

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter

By Seth Lerer

Download now

Read Online 

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer

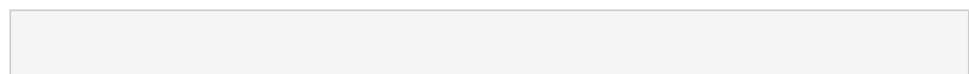
Ever since children have learned to read, there has been children's literature. *Children's Literature* charts the makings of the Western literary imagination from Aesop's fables to Mother Goose, from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* to Peter Pan, from *Where the Wild Things Are* to Harry Potter.

The only single-volume work to capture the rich and diverse history of children's literature in its full panorama, this extraordinary book reveals why J. R. R. Tolkien, Dr. Seuss, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Beatrix Potter, and many others, despite their divergent styles and subject matter, have all resonated with generations of readers. *Children's Literature* is an exhilarating quest across centuries, continents, and genres to discover how, and why, we first fall in love with the written word.

"Lerer has accomplished something magical. Unlike the many handbooks to children's literature that synopsise, evaluate, or otherwise guide adults in the selection of materials for children, this work presents a true critical history of the genre. . . . Scholarly, erudite, and all but exhaustive, it is also entertaining and accessible. Lerer takes his subject seriously without making it dull."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

"Lerer's history reminds us of the wealth of literature written during the past 2,600 years. . . . With his vast and multidimensional knowledge of literature, he underscores the vital role it plays in forming a child's imagination. We are made, he suggests, by the books we read."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"There are dazzling chapters on John Locke and Empire, and nonsense, and Darwin, but Lerer's most interesting chapter focuses on girls' fiction. . . . A brilliant series of readings."—Diane Purkiss, *Times Literary Supplement*



 [Download Children's Literature: A Reader's Histor ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Children's Literature: A Reader's Hist ...pdf](#)

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter

By Seth Lerer

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer

Ever since children have learned to read, there has been children's literature. *Children's Literature* charts the makings of the Western literary imagination from Aesop's fables to Mother Goose, from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* to Peter Pan, from *Where the Wild Things Are* to Harry Potter.

The only single-volume work to capture the rich and diverse history of children's literature in its full panorama, this extraordinary book reveals why J. R. R. Tolkien, Dr. Seuss, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Beatrix Potter, and many others, despite their divergent styles and subject matter, have all resonated with generations of readers. *Children's Literature* is an exhilarating quest across centuries, continents, and genres to discover how, and why, we first fall in love with the written word.

"Lerer has accomplished something magical. Unlike the many handbooks to children's literature that synopsise, evaluate, or otherwise guide adults in the selection of materials for children, this work presents a true critical history of the genre. . . . Scholarly, erudite, and all but exhaustive, it is also entertaining and accessible. Lerer takes his subject seriously without making it dull."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

"Lerer's history reminds us of the wealth of literature written during the past 2,600 years. . . . With his vast and multidimensional knowledge of literature, he underscores the vital role it plays in forming a child's imagination. We are made, he suggests, by the books we read."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"There are dazzling chapters on John Locke and Empire, and nonsense, and Darwin, but Lerer's most interesting chapter focuses on girls' fiction. . . . A brilliant series of readings."—Diane Purkiss, *Times Literary Supplement*

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #714850 in Books
- Published on: 2009-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.10" w x 6.00" l, 1.21 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

 [Download Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer Bibliography.pdf](#)

 [Read Online Children's Literature: A Reader's Hist ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer

Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The erudite Lerer, whose *Inventing English* (2007) was enthusiastically reviewed in these pages, has now undertaken an ambitious, one-volume history of children's literature. He begins in classical antiquity and ends with the salutary likes of *Weetzie Bat* (1989) and the *Time Warp Trio*, giving particular attention along the way—he being a philologist—to the language of literature, whether critical or narrative. Always in search of large ideas and overarching themes, he has what many may find an annoying tendency to pronounce (“The book now ends with bedtime—as all great children's stories really do”) and to presume his reader's tacit agreement, offering far too many propositions beginning “How can we not . . .” Nevertheless, Lerer does an extraordinary job of expanding our understanding of individual titles by richly contextualizing them in the world of their creation and stimulates readers' imaginations by some surprising juxtapositions (Darwin and Dr. Seuss!). Though the book's principal audience will be an academic one, general readers will find much of interest here as well. --Michael Cart

Review

“Lerer's Olympian survey of more than 2,000 years leaves the reader with a stimulating vision of history. . . . His narrative swells and ebbs like a symphony. . . . To find *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Weetzie Bat* in a single volume is itself a pleasure.”

(Michael Sims *Washington Post Book World* 2008-05-11)

“Lerer has accomplished something magical. Unlike the many handbooks to children's literature that synopsise, evaluate, or otherwise guide adults in the selection of materials for children, this work presents a true critical history of the genre. . . . Scholarly, erudite, and all but exhaustive, it is also entertaining and accessible. Lerer takes his subject seriously without making it dull.”

(*Library Journal* (starred review) 2008-05-15)

“Lerer's history reminds us of the wealth of literature written during the past 2,600 years. . . . With his vast and multidimensional knowledge of literature, he underscores the vital role it plays in forming a child's imagination. We are made, he suggests, by the books we read.”

(*San Francisco Chronicle* 2008-07-06)

“There is hardly a children's classic, from *Robinson Crusoe* to *Where the Wild Things Are* to pop-up books, which [Lerer] does not discuss with sympathy and wit.”

(Eric Ormsby *New York Sun*)

“There are dazzling chapters on John Locke and Empire, and nonsense, and Darwin, but Lerer's most interesting chapter focuses on girls' fiction. In a brilliant series of readings, he uncovers a preoccupation with

theatricality in classic fiction for girls, from the melodramatic conduct of Anne of Green Gables to Jo March's career as dramatist."

(Diane Purkiss *Times Literary Supplement* 2009-01-02)

"A history of children's literature is . . . a history of literature itself and Seth Lerer, by training a medieval philologist like J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, has written a very good one."

(Jonathan Bate *Sunday Telegraph* 2008-08-24)

"A dazzling cornucopia of erudition and originality on a subject of grave concern in twenty-first century U.S. education and culture. Every page of Seth Lerer's brilliant book reminds us of the supreme and enduring value of childhood reading. This volume deserves the attention of all who care about the shaping of lives—educators on all levels, policy makers, psychologists, and parents, as well as scholars. Lerer writes that children's literature is meant 'docere et delectare' (to instruct and to delight), and this is precisely what he himself has done in this fascinating book."

(Ellen Handler Spitz, University of Maryland, author of *Inside Picture Books* 2007-12-11)

"A wonderful book, with remarkable temporal breadth in its vision of the children's tradition. Highly effective as a work of synthesis, yet with many, many moments of originality and surprise, even for expert readers. Anyone engaged (whether as scholar, educator, even 'simply' as parent) with the psychic life of children will have much to learn from Lerer's account."

(Katie Trumpener, Yale University 2007-09-19)

"A breathtakingly powerful and complex history of children's literature that energizes rather than depletes. Lerer gives us the facts, but he also weaves experiences and stories into an account that moves in registers ranging from the ecstatic to the elegiac. An ideal guide for students new to the field of children's literature as well as for scholars familiar with the territory."

(Maria Tatar, Harvard University 2007-12-27)

"Seth Lerer's *Children's Literature: A Reader's History from Aesop to Harry Potter* is unique in its method, depth, and breadth. Lerer's comprehensive knowledge of ancient and medieval literature serves him well, for he has a singular understanding of how vernacular literature originated and informed literature for children and adults and how children's literature informed the construction of both childhood and adult readers. It is a joy to read his study because one can sense a serious and sensitive mind at work, seeking to chart a new path through the history of children's literature. Lerer mixes his personal reading experience with an astute scholarly appreciation of literary reception, and the result is an original study that will contribute to a greater awareness of the profundity of children's literature."

(Jack Zipes, University of Minnesota 2007-12-27)

"Splendidly well written, and both wide-ranging and comprehensive."
(*Choice*)

"It's a thick scholarly tome, but also a charming read that revels in children's imaginations and the timeless

works that stimulate them. . . . The book's main attraction is its obvious delight in the subject matter: Lerer perfectly captures the love of literature that follows a voracious child reader into adulthood."

(Rachael Scarborough King *New Haven Review*)

"Lerer makes some smart, timely arguments. Opening up a too-constricted definition of children's literature is a crucial corrective;

anyone who studies children before the twentieth century already knows that children read and were influenced by far more than so-called children's books. It is high time that children's literary histories acknowledged and analyzed those materials."

(*International Research in Children's Literature*)

"Lerer has so many unusual insights, and illuminating observations that anyone who loved reading as a child will find his book utterly absorbing."

(Christina Hardymen *BBC History Magazine*)

"*Children's Literature* will make many people reconsider, re-evaluate, and perhaps re-engage with the body of writing that has been generated for the young over the centuries. . . . A well-written and entertaining book."

(Kimberley Reynolds *MLR*)

About the Author

Seth Lerer is dean of arts and humanities at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of many books, including *Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language*, and the editor of several collections, including *The Yale Companion to Chaucer*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Whetstone:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter book is readable simply by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer of Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter content conveys objective easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different available as it. So , do you continue to thinking Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Jose Suh:

This book untitled Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter to be one of several books which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it by using online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, because you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

Donald Lester:

Do you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't ascertain book by its deal with may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not seeing that fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer can be Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter why because the amazing cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly guide you to pick up this book.

Edna Barnett:

Beside this Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter in your phone, it might give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or facts. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh in the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an aged people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you occasionally have book but you seldom get what it's facts concerning. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this inside your hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss the idea? Find this book and read it from right now!

Download and Read Online Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer
#T0Z5RJPXD2U

Read Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer for online ebook

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer books to read online.

Online Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer ebook PDF download

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer Doc

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer Mobipocket

Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer EPub

T0Z5RJPXD2U: Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter By Seth Lerer