# Sources of Information on Children's and Young Adult Literature

Compiled by Gary McCool  
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I. Guides to Sources on Children’s and Young Adult Literature


II. Reviews of and Articles about Children's and Young Adult Literature

A. Reference Set – More than 200 volumes now online

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE REVIEW: EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS, CRITICISM, AND COMMENTARY ON BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. Gale, 1976 – present. NOTE: This entire set is now available in full text online via the Literature Criticism Online database from the Lamson Library Home Page (under “Library Databases”). Broader than just biographical information, each entry also includes excerpts from reviews and literary criticism. Organized mainly by author’s name. 203 volumes as of January, 2016.

B. Databases for Articles

1. ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER. Database from EBSCOhost; connect from Library Home Page: click on “Library Databases” (under basic search box), then click on “Academic Search Premier”. To find book reviews of a particular title, type in title of book (within quotation marks) and, under “Document Type”, select “Book Review”. To find articles on children’s literature, search for “children’s literature” as a SUBJECT and combine with any other term(s) of interest. This database indexes over 8,500 periodicals, and provides the full text for many of the articles.

2. ERIC. (world’s largest education database; connect as indicated above under Academic Search Premier.)

C. Key Periodicals and Annuals (check “Journals” icon on Library Home Page for holdings)

1. BOOK LINKS. Bimonthly. (bibliographies, essays linking books on a similar theme, retrospective reviews, activities) – Note: Also available in full text electronically via the Academic Search Premier database from 2-1-2002 to the present (with a 14-day delay).

2. BOOKLIST. Semi-monthly, except once in August. (brief reviews) – Note: Also available in full text electronically via the Academic Search Premier database from 2-1-2002 to the present (with a 14-day delay).

3. BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS. Monthly, except August. (reviews) – Note: Also available in full text electronically from Johns Hopkins Press (via Project Muse database) from Vol. 59 (2005) to present. To access, click “Journals” icon on Library Home Page, type in title of journal and hit Enter.

5. CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN EDUCATION. Quarterly. (scholarly articles) – Note: Also available in full text electronically via the Academic Search Premier database, from 9-1-1993 to the present (with a 12-month delay).

6. THE HORN BOOK GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS. Vol. 1 - , 1990 - . Semiannual (February and September). (REF PN1009 .A1 H67) -- includes brief reviews of all published child lit. titles in each six-month period

7. THE HORN BOOK MAGAZINE. Bi-monthly. (articles and reviews) – Note: Also available in full text electronically via the Academic Search Premier database from 7-1-1990 to present. To access, click “Journals” icon on Library Home Page.

8. SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL. Monthly, September through May. (articles and brief reviews) – Note: Also available in full text electronically via the Academic Search Premier database from 9-1-1974 to present. To access, use “Journals” icon on Library Home Page.

III. General Lists of Recommended Books (Note: For specific age levels, subjects, or formats, see V. below)

NOTE: Several online databases, available from the Library Home Page, will allow you to create specialized lists of children’s and young adult books that match a variety of criteria you may select, such as fiction or nonfiction, genre, reading or age level. These databases are: Children’s Core Collection, Middle and Junior High Core Collection, and Senior High Core Collection.


IV. Newbery and Caldecott Award-Winning Books


   -- includes tips for using Newbery Medal winners in the classroom; see Ammon (above) for Newbery Medal winners, 1980-1989.

V. Selecting Books for Special Needs

A. Special Problems/Needs/Issues


   -- includes strategies for using books to explore sensitive issues

B. Primary Level (Gr. PS - 3)


   -- best place to start for recommended children’s books, grades PS-6; includes over 26,000 titles


8. Kirk, Connie Ann. **COMPANION TO AMERICAN CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOKS.** Greenwood Press, 2005. (REF PN1009 .A1 K57 2005) -- more than 400 entries on authors, illustrators, works, and special topics; includes plot summaries


C. **Intermediate/Junior High Level (Gr. 4 - 9)**


11. HIT LIST FOR CHILDREN 2: FREQUENTLY CHALLENGED BOOKS. American Library Assoc., 2002. – eBook only


D. Senior High Level


   -- a major set on young adult literature; discusses individual titles in detail; each entry includes the following sections: about the author, overview, setting, themes & characters, literary qualities, social sensitivity, topics for discussion, ideas for reports and papers, related titles/adaptations, for further reference
   -- vols. 1-3: mainstream novels, short story collections, historical novels, classics, biographies, autobiographies, nonfiction
   -- vol. 4: science fiction, adventure, epics, myths, mysteries
   -- vol. 5: fantasy, gothic novels
   -- vols. 6-8: novels, biographies, autobiographies, and other nonfiction publ. since 1980
   -- vol. 9: contemporary fiction and non-fiction
   -- vols. 10-13: contemporary and classic works of fiction and non-fiction
   -- there is a thematic index in volumes 3, 4, 5, 8-13.


   -- includes approx. 900 biographical-critical entries on young adult authors and about 95 topical entries

   -- featuring 100 classic YA titles, grouped into 8 categories (e.g. teenage life & concerns, science fiction)


   -- an annotated list of titles grouped under different genres, such as: historical novels, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, adventure, romance

   -- uses thematic groupings of recent YA literature to link them with the twelve most frequently-taught classics


11. HIT LIST FOR YOUNG ADULTS 2: FREQUENTLY CHALLENGED BOOKS. American Library Assoc., 2002. – eBook only

revised edition.  (REF PN1009 .A1 W574 2011)  NOTE:  Newest ed. now available online from the 
Library Home Page.  From Databases list, choose “Senior High Core Collection”.

14. Trupe, Alice.  THEMATIC GUIDE TO YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE.  Greenwood Press, 

15. WHAT DO YOUNG ADULTS READ NEXT? A READER’S GUIDE TO FICTION FOR 
-- has entries for more than 5,000 books suited for Grades 6-12; includes indexes such as:  age level, time 
period, geographic setting; continued by title below

16. WHAT DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS READ NEXT? A READER’S GUIDE TO 
(REF PS374. C454 C62) have total entries for over 7,000 books Grades 1-8; have 10-12 specialized 
indexes, including: age level, time period, geographic setting, character description 
-- Vols. 5-6 (2002-2005) under new title WHAT DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS READ 
NEXT?  (REF PS374 .C454 C63) have total entries for more than 2,500 additional titles

E. Aging

1. Horner, Catherine Townsend.  THE AGING ADULT IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS & NONPRINT 
MEDIA.  Scarecrow Press, 1982.  (PN1009 .A1 H67)

F. Blacks  [see also sources listed below under “Multicultural”, V. N.]

(PN1009 .Z6 B7)

2. Casement, Rose.  BLACK HISTORY IN THE PAGES OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE. 

3. Kutenplon, Deborah and Ellen Olmstead.  YOUNG ADULT FICTION BY AFRICAN 

4. MacCann, Donnarae and Gloria Woodard (eds.).  THE BLACK AMERICAN IN BOOKS FOR 

(REF PN1009 .A1 T68 1999)  -- includes recommended titles grouped by age level

6. Williams, Helen E.  BOOKS BY AFRICAN - AMERICAN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS 
(REF PN1009 .A1 W54 1991)

G. Disabled

1. Blaska, Joan K.  USING CHILDREN’S LITERATURE TO LEARN ABOUT DISABILITIES & 
ILLNESS:  FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN. 


4. Follois, Alison M.G. REMARKABLE BOOKS ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. Huron Street Press, 2013. (REF PN1009 .A1 F65 2013) – also available as an eBook


H. Environment


I. Fantasy, Folklore, and Myths


J. Gifted Children


K. Hispanics

1. Naidoo, Jamie Campbell. CELEBRATING CUENTOS: PROMOTING LATINO CHILDREN’S LITERATURE AND LITERACY IN CLASSROOMS AND LIBRARIES. Libraries Unlimited, 2011. – eBook only


L. History/Historical Fiction


6. __________. WORLD HISTORICAL FICTION: AN ANNOTATED GUIDE TO NOVELS FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG ADULTS. Oryx Press, 1999. (REF PN3377.5 .H57 A325 1999) -- includes more than 6,000 titles; primary arrangement by area of the world, then by time periods within each area


M. Homosexuality


N. Multicultural


5. Dreyer. THE BOOKFINDER. (see V. A. 2. above) Use cumulative index in Vol. 3 under name of racial/ethnic groups; also indexes in Vols. 4 and 5.

6. Gates, Pamela S. and Dianne L. Hall Mark. CULTURAL JOURNEYS: MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS. Scarecrow Press, 2006. (PN1009.5 .M84 G38 2006) -- aimed at helping teachers understand how to use multicultural literature throughout the curriculum; includes examples of unit plans


   -- organized by geographic region (e.g., Sub-Sahara Africa) then by grade range


   -- organized by world region and country; includes descriptions of nearly 700 books representing more than 70 countries

   -- includes theme index recommending key titles for various subjects


   -- has culture index


O. Multimedia


   -- all titles listed in this source either won awards or were consistently well-reviewed

P. Native Americans [see also sources listed above under “Multicultural”, V. N., above]


   -- a book of critical reviews of children’s books about Native Americans; includes more than 600 books


Q. Reading Aloud

   -- “contains over 50 read-aloud plans for outstanding books to read to children in 1st and 2nd grades”


R. Science


8. Royce, Christine Anne, et al. TEACHING SCIENCE THROUGH TRADE BOOKS. National Science Teachers Assoc., 2012. – eBook only

S. Women (and Men)


VI. Using Children's and Young Adult Books in the Classroom


P. Matthew, Kathryn I. and Joy L. Lowe.  NEAL-SCHUMAN GUIDE TO RECOMMENDED CHILDREN’S BOOKS AND MEDIA FOR USE WITH EVERY ELEMENTARY SUBJECT. 2nd ed. Neal-Schuman, 2010.  (REF PN1009 .A1 M376 2010) – recommends more than 1,000 books, media, and Web sites within 8 major subject areas of the elementary school curriculum; also lists teacher/librarian resources.


T. Norton, Donna E.  THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD: AN INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN’S LITERATURE.  8th ed. Pearson, 2011.  (PN1009 .A1 N677 2011) -- good source of activities; 8th ed. references access to online database MyEducationKit (www.myeducationkit.com) for students and teachers using this as a text (general access may be purchased for $20.00). This database includes info on over 22,000 children’s literature titles.


VII. About Children's and Young Adult Literature

A. CHILDREN’S LITERATURE. Annual of the Modern Language Association Division on Children's Literature and the Children's Literature Association. vol. 1 - , 1972 - . (PN1009 .A1 C514) -- annual collection of scholarly articles; see this bibliography p. 2 for electronic full text availability


N. Spitz, Ellen Handler. INSIDE PICTURE BOOKS. Yale University Press, 1999. (BF456 .R2 S685 1999) -- takes up questions such as: “How do picture books shape our lives early on and even later into adulthood?” Discusses themes dealt with by well-known children’s books.


VIII. High Interest/Low Level Books


IX. Websites on Children’s and Young Adult Literature

For a large collection of Websites on Education compiled by Lamson Librarian Gary McCool, click on this URL: http://plymouth.v1.libguides.com/education?hs=a Then, “mouse over” the tab reading “Education Websites”. Here will be a group of active Websites on Education, listed under 26 topic headings. The total number of annotated Websites listed here amounts to about 13 pages of links. There is a section of Websites on “Children’s Literature”.