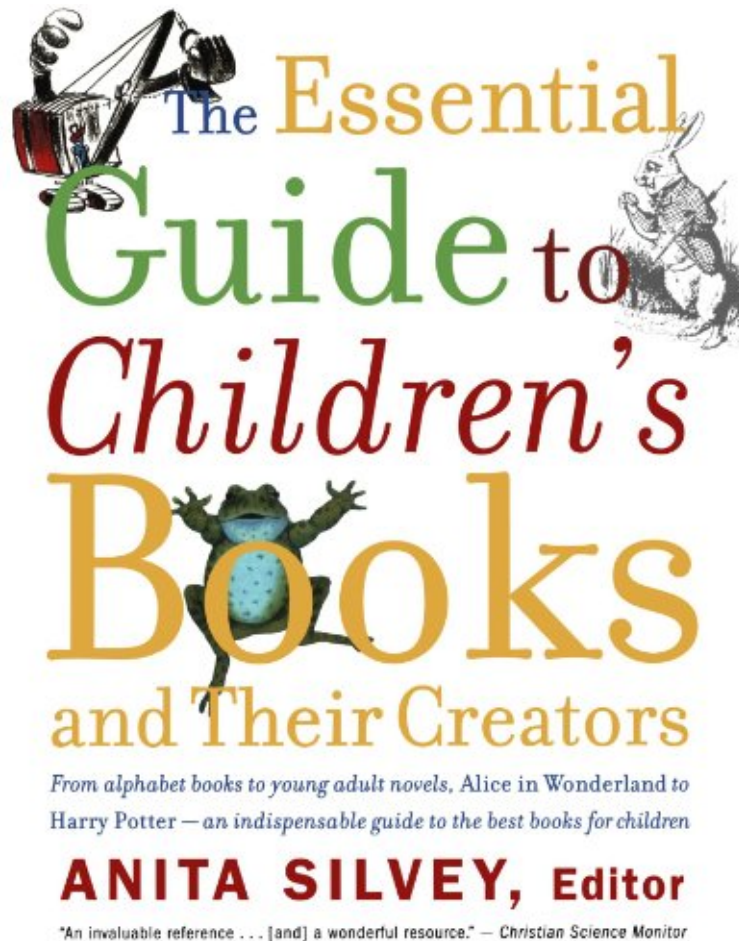


(Download pdf) The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators

## The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators

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Upon publication, Anita Silvey's comprehensive survey of contemporary children's literature, *Children's Books and Their Creators*, garnered unanimous praise from librarians, educators, and specialists interested in the world of writing for children. Now *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* assembles the best of that volume in one handy, affordable reference, geared specifically to parents, educators, and students. This new volume introduces readers to the wealth of children's literature by focusing on the essentials: the best books for children, the ones that inform, impress, and, most important, excite young readers. Updated to include newcomers such as J. K. Rowling and Lemony Snicket and to cover the very latest on publishing and educational trends, this edition features more than 475 entries on the best-loved children's authors and illustrators, numerous essays on social and historical issues, thirty personal glimpses into craft by well-known writers, illustrators, and critics, and invaluable reading lists by category. *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* summarizes the canon of contemporary children's literature, in a practical guide essential for anyone choosing a book for or working with children.

From Publishers Weekly: Aficionados of children's literature get an education with *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators*, ed. by Anita Silvey, an updated version of her *Children's Books and Their Creators* (1995). With an encyclopedic approach, the volume contains 475 alphabetically ordered entries—375 from the previous edition and 100 new essays—covering authors, illustrators, genres, publishing trends and more. Writers and artists sound off in entries marked "Voices of the Creators"; incidental illustrations appear throughout. All ages. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *School Library Journal*: From Aesop to Zwerger, this title holds a wealth of information about children's literature in an easily accessible, alphabetized format. To create the work, some material was taken from the earlier collection, *Children's Books and Their Creators* (Houghton, 1995), and combined with more than 100 new essays on more recent titles. When necessary, information from the previous title has been updated. In her introduction, Silvey states that she considered "historical importance, popularity, current interest in and availability of the books, and the overall contribution of the author or artist." The titles "include captivating stories, compelling characters and imaginative use of language—they appeal to a wide and diverse audience of children." In addition to essays on various genres, themes, and perspectives, "Voices of the Creators" provide personal insights of well-known authors and illustrators. The book also contains a substantial reading list divided into categories, such as nursery rhymes, information books, and Japanese American literature. A solid, handy resource for both public and school libraries. Suzanne Crowder, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, KY. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*: Former longtime Horn Book editor Silvey returns to the subject of notable children's authors with a revision of her 1995 *Children's Books and Their Creators*. Like its acclaimed predecessor, this guide offers brief but meaty articles on authors, overviews of genres and historical issues, and a smattering of essays by authors on their own writing. A reading list by age and category is an added bonus. Although Silvey previously sought to create a single-volume reference on important authors, here she targets students, parents, and teachers with a slimmer volume of selected entries focusing on contemporary authors. She has thus added 100 new articles to bring the book up to date with figures like J.K. Rowling and Lemony Snicket. But while the original work featured over 800 authors and topics representing classic children's literature, the updated version retains only 375 of the older work's entries. This poses a difficulty for libraries, which will want to acquire this volume for the necessary updates but also retain the prior volume for the 400-plus entries not replicated here. Recommended for most reference collections as a supplement to Silvey's earlier work, although, for those who can afford it, the *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature* offers broader coverage in one volume. Kelli Perkins, Herrick Dist. Lib., Holland, MI. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.