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A SUGGESTED APPROACH TO THE USE OF
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN TEACHING THE SOCIAL STUDIES
IN THE SECOND GRADE

AN ABSTRACT OF
A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
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Human problems appear to be studied in greater depth today than in any other period of the history of our schools. Students spend more time on developing values and attitudes that will establish their relationship to one another, to their country and to the rest of the world. Emphasis on this begins in the area of social studies in the elementary school. Sometimes the subject material in the primary curriculum appears repetitive and thin. Texts may not be the answer according to respected authorities for reasons to be discovered in this study. Early childhood abilities and interests suggest success with content that begins earlier to develop skills needed later in the compulsory study of history and geography. It is the purpose of this study to use children's literature for the purpose of teaching one of these skills in beginning concepts--map skills. The talents and varied point of view represented by a wide variety of acceptable material would seem interesting and flexible for different ability levels. Sufficient supportive opinion regarding changing approaches to the teaching of the social studies contributes to the interesting possibilities of using this material.