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Talking Animals: A Literature Review of Anthropomorphism in Children's Books

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In children's literature, talking animals run rampant. These characters exhibit various levels of anthropomorphism, from talking or thinking like a human, to wearing clothes and riding bicycles. Through the examination of ten of the most commonly seen animals in children's books and a selection of 120 titles, the role and importance of anthropomorphic animals in children's literature is assessed.

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Abstract

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Significance of Anthropomorphism in Literature. Examples of anthropomorphism have been a part of human culture for millennia. Many ancient tales and fables feature animals or deities as main characters who speak, have feelings, and make complex decisions. Examples of Anthropomorphism in Literature. Example #1. Oh for shame, how the mortals put the blame on us gods, for they say evils come from us, but it is they, rather, who by their own recklessness win sorrow beyond what is given. Rudyard Kipling's novel The Jungle Book, later animated as a Disney movie, includes many talking animals as characters who either befriend the human child Mowgli or antagonize him. Mowgli is first raised by a family of wolves, the mother of which clearly cares for him. Description: Animals as People in Children's Literature. Copyright: © All Rights Reserved. and have put them to use in a purposeful distortion of reality. This use of anthropomorphism prompted the question: Why do animals with human characteristics populate so many early childhood stories? What purpose do they serve? To consider anthropomorphism in children's stories, we need to first clarify the basic functions of literature, and to explore the needs that have propelled the use of anthropomorphism in world cultures. Then we can come to see how the recognition of childhood and the emergence of a literature for children draw upon these sources. Best Anthropomorphic Animal Books. Redwall, Watership Down, and everything in between! Score. A book's total score is based on multiple factors, including the number of people who have voted for it and how highly those voters ranked the book. All Votes Add Books To This

List. 1. Watership Down (Watership Down, #1) by. Richard Adams. 4.06 avg rating — 430,021 ratings. score: 7,956, and 81 people voted. In children's stories, animals are basically adults that act and live like children. That is, you can have an animal like Mickey Mouse that is an adult in so far as he lives in an adult world, but pursues a life style that is common to children, and is recognizable by children. In a child's world, animals are either friendly or dangerous. Today, children's books and TV/movies are basically advertising for children's merchandising. In fact the movies are often made at a loss (Disney's cartoon commonly made a loss, but profited from Brand merchandising) There is also the point that children's stories today are created for global markets, and using animals

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