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An analysis of wildlife in children's stories

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[More, Thomas A.](#)

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Abstract

Urban people encounter wildlife in various ways. One of the most important is the vicarious encounter with animals in children's stories. The surprising number of children's animal stories can be divided into three categories, each of which affects children's beliefs, attitudes, and preferences for wildlife. Because children's stories may have such a lasting effect, we need to consider the ways in which animals are portrayed in them.

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Children's literature offers a wonderful mixture of magic and reality. Roald Dahl's "James and the Giant Peach" gives an interesting interpretation of the horrors of reality and magic associated with childhood. The story also can be used to analyze child development. Models based on the philosophic and scientific studies by Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson, and Lawrence Kohlberg shed light on child development. There are several ways to breakdown child development. Children's literature reflects these models. Each model can assist parents, family, and educators in choosing children's literature that Wild Truth. Healing from Childhood Trauma. Main menu. Alice Miller defended the true self of the child – but, like all of us, only insofar as she was able to connect consciously with her own true self through healing the wounds of her childhood. By her own account she was an abused child in her family of origin. In Breaking Down the Wall of Silence she wrote, "I first ran up against the wall of silence as a child. For days my mother would ignore me in order to demonstrate her total power over me and reduce me to subservience." [p. 19]. On the following page she added