





Introduction To Children's Literature


SUB: INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (PG 2)

BY : FARAH FAISAL

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- ▶ Children's literature is also known as Juvenile Literature.
 - ▶ Includes stories, books, magazines and poems that are made for children.
 - ▶ Before the advent of printing it was difficult to trace the beginning of Children's literature.
 - ▶ Mostly it was oral.
 - ▶ Earlier children's tales were written for adults.
 - ▶ During the 15th century it got adapted to younger generation.
 - ▶ Earlier there did not exist a concept of literature therefore no children's books also.
 - ▶ The concept of childhood is relatively a new development.

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- ▶ It is less than 200 years old.
 - ▶ Reason for lack of Children's literature is the absence of concept of childhood explicates Philippe Aries in his " Centuries of Childhood".
 - ▶ From middle ages to 17th century there existed a different view of childhood dominated.
 - ▶ During the middle ages the child was not perceived as an entity distinct from the adult.
 - ▶ Not recognised as having special needs.
 - ▶ There was a lack of established educational system for children.
 - ▶ Lack of health care and increased death rate.
 - ▶ People are married at a very young age.

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- ▶ In the upper class society, children were actively participating in the society.
 - ▶ In the lower class, they helped to earn livelihood.
 - ▶ Children were just the miniature form of adults.
 - ▶ Wore miniature clothes of adults.
 - ▶ Philippe gives instances of paintings of baby Jesus in middle ages and 17th century and how serious face shifted to one of innocence.
 - ▶ After a while children came to be an amusement for adults often called to the parlour to play tricks.
 - ▶ But moralists and church missionaries opposed this and brought in a complete new concept of childhood with special needs and care.

Need for Children' s literature

- ▶ Foundational pathways for a child's languagr development and aquisition.
- ▶ Make senes of the world around them as they grow.
- ▶ Valuable insights to human conditions
- ▶ Shapes worldview.
- ▶ Develops imagination.
- ▶ Learns to question the adultways.
- ▶ Exposure to different cultures .
- ▶ Pictorial narratives are important in early readers.

Basic facts.

- ▶ Adult sensibilities conveyed through cartoons and literature.
- ▶ Psychological impact of representation on children.
- ▶ Today representations are more violent especially in cartoons, animated movies and video games.
- ▶ Use of different narrative strategies.
- ▶ CL helps in inculcating curiosity and scientific temperament in children.
- ▶ Children have their own perspectives.
- ▶ Childhood experiences have huge and longlasting effect on them as adults.