



## Decoding Children's Fiction

- Nidhi Sinha • Malvika Thakur • Ruma Singh
- Sahar Rahman

Received : November 2018

Accepted : March 2019

Corresponding Author : Sahar Rahman

**Abstract :** *The present study is related to the complexities in children's fiction. It seeks to find out the seriousness in children's fiction ranging from the established gender roles to the disturbing portrayal of the harshness of life. These seemingly innocent books deal with racism, stereotypes, capitalism, identity crisis, child abuse, poverty and the like. This study also aims to find out the varying perceptions of a child and an adult; the way they view the fantasy world and their respective response towards different aspects of children's fiction. Unlike the adult readers, the young readers tend to miss out on the various allegories, metaphors and symbols. They*

*also find it difficult to grasp the satires, either social or political. The study also presents the concept of happiness in children's fiction usually depicted as a permanent and obvious ending. The books thus provide escapism into a treacherous world disguised in happiness.*

**Keywords:** *Children's Fiction, Adult's Perception, Child's Perception, Happiness, Serious Issues*

### Nidhi Sinha

B.A. III year, English (Hons.), Session: 2016-2019,  
Patna Women's College,  
Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

### Malvika Thakur

B.A. III year, English (Hons.), Session: 2016-2019,  
Patna Women's College,  
Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

### Ruma Singh

B.A. III year, English (Hons.), Session: 2016-2019,  
Patna Women's College,  
Patna University, Patna, Bihar, India

### Sahar Rahman

Associate Professor, Department of English,  
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,  
Patna-800 001, Bihar, India  
E-mail : saharrah@gmail.com

### Introduction:

A Child is any human being below the age of puberty. Children's fiction includes books written or read primarily keeping children and young adults in mind. While books like *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* were written specifically for little girls, but it is enjoyed thoroughly by an adult reader as well. On the other hand, we have *Gulliver's Travels*, a scathing satire on the political and social scenario of the age which is a quintessential book for children. Children's fiction thus have a wide appeal because they enthrall both the young and the old, and are "*apt to delight and entertain a child. . . yet afford useful reflection to a grown man.*" (Locke 256) Serious issues are often presented in a less confrontational manner, and "*allow readers to experiment with different ways of seeing the world.*" (Flanagan) through the use of fantastical elements and exaggerated reality.