

The Politics of Childhood and Children's Literature: A Critique

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ABSTRACT This paper critiques the politics of childhood and children's literature by arguing that childhood is a construct by the adults that disavows the materiality of children in society. In consequence, children's literature assumes the structure and function of a myth to dehistoricize the reality it presents and, in so doing, reinforces the dominant class ideologies. The paper suggests a corrective to the conventional children's literature and also calls for an agenda to break the "culture of silence" enveloping the construction of children and the literature for them.