



# From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Book

By Kathleen T. Horning

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The revised edition of *From Cover to Cover* offers a fresh, up-to-date look at some of the best examples of children's literature today and also includes practical advice on how to write clearly articulated, reasoned opinions so that others can learn about books they have not yet read.

A brief, updated introduction explains how children's books evolve from manuscripts into bound books, the importance of the many different parts of a book (jacket flaps, title page, copyright, etc.), and changes in the children's book industry, such as the creation of two new major genre awards. In addition, the author demonstrates how to think about and critically evaluate several different genres of children's books.

Included are sections about books of information (and the author's responsibility to document sources); traditional literature (myths, legends, tall tales, folktales); poetry, verse, rhymes, and songs; picture books; easy readers and traditional books; and fiction and graphic novels. There is also a concluding chapter on how to write reviews that are both descriptive and analytical, as well as a segment on children's literature blogs.

*From Cover to Cover* is an invaluable resource for all professionals who wish to write book evaluations that go beyond a simple personal response.

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### **Bibliography**

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### **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Horning's 13-year-old publication has become a standard in the field of reviewing, evaluating, and selecting children's literature. This revised edition has the same broad categories as in the earlier edition but offers separate chapters on children's book publishing and the fundamentals of review writing. It includes a section on illustrated novels such as Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Scholastic, 2007) and the expansion of the graphic novel for elementary-aged readers such as Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm's "Babymouse" books (Random). In "Traditional Literature," a section on fractured fairy tales has been added while the chapter on poetry now includes explanations of sound, imagery, ideas, and the growth of the verse novel. Numerous examples of quoted passages from literature across the spectrum round out Horning's very complete resource that will continue to be the venerable reference tool and required reading for education and library-science students, youth librarians, teachers, and anyone else interested in kids, reading, and children's literature.—*Rita Soltan, Youth Services Consultant, West Bloomfield, MI*

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From [Booklist](#)

In the 12 years since the first edition of this guide was published, much has changed in the children's book world. The second edition acknowledges this through updated book titles and commentary and by including subgenres in the chapter on fiction. One thing that has not changed, however, is the usefulness of this beautifully written how-to manual, which also manages to present a treatise on what is best in children's literature and why. Following an initial chapter on the construction and publication of children's books, subsequent chapters treat informational books, folk and fairy tales, poetry and verse, picture books, easy readers and transitional books, and fiction. The final chapter deals with crafting a review. The chapters on genres give ample tips on telling a well-written, well-composed book from a less-excellent specimen. The chapter on reviewing covers the distinction between reviewing and criticism and then takes a soup-to-nuts approach to preparing and composing a review. An excellent resource for any reviewer, this has special application for libraries serving information schools and for school districts that maintain in-house reviewing programs. --Ann Welton

Review

"Succinct, highly readable, and eminently useful."

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**George Privette:**

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**Mary Wines:**

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**Michael Sherman:**

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**Theodore Rivas:**

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