

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  
FIFTY YEARS AGO AND TODAY

AN ABSTRACT OF  
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This thesis is a study of children's literature. It compares children's literature fifty years ago and today. The author examined children's literature in order to determine whether it had changed from fifty years ago, or whether it is still essentially the same. If it was discovered that there have been changes, what were they? The study also wanted to determine some of the reasons for these changes.

Information was compiled about this topic by using library materials. Specific questions were formulated. Selected books which children were reading fifty years ago and ones which they are reading today were studied. A comparison was made of these books to find out whether there were differences among them.

To gain more knowledge of what it was like fifty years ago, the study examined periodicals and books which were published fifty years ago. It was a difficult task to find some of the actual books which were published for children fifty years ago. Books were also studied that children were reading fifty years ago, but which have been published more recently.

It was discovered that children's literature has changed greatly from fifty years ago. It was involved in a state of change at that time, and new fields were beginning to be explored. Books were being written for children in new

areas--some of these being history, biography, and recreation. The main purpose of children's literature at that time was to aid in the development of character. An interest was being generated in the field which caused many new developments in later years.

Today there is a tremendous interest in children's literature. All who are concerned with children are concerned with the literature which they read. Books are available with quality, and in a quantity, which was unknown fifty years ago. They are available for all types of children and on any subject they care to read about. Books can be found anywhere. They are not used for a solitary purpose, but are used for a variety of purposes.