



Children Writing Stories

Michael Armstrong

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'Here is a worthy successor to Ted Hughes' "Poetry in the Making", the book that enabled me to gain the confidence to begin to find my own voice as a story teller. "Children Writing Stories" confirms that we all have a story to tell if we are enabled to develop enough self-belief. So much of our natural creativity is smothered during our school years. Teachers and children feel hemmed in by the strictures of a curriculum which simply does not allow room for creativity to breathe. Unlock the chains, let the light in, and this is the kind of writing that will flow, this is the kind of intellectual and emotional growing that can transform young lives' - Michael Morpurgo, Children's Laureate 2003-2005. 'What a splendid book! Michael Armstrong pays attention - thirty years of it - to the stories that children write. We get two for one: the children's own delightful and intriguing work - I want to rush off and write some Wally (age 5) stories of my own - and Michael Armstrong's intense interpretations' - Allan Ahlberg. 'This is real learning at its best, teaching by example, through painstaking scrutiny of the art of young writers.

Absorbing, moving, enlightening, inspiring' - Morag Styles, University of Cambridge. In "Children Writing Stories", Michael Armstrong reveals the creative force of children's narrative imagination and shows how this develops through childhood. He provides a new and powerful understanding of the significance of narrative for children's intellectual growth and for learning and teaching. The book explores a series of real stories written by children between the ages of five and fifteen, and traces the growth of literary consciousness from the dawn of written narrative in the kindergarten, through the early years of schooling and on into adolescence. Each chapter opens with a story or stories, which the author then goes on to examine in detail, so that the book may be seen as both a select anthology of children's stories and as a critical account of children's narrative practice. This original and provocative book will appeal to teachers, parents, students of education and readers with an interest in literacy, children's writing or narrative theory.

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