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Front Matter

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THE INSIDE, OUTSIDE, AND UPSIDE DOWNS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

From Poets and Pop-ups to Princesses and Porridge

Jenifer Jasinski Schneider, Ph.D.
The Inside, Outside, and Upside Downs of Children’s Literature: From Poets and Pop-ups to Princesses and Porridge

Jenifer Jasinski Schneider, Ph.D.
Dedication

To my daughters, Bethany and Mary.

To Bethany, my reader of animal facts, biology books, and all things fantasy or science fiction. Through you, I learned that it’s really true—a love of books starts at bedtime (Figure i). I love you madly!

To Mary, my reader of fairy tales and fiction (Figure ii). Through you, I learned that a love of books delays bedtime, or invites more reading, depends on how you look at it.

Me: Go to bed, Mary.
Mary: Can I read?
Me: Yes.
(20 minutes later)
Me: OK, Mary, that’s enough.
Mary: Just five more minutes?
Me: OK. Five minutes, but that’s it.
(20 minutes later)
Me: Go to sleep now.
Mary: Can I finish this page?
Me: Yes.
(10 minutes later)
Me: That’s the longest page in the history of books.
Goodnight, Mary.
Mary: Good night, Mommy. I love you. Sweet dreams.
Sleep tight.
Me: Goodnight, Mary. I love you. Sweet dreams. Sleep tight.

To Troy, my “fox” in socks (Figure iii). Through you I’ve learned that Johnny Cash rules the world. I’ve also witnessed the inevitable truth; kids love to Hop on Pop (Figure iv). We won the game!

Figure i
Bethany's reading before naptime. Photo copyright 2002 by Jenifer Schneider.

Figure ii
Mary's reading before bedtime. Photo copyright 2011 by Jenifer Schneider.

Figure iii
Troy is my “fox” in socks. Photo copyright 2003 by Jenifer Schneider.

Figure iv
The girls love to “hop on their pop!” They also love to read with their pop. Photo copyright 2003 by Jenifer Schneider.
With Appreciation

To the People, Objects, and Events that Created a Reader

To my parents, Ziggy and Mary Jasinski (Figure v), who filled my life with love, laughter, and books. Have you ever known what it’s like to have a fan club? My parents are mine. Buzi!

To Dr. Seuss, P.D. Eastman, and the Berenstains (in the universe) (Figure vi). You were sheer perfection to my toddler self. I have vivid memories of reading pages from your books (Figure vii).

To Charles M. Schultz (in the universe). Somewhere, in a drawer, box, or attic, I have a letter from you. I told you that I wanted to grow up and draw cartoons—just like you. You wrote back and told me that you believed in me. You also sent me a drawing of the whole Peanuts gang. You were an inspiration.

To Mrs. Jerry Hines, my elementary school librarian. You were gregarious, outrageous, and mad about books. You showed me (and my whole class) all of the Newbery and Caldecott winners. You read aloud each week. You let us check out more than one book. You helped us find the books we wanted. You helped us want the books we needed. You read books about Black people, White people, Wild Things, and Lonely Dolls. What a role model!

To Judy Blume, what can I say that you haven’t heard from every other fan in the world? I read all of your books as a kid. I loved them. They changed me as a reader and a person. I follow you on Twitter. I’m a huge fan. By the way, my dad’s nickname is Ziggy (for Zygmunt) and when I was little, he had an alter ego named Iggy. When my sister and I played alone for too long, Iggy (my dad on his knees) knocked on the bedroom door to “come play” and check on us. When Iggy arrived, our playtime became a wrestling match or we decorated Iggy with make-up and bows (Figure viii). I expected Iggy’s House to be about my dad. Boy, I was wrong. Thanks for opening my eyes to the rest of the world.
To Dr. Fran Goforth (in the universe), when I decided to become a teacher, you taught my first children’s literature course. You taught me how to teach reading with children’s literature and to provide spaces for children’s authentic, aesthetic responses. As a Masters student, you taught my second children’s literature course. When I mentioned that I was interested in a doctorate, you told me that Ohio State had a wonderful program in literacy and children’s literature. That suggestion, dear lady, changed my life.

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Finally, to J.K. Rowling. I don’t think I had a better literary experience than when I read Harry Potter alongside my daughters. Then, when we visited Harry’s World, the stories came to life before our eyes (Figure x). Rarely, as an adult, can a person experience magic. I did.
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Thank you to my colleagues in the USF Library: Monica Metz-Wiseman (Coordinator of Electronic Collections), Todd Chavez (Interim Dean of the USF Library), LeEtta M. Schmidt (Resource Sharing and Copyright Librarian), Jason Boczar (Digital Scholarship and Publishing Librarian), Carol Ann Borchert (Coordinator for Serials), Melanie Griffin (Children’s Literature & Young Adult Literature Special Collections Librarian), and Susan Ariew (Education Librarian). As I said somewhere in this book, librarians have mad skills. None madder than you!

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