



The Gothic Fairy Tale in Young Adult Literature: Essays on Stories from Grimm to Gaiman

Joseph Abbruscato, Tanya Jones

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Rooted in the oral traditions of cultures worldwide, fairy tales have long played an integral part in children's upbringing. Filled with gothic and fantastical elements like monsters, dragons, evil step-parents and fairy godmothers, fairy tales remain important tools for teaching children about themselves, and the dangers and joys of the world around them.

In this collection of new essays, literary scholars examine gothic elements in more recent entries into the fairy tale genre--for instance, David Almond's *Skellig*, Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* and *Coraline* and Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*--exploring such themes as surviving incest, and the capture and consumption of children. Although children's literature has seen an increase in reality-based stories that allow children no room for escape from their everyday lives, these essays demonstrate the continuing importance of fairy tales in helping them live well-rounded lives.

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