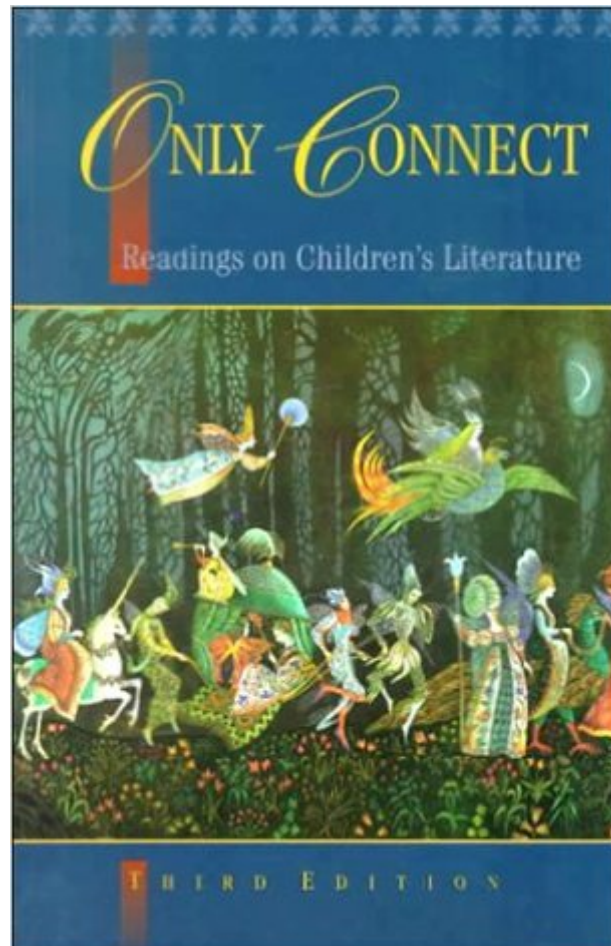


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Only Connect: Readings On Children's Literature



Synopsis

First published in 1969, *Only Connect* is widely accepted as an essential volume for everyone concerned with children's and young adults' literature. This new edition offers a new selection of more than 40 essays and brief studies on history and criticism, literary standards, changing tastes, science fiction, young adult literature, fantasy, the problem novel, racism, and sexism. None of the articles have been featured in either of the previous two editions. Among the essayists are Joan Aiken, Margaret Mahy, P.L. Travers, Perry Nodelman, Brian Attebery, John Rowe Townsend, Myra Cohn Livingston, Peter Hunt, and Jane Yolen. Its assembled learning, common sense, and wit are certain to help librarians, authors, critics, and parents "connect" with children's literature, and thus with the children themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Only Connect is a well chosen group of essays that represent most of the facets of children's literature, from picture books to young adults, from the authors' impressions to the literary critics. Since there isn't a lot of information on this site about this book, I'll go into detail. The first section "Books and Children" includes a variety of general essays ranging from the importance of literature to children to specific archetypes/motifs that show up in children's writing. The plums of this section are John Daniel Stahl's "The imaginative Uses of Secrecy in Children's Literature" and Tim Wynne-Jones "An Eye for Thresholds." You won't look at setting the same way again after reading these. This is followed by 3 sections "Myth and Folklore," "Fantasy" and "Science Fiction."

P.L. Travers "Unknown Childhood" is a very mythic essay that will get you thinking about what all those fairy tales actually do for the listener. Margaret Mahy's essay reveals in brief how she develops ideas. Tamora Pierce's essay on "Fantasy: Why kids read it, Why Kids Need it" describes the special quality of YA readers to a T. This essay breaths life into the genre. Terry Pratchett's "Let there be dragons" is a good overview on science fiction, and a good laugh too. Then there is a section on Poetry, including an essay by the widely acclaimed XJ Kennedy, a section on Picture Books which ranges from Uri Shulevits' "What is a Picture Book" to David Lewis's "The Constructedness of Texts: Picture Books and the Metafictional." Ha ha! Take that you post-modernists! Children's books have had characters popping out of the pages and ripping through their own illustrations for years. Then there are three essays on Gender Relations.

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