

INTERPRETING LITERATURE WITH CHILDREN

SHELBY A. WOLF



Clearly organized and beautifully written, *Interpreting Literature with Children* is a remarkable book that stands on the edge of two textbook genres: the survey of literature text and the literary criticism text. Neither approach, however, says enough about how children respond to literature in everyday classroom situations. That is the mission of this book.

It begins by providing a solid foundation in both approaches and then examines multiple ways of developing children's literary interpretation through talk, through culture, class, and gender, as well as through creative modes of expression including writing, the visual arts, and drama. The result is a balanced resource for teachers who want to deepen their understanding of literature and literary engagement.

Because of its modest length and price and its ongoing focus on how to increase student engagement with literature, either preservice or practicing teachers can use this text in children's literature, language arts, or literacy and language courses.

"If you remember a favorite teacher's story about a magical moment in a child's learning, this book is for you. Embedding learning in the wisdom of intuition, the rigor of research, and the joys of children's literature, these accounts from teachers will stick with every reader as a reminder of why teaching is a profession that makes not 'a difference,' but all kinds of differences."

—Shirley Brice Heath, *Stanford University*

"To me the key to the book is interpretation. That's a piece of children's literature instruction that is difficult to teach well. Shelby hands it to readers on a delicious platter. Its strength is the expression and description of teaching strategies coupled with Shelby's deep knowledge of literary forms. It promises to be a powerhouse book."

—Pat Enciso, *Ohio State University*



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