

## ABSTRACT

This study attempts to explore the alternate realities Enid Blyton creates in her books, both in terms of her own biography and child psychology/ psychoanalytical theory. It suggests further that the enduring appeal of these alternate worlds for pre pubescent children is due largely to the aspect of wish fulfilment, which serves to satisfy the emotional needs of children of the various age groups targeted by her books. The study, therefore, draws on details of Blyton's personal life, examining the schism between Blyton the person and Blyton the author and the consequent reinvention of her own persona through her books. It also proposes that her imaginary worlds continue to attract young children precisely because of the fantasies of wish fulfilment and escape they offer—ironically, the very reasons for which she was taken to task by critics from the 1960s onwards. The stress is entirely on the underlying psychological strains defining her texts that help to create subconscious connections between the writer's own childish wish fulfilment fantasies and those of her child readers

Selected aspects of psychoanalytical theory (Freud's views on wish fulfilment as advanced in his essay "Creative Writers and Daydreaming" for instance) as well as reader response theory (Norman Holland's application of "ego-psychology" to the study of literature) will be used to explore the appeal her fictional worlds still possess for her young readers.

After identifying and exploring a variety of wish fulfilment aspects in the Blytonesque text, this work concludes that much of the appeal of Blyton's worlds for her young readers lies in her uncanny ability to translate their unconscious/subconscious wishes and desires into textual reality. Finally, Blyton's continued relevance to the twenty-first century is discussed, again in terms of the psychoanalytical elements of childhood wish fulfilment in her texts, their universality ensuring that even modern children can appreciate and relate to them.