

Martha P. Hixon
Professor of English
Middle Tennessee State University
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Education

Ph.D. in Literature, University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana, Lafayette), May 1997

Major field: children's and young adult literature.

Other areas: 19th century British and American literature, folktales and literature, medieval literature

DISSERTATION: *Awakenings and Transformations: Re-Visioning the Tales of "Sleeping Beauty," "Snow White," "The Frog Prince," and "Tam Lin."* An analysis of how modern authors of children's literature and fantasy reinterpret the core motifs inherent in the classic literary versions of these three fairy tales and one ballad story.

M.A. in English, Northeast Louisiana University (now University of Louisiana, Monroe), Aug 1980

B.A. in English Education/Library Science, Northeast Louisiana University, May 1977

TEACHING / RELATED EXPERIENCE

Middle Tennessee State University, 1999-present. Courses include graduate and undergraduate courses in children's literature, folk and fairy tales, and children's film, as well as several graduate directed readings on various topics. Also, freshman composition and sophomore literature, both Honors and non-Honors sections.

- Tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in August 2004; promoted to Professor in August 2009
- named to Honors Faculty in Spring 2000 and Graduate Faculty in Fall 2000

Previous teaching and professional positions:

- Louisiana State University at Eunice, 1998-1999
- University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1997-1999
- Pima Community College, Tucson, Arizona, 1990-1993
- National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA, 1997-1999. Technical Editor/Writer and Education Specialist

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

Books and articles:

"Whose Woods These Are I Think I Know": Narrative Theory and Diana Wynne Jones's *Hexwood*." *Telling Children Stories: Narrative Theory and Children's Literature*. Ed. Mike Cadden. U of Nebraska P, 2011. 251-67.

"Power Plays: Paradigms of Power in *The Pinhoe Egg* and *The Merlin Conspiracy*." *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 21.2 (2010): 12-29.

"The Lady of Shalott' as Paradigm in Patricia McKillip's *The Tower at Stony Wood*." *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 16.3 (Fall 2005): 191-205.

"Under the Sea – American Adolescent Female Desire in *The Little Mermaid*." *Synsvinkler* 32 (2005): 90-106. publication of the Center for Nordic Studies, Syddansk University. (Special issue on H. C. Andersen).

"Tam Lin, Fair Janet, and the Sexual Revolution: Traditional Ballads, Fairy Tales, and Twentieth-Century Children's Literature." *Marvels and Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies* 18.1 (Spring 2004): 67-92.

Diana Wynne Jones: An Exciting and Exacting Wisdom. Ed. Teya Rosenberg, Martha P. Hixon, Sharon M. Scapple, and Donna R. White. Studies in Children's Literature Series. General Editor William Moebius. Peter Lang, 2002.

"The Importance of Being Nowhere: Narrative Dimensions and Their Interplay in *Fire and Hemlock*." In *Diana Wynne Jones: An Exciting and Exacting Wisdom*. 96-107.

"Images of Louisiana in Children's Literature." *Louisiana English Journal* 6.1 (1999): 71-74.

Book reviews and other published work:

Review of *Children's Fantasy Literature: An Introduction*, by Michael Levy and Farah Mendlesohn (Cambridge UP, 2016). *Children's Literature* 45 (2017). *forthcoming*.

Review of *Cinderella Across Cultures: New Directions and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Ed. Martine Hennard Dutheil de la Rochère, Gillian Lathey, and Monika Woźniak. *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 42. 1 (Spring 2017): 111-114.

Review of *Ethics and Form in Fantasy Literature: Tolkien, Rowling, and Meyer* by Lykke Guanio-Uluru (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015). *Lion and the Unicorn* 40.2 (April 2016): 234-237.

Review of *Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking-glass*, ed Richard Kelly (Broadview, 2015). Forthcoming in the *Victorians Institute Journal* 43 (2016).

Review of *Ethics and Form in Fantasy Literature: Tolkien, Rowling, and Meyer* by Lykke Guanio-Uluru (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015). *Lion and the Unicorn* 40.2 (April 2016): 234-237.

Review of *The Irresistible Fairy Tale: The Cultural and Social History of a Genre* by Jack Zipes (Princeton UP, 2012). *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 38.2 (Summer 2013): 243-246.

Review of *The Myth of Persephone in Girls' Fantasy Literature* by Holly Virginia Blackford (Routledge, 2012). *Children's Literature* 41 (2013): 255-261.

Review of *Artful Dodgers: Reconceiving the Golden Age of Children's Literature*, by Marah Gubar. *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 36.2 (Summer 2011): 240-42.

"Rewriting History" (Review Essay on Ruth Bottigheimer's *Fairy Tales: A New History*, SUNY P, 2009). *Children's Literature* 38 (2010): 231-236.

Review of *Red Riding Hood for All Ages* by Sandra Beckett (Wayne State UP, 2008). The *Lion and the Unicorn* 33.3 (Sept 2009): 422-425.

Review of *Folklore and the Fantastic in 19th Century British Fiction* by Jason Marc Harris (Ashgate, 2008). *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 34.1 (Spring 2009): 73-75.

Review of *Four British Fantasists* by Charles Butler (Scarecrow, 2006). *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 32.3 (Fall 2007): 273-275.

"The Child as Father of the Man: American Childhood and Walt Disney." (Review Essay on Nicholas Sammond's *Babes in Tomorrowland: Walt Disney and the Making of the American Child, 1930-1960*, Duke UP, 2005). *Children's Literature* 35 (2007): 239-242.

Review of *Folktales Retold: A Critical Overview of Stories Updated for Children* by Amie Doughty (McFarland, 2006). *The Lion and the Unicorn* 31.2 (April 2007): 196-199.

“Tale with a Thousand Faces: ‘Beauty and the Beast.’” (Review Essay on Jerry Griswold’s *The Meanings of ‘Beauty and the Beast’: A Handbook*, Broadview P, 2004). *Children’s Literature* 34 (2006): 214-17.

“New Wine in Old Bottles.” (Review Essay on Elizabeth Wanning Harries’ *Twice Upon a Time: Women Writers and the History of the Fairy Tale*, Princeton, 2001). *Children’s Literature* 32 (2004): 216-221.

Review of *Little Red Riding Hood Uncloaked: Sex, Morality, and the Evolution of a Fairy Tale* by Catherine Orenstein (Basic Books, 2002). *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly* 29.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2004): 129-31.

Review of *In Cold Fear* by Pamela Hunt Steinle (Ohio State UP, 2000). *ChLA Quarterly* 27.3 (Fall 2002): 167.

Entries on Donna Jo Napoli, Patricia Wrede, Charles de Lint, Terri Windling, and William Brooke in *The St. James Guide to Children’s Writers/Young Adult Writers*. Ed. Tom and Sara Pendergrast. St. James Press, 1999.

Entries on Charles Perrault, Hans Christian Andersen, Uncle Remus, Angela Carter, and Joseph Jacobs in *The Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature*, Ed. Bruce Rosenberg and Mary Ellen Brown. Garland Press, 1998.

Conference presentations and invited presentations

“Blurring the Lines Between Fantasy and Reality: N.D. Wilson’s *Boys of Blur*.” Presented at the International Children’s Literature Association Conference in Tampa, FL, June 22-24, 2017.

“Picture This! David Wisniewski’s *Sundiata, Lion King of Mali* as Fantastic Epic.” Presented at the 38th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 22-25, 2017.

“Remaking Disney Classics, or, Disney Does Disney.” Presented at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association of the South Conference, Nashville, TN, Oct 13-15, 2016.

“Backstories and Subtexts: Disney’s Self-referentiality and the Story Behind the Story.” Presented at the International Children’s Literature Association Conference in Columbus, OH, June 9-11, 2016.

“My Mother, Myself: Mother-Daughter Conflicts in ‘Snow White.’” Presented at the 37th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 16-20, 2016.

“‘Everyone and everything has a time to die’: Good and Evil, Death and the Afterlife as Represented by Zlotow, Nix, Le Guin, and Rowling.” Presented at the International Children’s Literature Association Conference in Richmond, VA, June 18-20, 2015.

“Wonderlands and Neverlands: Magical Geography in Children’s Literature.” Invited lecture for MTSU’s Honors Lecture Series on the power of place in classic children’s books, presented in September 2014.

“Growing Up Is Risky Business: Innocent Persecuted Heroines in Classic Fairy Tales.” Presented at the Internationsl Children’s Literature Association Conference in Biloxi, MS, June 13-15, 2013.

“A Neverending Story: Revisions, Retellings, and Adaptations in Folktales and Children’s Literature.” Invited keynote lecture for MTSU’s English Graduate Student Organization conference, September 22, 2012.

“Fighting Snow with Fire: Power Paradigms in the Grimms’ ‘Snow White’ and Modern Retellings.” Presented at the International Children’s Literature Association Conference at Simmons College, Boston MA, June 14-16, 2012.

"Conservatively Subversive: J.K. Rowling, Diana Wynne Jones, and Social Ideologies." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference at Hollins University, Roanoke, VA, June 23-25, 2011.

"Power Dynamics in Diana Wynne Jones' *The Pinhoe Egg* and *Black Maria*." Presented at the International Children's Literature Association Conference in Ann Arbor, MI, June 10-12, 2010.

"Power Plays: Paradigms of Power in Two Novels by Diana Wynne Jones." Presented at the inaugural Diana Wynne Jones Conference, hosted by the University of the West in Bristol, England, July 2-6, 2009.

"Power in the Land: Three Paradigms of Magical Geography." Presented at the International Children's Literature Association Conference in Charlotte, NC, June 11-14, 2009.

"ChLA: Entering the Third Generation." Presidential Address presented to the Children's Literature Association General Membership during the annual conference in Bloomington/Normal, IL, June 14, 2008.

"The Presence of the Past: Bridging Time in Twentieth Century British Fantasy for Children." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Newport News, VA, June 14-16, 2007.

"Story, Time, and Timelessness: Narrative Transformations in Diana Wynne Jones's *Hexwood*." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Manhattan Beach, CA, June 6-8, 2006.

"Under the Sea: American Adolescent Female Desire in Walt Disney's *The Little Mermaid*." Presented at the "Hans Christian Andersen: A Celebration and Reappraisal" conference hosted by the British Library, the University of Newcastle, and the Institute of English Studies at the University of London in London, England, August 8-10, 2005.

"Utopian Visions in Animal Land: Brian Jacques' Redwall Novels and Their Debt to Kenneth Grahame." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Fresno, CA, June 10-12, 2004.

"Mirrors, Towers, Dragons, and Wise Women: "The Lady of Shalott" as Paradigm in Patricia McKillip's *The Tower at Stony Wood*." Presented at Mythcon 34, Conference of the Mythopoetic Society, Nashville, TN, July 25-28, 2003.

"The Postmodern Fairy Tales of Donna Jo Napoli." Presented at the International Children's Literature Association Conference in El Paso, TX, June 5-8, 2003.

"Inner World and Other World: The Use of Folklore in the Fantasies of Mollie Hunter." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Wilkes-Barre, PA, June 12-16, 2002.

"The Hero's Journey: Brian Jacques's *Redwall*." Presented at the 23rd International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 20-24, 2002.

"Bridging Traditions: Turning Fairy Tale into Fantasy Story—Robin McKinley's *Spindle's End*." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Buffalo, NY, June 6-10, 2001.

"A Close Look at the Narrative Structure of *Fire and Hemlock*." Part of a panel on Diana Wynne Jones at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Roanoke, VA, June 21-23, 2000.

"Bayou Belles and Sons of the Swamp: Images of Acadiana in 20th Century Children's Fiction." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Roanoke, VA, June 21-23, 2000.

"Sex and the Schoolgirl: The Fairy-Tale Patterns of Adele Geras' Tower Room Trilogy." Presented at the 3rd Biennial Modern Approaches to Children's Literature Conference, MTSU, March 24-27, 1999.

"Sir Galahad and the Victorian Spiritual Ideal: The Opposing Views of Tennyson and Morris." Presented to the Christianity and Literature Section of the South Central Modern Languages Association Conference in Dallas, TX, October 30-November 1, 1997.

"Sleeping Beauty Awakens: Modern Revisions of an Old Tale." Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, June 19-22, 1997.

"Samuel Taylor Coleridge in the Land of Faery." Presented to the Folklore Section of the South Central Modern Languages Association in San Antonio, TX, October 31-November 1, 1996.

"Myth, Magic, and Missing Parents: Fantasy and the Problem Novel." Presented to the Children's Literature Section of the South Central Modern Languages Association in Houston, TX, October 26-28, 1995.

"Of Enchanted Frogs and Princesses: Re-visioning 'The Frog Prince.'" Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, June 1-4, 1995.

"Traditional Ballad and Plot Structure, or When Is a Ballad Not a Ballad?" Presented at the American Folklore Society Conference in Lafayette, LA, October 12-15, 1995.

"Samuel G. Goodrich, American Romancer?" Presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference at Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, June 2-5, 1994.

Theses and Dissertations directed, other student mentoring

Successfully defended:

2017

- Emily Anderson, "Harry Potter, Lord Voldemort, and the Importance of Resilience" (Honors thesis)

2016

- Philip Shafer, "Transfiguration Maxima! Harry Potter and the Complexities of Filmic Adaptation." (PhD dissertation)
- JoAnna Kate Ruth Johnson, "Baba Yaga: The Judicious Magistrate of Russian Folklore" (Honors thesis)

2015

- Sara Kern, "Females and Feminism Reclaim the Mainstream: New Superheroines in Marvel Comics" (M.A. thesis)
- Carly Davis, "Lady Hero Defined: An Exploration of the Female Protagonists in the Works of Robin McKinley and Suzanne Collins" (Honors thesis)
- Jay Voorhies "Melting Pot Rapunzel" (Honors thesis)
- Bridget Carlson, "T.S. Eliot, Children's Poet?" (Honors thesis)

2014

- Lauren Price, "Fairy Tales Reinterpreted: Passive Protagonists Transformed into Active Heroines" (M.A. thesis)
- Reader for Shiloh Carroll, "Enchanting the Past: Neomedievalisms in Fantasy Literature" (PhD dissertation directed by Dr. Amy Kaufman); Lawrence McKenna, "A Disease of Purchase: Consumerism Culture and Comic Books" (PhD dissertation directed by Dr. David Lavery); Caitlin Noonan, "Transformative Choice in the Harry Potter Novels" (Honors thesis directed by Dr. Ted Sherman); and Elizabeth Chitwood, "Hearing Between the Lines: Music as Characterization in Five Novels" (Honors thesis directed by Dr. Jill Hague)

2013

- Pamela Davis, "Shifting Ideology in Mildred D. Taylor's Books" (PhD dissertation)
- David LeDoux, "Lands of Escape: The Manipulation of Adult Linear Time in British Children's Fantasy" (M.A. thesis)
- Kelsey Roger, "Red Rider: Werewolf Hunter" (Honors thesis)
- Reader for Agapi Theodorou, "Jo's Progeny: Tracing the Girl Writer, 1868-1964" (PhD dissertation directed by Dr. Ellen Donovan); Victoria Warenik, "The Cultural (R)evolution of Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's*

Guide to the Galaxy (M.A. thesis directed by Dr. David Lavery); Jessica Evans, "Female Roles and Moral Education in Maria Edgeworth" (M.A. thesis directed by Dr. Alfred Lutz); Sara Crotzer, "A Picture vs. A Thousand Words: How Authored Children's Classics Retain Cultural Relevancy Through British Television Adaptations" (M.A. thesis directed by Dr. Jennifer Marchant); and Fernando Ramos-Citron, "Fractured Tales: A Movement Analysis and Performance of Fairy Tales and Their Characters (Honors thesis directed by Marsha Barsky, Dance & Theatre)

2012

- Ariel Dingus, "Drawing on Nature: Environmental Themes in animated Films" (M.A. thesis)
- Alyssa Dawson, "Purpose and the Upward Journey: The Hero's Quest of Becoming in George MacDonald's Fantasy and Historical Fiction" (M.A. thesis)
- Joseph Quarles, "Snow White: A Comprehensive Literary and Cinematic Study," (Honors thesis)
- Rachel Nutt, "An Exploration of and a Creative Addition to Bilingual Children's Literature in the United States (Honors thesis)
- Reader for Lisa Connor, "We Can Build You: Science Fiction, Textism, and the Making of a Literary Identity" (MA thesis directed by Dr. David Lavery)

2011

- Sarah Bryant, "Fighting to Fly: Swan Maidens Struggling for Autonomy in Contemporary Adolescent Literature" (M.A. thesis)
- Casey Gaddis, "'Tam Lin': A Retelling" (Honors thesis)
- Laura Wilbanks, "'East of the Sun, West of the Moon': A Retelling" (Honors thesis).

2010

- Linda Selby, "The Elderly Woman as Portrayed in Children's Literature," (M.A. thesis)
- Samantha Egbers, "Threaded Together," on contemporary retellings of Sleeping Beauty and Rumplestiltskin (Honors thesis)
- Reade for James Francis, "Recycled Fear: The Contemporary Horror Remake as American Cinema Industry Standard" (PhD dissertation directed by Dr. David Lavery) and Lisa Brown, "Blood and Borders: Creativity in *Beowulf*" (PhD dissertation directed by Dr. Ted Sherman)

2009

- James Curtis, "Empowering Children: The Orphan Hero in 20th Century Children's Fantasy Fiction" (M.A. thesis)

2008

- Jennifer Connor, "The Uses of Medievalism in British Children's Fantasy," (M.A. thesis)
- Reader for Leah Mittelmeier, "Charles Dodgson, Victorian: The Cultural and Biographical Significance of Charles Dodgson's Serious Poetry" (M.A. thesis directed by Dr. Robert Petersen)

2007

- Karen Austin, "The Education of Alice" (M.A. thesis)

2005

- Rachel Robinson, "Searching for Elsewhere: Utopias and Distopias in Lois Lowry's The Giver Trilogy" (M.A. thesis)

2004

- Reader for Vickie Knierem, "Louisa May Alcott's Moody Little Women and the Fashioning of Female Adolescence in 19th Century America" (M.A. thesis)

2002

- Ruth Anderson, "The Heroic Journey in Children's Fantasy Fiction: J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Cycle" (Honors thesis)

McNair Scholar mentor for various undergraduate students in 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2010

Graduate Directed Readings on Victorian fairy tales, the rhetoric of motherhood in children's literature, the intersection of Victorian and Edwardian children's literature and adult literature, 19th century British boarding school stories, Victorian poetry and the concept of nature, and Charles Dickens' nonfiction

Professional Memberships and Service, Awards

Children's Literature Association, 1994-current

Past President, 2008-2009

President, 2007-2008

Vice President/President Elect, 2006-2007

Board of Directors, 2003-2006

Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Committee, 2010-2012, committee chair 2013-2016

Publicity Committee, 2002-2006, chair 2004-2006

Co-Editor, *ChLA Newsletter*, 1998-2004

Member, Sigma Tau Delta

Member, Phi Kappa Phi

Member, International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts

Co-director of the biennial conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature, 2001-2009.

Teaching Awards

August 2012 MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award (Was also nominated for this same award in 2009)

April 2003 MTSU Outstanding Honors Faculty Teaching Award