



## Critical Multicultural Analysis of Children's Literature: Mirrors, Windows, and Doors (Language, Culture, and Teaching Series)

By Maria José Botelho, Masha Kabakow Rudman



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"Children's literature is a contested terrain, as is multicultural education. Taken together, they pose a formidable challenge to both classroom teachers and academics.... Rather than deny the inherent conflicts and tensions in the field, in *Critical Multicultural Analysis of Children's Literature: Mirrors, Windows, and Doors*, Maria José Botelho and Masha Kabakow Rudman confront, deconstruct, and reconstruct these terrains by proposing a reframing of the field.... Surely all of us – children, teachers, and academics – can benefit from this more expansive understanding of what it means to read books." Sonia Nieto, From the Foreword

Critical multicultural analysis provides a philosophical shift for teaching literature, constructing curriculum, and taking up issues of diversity and social justice. It problematizes children's literature, offers a way of reading power, explores the complex web of sociopolitical relations, and deconstructs taken-for-granted assumptions about language, meaning, reading, and literature: it is literary study as sociopolitical change.

Bringing a critical lens to the study of multiculturalism in children's literature, this book prepares teachers, teacher educators, and researchers of children's literature to analyze the ideological dimensions of reading and studying literature. Each chapter includes recommendations for classroom application, classroom research, and further reading. Helpful end-of-book appendixes include a list of children's book awards, lists of publishers, diagrams of the power continuum and the theoretical framework of critical multicultural analysis, and lists of selected children's literature journals and online resources.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"This book is particularly useful for teachers, teacher educators, and researchers interested in designing curriculum for reading children's literature with a sociopolitical context in mind....By thoughtfully integrating both classroom practice and theory across the book, Botelho and Rudman equip readers with valuable reading strategies to "guide children in reading dominant discourses of race, class, and gender and identify how ideology is rendered in the materials they read" (p. 94)."**Language Arts**

### About the Author

**Maria José Botelho, Ed.D.**, was a faculty member at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education of the University of Toronto and is currently Assistant Professor of Literacy Education in the Language, Literacy, and Culture Concentration of School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Masha Kabakow Rudman, Ed.D.**, is Professor of Children's Literature and Multicultural Education in the Language, Literacy, and Culture Concentration of School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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