

Acknowledgements	vii
Introduction: A Map of Criticism	1
1 Criticism and Children's Literature	5
2 The Situation of Children's Literature	17
<i>Why Study Children's Literature?</i>	17
<i>Conflicts of Opinion</i>	20
<i>Typical Confusions</i>	26
<i>Confronting our Prejudices</i>	36
3 Defining Children's Literature	42
<i>Aspects of Definition</i>	42
<i>Ways of Reading Children's Literature</i>	45
<i>Defining 'Literature'</i>	48
<i>Defining the Child</i>	57
<i>Defining 'Children's Literature'</i>	60
4 Approaching the Text	65
<i>A More Detailed Strategy</i>	67
<i>The Reader</i>	69
<i>The Book</i>	77
<i>Reading an Example: The Eighteenth Emergency</i>	78
5 The Text and the Reader	81
<i>What Texts Imply</i>	84
<i>The Reader and Meaning</i>	87
<i>Decoding the Text</i>	89
<i>Other Aspects of Reading</i>	97

6	Style and Stylistics	100
	<i>Introducing Stylistics</i>	100
	<i>The Importance of Language</i>	104
	<i>Style and 'Register'</i>	105
	<i>Stylistics and Control</i>	109
7	Narrative	118
	<i>Narrative and the Reader</i>	118
	<i>Reading Narrative: an Example</i>	121
	<i>The Shape of the Story</i>	127
	<i>Cohesion and Genre: How do we Understand Narrative?</i>	132
8	Politics, Ideology, and Children's Literature	138
	<i>Identifying the Illusions</i>	141
	<i>'Anyone can be an Expert'</i>	144
	<i>'All on the Side of the Angels'</i>	146
	<i>Claiming the Book</i>	149
	<i>Positive Moves</i>	152
9	Producing Children's Literature	155
	<i>Producing Children's Books: A Personal Report</i>	162
10	Criticism and the Picture Book	175
11	Criticism for Children's Literature	189
	Notes	202
	Bibliography	227
	Index	232