

**RL 1200 Children's Literature**  
**RL 5300 Advanced Children's and Young Adult Literature**

**SOME BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES**  
**FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE:**  
**AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS, AND CHARACTERS**

**I. Index to Biographical Sources**

Nakamura, Joyce (ed.). CHILDREN'S AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS: AN INDEX TO BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES. 5th ed. Gale, 1995. (REF PN1009 .A1 C463 1995)

This is an index to biographical information citing over 200,000 biographies of approximately 30,000 persons found in 650 reference books. Consulting this source is the most efficient way to identify many books which have biographical information on a particular children's author or illustrator.

**II. General Biographical Sources**

A. CHILDREN'S LITERATURE REVIEW: EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS, CRITICISM, AND COMMENTARY ON BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. Gale, 1976 - , vol. 1 - . (REF PN1009 .A1 C5139)

Although, as the subtitle indicates, the scope of this series is broader than just biographical information, each entry begins with biographical facts and a portrait of the author or illustrator. Since the biographical information is more extensive than that in many other sources, and given the large number of volumes in this series (the latest volume of which includes a cumulative index to the set), this is a good place to begin a search for information about a children's author or illustrator.

B. Cullinan, Bernice E. and Diane G. Person (eds.). THE CONTINUUM ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. Continuum, 2001. (REF PN1009 .A1 C66 2001)

Includes 1,200 biographical-critical entries and nearly 100 topical articles written by experts in the field. LIBRARY JOURNAL called this "the most comprehensive basic reference work on children's literature currently available". The work covers 150 years of children's literature in many cultures.

C. Cullinan, Bernice E., et al. (eds.). THE CONTINUUM ENCYCLOPEDIA OF YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE. Continuum, 2005. (REF PN1009 .A1 C656 2005)

Includes 900 biographical-critical entries on young adult authors and approximately 95 topical articles.

D. Cummins, Julie (ed.). CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION AND DESIGN. 2 vols. PBC International, 1992-98. (REF NC965 .C43 1992)

These beautifully-produced books are "a showcase of outstanding contemporary children's book illustration" [from book jacket] Volume 1 presents the work of more than 80 acclaimed illustrators of children's picture books; volume 2 includes over 50 children's book illustrators.

E. CYCLOPEDIA OF YOUNG ADULT AUTHORS. 3 vols. Salem Press, 2005. (REF PN1009 .A1 C93 2005)

Includes profiles of 251 young adult authors.



- F. **ILLUSTRATORS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS.** Horn Book, 1947-1978. (REF NC965 .M59)  
 The four titles in this series (listed below) constitute what is probably the definitive historical series on illustrators of children's literature. Each includes a discussion of the development of illustration for children as well as biographies of artists and illustrators.
1. Mahony, Bertha E. *et al.* **ILLUSTRATORS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 1744-1945.** Horn Book, 1947. (REF NC965 .M59)
  2. Viguers, Ruth Hill *et al.* **ILLUSTRATORS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 1946-1956.** Horn Book, 1958. (REF NC965 .M59 Suppl. 1946-56)
  3. Kingman, Lee *et al.* **ILLUSTRATORS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 1957-1966.** Horn Book, 1968. (REF NC965 .M59 Suppl. 1957-66)
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ **ILLUSTRATORS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 1967-1976.** Horn Book, 1978. (REF NC965 .M59 Suppl. 1967-76)
- G. Kutzer, M. Daphne (ed.). **WRITERS OF MULTICULTURAL FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS: A BIO-CRITICAL SOURCEBOOK.** Greenwood Press, 1996. (REF PS374 .Y57 W75 1996)  
 Includes 51 alphabetically-arranged entries about writers of multicultural fiction for young adults. Each entry consists of biographical information, an overview of the author's major young adult works, a section on the critical reception of the author's writings, a bibliography of works by the author, and a selected bibliography of criticism.
- H. Marantz, Sylvia and Kenneth Marantz. **ARTISTS OF THE PAGE: INTERVIEWS WITH CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS.** McFarland, 1992. (REF NC965 .M34 1992)  
 Interviews with 29 illustrators of children's books. Included with each is a sampling of the illustrator's works in print and a photograph (or self-portrait) of the illustrator.
- I. McElmeel, Sharron L. **100 MOST POPULAR CHILDREN'S AUTHORS: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES.** Libraries Unlimited, 1999. (REF PN1009 .A1 M387 1999)
- J. McElmeel, Sharron L. **100 MOST POPULAR PICTURE BOOK AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES.** Libraries Unlimited, 2000. (REF PN1009 .A1 M386 2000)
- K. Murphy, Barbara Thrash and Deborah Murphy. **BLACK AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS OF BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS.** 4th ed. Routledge, 2007. (REF PN1009 .A1 M876 2007)  
 Includes biographies of 230 authors and artists, with nearly 200 photographs of the subjects.
- L. **MYTH, MAGIC, AND MYSTERY: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF AMERICAN CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION.** Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1996. (Oversize NC975 .M97 1996)  
 Created as part of a nationwide, touring exhibit beginning at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia in June, 1996. Contains an introductory essay and four other lengthy essays on the history of American children's book illustration. Includes over 230 illustrations, some full page. Also contains a complete 10-page "alphabet" created from a variety of classic ABC books.
- M. Rockman, Connie C. (ed.). **THE TENTH BOOK OF JUNIOR AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS.** H.W. Wilson, 2008. (REF PN1009 .A1 T46 2008)  
 This series has the author or illustrator write his or her own biographical entry (when possible). The entries usually have a picture of the subject. Over 1500 individuals are included in this series. Latest volume has cumulative index to all volumes in the series. (Note: Since the various books in this series have different editors, they are not together on the shelf. Check LOLA for specific call numbers. The first and second volumes in this series are entitled **THE JUNIOR BOOK OF AUTHORS** and **MORE JUNIOR AUTHORS**, respectively.)



- N. Silvey, Anita (ed.). **CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND THEIR CREATORS**. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. (REF PN1009 .A1 C54 1995)  
 Focuses on authors and themes of 20th century children's literature, with an emphasis on the last 50 years. More than 800 alphabetically-arranged entries, most of which are biographical, including 75 autobiographical essays from authors and illustrators. Also includes more than 60 essays on various aspects of children's literature. Has more than 175 color and black-and-white illustrations.
- O. \_\_\_\_\_ . **ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND THEIR CREATORS**. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. (REF PN1009 .A1 C54 2002)  
 Includes 375 entries selected and updated from the 1995 volume (above). Alphabetically-arranged entries are of three types: biographies, overviews of history, issues, and genres; and "Voices of the Creators" -- notes about their work written by 30 of the "finest" authors and illustrators.
- P. **SOMETHING ABOUT THE AUTHOR: AUTOBIOGRAPHY SERIES**. Gale, 1986 - 1998, vol. 1 - 26. (REF PN1009 .A1 S5642)  
 This series contains lengthy autobiographical essays by selected authors and illustrators of children's books. The latest volume has a cumulative index for the set. Series is no longer published; last volume is volume 26 (1998).
- Q. **SOMETHING ABOUT THE AUTHOR: FACTS AND PICTURES ABOUT AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS OF BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**. Gale, 1971 - , vol. 1 - . (REF PN1009 .A1 S564)  
 This extensive series is written especially for use by children. Each entry has a picture of the subject and often illustrations from books by the author or illustrator. The author's or illustrator's mailing address is also usually included. It is an on-going series, with a new volume appearing approximately every year. A cumulative index is now included in every other volume.
- R. **ST. JAMES GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S WRITERS**. 5th ed. St. James Press, 1999. (REF PN1009 .A1 T9 1999)  
 Short biographies of over 600 contemporary authors. Earlier editions were titled **TWENTIETH-CENTURY CHILDREN'S WRITERS**. Each entry consists of a biography, a complete list of published works, and a signed critical essay. Includes a "Nationality Index". Biographies of writers for young adults are included in a separate volume.
- S. **ST. JAMES GUIDE TO YOUNG ADULT WRITERS**. 2nd ed. St. James Press, 1999. (REF PN1009 .A1 T92 1999)  
 New edition of a work formerly titled **TWENTIETH-CENTURY YOUNG ADULT WRITERS**. Includes biographical, bibliographical, and critical information on almost 500 authors.
- T. Stevens, Jen. **THE UNDERGRADUATE'S COMPANION TO CHILDREN'S WRITERS AND THEIR WEB SITES**. Libraries Unlimited, 2004. (REF PN1009 .A1 S738 2004)  
 A bibliography of information on 185 British and American writers, including Web sites, and entries referring you to biographies and criticism.
- U. Zipes, Jack (ed.). **THE OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**. 4 vols. Oxford University Press, 2006. (REF PN1009 .A1 O93 2006)  
 -- "the first multi-volume set to document and interpret the books read by children in the English-speaking world"; includes 3,200 signed articles and more than 400 illustrations

### III. DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY Volumes on Children's Authors

The volumes in this series which provide information on American children's authors are listed below in order of the time period covered. The signed critical essays on the authors included in these volumes would be the most extensive of any of the reference sources listed on this bibliography. Each entry also includes a bibliography of the author's published works and a list of references. Note: There are also several separate volumes on British children's writers.



- A. Estes, Glenn E. (ed.). AMERICAN WRITERS FOR CHILDREN BEFORE 1900. Gale, 1985. (REF PS490 .A44 1985)
- B. Cech, John (ed.). AMERICAN WRITERS FOR CHILDREN, 1900-1960. Gale, 1983. (REF PS490 .A43 1983)
- C. Estes, Glenn E. (ed.). AMERICAN WRITERS FOR CHILDREN SINCE 1960: FICTION. Gale, 1986. (REF PS490 .A452 1986b)
- D. Estes, Glenn E. (ed.). AMERICAN WRITERS FOR CHILDREN SINCE 1960: POETS, ILLUSTRATORS, AND NONFICTION AUTHORS. Gale, 1987. (REF PS490 .A45 1987)
- E. Khorana, Meena (ed.). BRITISH CHILDREN'S WRITERS, 1800-1880. Gale, 1996. (REF PR990 .B747 1996)
- F. Hettinga, Donald R. and Gary D. Schmidt (eds.). BRITISH CHILDREN'S WRITERS, 1914-1960. Gale, 1996. (REF PR990 .B75 1996)
- G. Hunt, Caroline C. (ed.). BRITISH CHILDREN'S WRITERS SINCE 1960. First Series. Gale, 1996. (REF PR990 .B753 1996)

#### IV. Character Biographies

- A. Fisher, Margery. WHO'S WHO IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS: A TREASURY OF THE FAMILIAR CHARACTERS OF CHILDHOOD. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1975. (REF PN1009 .A1 F575)  
Useful in finding information about fictional characters in children's books published prior to 1975. Arranged alphabetically by the character's name and the work in which it appears, with a description of the attributes and activities of each character. Each entry also includes the author and a list of works in which the character appears.
- B. Gillespie, John T. and Corinne J. Naden. CHARACTERS IN YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE. Gale, 1997. (REF PN1009 .A1 G54 1997)  
Contains discussions of over 2,000 characters from 232 literary works by 148 authors, primarily from English-speaking nations. Includes character and title index.
- C. Helbig, Alethea and Agnes Regan Perkins. DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN CHILDREN'S FICTION. 5 vols. Greenwood Press, 1985-2002. (REF PS374 .C454 H45)  
The first volume of this series covers books published from 1859-1959; the second, books published 1960-1984; the third, books published 1985-1989; the fourth, books published 1990-1994; the fifth, books published 1995-1999. The brief entries in these volumes are arranged in a dictionary format, listing in one alphabet subjects, authors, illustrators, titles, and names of characters. There is a detailed index in each volume.
- D. Jones, Raymond E. CHARACTERS IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. Gale, 1997. (REF PN1009 .A1 J66 1997)  
Critical introductions to more than 1700 characters from 230 works of fiction. The selected titles come from both the 19th and 20th centuries. The entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's name, and each entry includes a plot synopsis, an analysis of the characters, and a list of works for further reading. There is a Character and Title Index.

Compiled by Gary McCool, revised September, 2009

