This volume brings together the papers delivered at the conference held in Venice on 15th December 2000. In the examination of a variety of the "classics" and non-canonical books the contributors offer insights into the most crucial literary, theoretical and cultural issues concerning the nature and appeal of children's literature: the complexity of children's literature, the relationship between children's books and contemporary ideology, the construction of cultural and sexual identities, the ambiguous attitude of adults towards childhood, the relationship between words and pictures, multiculturalism, and many others.

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