



The Jane Addams Children's Book Award: Honoring Children's Literature for Peace and Social Justice since 1953

Susan C. Griffith

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Jane Addams (1860–1935) was an inspired activist who struck at the roots of social injustice through persistent and thoughtful action, advocating for reforms in sanitation, housing and work conditions, and child labor. In 1915 Addams founded the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), and in 1931 she became the first American female recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Eighteen years after Addams's death, members of the WILPF created the Jane Addams Children's Book Award. Presented annually, the award honors children's books that invite readers to think deeply about peace, social justice, world community, and equality for all races and genders.

The Jane Addams Children's Book Award: Honoring Children's Literature for Peace and Social Justice since 1953 is the first book to examine the award as well as its winners and honor books. In this volume, Susan C. Griffith reviews and synthesizes Addams's ideas and legacy, so that her life and accomplishments can be used as a focal point for exploring issues of social justice through children's literature.

In addition to a history and overview of the award, this work contains annotated bibliographies with thematically arranged winners and honor books bestowed in Addams's name. Supporting literature study in classrooms and integrating points of reflection drawn from the activist's life, *The Jane Addams Children's Book Award* is an invaluable resource for educators, students, and librarians.

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