



Children's Literature in Action: A Librarian's Guide (Library and Information Science Text)

By Sylvia M. Vardell

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An introduction to children's literature, an activity-oriented survey of books which should be in your library, focused on librarians with practical applications for librarians to share books with children, plans for book-based programs, and ways to collaborate with teachers and families in sharing books with children. Help is given for the selection and sharing of books in each genre. Each chapter has brief insets of author comments, collaborative activities, featured books, special topics and activities, selected awards and celebrations, historical connections, recommended resources, issues for discussion, and assignment suggestions.

The author, a former President of the U.S. Board on Books for Young People, has written an affordable text especially for school and children's librarians and faculty teaching both undergraduate and graduate students who are studying to be school and children's librarians. While similar texts on this subject are designed for teachers, this is an activities-oriented survey of children's literature written especially for students seeking licensure and degrees leading to careers working with children in schools and public libraries. All the pieces are there?the explanations of the genres, introductions to authors and illustrations, and the use of specific titles with their audiences?and the literature is carefully linked to active practice in libraries. Chapters are enriched by brief insets of authors' comments, collaborative activities, selected awards and celebrations, historical connections, recommended resources, issues for discussion, and assignment suggestions.

The framework for this text adds a layer of practical application in every chapter for the librarian who shares books with children, plans book-based programs, and collaborates with teachers and families in sharing books and developing literature-based instruction. What does a librarian need to know about how to select and share books in each genre? What are the usual promotion and collaboration activities associated with each genre? This book answers those questions while maintaining its focus on literature for children. Embedded in a

genre approach to literature, it has a unique focus on the librarian or future librarian.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

This excellent introduction to children's literature and its various genres and forms offers many activities and practical applications. Each chapter includes "Action" components that highlight literature, authors, specific book titles, or history. While varying in scope, these actions all help public librarians and school media specialists become familiar with the literature. This volume will build confidence in their ability to offer the best possible ways in which to link literature with active practices in school and public libraries and ultimately be able to find that "just right" book for their young patrons. It also includes evaluation criteria, writing reviews, collection development of various genres, awards, and other programs of merit as well as additional information in numerous bibliographies and lists of recommended reading and Web sites. The book will be especially useful for students studying to be youth-service librarians and school media specialists, but experienced librarians will find fresh ideas here, too.—*Renee McGrath, Nassau Library System, Uniondale, NY*

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From [Booklist](#)

Written as a text for undergraduate and graduate courses, this guide is full of practical information for the about-to-be school or public librarian. Its activity-oriented approach to children's literature gives the student a survey of several genres plus ways to use both current and classic books with young patrons in grades K–6. The introductory chapter offers a general overview of children's literature and is designed to be read carefully. Each succeeding chapter covers one genre, with several action components. These include commentary by practicing librarians; commentary by authors and illustrators, with a focus on one of their works; historical perspective; and diverse and creative assignments for the reader to do. Excellent lists of related resources are included for each genre, as are evaluation criteria with sample reviews. Lists of professional references and books cited complete the work. --Shelley Glantz

Review

"Sylvia M. Vardell provides a comprehensive guide to sharing picture books, poetry, fiction, fantasy, and information books with children. This reference resource also includes collaborative activities; lists of recommended Web sites, blogs, and professional resources; and selected book awards and celebrations." - **Book Links**

"...this book provides practical suggestions on selecting children's books for school and public libraries and conducting book-based programs for children." - **Children's Literature Association Quarterly**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robin Millard:

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Elton Williams:

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Larisa Nagle:

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Donald Edmond:

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