

OLAQ

OLA Quarterly

Volume 12
Number 2
*Children's Literature: The Oregon Way (Summer
2006)*

July 2014

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

White, D. R. (2014). Introduction. *OLA Quarterly*, 12(2), 1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/1093-7374.1111>

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OLA Quarterly is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association | ISSN 1093-7374

Introduction

This issue of the *OLA Quarterly* is devoted to recognizing the contributions of Oregon librarians to development and use of children's literature in Oregon and beyond.

From the time I first became involved in the world of children's literature and librarianship, I have marveled at the number of prominent state and national positions held by children's librarians from Oregon. It was exciting for me to realize that people I knew had served, or would be serving on the Caldecott and Newbery Committees.

Other colleagues were active members of ALA and PLA committees devoted to early literacy and children's literature.

I was less sure of place of children's literature in the world of higher education. What I have discovered is that there is indeed a place for chil-

dren's literature in the academic world where it is appreciated and used to create a better world.

This issue contains articles from both academic and public librarians. There are articles from former members of the Newbery and Caldecott committees who share with the reader the sometimes mysterious process of selection and feelings of responsibility and awe as they work towards the ultimate goal.

In the academic world children's literature educates undergraduate and graduate students. A thorough knowledge of children's literature is essential in teacher education.

Yet education is not the only area where it has a starring role. In Oregon there is a remarkable program devoted to the development of a database of books suitable for use in counseling sessions.

Children's literature has changed and continues to change. In my opinion one of the most exciting trends is illustrated children's non-fiction, done in a picture book like format. These books have addressed some of the most serious issues in our history, communities, and country. With large colorful illustrations and short but fact filled text, these books offer a great opportunity to help older children who may have difficulty following the traditional format non-fiction. This is especially true with issues such as racism, adoption, alienation, and sexism. Historic events take on new importance when they are vividly illustrated.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and appreciate the contributions of so many librarians throughout the state who are deeply involved in the artistry and power of children's literature.

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