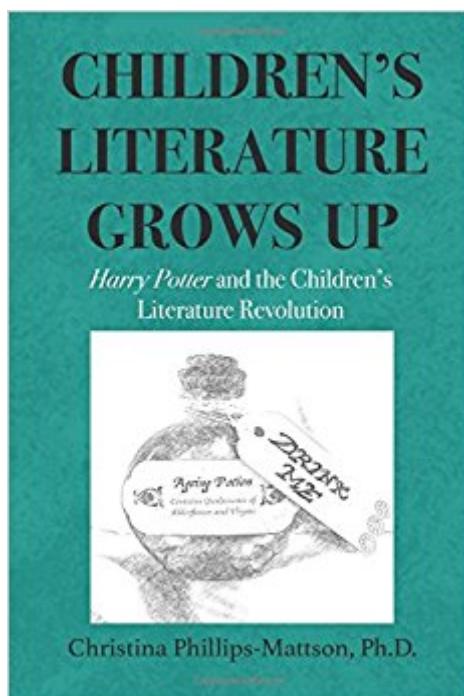


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# Children's Literature Grows Up: Harry Potter And The Children's Literature Revolution



## Synopsis

âœChildren know such a lot now,â • Peter Pan once told us. A century later, in the Age of Information, they know even more. So shouldnâ™t their literature rise up to meet them? Isnâ™t it time for childrenâ™s literature to grow up? First conceived as her doctoral dissertation at Harvard University, with this extensive examination of J. K. Rowlingâ™s series, Christina Phillips-Mattson argues that with the Harry Potter books we witness the beginning of a new era of childrenâ™s literature. Marking a departure from casual handbooks to the Harry Potter series, Phillips-Mattson provides the reader with a scholarly examination of Rowlingâ™s novelsâ "as well as other contemporary fictions for children by such novelists as Philip Pullman, Lemony Snicket, Catherynne Valente, and Neil Gaimanâ" that is also entertaining and accessible. In order to demonstrate that contemporary fictions for children are as complex, multifaceted, and worthy of serious academic inquiry as adult literature, Phillips-Mattson takes the reader on an exciting journey through a highly detailed history of childrenâ™s literature and shows us how Rowlingâ™s novels belong to a rich and varied literary tradition by placing Harry Potter alongside Greek mythology, classic fairy tales, Golden Age texts like Alice in Wonderland and Peter Pan, Jane Austenâ™s Emma and Pride and Prejudice, Vladimir Nabokovâ™s Lolita, and Geoffrey Chaucerâ™s The Canterbury Tales. Employing the criticism of Henry James, T.S. Eliot, and Virginia Woolf, Phillips-Mattson responds to Rowlingâ™s detractors and provides evidence of Rowlingâ™s stylistic sophistication and complex narrative structure that underwrite the believability of her characters and her fictional world. An engaging, thought-provoking read for scholars, teachers, general readers of childrenâ™s literature, and Harry Potter enthusiasts, Childrenâ™s Literature Grows Up includes fascinating new research on spell language, intertextuality, moral agency, and psychological realism.

## Book Information

Paperback: 310 pages

Publisher: Independently published (July 26, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1521941203

ISBN-13: 978-1521941201

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #238,054 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in Books > Literature &

## Customer Reviews

This is a great book - the section on the history of children's literature and the phases that it has gone through was really interesting, and as a Harry Potter fan I also appreciated the in-depth analysis of the series (especially the parts on Jane Austen and how Rowling drew upon classic texts in her writing). I'm excited to read some of the other series referenced in the book - i'd almost forgotten how great a lot of "children's" literature is!

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