Aggressive but loyal: modification and gender roles in British children’s adventure books

Elizabeth Poynter
Issued Date: 18 Jun 2020

Abstract

Language powerfully impacts the construction of our gender identities. In the mid-twentieth century gender stereotypes were strong, but at the same time feminism was giving rise to new ideas and becoming increasingly mainstream. What gender-related discourse prosodies did children encounter in popular literature? Did these merely reinforce the conventional stereotypes or did they contain the seeds of change? This study of British children’s fiction published in the 1940s-60s seeks to answer these questions through an analysis of personality descriptors collocated with female and male character eight books by four prolific children’s writers. Although gender stereotypes (as represented by the Bem Sex-Role Inventory) are to some extent reinforced in these books, there are also considerable discrepancies. Children were meeting a range of positive models which did not always match ‘feminine’ ‘masculine’ stereotypes.

References


The child as a reader. Children aged between eight and eleven often choose to read fiction. Issues and controversies in children’s books. Contemporary novels for teenagers reflect today’s society, and often mention topics such as sex, drugs and race. This is usually done sensitively, but the book could still offend in certain cultures; seek advice if you are unsure. Sometimes there is strong language or swearing. The role of parents. When children are very young, their books are mainly chosen by adults. As children get older, parents can advise, but it is important to let the child develop their own reading tastes. Parents must be sensitive to when their advice will be helpful, and when they need to let children make their own choices.

3. Aggressive but loyal: modification and gender roles in British children’s adventure books by Elizabeth Poynter. 4. Study abroad as a space where akogare (憧れ) circulates: a case study of Japanese college students’ study abroad experiences in the UK by Chika Kitano. See More. Identity and naming practices in British marriage and civil partnerships Lucy Jones, Sara Mills, Laura L Paterson, Georgina Turner, Laura Coffey-Glover. Differentiations and intersections: a corpus-assisted discourse study of gender representations in the British press before, during and after the London Olympics 2012 Sylvia Jaworska, Sally Hunt. Female agency in action: an examination of interactions in an online ‘Love and Relationships’ discussion forum Catherine Cresswell. Aggressive but loyal: modification and gender roles in British children’s adventure books. Article. Oct 2019. In addition, no South African gay and lesbian non-fiction book has included a discussion of drag since Defiant Desire: Gay and Lesbian Lives in South Africa (1994), edited by Gevisser and Cameron. The five chapters on drag in Defiant Desire have been used by the researchers above to corroborate or illustrate their arguments about drag in South Africa but have never before been the object of an academic investigation. Children will recognize their own families and discover many ways of being a family in this rhyming picture book. Charmingly illustrated animals represent and celebrate all the different forms a family can take. 4. Donovan’s Big Day by Leslea Newman. Same-sex marriage is approached in a gentle way from the perspective of a young boy participating in his mothers’ wedding. Any child curious about weddings and marriage will learn from this universal story. Kids struggling with gender identity questions will find a role model, and the rest of the class will gain understanding and compassion for her experience. 7. The Great Big Book of Families by Mary Hoffman. This treasury depicts a wide range of traditional and non-traditional families in their daily lives. The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world’s greatest libraries. We hold over 13 million books, 920,000 journal and newspaper titles, 57 million patents and 3 million sound recordings. Open to everyone, the Library also offers exhibitions, events and a Treasures Gallery that displays over 200 items, including The Lindisfarne Gospel, Leonardo da Vinci’s notebook, Shakespeare’s First Folio, lyrics by The Beatles and the world’s earliest dated printed book, Diamond Sutra. A young man needed to be able to show that he earned enough money to support a wife and any future children before the girl’s father would give his permission. Some unfortunate couples were obliged to endure an engagement lasting decades before they could afford to marry.