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STORY: FROM FIREPLACE TO CYBERSPACE

Connecting Children and Narrative



Edited by Betsy Hearne, Janice M. Del Negro,
Christine Jenkins, and Deborah Stevenson



\$21.95*, ISBN 0-87845-105-6, Number 39, 143 pages

Papers presented at the Allerton Park Institute
Sponsored October 26-28, 1997, by the
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois

To some, stories and storytelling belong to a distant time of stone knives and petroglyphs. Hunter-gatherers had stories. Primitive societies had stories. And storytelling requires a wood fire and a dark night. But of course stories may be found not only at the family dinner table or with the last survivor of the Titanic. Stories are also in the next booth at a fast food restaurant, in the bleachers during the seventh-inning stretch, and in the classrooms (and in the teachers' lounge) of an elementary school. In our interest in children's welfare, we often forget that children are not simply passive receptacles for whatever treasure or trash the adult world throws at them, but are lively agents who are continually interacting with their environment. Children actively create meaning as readers, viewers, and listeners. The 39th Allerton Park Institute papers emphasize the critical need to connect children and narrative as a way to affect their development as listeners, readers, viewers, and evaluators of literature—and information in all forms.

Story: From Fireplace to Cyberspace

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