

Call for Papers

Bibliotherapy and Children's Reading Practices

Alberto Manguel's *History of Reading* (1996) "reminds us that readers live in books as well as among them; we find our own stories in books and traces of our lives. With every book that matters to us, from childhood into old age, we find our lives refreshed."

*"Literacy salvaged my life. It is as simple and fundamental as that. At the age of three and a half, I snuggled into a new mother's arms to be read to for the first time. That day I entered a world of princesses and pirates and gods and goddesses and little engines that could and little boys who called wolf once too often. This literacy world, like my real world, was paradoxically predictable and nonpredicable, safe and dangerous, ethical and deceptive, delightful and tragic, but in stories — at least the stories my new mother read to me every day from the first day she adopted me until I could read by myself—there was always a way to figure out what went wrong and why. My own life was not so easy to figure out". (Sharon Jean Hamilton, 1995. *My name's not Susie: A life transformed by literacy.*)*

Canadian Children's Literature is interested in papers that examine the ways in which reading practices (texts and approaches) might contribute to what Joseph Gold describes as "reading for your life" or "reading as a life-support system". (*Read For Your Life* 1990).

- In what ways might some experiences with some books be seen as therapeutic?
- How can books contribute to healing in childhood?
- What dangers are there in seeing books for children as therapeutic?
- What accounts do we have of young readers with picture books that might be regarded as therapeutic?
- How might readings of adolescent "problem novels" be examined within the context of bibliotherapy?
- How can teachers and librarians locate "reader response" within bibliotherapy and vice versa?
- Who are children's books for? Are there rereadings of certain books from childhood that can be seen to be a type of bibliotherapy for adults? What happens when adults read certain children's books?

Send brief abstracts, proposal or enquiries to: Dr. Claudia Mitchell and Dr. Jacqueline Reid-Walsh, CCL Guest Editors, c/o Faculty of Education, McGill University, 3700 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1Y2
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