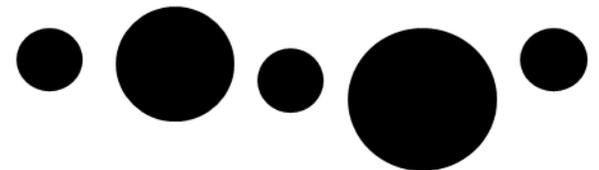
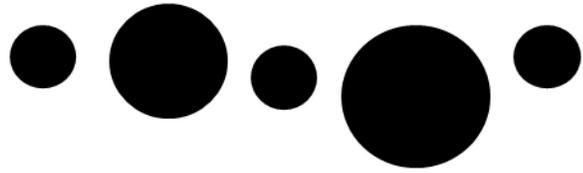


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Historical Children's Books at the Library of Congress



Jackie Coleburn



Stacie Moats





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Five Questions with Jacqueline Coleburn, Rare Book Cataloger, Rare Book Reading Room

August 9, 2016 by [Danna Bell](#)

This post is by Jacqueline Coleburn of the Library of Congress.



Jacqueline Coleburn

Describe what you do at the Library of Congress and the materials you work with.

I am a rare book cataloger – that means I analyze, describe, and provide online access to information about books destined for the Library's rare book reading room and vault.

Currently I am working on the Library's rare American children's books. This is particularly rewarding work for me because children's literature is such an excellent window into the priorities and values of a time and place. I enjoy learning about American history, and this collection shows the evolution of ideas as our country grew. While the books may not tell us what was actually going through the minds of the children in any given era, they can give us barrels of information on what the parents, teachers, and religious leaders were thinking and wanted to impress upon their young minds. We have everything from sermons to children by Cotton Mather in 1707, to first editions of Horatio Alger's many rags to riches stories, to a copy of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* inscribed by Lewis



A LITTLE PRETTY
POCKET-BOOK,

INTENDED FOR THE
INSTRUCTION and AMUSEMENT

OF

LITTLE MASTER TOMMY,

AND

PRETTY MISS POLLY.

With Two LETTERS from

JACK the GIANT-KILLER;

AS ALSO

A BALL and PINCUSHION;

The Use of which will infallibly make TOMMY
a good Boy, and POLLY a good Girl.

To which is added,

A LITTLE SONG-BOOK,

BEING

A NEW ATTEMPT to teach CHILDREN
the Use of the English Alphabet, by Way
of Diversion.

THE FIRST WORCESTER EDITION.

PRINTED at WORCESTER, *Massachusetts*.

By ISAIAH THOMAS,

And SOLD, Wholesale and Retail, at his Book-

Store. MDCCLXXXVII.



COLLECTION

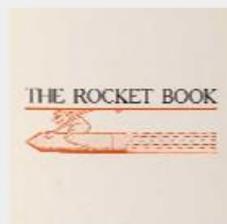
Children's Book Selections

About this Collection

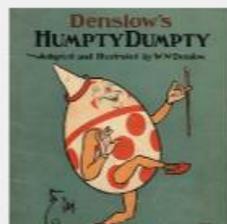
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Articles and Essays

Featured Content



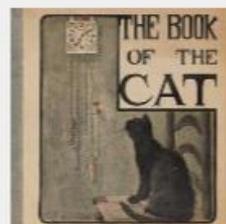
The Rocket Book : The upward progress of a rocket, lit in the ...



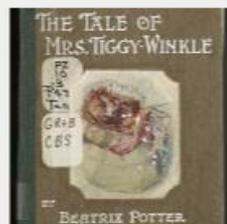
Denslow's Humpty Dumpty



R. Caldecott's collection of pictures & songs



The book of the cat



The tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle

About this Collection

Rights & Access

Expert Resources

[Children's Literature Center](#)

[Children's Book Selections: Resource Guide](#)

[Ask a Librarian](#)

[Collections with Books](#)

[Library of Congress Catalog](#)



About this Collection

This special collection presents children's books selected from the General and Rare Book Collections at the Library of Congress. The collection includes classic works that are still read by children today, and lesser-known treasures drawn from the Library's extensive collection of historically significant children's books. The books in this collection were published in the United States and England before 1924, are no longer under copyright, and free to read, share, and reuse however you'd like.

Highlights of the collection include examples of the work of American illustrators such as W.W. Denslow, Peter Newell, and Howard Pyle, as well as works by renowned English illustrators Randolph Caldecott, Walter Crane, and Kate Greenaway.

The selections span many generations and topics, and reflect three general themes:

Learning to Read: Materials produced to teach American children to read: ABC books, primers, and a wooden hornbook.

Reading to Learn: Materials supporting classroom instruction in subjects such as mathematics, classical mythology, natural science, and the structure and function of the United States government.

Reading for Fun: Materials to nourish the imagination: fiction, poetry, fairy tales and toy books.

As ever, if you have any questions or comments about this collection, or questions relating to materials for children more generally, please feel free to [Ask a Librarian](#) at the Library of Congress!



COLLECTION

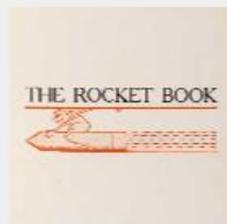
Children's Book Selections

About this Collection

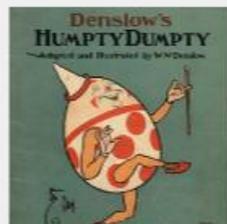
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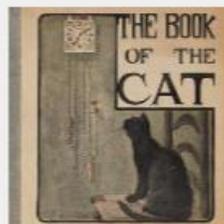
The Rocket Book : The upward progress of a rocket, lit in the ...



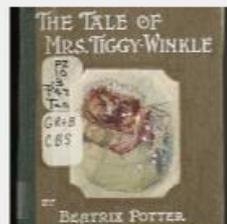
Denslow's Humpty Dumpty



R. Caldecott's collection of pictures & songs



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About this Collection

Rights & Access

Expert Resources

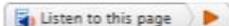
[Children's Literature Center](#)

[Children's Book Selections: Resource Guide](#)

[Ask a Librarian](#)

[Collections with Books](#)

[Library of Congress Catalog](#)



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Historical Children's Books at the Library of Congress: Selected Resources

This guide contains tips to help general researchers find historical children's materials and related information, including Library of Congress digital materials, external websites, and a print bibliography.

Introduction

Digital Collections

Related Online Resources

External Websites

Print Resources

Digital Collections



Have a question? Need assistance?
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librarian for help.

Chat with a librarian Monday
through Friday 12:00-4:00 PM Eastern
Time (except Federal Holidays).

Author:

Laura Gottesman, *Reference
Specialist, Researcher and Reference
Services Division*

Created: April 8, 2019

Last Updated: April 22, 2019

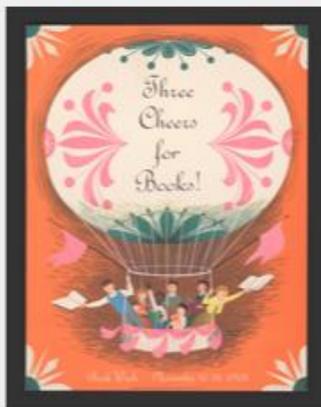
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This guide supplements the Library of Congress digital collection, *Children's Book Selections*, which presents highlights from the growing collection of historical children's materials available on the Library's website. It provides links to related resources at the Library and other institutions, and offers tips and strategies for exploring the Library's materials for young readers more broadly.

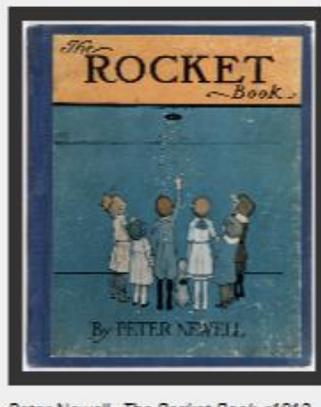
A few things to keep in mind:

- Your local public or school library is generally the best source of contemporary children's books for young readers (in both print and electronic formats).
- Your local children's and school librarians have few peers when it comes to pairing the right book with the right child (we are happy to provide whatever help we can with this, but defer to the true experts!).

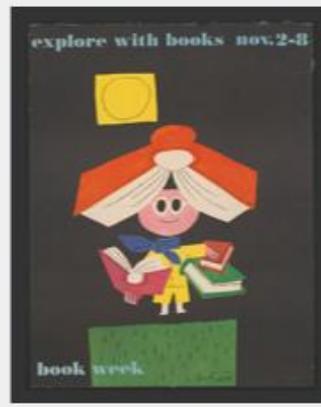
Engaged young readers grow into engaged researchers and citizens. We are delighted to support the work of parents, librarians and teachers in fostering our nation's young readers, and nurturing their love of reading, history, research, and libraries!



Adrienne Adams. *Three Cheers for Books. Book Week: November 10-16, 1963.* Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



Peter Newell. *The Rocket Book*: c1912. Library of Congress Rare Book & Special Collections Division.



Paul Rand. *Explore with books, Nov. 2-8. Book week*: [between 1950 and 1970]. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

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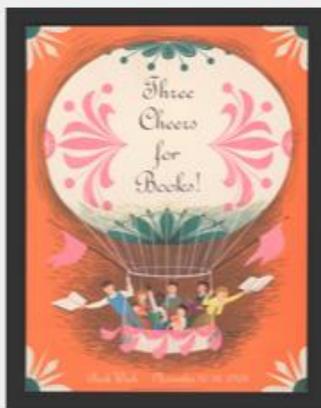
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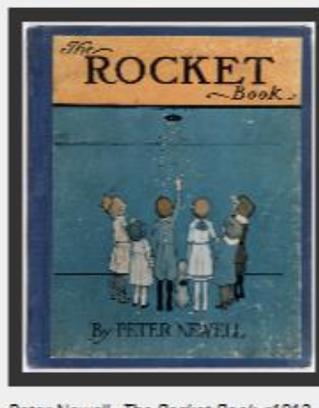
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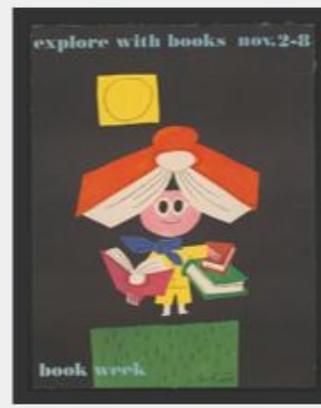
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Paul Rand. *Explore with books, Nov. 2-8. Book week: [between 1950 and 1970].* Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



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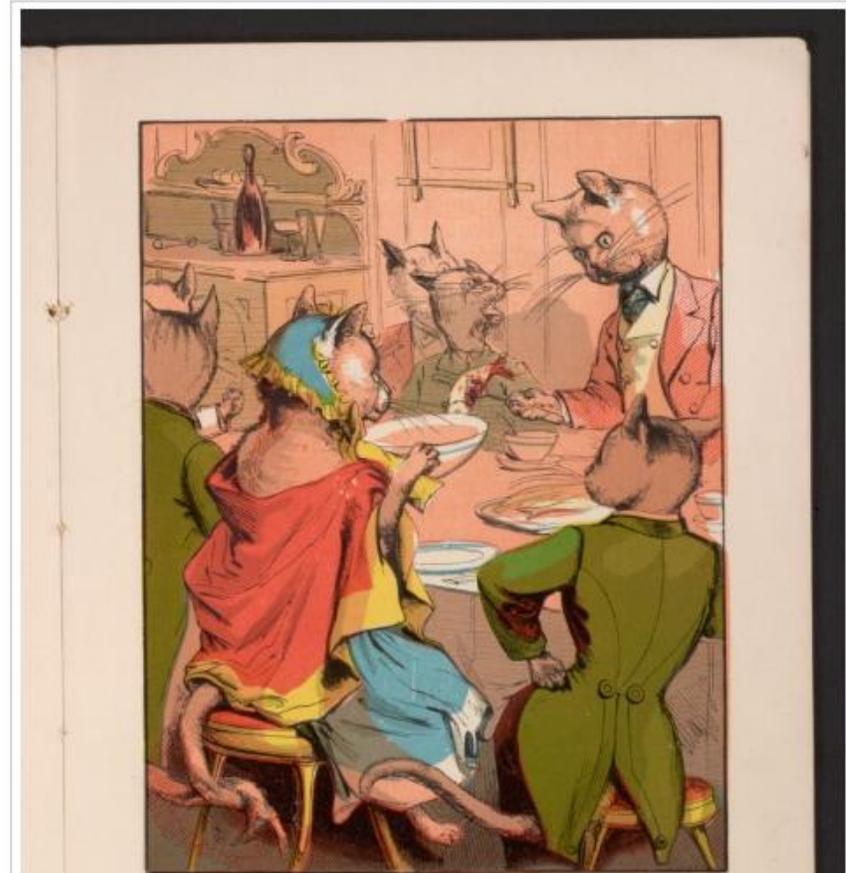
Teaching with Historical Children's Books

May 9, 2019 by [Cheryl Lederle](#)

The Library of Congress recently launched a unique collection of [select children's books](#) published more than 100 years ago. These include classic works that are still read by children today and lesser-known treasures drawn from the Library's [extensive](#) collection of historically significant children's books. You can [read more](#) about the collection or watch a [livestreamed event](#) featuring local authors reading a few selections from the collection.

The process of selecting books published long ago for a present-day audience provoked thoughtful conversations among our staff. We knew that the style of writing, the subject matter, and even the jokes found in century-old books might be difficult for young readers today to engage with. We knew that every book that we selected would inevitably reflect some of the attitudes, perspectives and beliefs of its own time, as well as failing to represent diverse authors and audiences. We thought it was important to note that the Library of Congress does not endorse the views expressed in these books, which may contain content offensive to users.

Each of these considerations, though, also presents valuable opportunities for careful student analysis and discussion. Each book is a primary source representing the time in which it was created; reading the books through historical lenses can deepen student understanding of the past





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and Today in History](#)

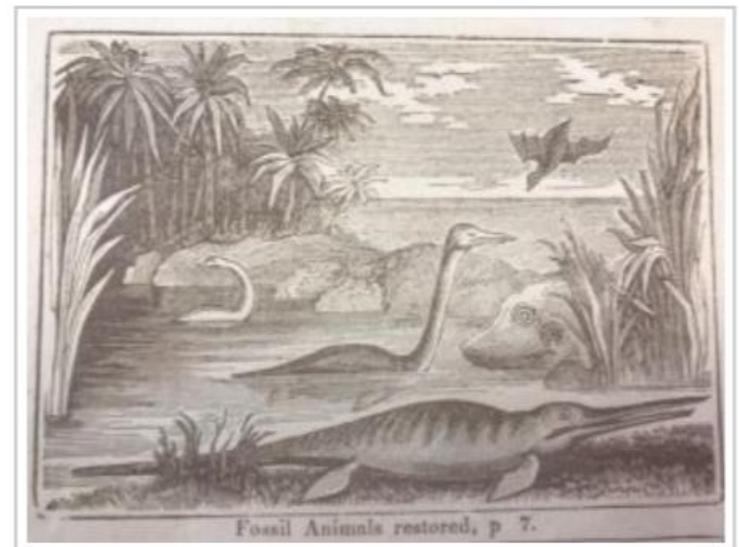
Peter Parley and his Pictures: the First Illustration of Dinosaurs for American Children

February 20, 2020 by [Jennifer Harbster](#)

Today's guest post is by Jacqueline Coleburn and Anthony Mullan. Jackie is a rare book cataloger at the Library of Congress and is cataloging the Library's rare children's books. Peter Parley books are a particular interest of hers. These books, which were very popular in the 1830s, 40s, and 50s, offer insight into the evolution of American children's literature, and can tell the modern reader a great deal about American attitudes and thought. Anthony Mullan is a volunteer who was formerly a reference specialist in the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. One of his current interests is 19th century American geographic education. Jackie and Tony have written for us before, you can read their previous blog posts [Peter Parley Explains the Moon, Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

Illustrated children's books on dinosaurs abound and, as any children's librarian or parent of a dinosaur-obsessed young child will tell you, children can't get enough of them. The words "dinosaur" or "dinosaurs" appear in over 5000+ titles in the Library of Congress catalog. Most of these are books for children. After cars and trucks, the most common intense interest for young American children is dinosaurs.

Perhaps Samuel G. Goodrich, known to his young readers as Peter Parley, was on to something when he published the first illustration of dinosaurs in an American children's book in 1840. This illustration appeared two years before the term "dinosaur" was coined by Sir Richard Owen. [Peter Parley's Wonders of the](#)





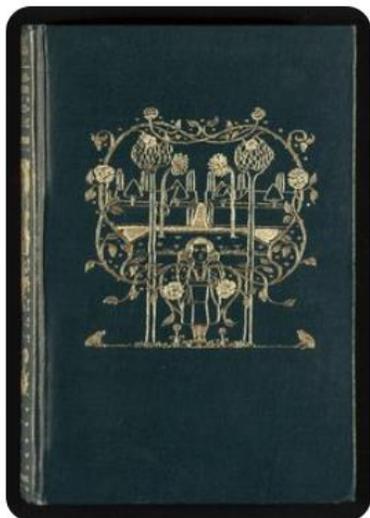
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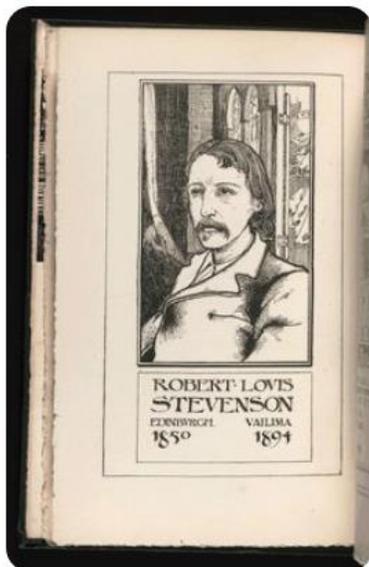
A Child's Garden of Verses

25 Pins · 22,230 followers

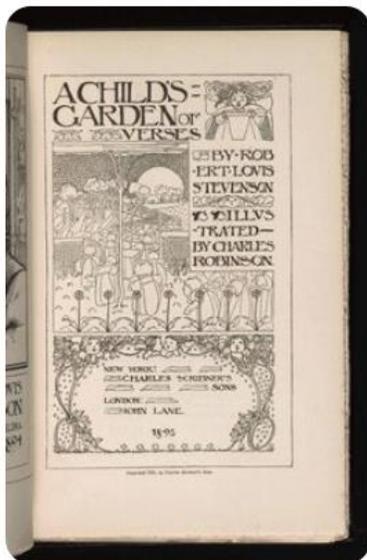
Illustrations by Charles Robinson of the 1895 edition of the classic by Robert Louis Stevenson, from our Rare Books and Special Collections Division.



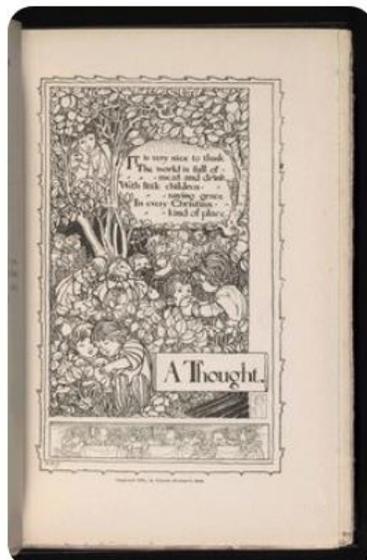
LIBRARY "A Child's Garden of Verses" by Robert Louis...



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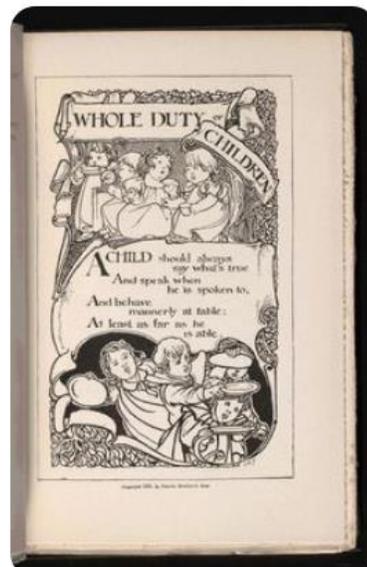
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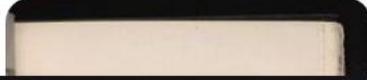
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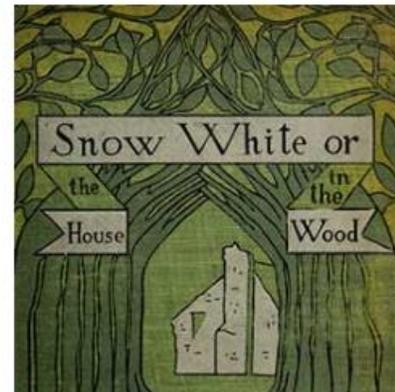
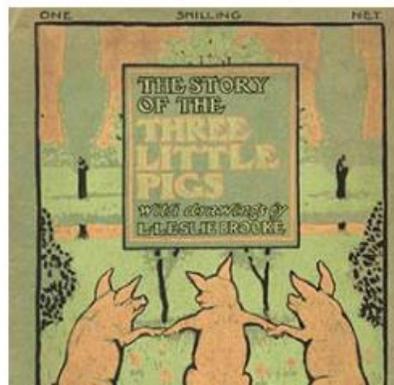
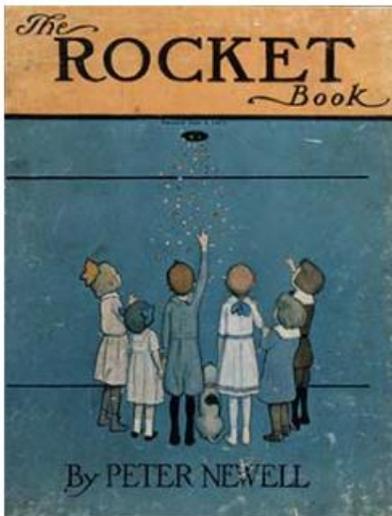
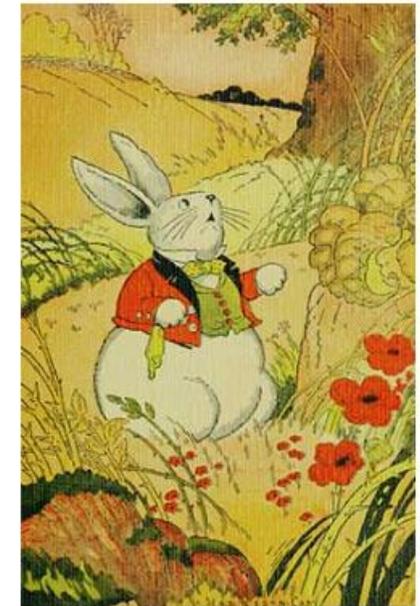
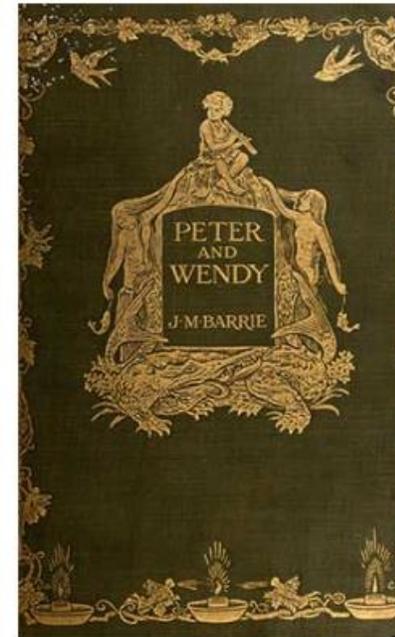
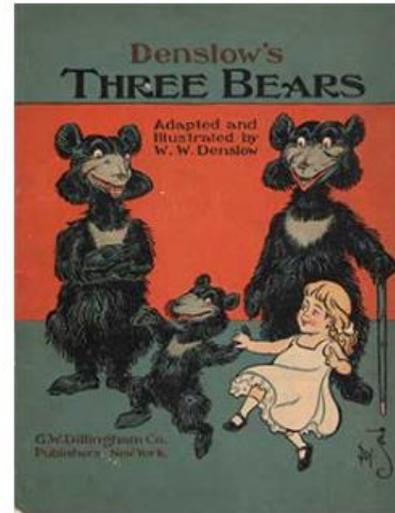
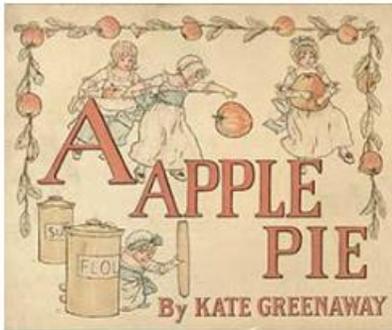


LIBRARY "A Child's Garden of Verses" by Robert Louis...



Free to Use and Reuse: Classic Children's Books

Learn more about these classic children's books. Browse more content that is free to use and reuse.



Denslow's HUMPTY DUMPTY

Adapted and Illustrated by W.W. Denslow

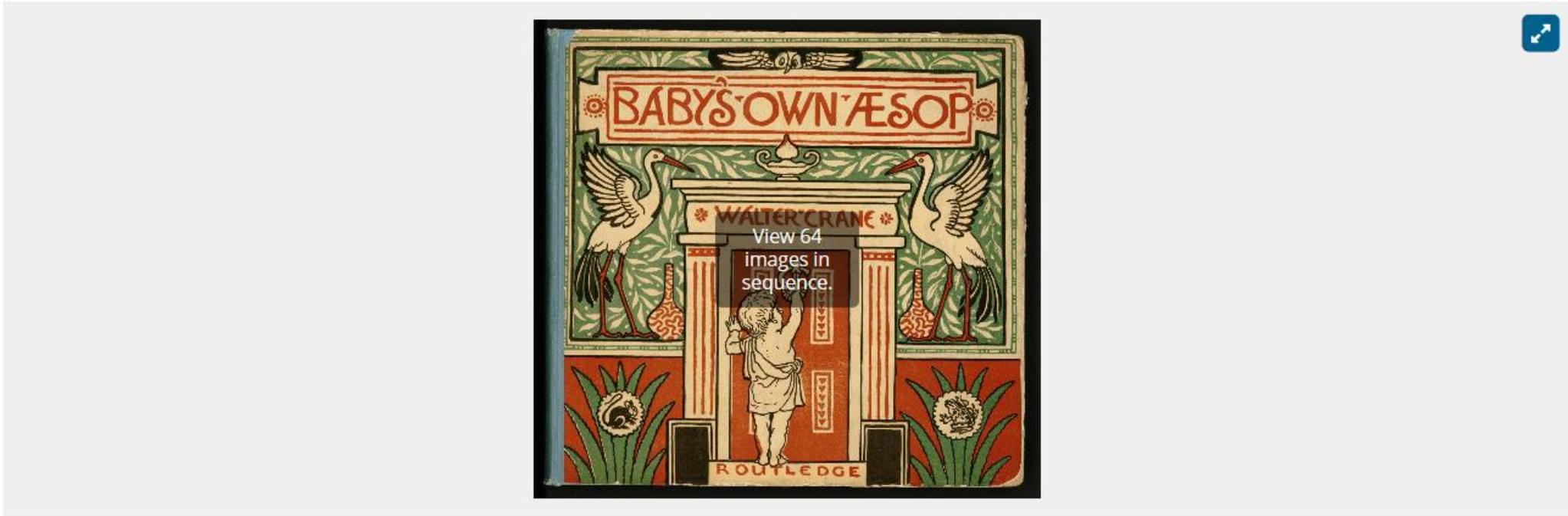


G.W. Dillingham Co.
Publishers New York.



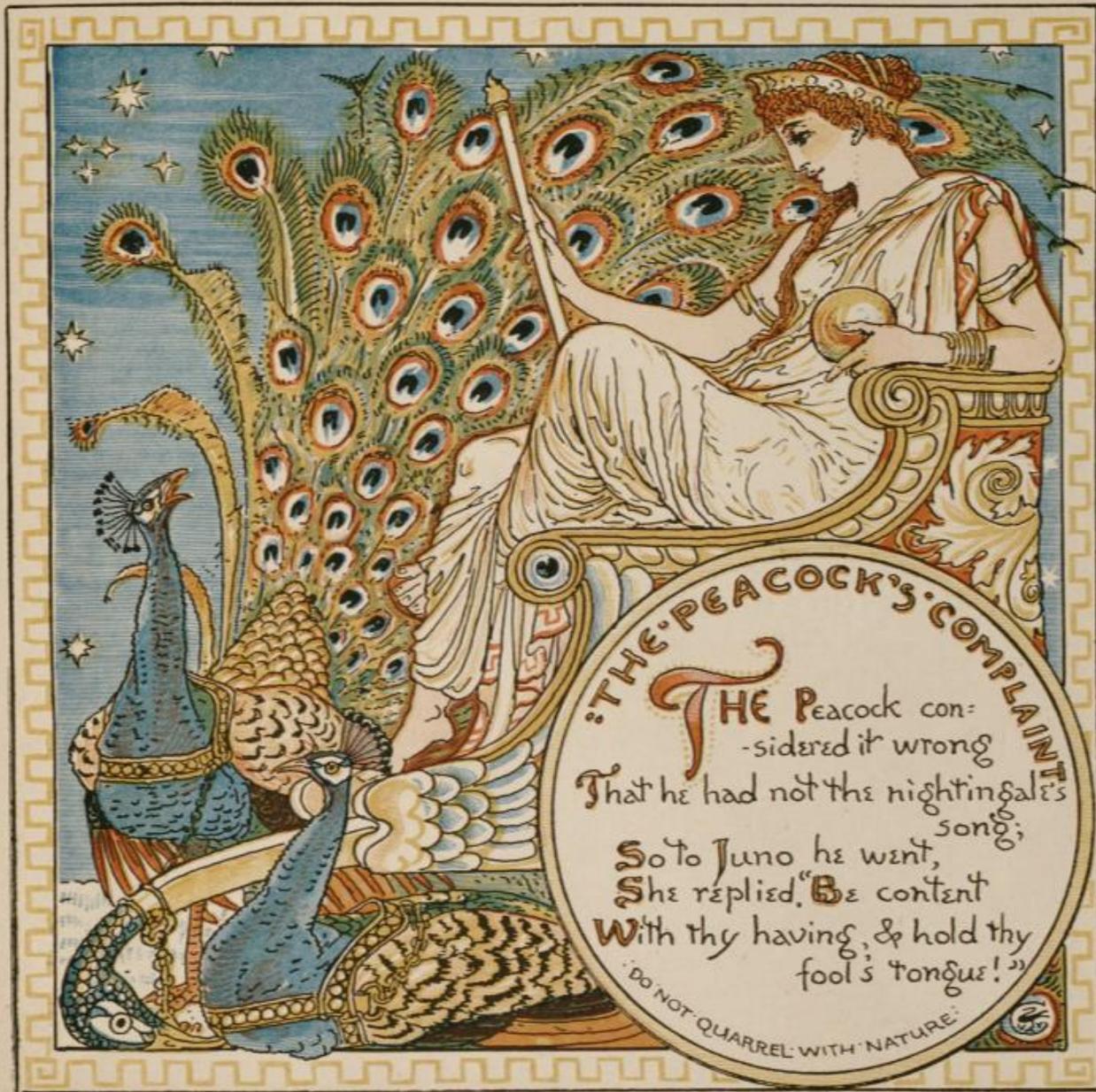
BOOK/PRINTED MATERIAL

The baby's own Aesop : being the fables condensed in rhyme, with portable morals pictorially pointed



[Page view (Holmes copy)]

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THE PEACOCK'S COMPLAINT

THE Peacock con-
sidered it wrong
That he had not the nightingale's
song;
So to Juno he went,
She replied, "Be content
With thy having, & hold thy
fool's tongue!"

DO NOT QUARREL WITH NATURE.

Hyperlinks from the Online Session Chat

Children's Book Selections –

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/childrens-book-selections/about-this-collection/>

- [Collection Highlights](#) – presented in three categories: learning to read, reading to learn, and reading for fun

Children's Book Selections: Resource Guide – <https://guides.loc.gov/historical-childrens-books>

Historical Children's Books-Related (from the Resource Guide):

- [Digital Collections](#) - includes primary sources, search tips, and other formats
- [Online Resources](#) - online exhibitions, Poetry and Literature, The Teachers Page, and Today in History
- [External Websites](#) - digitized children's historical books and general information about books and reading
- [Print Resources](#) - subject headings for Library of Congress catalog searchers and lists of selected books on the history of children's literature and for younger readers

Ask a Librarian - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/>

- [General Inquiries form](#) (your question will be routed to the appropriate area of the Library for response)

Hyperlinks from the Online Session Chat

Featured Items (In Order Presented):

- [Five Questions with Jackie Coleburn \(blog post\)](#)
- [Library of Congress Bookstack, 1937 \(image\)](#)
- [Wood Hornbook](#)
- [A Little Pretty Pocket Book](#)
- [Teaching with Historical Children's Books blog post](#)
- [Children's Book Week Celebration \(authors reading historical book selections\)](#)
- [Peter Parley and his Pictures: the First Illustration of Dinosaurs for American Children](#) blog post
- ["A Child's Garden of Verses" Illustrations Pinterest Board](#)
- [Free to Use and ReUse: Classic Children's Books](#)
- [Denslow's Humpty Dumpty](#)
- [Image 10 of Page View: Denslow's Humpty Dumpty](#)
- [The Baby's Own Aesop](#)
- [Image 37 of Page View: The Baby's Own Aesop](#)

Hyperlinks from the Online Session Chat

Additional Library of Congress Resources:

- [Teaching with the Library of Congress Blog](#) (keyword searches: “children book” and “fairy tale”)
- [Inside Adams: Science, Business and Technology Blog](#) (keyword search: “children book”)
- [Library of Congress Blog](#) (keyword search: “rare children book”)
- [Acquiring Open Access Children’s Books](#) blog post
- [Rare Books: “A Child’s Garden of Verses”](#) blog post
- [Multimedia Moment: Exploring Fairy Tales from Long Ago](#) blog post
- [Children’s Literature Center](#)
- [Digitized Children’s Literature](#) from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division
- [Children’s Books Online](#) from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division
- [Children’s Books Online](#) from the General Collections
- [Young Readers Center](#)
- [Classic Books](#), available on read.gov
- [For Educators and Parents](#) (read.gov)
- [Pinterest Boards with Rare Children’s Book Illustrations](#)
- [National Jukebox Fairy Tale Recordings](#)
- [National Book Festival Blog: Author Talk Video Highlights](#) (children and families category)

Thank you!

Questions? Post them in the chat box!

