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Children's Literature II

Session Chair:

Alya Hameed, San Diego State University

Time:

Session 4: Friday 3:45-5:15pm

Location:

RCC Meeting Room 8

Topic Area:

[Children's Literature](#) ^[1]

Presenters/Papers:

1. [Saving Childhood: Pilot as Intermediary in Antoine de Saint-Exupery's *Le Petit Prince*](#)

^[2]

Elizabeth Hoyt, Kansas State University

The intermediary nature Antoine de Saint-Exupery's pilot in *Le Petit Prince* can further critical discussion of representations of childhood and adulthood within literature, and help literary theorists understand the differences between fictional children and the adults who produce them. Readers are invited to re-examine whether or not 'growing up' really necessitates the end of childhood.

2. [Exhuming Youth: Eternal Childhood and the Victorian Gothic](#)

^[3]

Tyler Michael Dean, University of California, Irvine

Focusing on two examples of eternal childhood, *Bleak House's* Harold Skimpole and *Peter and Wendy's* Peter Pan, the paper examines the relationship between the eternal child and the Gothic villain, questioning the traditionally queer valence of the eternal child and redefining it as a non-liminal creature, which manifests through hostile self-assertion.

3. [The Resurgence of the Gothic as Mode: Autonomy, Abjection and Female Gendering in DeVito's *Matilda*](#)

^[4]

Alyssa Clark, San Diego State University

Adapted from the Dahl classic, Danny DeVito's film *Matilda* embraces the Gothic mode to critique American conceptions of gender. *Matilda's* exploration of inverted social norms, reclaimed gothic environments and satirical portrayal of American society culminate in an enlightening critique of the dangers of American gender oppression through an analysis of Agatha Trunchbull's

0. characterization.

Session Cancelled:

No

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