

Issues of Time's Urgency and Ritual in Children's Picture Books: A Closer Look at the Contributions of Grandparents

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Abstract : Although invisible and fleeting, time is an essential variable in perception. Ritual is proposed as an antithesis to the passage of time, a way of linking our narratives with the past, present and future. This qualitative exploration examines a variety of award winning twentieth-century children's picture books, specifically regarding the issues of time's urgency and ritual with respect to children and grandparents. The paper will begin with a consideration of issues of time from the area of psychology, with regard to age, specifically contrasting later age and childhood. Next the value of ritual as represented by the presence of grandparents in children's books. Specific instances of the contributions of grandparents or older adults with regard to this balancing function between time's urgency and ritual will be discussed. Recommendations for future research include a consideration of grandparents' or older characters' depictions in books for older children.

Keywords : children's picture books, grandparents, ritual, time

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