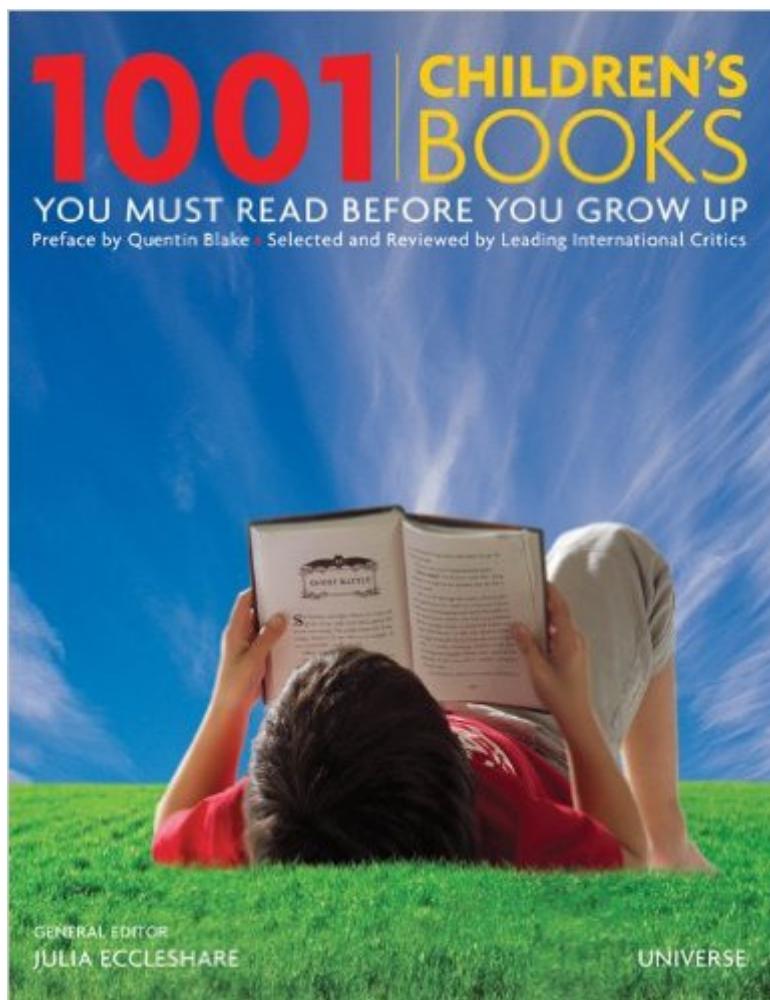


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1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up



Synopsis

This is the best and most authoritative guide to classic and contemporary childrenâ™s literature today. It is the latest in the best-selling 1001 series, and its informative reviews are the key to differentiating the "must-read" books from all the rest in the realm of childrenâ™s books. Whether you are a parent seeking to instill a love of reading in your child, an educator or counselor looking for inspiration, or a young reader with a voracious appetite, this guide to the best writing for children and young adults covers the spectrum of childrenâ™s literature. It is organized by age groupâ™ from board books to YA novels and all the gradations in between. Each entry features evaluations by a team of international critics complete with beautifully reproduced artwork from the featured title. The beloved classics are here, but the guide also takes a global perspective and includes the increasingly diverse contributions from African American and Latino authors and illustratorsâ™ not to mention important books from around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a children's book collector (fiction, not picture books), I snapped this book up the moment I saw it. The good - it reviews many wonderful children's books, including quite a number that are in danger of disappearing from memory. The 8+ section of the book contains many of the best children's books ever written, including The Phantom Tollbooth, Haroun and the Sea of Stories, Charlotte Sometimes, Tom's Midnight Garden, The Neverending Story (the REAL story, not the dreadful movie), and many others. Thank you to the authors - I hadn't realised my copy of From the

Mixed-Up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler was missing and have now replaced it, just as my 8 year old daughter is old enough to love it. The somewhat disappointing - there are books reviewed that I would LOVE to read, but as I don't read in French, Swedish, Japanese or Finnish that pleasure is unlikely to come my way. Other reviewers may bemoan the anglo-bias of this collection, but I bemoan the inclusion of books in an English publication that can't be read in English! The not so good - the omissions. A Candle in her Room, When Marnie was There, Summer of my German Soldier, The Great Gilly Hopkins, People Might Hear You ... just looking through one of the first shelves of books near me I can see some glaring omissions. (Yes, I know, there is a whole history of children's literature and only 1001 books that can be included!) Then, too, there are some books that are not really children's books at all. When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit is a children's book and an excellent example of a book to introduce a dark period of history to an older child (say, 10 or so). However, Watership Down is not a children's book - as I can attest vigorously, having read it to terrifying effect as a child.

I have always loved children's literature and have been collecting editions of favorite titles for some years now. Since I have a five-year-old child, I find myself enjoying children's literature even more, as I get to share favorite classics with her whilst also discovering new authors. I like the quote attributed to Children's Laureate Michael Rosen in the Introduction, "I think of children's books as not so much for children, but as the filling that goes between the child world and the adult world. One way or another, all children's books have to negotiate that space." I think this beautifully sums up the essence of children's literature, and of the blurry lines between the adult world and the children's world, and how these lines change over time. For example, some works deemed inappropriate for children years ago, may be considered quite tame by today's standards. The book itself has an index of titles at the beginning, which is arranged alphabetically. This is then followed with the 1001 list of children's books, organized in terms of age appropriateness (suggested age group, really), beginning with 0-3, 3+, 5+, 8+, and finally, 12+. At the end of the book there is an index by author/illustrator and a compilation of featured reviewers and picture credits (as far as possible, an attempt has been made to feature the first edition covers in the original language of publication). The book does not only contain children's books written in English, but a host of titles written in foreign languages such as French, Danish, German, and the Asian languages. This gives the book a universal appeal, though I imagine some of the foreign titles may be difficult to procure, especially if one is looking for English translations of these works.

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