



Reading Children: Literacy, Property, and the Dilemmas of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century America (Material Texts)

Patricia Crain

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What does it mean for a child to be a "reader" and how did American culture come to place such a high value on this identity? *Reading Children* offers a history of the relationship between children and books in Anglo-American modernity, exploring long-lived but now forgotten early children's literature, discredited yet highly influential pedagogical practices, the property lessons inherent in children's book ownership, and the emergence of childhood itself as a literary property.

The nursery and schoolroom version of the social contract, Crain argues, underwrote children's entry not only into reading and writing but also into a world of commodity and property relations. Increasingly positioned as an indispensable form of cultural capital by the end of the eighteenth century, literacy became both the means and the symbol of children's newly recognized self-possession and autonomy. At the same time, as children's legal and economic status was changing, "childhood" emerged as an object of nostalgia for adults. Literature for children enacted the terms of children's self-possession, often with explicit references to property, contracts, or inheritances, and yet also framed adult longing for an imagined past called "childhood."

Dozens of colorful illustrations chart the ways in which early literature for children was transformed into spectacle through new image technologies and a burgeoning marketplace that capitalized on nostalgic fantasies of childhood conflated with bowdlerized fantasies of history. *Reading Children* offers new terms for thinking about the imbricated and mutually constitutive histories of literacy, property, and childhood in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that ground current anxieties and long-held beliefs about childhood and reading.

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From reader reviews:

Rosa Johnson:

Why? Because this Reading Children: Literacy, Property, and the Dilemmas of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century America (Material Texts) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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The book untitled Reading Children: Literacy, Property, and the Dilemmas of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century America (Material Texts) contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

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