A6_7 Annotated Bibliography of Children’s Literature

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations and brief reaction to books (or other materials). The annotations inform the reader of the relevance and quality of each book. Create an annotated bibliography of a wide range of young children’s literature. You should have at least 20 entries in alphabetical order. You can begin this assignment early – it is due on Sunday of Week Seven!

Ways to do this assignment:
• If you are interested in teaching a specific grade level, you may select all your books from that level. Your bibliography will be a helpful resource when you start your own classroom library.
• Be sure the books you choose come from a variety of genres of literature. See the handout about genres for more information.
• You may choose to use your field experience classroom as a resource if you have started any of your field experience classes (practicum or student teaching). You can ask the children what books they have read and use their opinions along with your annotations.
• Alternately, if you are not sure what level you would like to teach, you can explore a variety of reading levels in your choices.
• Books can be checked out from your local public library for this assignment – no need to purchase the books.

20 Annotations with the Following Required Items:
• At least 1 book that is a myth, legend, or folklore
• At least 1 book that is fantasy
• At least 1 book that is informational or non-fiction
• At least 1 book that is historical fiction
• At least 1 book that is realistic fiction
• At least 2 books from the Caldecott Medal Book List found at http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottwinners/caldecottmedal

Annotation Instructions:
1. Identify the book using APA or MLA format. Identify the illustrators and the genre of the book. Tell the age group this book is appropriate for. Give a one-paragraph (2-3 sentences) plot summary, and then write a brief (about 100 words) evaluative paragraph (Notes). The paragraph can discuss anything related to the book. Consider the following list for this section, but do not answer all the questions for each entry. Try to focus your response on whatever most strikes you about the book:
   • Tell what you noticed, what you thought and felt, and why.
   • Tell what you liked and didn't like, and why.
   • Tell what these books said and meant to you.
   • Why would this be a good book to recommend to children?
   • What is the author saying about life and living through this book?
· What connections are there between the book and real life?
· How will children relate to the characters?

( Please do not look for reviews or postings on the Internet about the book. These are short books, so read the book for yourself.)

Sample Annotation – Follow this format:

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<tr>
<td><strong>Genre:</strong> Anthropomorphic Fiction</td>
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<td><strong>Age Group:</strong> infant through preschool age</td>
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<td><strong>Plot Summary:</strong> Three baby owls wake in the night to find their owl mother is gone. They express their feelings of worry about their missing mom and at the end of the book, flap with joy when their mom returns. This book chronicles separation anxiety through the eyes of three owl siblings.</td>
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<td><strong>Notes:</strong> This book about separation anxiety illustrates the point that ‘mommies always come back’. It can be comforting for young children in care settings who worry about their mommy or daddy coming back. As the owl babies worry about their mom, they verbalize their fears. The smallest owl, Bill, repeats, “I want my mommy” throughout the book, and children love to chant this line with the reader. When Mommy returns to the nest, she states, “What’s all the fuss? You knew I would come back.” (Note from Cathy: I used this book for years with young children when I was in the classroom – I have it memorized.) I recommend this book to help comfort young children distressed from separation anxiety.</td>
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**Tips**
- Your evaluative paragraphs should be at least 100 words (this one is 120).
- Describe your thoughts after reading the book. Quick but thoughtful reactions are what you want here. Don’t copy and paste someone else’s thoughts – this is plagiarism.
- You might want to ask a child what he or she liked or didn’t like about the book. Ask about characters, action, etc. Discuss the child’s response as your evaluative paragraph. (Don’t do this for every entry. I primarily want to hear what YOU thought of these books and why you think they might be valuable to children)
- Use APA or MLA format for the citation, APA preferred. Information on formatting references can be found in the ANGEL class, Format Information folder.
- Alphabetize the entries.
- Use the most specific genre name (Examples: historical fiction instead of realism; anthropomorphic fiction instead of fiction)
- This project is due at the end of the week seven. You can start working on it early.

This assignment is adapted from http://staffwww.fullcoll.edu/janderson/children's lit/annotated bib.pdf