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Work, Love, and Learning in Utopia - Martin Schoenhals 2018-12-18

Work, Love, and Learning in Utopia breathes new life into the age-old human preoccupation with how to create a happier society. With a fascinating mix of research from cross-cultural psychology, macro history, and evolutionary biology, the book gives new credibility to the advocacy of radical equality. The author, a psychological anthropologist, argues that the negative emotions of sadness, anger, and fear evolved in tandem with hierarchy, while happiness evolved separately and in connection to prosociality and compassion. The book covers a wide range of human concerns, from economics and education, to media and communication, to gender and sexuality. It breaks new boundaries with its scope, arguing that equality of love is as important and possible as is economic equality. Its argument is provocative yet practical, and each chapter ends with concrete proposals that invite dialogue with any student of policy. Written in an easily accessible style, this book will appeal to anyone who has ever puzzled over how our social world could be remade. In particular, it will be very useful to students and scholars of anthropology, sociology, and psychology.

Precocious Charms - Gaylyn Studlar 2013-01-15

In *Precocious Charms*, Gaylyn Studlar examines how Hollywood presented female stars as young girls or girls on the verge of becoming women. Child stars are part of this study but so too are adult actresses who created motion picture masquerades of youthfulness. Studlar details how Mary Pickford, Shirley Temple, Deanna Durbin, Elizabeth Taylor, Jennifer Jones, and Audrey Hepburn performed girlhood in their films. She charts the multifaceted processes that linked their juvenated star personas to a wide variety of cultural influences, ranging from Victorian sentimental art to New Look fashion, from nineteenth-century children's literature to post-World War II sexology, and from grand opera to 1930s radio comedy. By moving beyond the general category of "woman," *Precocious Charms* leads to a new understanding of the complex pleasures Hollywood created for its audience during the half century when film stars were a major influence on America's cultural imagination.

The Cute and the Cool - Gary S. Cross 2004

The cute child - spunky, yet dependent, naughty but nice - is largely a 20th-century invention. In this book, Gary Cross examines how that look emerged in American popular culture and how the cute turned into the cool, seemingly its opposite, in stories and games.

True Sisterhood - Marilyn Ferris Motz 1983-01-01

"Home and family," for a woman of the nineteenth century, represented a sphere much broader than the term implies today. A woman's duties as sister and daughter continued, basically unchanged, even after she had assumed the roles of wife and mother. This created a female-centered kin network which went far beyond the fragile nuclear family, and which insured lifelong security in what men and women viewed as an essentially hostile world. The female family is vividly portrayed in *True Sisterhood*, where Marilyn Ferris Motz examines the lives of white Protestant native-born American women living in Michigan between 1820 and 1920 and the kinship networks to which they belonged--networks that often extended east to New England and the Middle Atlantic states and westward as far as California. The University of Michigan's Bentley Library collections of the correspondence, diaries, photographs, and other documents of numerous family groups have provided the primary resources for this study of thirty extended families. Focusing on personal interaction within the family, Motz shows women playing an active role that is not suggested by observation

of residence patterns, household composition, or legal distribution of authority. The book reveals women's use of language to maintain personal relationships, to persuade and manipulate, and to obtain support. Thus the power base of the woman, her informal networks based on personal interaction, persuasion, and sense of obligation, become visible. *True Sisterhood* shows that women's influence was not merely a fabrication of the literature of what has come to be termed the "cult of domesticity" but was a reality within many nineteenth-century homes.

LITTLE WOMEN and THE FEMINIST IMAGINATION - Janice M. Alberghene 2014-04-08

First Published in 1999. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

The American Child - Caroline Field Levander 2003

From the time that the infant colonies broke away from the parent country to the present day, narratives of U.S. national identity are persistently configured in the language of childhood and family. In *The American Child: A Cultural Studies Reader*, contributors address matters of race, gender, and family to chart the ways that representations of the child typify historical periods and conflicting ideas. They build on the recent critical renaissance in childhood studies by bringing to their essays a wide range of critical practices and methodologies. Although the volume is grounded heavily in the literary, it draws on other disciplines, revealing that representations of children and childhood are not isolated artifacts but cultural productions that in turn affect the social climates around them. Essayists look at games, pets, adolescent sexuality, death, family relations, and key texts such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and the movie *Pocahontas*; they reveal the ways in which the figure of the child operates as a rich vehicle for writers to consider evolving ideas of nation and the diverse role of citizens within it.

Family Men - Shawn Johansen 2014-04-08

First Published in 2001. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Children at Play - Howard P. Chudacoff 2008-09

Explores the history of play in the U.S. from the point of view of children between six and twelve.

U.S. Women Writers and the Discourses of Colonialism, 1825-1861 - Etsuko Taketani 2003

An overdue examination of widely marginalized writings by women of the American antebellum period, *U.S. Women Writers* presents a new model for evaluating U.S. relations and interactions with foreign countries in the colonial and postcolonial periods by examining the ways in which women writers were both proponents of colonialization and subversive agents for change. Etsuko Taketani explores attempts to inculcate imperialist values through education in the works of Lydia Maria Child, Sarah Tuttle, Catherine Beecher, and others and the results of viewing the world through these values, as reflected in the writings of Harriet low, Emily Judson, and Sarah hale. Many of the texts Taketani uncovers from relative obscurity illuminate the American attitude toward others whether Native American, African American, African, or Asian. She not only sheds lights on the life of the writers she examines, but she also situates each writer s works alongside those of her contemporaries to give the reader a clear picture of the cultural context. The Author: Etsuko Taketani is associate professor of English in the Institute of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. Her articles have appeared in *American Literary History*, *Children s Literature*, *Melville Society Extracts*, and other publications. "

Emily Dickinson and Her Contemporaries - Elizabeth A. Petrino 1998

An interdisciplinary examination of the poet, her milieu, and the ways she and her contemporaries freed their

work from cultural limitations.

Such a Simple Little Tale - Mavis Reimer 1992-01-01

New in Paperback 2003. A compilation of the best critical essays on this enduring classic.

Young America - Claire Perry 2006-01-01

A delightful look at how nineteenth-century American artists portrayed children and childhood

The Moral Project of Childhood - Daniel Thomas Cook 2020-02-18

Examines the Protestant origins of motherhood and the child consumer Throughout history, the responsibility for children's moral well-being has fallen into the laps of mothers. In *The Moral Project of Childhood*, the noted childhood studies scholar Daniel Thomas Cook illustrates how mothers in the nineteenth-century United States meticulously managed their children's needs and wants, pleasures and pains, through the material world so as to produce the "child" as a moral project. Drawing on a century of religiously-oriented child care advice in women's periodicals, he examines how children ultimately came to be understood by mothers—and later, by commercial actors—as consumers. From concerns about taste, to forms of discipline and punishment, to play and toys, Cook delves into the social politics of motherhood, historical anxieties about childhood, and early children's consumer culture. An engaging read, *The Moral Project of Childhood* provides a rich cultural history of childhood.

Gender Play - Barrie Thorne 1993

You see it in every schoolyard: the girls play only with the girls, the boys play only with the boys. Why? And what do the kids think about this? Breaking with familiar conventions for thinking about children and gender, *Gender Play* develops fresh insights into the everyday social worlds of kids in elementary schools in the United States. Barrie Thorne draws on her daily observations in the classroom and on the playground to show how children construct and experience gender in school. With rich detail, she looks at the "play of gender" in the organization of groups of kids and activities - activities such as "chase-and-kiss," "cooties," "goin' with" and teasing. Thorne observes children in schools in working-class communities, emphasizing the experiences of fourth and fifth graders. Most of the children she observed were white, but a sizable minority were Latino, Chicano, or African American. Thorne argues that the organization and meaning of gender are influenced by age, ethnicity, race, sexuality, and social class, and that they shift with social context. She sees gender identity not through the lens of individual socialization or difference, but rather as a social process involving groups of children. Thorne takes us on a fascinating journey of discovery, provides new insights about children, and offers teachers practical suggestions for increasing cooperative mixed-gender interaction.

The Children's Civil War - James Marten 2000-11-15

Children--white and black, northern and southern--endured a vast and varied range of experiences during the Civil War. Children celebrated victories and mourned defeats, tightened their belts and widened their responsibilities, took part in patriotic displays and suffered shortages and hardships, fled their homes to escape enemy invaders and snatched opportunities to run toward the promise of freedom. Offering a fascinating look at how children were affected by our nation's greatest crisis, James Marten examines their toys and games, their literature and schoolbooks, the letters they exchanged with absent fathers and brothers, and the hardships they endured. He also explores children's politicization, their contributions to their homelands' war efforts, and the lessons they took away from the war. Drawing on the childhoods of such diverse Americans as Jane Addams, Booker T. Washington, and Theodore Roosevelt, and on sources that range from diaries and memoirs to children's "amateur newspapers," Marten examines the myriad ways in which the Civil War shaped the lives of a generation of American children. "An original-minded, skillfully and suggestively presented history, haunting in its detailed unfolding of a war that put so many already vulnerable youngsters in danger, but elicited from some of them, as well, impressively sensitive, responsive thoughts, gestures, and deeds in what became, as this extraordinary book's title insists, their civil war.--*Journal of American History* "James Marten's thoroughly researched and engagingly written study . . . stands as one of the most exciting studies to emerge in the last dozen years. . . . Marten has taken a topic ignored by both Civil War historians and historians of childhood and crafted an engaging, masterful, nuanced, and readable study that will not quickly leave the reader's mind or heart.--*American Studies* "The first comprehensive account of Civil War children. . . . Thoroughly researched and nicely illustrated, *The Children's Civil War* will be a touchstone for historians and generalists who seek to gain a fuller

understanding of life on the home front between 1861 and 1865.--*Civil War History* *The Children's Civil War* is a poignant and fascinating look at childhood during our nation's greatest crisis. Using sources that include diaries, memoirs, and letters, James Marten examines the wartime experiences of young people--boys and girls, black and white, northern and southern--and traces the ways in which the Civil War shaped the lives of a generation of American children. -->

Life in Black and White - Brenda E. Stevenson 1997-11-06

Life in the old South has always fascinated Americans--whether in the mythical portrayals of the planter elite from fiction such as *Gone With the Wind* or in historical studies that look inside the slave cabin. Now Brenda E. Stevenson presents a reality far more gripping than popular legend, even as she challenges the conventional wisdom of academic historians. *Life in Black and White* provides a panoramic portrait of family and community life in and around Loudoun County, Virginia--weaving the fascinating personal stories of planters and slaves, of free blacks and poor-to-middling whites, into a powerful portrait of southern society from the mid-eighteenth century to the Civil War. Loudoun County and its vicinity encapsulated the full sweep of southern life. Here the region's most illustrious families--the Lees, Masons, Carters, Monroes, and Peytons--helped forge southern traditions and attitudes that became characteristic of the entire region while mingling with yeoman farmers of German, Scotch-Irish, and Irish descent, and free black families who lived alongside abolitionist Quakers and thousands of slaves. Stevenson brilliantly recounts their stories as she builds the complex picture of their intertwined lives, revealing how their combined histories guaranteed Loudon's role in important state, regional, and national events and controversies. Both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, for example, were hidden at a local plantation during the War of 1812. James Monroe wrote his famous "Doctrine" at his Loudon estate. The area also was the birthplace of celebrated fugitive slave Daniel Dangerfield, the home of John Janney, chairman of the Virginia secession convention, a center for Underground Railroad activities, and the location of John Brown's infamous 1859 raid at Harpers Ferry. In exploring the central role of the family, Brenda Stevenson offers a wealth of insight: we look into the lives of upper class women, who bore the oppressive weight of marriage and motherhood as practiced in the South and the equally burdensome roles of their husbands whose honor was tied to their ability to support and lead regardless of their personal preference; the yeoman farm family's struggle for respectability; and the marginal economic existence of free blacks and its undermining influence on their family life. Most important, Stevenson breaks new ground in her depiction of slave family life. Following the lead of historian Herbert Gutman, most scholars have accepted the idea that, like white, slaves embraced the nuclear family, both as a living reality and an ideal. Stevenson destroys this notion, showing that the harsh realities of slavery, even for those who belonged to such attentive masters as George Washington, allowed little possibility of a nuclear family. Far more important were extended kin networks and female headed households. Meticulously researched, insightful, and moving, *Life in Black and White* offers our most detailed portrait yet of the reality of southern life. It forever changes our understanding of family and race relations during the reign of the peculiar institution in the American South.

Girlhood in America: An Encyclopedia 2 Volumes - Miriam Forman-Brunell 2001-06

This groundbreaking reference work presents more than 100 articles by 98 high-profile interdisciplinary scholars, covering all aspects of girls' roles in American society, past and present.

Kitchen Culture in America - Sherrie A. Inness 2015-08-31

At supermarkets across the nation, customers waiting in line—mostly female—flip through magazines displayed at the checkout stand. What we find on those magazine racks are countless images of food and, in particular, women: moms preparing lunch for the team, college roommates baking together, working women whipping up a meal in under an hour, dieters happy to find a lowfat ice cream that tastes great. In everything from billboards and product packaging to cooking shows, movies, and even sex guides, food has a presence that conveys powerful gender-coded messages that shape our society. *Kitchen Culture in America* is a collection of essays that examine how women's roles have been shaped by the principles and practice of consuming and preparing food. Exploring popular representations of food and gender in American society from 1895 to 1970, these essays argue that kitchen culture accomplishes more than just passing down cooking skills and well-loved recipes from generation to generation. Kitchen culture instructs women about how to behave like "correctly" gendered beings. One chapter reveals how juvenile cookbooks, a popular

genre for over a century, have taught boys and girls not only the basics of cooking, but also the fine distinctions between their expected roles as grown men and women. Several essays illuminate the ways in which food manufacturers have used gender imagery to define women first and foremost as consumers. Other essays, informed by current debates in the field of material culture, investigate how certain commodities like candy, which in the early twentieth century was advertised primarily as a feminine pleasure, have been culturally constructed. The book also takes a look at the complex relationships among food, gender, class, and race or ethnicity—as represented, for example, in the popular Southern black Mammy figure. In all of the essays, *Kitchen Culture in America* seeks to show how food serves as a marker of identity in American society.

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Daily Life in America [4 volumes] - Randall M. Miller Ph.D. 2008-12-30
The course of daily life in the United States has been a product of tradition, environment, and circumstance. How did the Civil War alter the lives of women, both white and black, left alone on southern farms? How did the Great Depression change the lives of working class families in eastern cities? How did the discovery of gold in California transform the lives of native American, Hispanic, and white communities in western territories? Organized by time period as spelled out in the National Standards for U.S. History, these four volumes effectively analyze the diverse whole of American experience, examining the domestic, economic, intellectual, material, political, recreational, and religious life of the American people between 1763 and 2005. Working under the editorial direction of general editor Randall M. Miller, professor of history at St. Joseph's University, a group of expert volume editors carefully integrate material drawn from volumes in Greenwood's highly successful Daily Life Through History series with new material researched and written by themselves and other scholars. The four volumes cover the following periods: The War of Independence and Antebellum Expansion and Reform, 1763-1861, The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Industrialization of America, 1861-1900, The Emergence of Modern America, World War I, and the Great Depression, 1900-1940 and Wartime, Postwar, and Contemporary America, 1940-Present. Each volume includes a selection of primary documents, a timeline of important events during the period, images illustrating the text, and extensive bibliography of further information resources—both print and electronic—and a detailed subject index.

Discovering Modernism - Louis Menand 2007-02-19

Shows how T S Eliot's early views on literary value and authenticity - and his later repudiation of those views - reflect the profound changes regarding the understanding of literature and its significance that occurred in the early part of the twentieth century.

Periodical Literature in Nineteenth-century America - Kenneth M. Price 1995

Covering the decades from the 1830s through the end of the century, as well as the eastern, southern, and western regions of the United States, these essays, by a diverse group of scholars, examine a variety of periodicals from the well-known Atlantic Monthly to small papers such as The National Era. They illustrate how literary analysis can be enriched by consideration of social history, publishing contexts, the literary marketplace, and the relationships between authors and editors.

The Routledge History of Childhood in the Western World - Paula S. Fass 2013-02-11

The Routledge History of Childhood in the Western World provides an important overview of the main themes surrounding the history of childhood in the West from antiquity to the present day. By broadly incorporating the research in the field of Childhood Studies, the book explores the major advances that have taken place in the past few decades in this crucial field.

Dependent States - Karen Sánchez-Eppler 2005-09

By putting children at the center of our thinking about American history, Karen Sanchez-Eppler recognizes the important part childhood played in nineteenth-century American culture and what this involvement entailed for children themselves.

Made to Play House - Miriam Formanek-Brunell 1998-11-30

In *Made to Play House*, Miriam Formanek-Brunell traces the history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century dolls and explores the origins of the American toy industry's remarkably successful efforts to promote self fulfillment through maternity and materialism. She tells the fascinating story of how inventors, producers, entrepreneurs—many of whom were women—and little girls themselves created dolls which expressed

various notions of female identity.

In the Company of Books - Sarah Wadsworth 2006-01-01

Tracing the segmentation of the literary marketplace in 19th century America, this book analyses the implications of the subdivided literary field for readers, writers, and literature itself.

Children, Media, and American History - Margaret Cassidy 2017-10-02

Printed poison. Pernicious stuff. Since the nineteenth century, these are some of the many concerned comments critics have made about media for children. From dime novels to comic books to digital media, Cassidy illustrates the ways children have used "old media" when they were first introduced as "new media." Further, she interrogates the extent to which different conceptions of childhood have influenced adults' reactions to children's use of media. Exploring the history of American children and media, this text presents a portrait of the way in which children and adults adapt to a constantly changing media environment.

The Children's Culture Reader - Henry Jenkins 1998-10

A reader on children's culture

Paper Dolls - Katherine H. Adams 2017-11-02

Paper dolls might seem the height of simplicity—quaint but simple toys, nothing more. But through the centuries paper figures have reflected religious and political beliefs, notions of womanhood, motherhood and family, the dictates of fashion, approaches to education, individual self-image and self-esteem, and ideas about death. This book examines paper dolls and their symbolism—from icons made by priests in ancient China to printable Kim Kardashians on the Internet—to show how these ephemeral objects have an enduring and sometimes surprising presence in history and culture.

What Katy Read - Shirley Foster 1995-04-05

What Katy Read focuses on a much neglected area of literary criticism: literature for girls. Written by women for children, such texts have been doubly marginalized by the critical establishment. Shirley Foster and Judy Simons use twentieth-century feminist critical practice to open up fresh perspectives on popular fiction for girls written between 1850 and 1920. The study analyses both American and British novels for girls which have acquired 'classic' status, from the domestic myth to the school story, and considers their scope and influence in providing role models for girl readers.

Animals in Human Histories - Mary J. Henninger-Voss 2002

Table of contents

Lessons of War - James Alan Marten 1998

Presents essays, editorials, articles, poems, games, short stories and letters that tell the story of the Civil War.

Improving Passions - Charles Burnetts 2017-06-26

Reveals a fascinating history of aesthetic debate concerning the emotional and moral functions of art. When did the sentimental start to mean awful? Why are so many popular mainstream films dismissed for their sentimentality, and are there any meaningful differences between the sentimental and the melodramatic? These are some of the questions addressed in Charles Burnetts illuminating genealogy of the concept as both a literary genre and an aesthetic philosophy, a tradition that prefigures the advent of film yet serves as a vital framework for understanding its emotional and ethical appeal. Examining eighteenth century amoral sense philosophy as a neglected but still important intellectual area for film theory, and drawing on case studies of film sentimentality during the early, classical and post-classical eras of US cinema, *Improving Passions* is an innovative exploration of the sentimental tradition as both theatrical genre and cultural logic. Key features: Examines eighteenth century amoral sense philosophy and asensibility as neglected, but important, intellectual areas for film theory. Provides case studies of film sentimentality during early, classical and post-classical eras of US cinema, focusing specifically on issues of critical reception. Engages with speculation by classical and contemporary film theorists about the ethical and affective possibilities of film. Examines new approaches to affect in film and media philosophy that draw directly on, and reconfigure, a sentimental aesthetics.

Domestic Bliss - Lee M. Edwards 1986

The Well of Being - David Kennedy 2012-02-01

Offers a sweeping review of conceptions of and approaches to childhood.

Toys, Consumption, and Middle-class Childhood in Imperial Germany, 1871-1918 - Bryan Ganaway 2009

Drawing on a variety of techniques from history, anthropology and literary criticism the author argues toy consumption helped adults negotiate the transmission of middle-class values regarding modernity, technology, gender roles and nationalism to their children. Practices of consumption permitted self-fashioning from above and below; women used their control over childhood to insert themselves into political debates about the future shape of the nation at a time when they lacked the vote. Although the project to build a middle-class utopia via shopping never succeeded, millions of Germans happily bought toys at Christmas and birthdays showing their faith in the ability of modern society to make the world a better place. To understand why ordinary consumers made these choices, the book draws on a variety of sources including periodicals, trade journals, advertisements, pedagogical literature, memoirs, and toys.

Pets in America - Katherine C. Grier 2006

Filled with illustrations reflecting the whimsy, the devotion, and the commerce that have shaped centuries of American pet keeping, a portrait of Americans' relationships with animals shows how the history of pets has evolved alongside changing ideas about human nature, child development, and community life.

Laboring to Play - Melanie Dawson 2013-09-05

A compelling analysis of how "middling" Americans entertained themselves and how these entertainments changed over time. The changing styles of middle-class home entertainments, Melanie Dawson argues, point to evolving ideas of class identity in U.S. culture. Drawing from 19th- and early-20th-century fiction, guidebooks on leisure, newspaper columns, and a polemical examination of class structures, *Laboring to Play* interrogates the ways that leisure performances (such as parlor games, charades, home dramas, and tableaux vivants) encouraged participants to test out the boundaries that were beginning to define middle-class lifestyles. From 19th-century parlor games involving grotesque physical contortions to early-20th-century recitations of an idealized past, leisure employments mediated between domestic and public spheres, individuals and class-based affiliations, and ideals of egalitarian social life and visible hierarchies based on privilege. Negotiating these paradigms, home entertainments provided their participants with unique ways of performing displays of individual ambitions within a world of polite social interaction. *Laboring to Play* deals with subjects as wide ranging as social performances, social history (etiquette and gentility), literary history, representations of childhood, and the history of the book.

Ellen Emmet Rand - Alexis L. Boylan 2020-10-29

Ellen Emmet Rand (1875-1941) was one of the most important and prolific portraitists in the United States in the first decades of the twentieth century. She negotiated her career, reputation, family, and finances in

modern and commercially savvy ways-revealing the complex negotiations needed to balance these competing pressures. Engaging with newly available archival documents and featuring scholars with radically different approaches to visual culture, this edited collection not only seeks to interrogate the meaning of Rand's portraits and her career, but indeed to rethink gender, art, race, business, and modernism in the twentieth century.

Crimes against Children - Stephen Robertson 2006-03-08

In the first half of the twentieth century, Americans' intense concern with sex crimes against children led to a wave of public discussion, legislative action, and criminal prosecution. Stephen Robertson provides the first large-scale, long-term study of how American criminal courts dealt with the prosecution of sexual violence against children. Robertson describes how the nineteenth-century approach to childhood as a single phase of innocence began to shift at the end of the century to include several stages of childhood development, prompting reformers to create legal categories such as statutory rape and carnal abuse to protect children. However, while ordinary New Yorkers' involvement in the prosecution of those offenses reshaped their understandings of who was a child and produced a new concern to establish the age of their sexual partners, their beliefs in childhood innocence and in a concept of sexuality centered on sexual intercourse remained unchanged. As a result, families' use of the law and jurors' decisions ultimately diminished the protection the new laws offered to children. Robertson's study, based on the previously unexamined files of the New York County district attorney's office, reveals the importance of child sexuality and sex crimes in twentieth-century American culture.

American Childhood - Anne Scott MacLeod 1995-10-01

In this collection of fourteen essays, Anne Scott MacLeod locates and describes shifts in the American concept of childhood as those changes are suggested in nearly two centuries of children's stories. Most of the essays concern domestic novels for children or adolescents--stories set more or less in the time of their publication. Some essays also draw creatively on childhood memoirs, travel writings that contain foreigners' observations of American children, and other studies of children's literature. The topics on which MacLeod writes range from the current politicized marketplace for children's books, to the reestablishment (and reconfiguration) of the family in recent children's fiction, to the ways that literature challenges or enforces the idealization of children. MacLeod sometimes considers a single author's canon, as when she discusses the feminism of the Nancy Drew mystery series or the Orwellian vision of Robert Cormier. At other times, she looks at a variety of works within a particular period, for example, Jacksonian America, the post-World War II decade, or the 1970s. MacLeod also examines books that were once immensely popular but currently have no appreciable readership--the Horatio Alger stories, for example--and finds fresh, intriguing ways to view the work of such well-known writers as Louisa May Alcott, Beverly Cleary, and Paul Zindel.