

CALL FOR PAPERS
Children's Literature Society
American Literature Association
29th Annual Conference
May 24-27, 2018

Hyatt Regency San Francisco
5 Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA

Panel 1:

Disrupting Morality in Children's Literature. In the 1800s Maria Edgeworth noted the difficulty of constructing stories 'suited to the early years of youth, and, at the same time, conformable to the complicate relations of modern society.' Children of 2018, a 'rising generation' of remarkably sophisticated individuals, face a startling array of challenges. In a great many ways, we have seen a new "moral literature" develop for children—stories that address science and technology, multiculturalism, diversity (gender, family, socio-economics), and re-envisioning history so that marginalized peoples and their narratives are addressed. How does contemporary children's and young adult literature "amuse and instruct" or otherwise communicate moral reasoning in an age of disruption? In what ways has the change in the construction of childhood influenced narratives? What roles do play, learning, obedience, behavior, and creativity have in today's narratives, counter-narratives, anti-narratives, multi-narratives, and speculative narratives?

Please include academic rank and affiliation and AV requests

Please send abstracts or proposals (around 300 words) by January 10, 2018 to Dorothy Clark (Dorothy.g.clark@csun.edu), Linda Salem (lsalem@mail.sdsu.edu)

Panel 2:

Empathy, Affect, and Friendship in Children's Literature. Whether people talk about their own experiences of childhood friendship or lack of friendship and sense of isolation, the concepts of friendship, social acceptance and rejection play a powerful role in childhood and are a perennial theme in children's literature. Where is comfort, compassion, affirmation or information about social isolation or connection in today's literature? How do modern writers convey and express common human emotions of love, fear, anger, hate, and sadness in this effort to affect the child reader? And, do these reflect the changing construction of childhood as well as the deepening expansion of children's literature into the domains of multiculturalism, diversity, and socio-economics? Examples continue in multiple media--from such dynamic texts as *The Recess Queen* and Jacqueline Woodson's *Each Kindness* to the recent megapopular

television series *Stranger Things* that defines friendship with rules like "friends don't lie" as a requisite for belonging to a group—friendship continues to be a central site of reflection in Children's Literature.

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