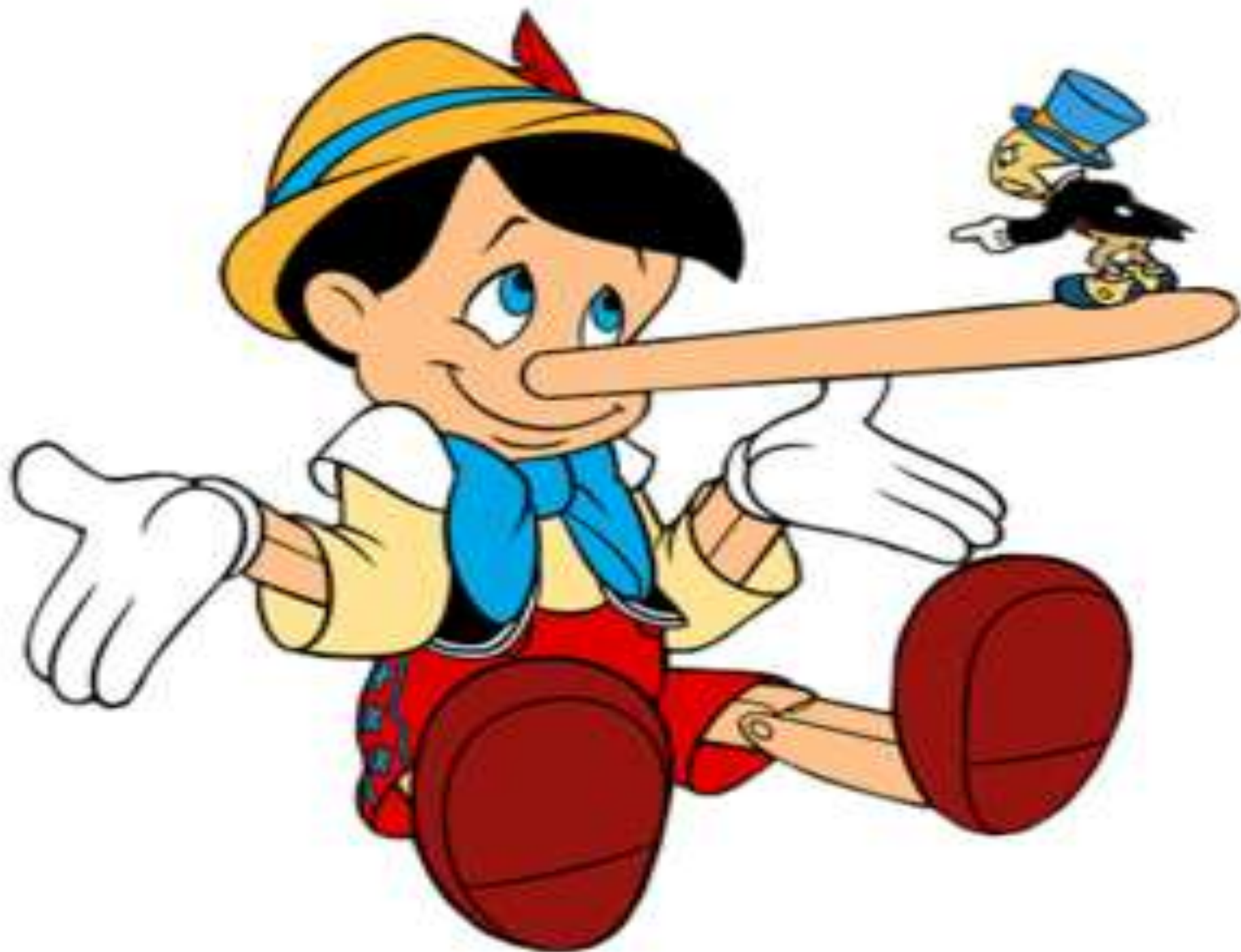


BASIC CONCEPT OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE














- ◆ What is children literature?
 - ◆ What are the kinds of children literature?
 - ◆ How are the criteria of choosing children literature?
- 

1. Defenition:

- In General: for readers and listeners up to about age twelve and is often illustrated.
- In specific:
written by children

The Young Visiters (1919) by Daisy Ashford (aged nine)

Anne Frank (1942) wrote a novel and many short stories in addition to her diary "*The Diary of a Young Girl*" (1947).

Barbara Newhall Follet wrote *The House Without Windows (1927)* at the age of nine

◆ *chosen for children*

The most restrictive definition of children's literature are those books various authorities determine are "appropriate" for children, such as teachers, reviewers, scholars, parents, publishers, librarians, etc.

Example:

Tom Brown's Schoolday (1857) by Thomas Hughes

Mark Twain (1876 & 1885) by Tom Sawyer & Huckleberry Finn

◆ *chosen by children*

Books that are actually selected and read by children.

◆ *written for children*

J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series was originally written and marketed for children.

2. Genre of Children's Literature

Picture books

- ◆ Any book in which the illustrations are as important as the text
- ◆ This includes toy & board books, Mother Goose, concept books & books for beginning readers
- ◆ Types
 - Picture story books
 - ◆ Narratives that use text & illustrations
 - Wordless books
 - ◆ No or very little text
 - Picture books of poetry and song
 - ◆ Narratives in rhyme & rhythm

Poetry books

- ◆ Concentrated language
- ◆ Sound, rhyme, rhythm, figurative language, imagery, spacing
- ◆ Poetry books may also be narratives
- ◆ Good poetry has fresh ideas & insight
- ◆ Should be considered:
 - Quality
 - Age / background
 - Poetry preferences
 - Cultural diversity
 - Variety in form & content
 - Relationship between children's experiences & classroom activities


Folktales / Fairy tales

- ◆ Origin: oral tradition
- ◆ Formula
 - Openings : Once upon a time
 - Quick presentation of the problem
 - Uncomplicated characters: good & bad
 - Quick pace of the plot
 - Inevitable fate of the villains
- ◆ Value
 - Strengthens the imagination
 - Simplifies moral questions
 - It can promote cultural & global awareness


Fables

- ◆ Stories usually about animals that teach a lesson
- ◆ Stories are short but the meaning complex
- ◆ One-line moral at the end
- ◆ Ages 8 – 9 years old
- ◆ Value
 - Quick retellings & dramatization
 - Cooperative learning

Myths

- ◆ Longer stories that explain the origins of the earth
 - ◆ Focus: gods, ancient heroes, ancestors and natural phenomena
 - ◆ Setting: home of the gods
- 


Legends

- ◆ Focus on people that are extraordinary
 - ◆ Based on the lives of real /supposedly real people
 - ◆ King Arthur
- 

Fantasy

- ◆ Elements do not exist outside the imagination
- ◆ Categories
 - Talking toys – Winnie the Pooh
 - Personified animals
 - Imaginary animals – dragons
 - Tiny people – elves
 - Curious occurrences – time travel
 - Science fiction – space travel
- ◆ Value
 - Helps children understand real life

Realistic fiction

- ◆ Based on what happened or could have happened
 - ◆ Common themes:
 - Common experiences – everyday events
 - Personal growth – physical or emotional maturing
 - Relationships with family or friends
 - Problems – death
 - Life in a pluralistic society – other countries
- 

Categories of realistic fiction

- ◆ Sports stories
- ◆ Animal stories
- ◆ Mysteries – action and suspense
- ◆ Humorous stories
- ◆ Good realistic fiction
 - Accurate setting
 - Avoids clichés in content
 - Should avoid didacticism
 - Consistent style
- ◆ Value
 - Helps children see similarities & differences among peoples

Informational books

- ◆ More nonfiction books than any other writing
- ◆ Present facts, concepts & generalizations about a topic
- ◆ Evaluating non-fiction
 - Accuracy of facts
 - Organization – logical
 - Writing style – interesting & understandable
 - Illustrations – accurate & enhance
- ◆ Value:
 - Broadens children's knowledge

3. Criteria of Choosing Children's Literature

- a. Suitability
- b. Enjoyment

Children & Adult in literature

Adult:

- Provide enjoyment and understanding
- The complex ideas
- Complex in language & form

Children:

- Provide enjoyment and understanding
- May not understand the same complex ideas
- Simpler in language & idea
- Stories are more directly told
- More obvious relationship between characters & action
- Accept the fantastic more readily than adult

Children's literature by age category :

1. Picture books appropriate for pre-readers ages 0–5.
example:

Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
(1902)

Dr. Seuss' *The Cat In The Hat*

Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*

The Tale of
PETER RABBIT.



By **BEATRIX POTTER.**

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2. Chapter book appropriate for children ages 7–11.

–Short chapter books, appropriate for children ages 7–9.

–Longer chapter books, appropriate for children ages 9–12.

tells the story primarily through prose, rather than pictures.

Example: The Little Bear

FULL SCREEN

DVD

COLLECTION

THE
LITTLE BEAR
MOVIE



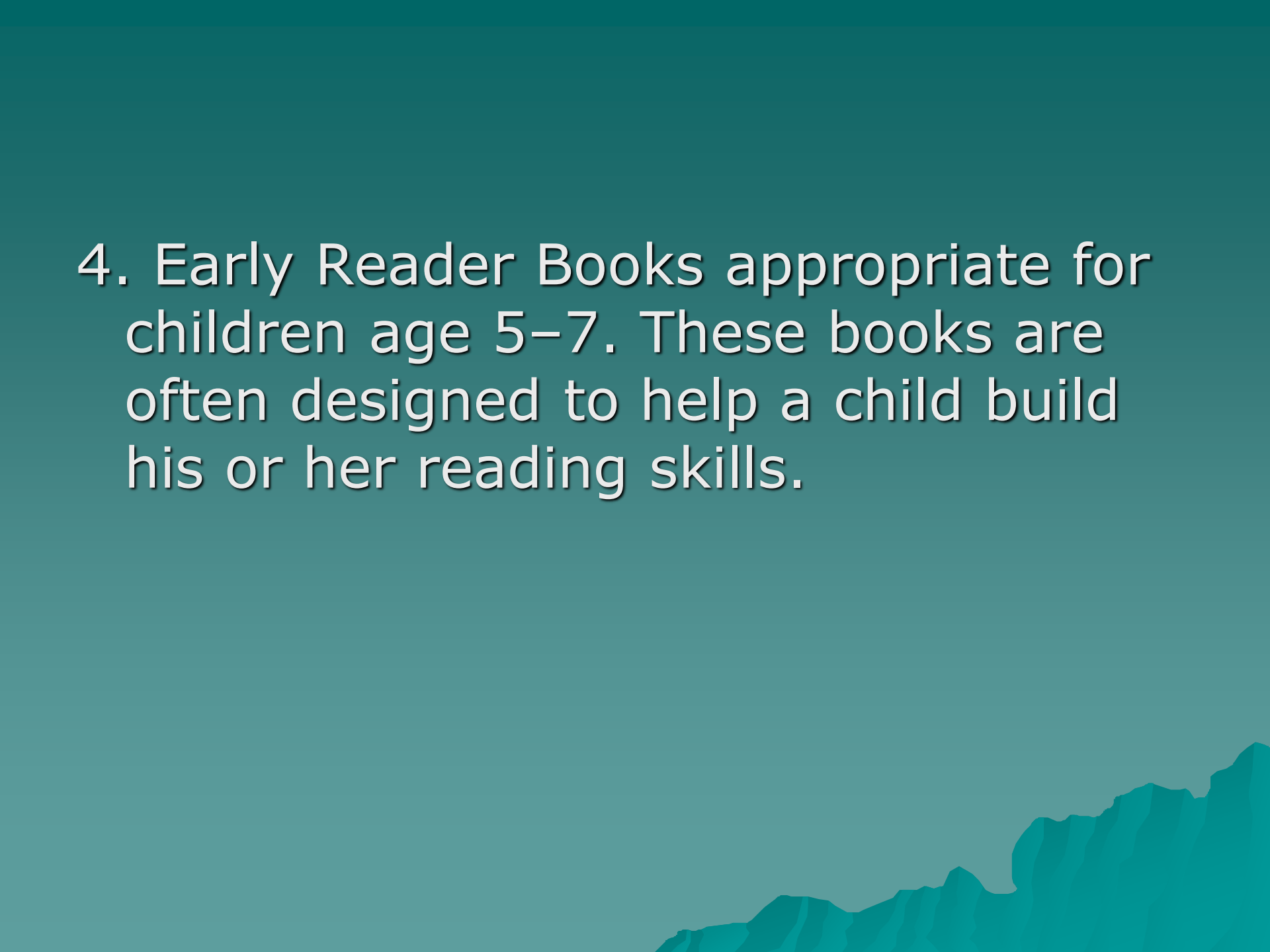
Little Bear's First Feature Length Movie

3. Young-adult fiction appropriate for children age 13–18.

- ◆ *Oliver Twist* (1838)
- ◆ *Great Expectations* (1860)
- ◆ *Alice in Wonderland* (1865)
- ◆ *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876)
- ◆ *Heidi* (1880)
- ◆ *Treasure Island* (1883)
- ◆ *The Jungle Book* (1894)



4. Early Reader Books appropriate for children age 5–7. These books are often designed to help a child build his or her reading skills.

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