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# From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books

By Kathleen T. Horning



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*From Cover to Cover* has been considered *the* definitive guide to reading, reviewing, and critically evaluating children's books since its original publication in 1997. Now revised and updated, it remains an invaluable resource offering a fresh, up-to-date look at a fast-changing field.

All-new material includes:

- An updated introduction that reflects the many changes in the children's book industry
- A section on genres, including a discussion of graphic novels
- A section on children's literature blogs
- An introduction of two new major genre awards—the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal and the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award
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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Kathleen T. Horning is the director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was also a children's librarian at Madison Public Library for nine years.

Ms. Horning was the president of the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association in 2007, as well as president of the United States Board on Books for Young People in 2003. She has chaired or served on a variety of children's book award committees, including the Américas Award, the Charlotte Zolotow Award, the John Newbery, USBBY's Hans Christian Andersen Award, the Coretta Scott King Award, the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, the ALA/ALSC's Notable Children's Books, and the NCTE Lee Bennett Hopkins Award committees, and she was selected to deliver the 2010 May Hill Arbutnot Honor Lecture.

She is the coauthor with Ginny Moore Kruse of *Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults* and of *CCBC Choices*, an annual publication reviewing the best books for children and young adults. She has a BA in linguistics and a master's degree in library and information studies, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

#### From [Booklist](#)

In the 12 years since the first edition of this guide was published, much has changed in the children's book world. The second edition acknowledges this through updated book titles and commentary and by including subgenres in the chapter on fiction. One thing that has not changed, however, is the usefulness of this beautifully written how-to manual, which also manages to present a treatise on what is best in children's literature and why. Following an initial chapter on the construction and publication of children's books, subsequent chapters treat informational books, folk and fairy tales, poetry and verse, picture books, easy readers and transitional books, and fiction. The final chapter deals with crafting a review. The chapters on genres give ample tips on telling a well-written, well-composed book from a less-excellent specimen. The chapter on reviewing covers the distinction between reviewing and criticism and then takes a soup-to-nuts approach to preparing and composing a review. An excellent resource for any reviewer, this has special application for libraries serving information schools and for school districts that maintain in-house reviewing programs. --Ann Welton

#### From the Back Cover

From Cover to Cover is a fresh, up-to-date look at some of the best examples of children's literature today, and also includes practical advice on how to write clearly articulated, reasoned opinions so that others can learn about books they have not yet read. In addition to a brief introduction that clearly explains how children's books evolve from manuscripts into bound books, and a simple explanation of the importance of the many different parts of a book (jacket flaps, title page, copyright, Cataloging-in-Publication information, etc.), the author demonstrates how to think about and critically evaluate several different genres of children's books. Included are sections about books of information (and the author's responsibility to document sources); traditional literature (myths, legends, tall tales, folktales); poetry, verse, rhymes, and songs; picture books; easy readers and transitional books; and fiction. There is also a concluding chapter on how to write

reviews that are both descriptive and analytical.

## **Users Review**

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#### **Jenni Roberts:**

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