

CHILDREN'S FANTASY LITERATURE

Fantasy has been an important and much-loved part of children's literature for hundreds of years, yet relatively little has been written about it. *Children's Fantasy Literature* traces the development of the tradition of the children's fantastic – fictions specifically written for children and fictions appropriated by them – from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century, examining the work of Lewis Carroll, L. Frank Baum, C. S. Lewis, Roald Dahl, J. K. Rowling and others from across the English-speaking world. The volume considers changing views both on the nature of the child and on the appropriateness of fantasy for the child reader, the role of children's fantasy literature in helping to develop the imagination, and its complex interactions with issues of class, politics and gender. The text analyses hundreds of works of fiction, placing each in its appropriate context within the tradition of fantasy literature.

MICHAEL LEVY is Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He is the author of *Natalie Babbitt* (1991), *Portrayal of Southeast Asian Refugees in Recent American Children's Books* (2000), editor of *The Moon Pool* by A. Merritt (2004) and co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Extrapolation*. Levy was awarded the Clareson Award for Distinguished Service to the fields of Science Fiction and Fantasy (2007).

FARAH MENDLESOHN is Head of the Department of English, Communications, Film, and Media at Anglia Ruskin University. She is the author of *Rhetorics of Fantasy* (2008), *The Inter-Galactic Playground: A Critical Study of Children's and Teens' Science Fiction* (2009), co-author of *A Short History of Fantasy* (2009) and co-editor of the Hugo Award winning *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction* (Cambridge, 2003) and *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy* (Cambridge, 2012).