Franklin Delano Roosevelt's historical representation within children's and young adult literature

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Abstract

Purpose
Education initiatives require substantive changes for history, social studies, English, and language arts teachers of any grade level. History and social studies teachers are to integrate multiple texts from diverse perspectives, which increases teachers' uses of trade books and primary sources. English and language arts teachers are to spend half their allotted time on non-fiction topics, which enhances the position of historical content. The compulsory changes are not accompanied with ready-made curricula. Trade books are a logical starting point for teachers inexperienced with the new expectations, yet, research indicates that historical inaccuracies and misrepresentations frequently emerge. The paper aims to discuss these issues.

Design/methodology/approach
The authors' inquiry explored trade books' historical representation of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, America's longest serving president. The data pool was organized by early grades (Kindergarten-4), middle grades (5-8), and high school (9-12) to contrast patterns of representation between and within grade ranges.

Findings
Findings included patterns of representation regarding Roosevelt's noteworthiness and accomplishments, advantages and assistances, and moral and political mistakes.

Social implications
Classroom suggestions included guiding students to identify historical gaps and interrogate primary sources to fill these gaps.

Originality/value
Similar research has not been conducted on this historical figure.

Keywords
Children's trade books, Franklin Roosevelt, Historical representation, Informational texts, Primary sources, Young adult literature

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Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal led the nation through the Great Depression. Elected to four terms, his presidency helped ensure victory in World War II. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the 32nd American president. FDR, as he was often called, led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II, and greatly expanding the powers of the federal government through a series of programs and reforms known as the New Deal. Stricken with polio in 1921, Roosevelt spent much of his adult life in a wheelchair. A whole generation of Americans grew up knowing no other president, as FDR served an unprecedented four terms in office. Franklin Delano Roosevelt book. Read 18 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. No president since the founders has done more to shape t... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking “Franklin Delano Roosevelt” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. 96 p. : 25 cm. “Provides comprehensive information on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and places him within his historical and cultural context. Also explored are the formative events of his times and how he responded”—Provided by publisher. Includes bibliographical references and index. Youth of privilege — Start in politics — Years of recovery — New Deal — Second term and rumblings overseas — World War II.