



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Valuing

The 2nd Biennial Children's Literature Symposium On Zoom

Thursday-Sunday, June 27-30, 2024
Hollins University, Roanoke, Virginia
Chaired by Lisa Rowe Fraustino

What do we value in our field? How do we define value? This interdisciplinary symposium will reflect on what matters to us and examine the challenges that undermine such values as equity, inclusion, and access to books. We invite explorations of the theme in every sense of the word.

We seek submissions from authors, illustrators, librarians, publishers, educators, and scholars in any discipline and from any ethnic, gender, or abled identity. Some possible questions for exploration include:

- How might interdisciplinary critical and creative approaches promote self-awareness of existing beliefs and biases?
- How are awards, bans, and censorship involved in the process of value-creation and value-development?
- How could we better support creatives who want to tell stories outside of their specific experiences and histories?
- How can we better assist translators, both those working as critics and as creators?
- How are values (of a book's creators, of society, etc.) revealed in illustrations? How can illustrators use the tools of their craft (design, medium, etc.) to help make more inclusive the values reflected in children's literature? How can editors and art directors make design decisions that contribute to this aim?
- What are the ways that different genres, forms, or styles might generate a sense of the "other"? How can readers consider their own values to disrupt embedded assumptions?
- How can we acknowledge and prioritize the values of a diversity of child readers?
- How can we confront our own bias as authors, illustrators, critics, and teachers?
- In what ways have we improved the representation of diversity in children's literature? Where do we still see gaps?
- How might narratives normalize or perpetuate biases by othering (dis)ability and neurodiversity?
- How can educators and librarians mediate conversations about the values in the books their students read, particularly in light of book bans, anti-Critical Race Theory policies, and other political and social pushback?
- How could we better support scholars working in English to research texts or theories not commonly translated into English? How might we address Anglocentricism while working in English?
- How might representations of animals or other nonhuman characters perpetuate or destabilize bias or alienation?
- What are some exemplary models of children's literature that prompt self-reflection and critical thinking about valuing diversity in all its forms, and what are their techniques?
- In times of war, pandemic, and global strife, what is the responsibility of the children's literature critic and creative to discuss differences between ethnicity, nationality, cultures, histories, and governances? How has this discussion been represented in children's literature?

Invited keynoters include:

Mitali Perkins, a critically acclaimed Bengali-American author of novels for young readers published by Penguin Random House, Charlesbridge, Candlewick, Little Brown, and Macmillan Children's Books.

Stephanie Toliver, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; scholar and author of *Recovering Black Storytelling in Qualitative Research: Endarkened Storywork*.

Email proposals of 500 words to kidlit@hollins.edu. The deadline for submissions has been extended to **February 19, 2024**. Questions? Please contact Lisa Rowe Fraustino - FraustinoLR@hollins.edu