literature on the one hand, and images of childhood on the other. The contributions illustrate the wide range of subject areas and the increasing level of sophistication with which criticism of ideology and Cultural Studies have enriched children's literature criticism. The essays address, among others, the influence of globalisation and mass market culture on the production of children's books, as well as the choices governing the production of translations and adaptations of texts for young readers. Representing a broad array of methodological approaches and of representations of childhood, this publication intends to render visible actual manifestations of the tension between pedagogy and aesthetics, inherent to and constitutive of children's literature.

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#### **About the Author**

The editors of this volume teach and research children's literature within the Literature Department at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Vanessa Joosen specializes in the field of modern fairy-tale adaptations and theoretical approaches to the Grimm tales (such as feminism, psychoanalysis, Marxism). Translation studies and tendencies within contemporary Dutch and British children's literature equally belong to her research interests. Katrien Vloeberghs investigates images of childhood in twentieth-century literary and philosophical discourses. Her current work focuses on the representation of the Holocaust in childhood narratives and children's literature.

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