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From Cover To Cover (revised Edition): Evaluating And Reviewing Children's Books



Synopsis

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 And more than 90 percent of the books cited have been updated to more recent publications!

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Customer Reviews

From Cover to Cover adds much valuable information to the Children's Literature course I teach. I use Tomlinson's, *Essentials of Children's Literature*; a wonderful text in itself.

This book was used as a text book in a graduate-level Children's Literature class. The language is very accessible, and provides a great overview covering topics from picture books to fairy tales to evaluating chapter books and writing a review.

It's not amazingly fun to read, but it has some information about what to look for when reviewing children's books that I didn't know before and it's not as painfully boring as some textbooks. I do wish she'd wax on a little less about Margaret Wise Brown, but that's my own bias.

Although Horning's "From Cover To Cover" is very thorough, covering picture books, easy-readers and transitional books, as well as middle-grade fiction, it does not make for a pleasurable reading experience. Horning's approach is to information dump. The text is humorless and lacks any kind of compelling authorial voice or style. The chapters range from just 10-30 pages in length, yet they seem arduously long because they're written in competent college-freshman prose (think thesis statement, point 1, point 2, etc.) The book's typography and layout--yawn--seem hot off the press of an outdated version of Microsoft Word, the publisher using the default settings of Times New Roman and reformatting the manuscript to 1.5 spacing. "From Cover To Cover" has good content, too bad it's an absolute bore to read.

This invaluable resource perfectly satiates the appetite of children's books writers and reviewers eager for more information. With insight into the process and history of publishing, genres, text, and illustration, readers will get a peek behind the curtain without having to intern at Scholastic. Though not written to entertain the typical reader, this is a valuable tool worth having in the reference arsenal.

It's a great book for people who are learning about how to serve children in a library setting. It explains very well what one needs to take into consideration when evaluating a book for a child.

This is exactly what I needed for my Children's Literature and Literacy class at Pratt. The information is good and sample questions are provided to help a reviewer think of answers.

A timeless reference for anyone who wants to review and evaluate books. Horning's principles are aimed at children's books but are easily applicable to books of any age and genre.

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