



The Outside Child, In and Out of the Book (Children's Literature and Culture)

Christine Wilkie-Stibbs

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The Outside Child, In and Out of the Book is situated at the intersection between children's literature studies and childhood studies. In this provocative book, Christine Wilkie-Stibbs juxtaposes the narratives of literary and actual children/young adults to explore how Western culture has imagined, defined, and dealt with their outsider status – whether orphaned, homeless, refugee, victims of abuse, or exploited – and how processes of economic, social, or political impoverishment are sustained and naturalized in regimes of power, authority, and domination.

In five chapters titled: "Outsider," "Displaced," "Erased," "Abject," "Unattached," and "Colonized," the book situates and repositions a range of pre- and post-millennium children's/young adult fictions, autobiographies, policy documents, and reports in the current climate of rabid globalization, new "out-group" definitions, and prescribed normativity. Children's/young adult fictions considered include: Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses* trilogy; Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; Jacqueline Wilson's *The Illustrated Mum*; Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy*; Ann Provoost's *Falling*; Meg Rosoff's, *How I Live Now*; Elizabeth Laird's *A Little Piece of Ground*. Autobiographical works include Zlata Filipovic's *Zlata's Diary*; Kevin Lewis's *The Kid*; Latifa's *My Forbidden Face*; and Valérie Zenatti's *When I Was a Soldier*.

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