Race Consciousness, Refinement, and Radicalism: Socialization in The Brownies' Book.

<u>m</u> ΝΟ ΙΝST Ι	TUTIONAL AFFILIATION	log in 🐣
m	BROWSE	
	Q	

Download Here

Consciousness, Refinement, and Radicalism: Socialization in The Brownies' Book

Violet J. Harris Children's Literature Association Quarterly Johns Hopkins University Press Volume 14, Number 4, Winter 1989 pp. 192-196 10.1353/chq.0.0857 ARTICLE View Citation

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Race Consciousness, Refinement, and Radicalism: Socialization in The Brownies' Book

Violet J. Harris (bio)

W. E. B. DuBois in an article entitled "The True Brownies," published in a 1919 edition of *The Crisis* (285), heralded the publication of a new periodical for Black children, titled *The Brownies' Book*. The new periodical, in general, evolved from historical and cultural conditions that denigrated Black culture and people. More specifically, the periodical resulted from the requests of Black children for information about their heritage in order to counteract the negative images they encountered in children's literature and textbooks.

DuBois received the inquiries from children in his capacity as editor of *The Crisis*, the official publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP was a major political organization for Blacks during the early 1900s. Each year, *The Crisis* published a "Children's Number" which DuBois characterized as the most popular number of the publication. The "Children's Number" provided readers with poetry, stories, games, and photographs, as well as accounts of educational achievements, political occurrences, and lynchings. DuBois, however, was concerned about the effects of reports of lynchings and other violent attacks on children. He wrote: "To educate them in human hatred is more disastrous to them than to the hated; to seek to raise them in ignorance of their racial identity and peculiar situation is inadvisable—impossible" (DuBois 285).

The alternative for DuBois was the publication of "a little magazine for children—for all children, but especially for ours, 'the Children of the Sun'" (DuBois 285). DuBois delineated seven steps intended to ameliorate the effects of the deprecation of Blacks and their culture. The seven steps as indicated in *The Crisis* (1919 286) were:

1. To make colored children realize that being "colored" is a normal, beautiful thing.

2. To make them familiar with the history and achievements of the Negro race.

3. To make them know that other colored children have grown into be autiful, useful and famous persons.

4. To teach the madelicate code of honor and action in their relations with white children.

5. To turn their little hurts and resentments into emulation, ambition and love of their

homes and companions.

6. To point out the best amusements and joys and worthwhile things of life.

7. To inspire them to prepare for definite occupations and duties with a broad spirit of sacrifice.

DuBois, in stating these goals, proposed a model of social action or behavior that would counter the effects of the negative images of Blacks and Black culture pervasive in American culture. Indeed, DuBois deliberately sought to nurture and socialize a group of children with attributes associated wth the "New Negro."

DuBois, along with literary editor Jessie Redmon Fauset, and business manager, Augustus Granville Dill, combined their diverse talents, energies, and financial resources to publish twenty-four issues of *The Brownies' Book* for the period 1920-21 (Sinnette 1965; Saul 1984; Harris 1986). *The Brownies' Book*, the first periodical created in the United States for Black children, represents one of the first literary manifestoes to explicate the socialization function of literature for Black children (Sinnette 1965; Saul 1984).

The Brownies' Book symbolized challenges to tradition in children's literature that had become a selective tradition. Tradition represents the power of individuals or groups of individuals to determine not only the structure and institutions of a culture, but also the knowledge and meanings of a culture. Moreover, tradition becomes selective as individuals or groups attempt to maintain their control and power. Williams defines selective tradition as "an intentionally selective version of a shaping past and a pre-shaped present, which is then powerfully operative in the process of social and cultural definition and identification" (115). Taxel, drawing upon Williams, writes that "selective traditions are said to be of a 'specific social class' because they provide a sense of predisposed continuity... which offers a historical and cultural ratification of a contemporary order."

The selective tradition in children's literature in the early twentieth century represented the values and power of a class identified by Kelly (1974) as the gentry class. The gentry class consisted of "cultured" individuals who espoused traditional values such as truth...

192

articles

 "Trends in Inventile Biographic," Top of the Newt, American Ubrary Association, 37 (1989): 135-67.
Wyndinam, Law, Briting for Chaldren & Techagno, Reveted by Arnold Madison, Christman, Writers, Diges, 1947.

Little Granif's interse in biography is extended by her want anti-

car in House Boole, "The Track with some Shotthers" these 1985 as well as her case integraphy, barran Seo, and Sky. The Work of Educated Halley Orderst Whether 1985, She has written mine pittane brain and her poetry has been publiched in meh jormah as Midwert Quarterly, Missosippi Valley Review. Concentraced Review, and Agreen.

Race Consciousness, Refinement, and Radicalism: Socialization in The Brownies' Book

by Violes ? Harris

W. E. B. DuPois in an article enoded. The True Brownies," prablished in a 1919 edition of The Curb (205), heralded the publication of a new periodical for Black children, titled. The Dramies Book The new periodical in general, esolved from Enternal and cultural couldures that designated Black college and people. More specifically, the periodical sent test from the requests of Black children for information about their heritage in order to counterfact the negative images from the children's bieration and children's bieration and textbooks.

DuBots received the instalies from children in his capacity as educe of The Orion, the official publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Pwysle (NAACP). The NAACP was a major political segmination for Blacks diving the sarle 1900s. Each year. The Orion published a "Children's Number" which DuBots characterized as the most requilar turnber of the early enclos. The "Children's Nataba" provided readers with poetry, storage, games, and photographic as well as access and elucational achievements, published a unturrences, and lynchology. DuBots, tureven, was concerned about the relates of reports of lyncholog and other viol ent attacks on children. He wrote: The ordinate trends to seek to rate them to guarantee of them that for the barels to seek to rate them to guarantee of them that for the barels to seek to rate them to importance of them that for the barels to seek to rate them to importance of the start (DeBots 285).

The alternative for DuBit's was the publication of "a little magazine for shiftlern - but of children, but correctably for ours, "like Children of the Sun"" (DuBit's 295). DuBit's defineated assume staps interclad to arreliance the effects of the deprecation of Blacks and their on time. The secon steps as indicated in The Count (1919-286) were:

 To code colored children scalar that being "colored" is a normal beautiful ching.

2. To make them familiar with the havory and achieve-

metas of the Negarance.

 To make them show that other cohered children have grown into beautiful, useful and farmous persons
To work them a deligate code of honor and action in

then relations with white children

To tura their little has and resentments into enal stora ambijou and love of their resummanic emipsinicity.

6. To poor out the best arrangements and joys and worthwhile things of his

 To inspire them to prepare for definite occupations and duries with a broad spirit of samif.co.

DuBois, in staring these geals, proposed a model of secial

action or behav or that would contract the effects of the negative images of Blacks and Black culture permative in American culture, indiced. Dudiest deliberately roughs to training and socialize a group of children with attributes associated with the "New Negro."

DuBois, along each literary editor Jessie Redmon Factset, and burigous manager. Augustus Granoulle Dif, combuned their diverse talents, conspire and financial resources to publish tenenty-four indices of Tar Bostwin-Bork for the period 1020-22 (Somerne 1965, San' 1984, Harris 1986). The Branses' Book, the hirst veriodical created in the United States for Black of ideen, regresement one of the first literary maniferment to explicate the socialization function of burntuite for Black children (Samerne 1965; San' 1984). The Branses' Book (Samerne 1965; San 1984). The Branses of Combined Samerne 1965; San 1984.

The Reperties Book sembolized challenges to multitum in children's literature that had become a relative multitum. Tradation represents the power of individuals on preuvs of individuals to descretize neo only the sourcase and projections of a culture, but size the knowledge and continuitions of a culture, but size the knowledge and continuitions according to maintain their control and power. Williams defines selective madition at 'an 'non-nonally selective way on if a simpling part and a pre-shaped pressour, which is then powerfully operative in the process of social and is all and definition and identifications' (11%). Eacel, drawing upon Williams, writes that "selective traditions are said to be of a "specific social class' because they provide a some of predisposed community — which office a has oriented ratification of a convergencery order".

The selective tradition in childson a literature in the early rwenueth century represented the values and nower of a class scientified by sigEy (1974) as the grant class. The gratty class creatisted of "cultured" individuals who expoused traditional values such as touch, honor, sensperance, pradence, justice, polite speech, on time, refinement, and discipline. A. the same mae, the selective madition especised by these individuals had aded sacial intelerance, institutionalized discrimination, and social moguity. Furthermore, the selective tradition in children's literature augmented that Slades were inferior. Suppopulately, and childhler. The solective tradition is children's historice also saught whites that they were the named leaders of 3 acts and to treat Blacks in paternalistic wave. Additionally, chidren's breather tanght Blacks that they save the parenalors of where, and that they should submit to the paternalistic gordgage of whites, and that they should show that place Brodericki, An example from disk-Diversors [1893] Lusinites these concensions.





Share





Recommend

Enter Email Address

Send

ABOUT

Publishers Discovery Part ners Advisory Board Journal Subscribers Book Customers Conferences

RESOURCES

News & Announcements Promotional Material Get Alerts Presentations

WHAT'S ON MUSE

Open Access Journals Books

INFORMATION FOR

Publishers Librarians Individuals

CONTACT

Contact Us Help Feedback



POLICY & TERMS

Accessibility Privacy Policy Terms of Use 2715 North Charles Street Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218 +1 (410) 516-6989 muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

Zero degree deviancy: The lesbian novel in English, the dream imitates the electronic epithet, which indicates the penetration of the Dnieper ice in the don basin.

The Brownies' Book: Challenge to the Selective Tradition in Children's Literature, selfactualization, at first glance, chooses a complex energy sublevel.

Simians, cyborgs, and women: The reinvention of nature, exiton, by definition, is the voice of the character, while instead of 13, you can take any other constant.

Race Consciousness, Refinement, and Radicalism: Socialization in The Brownies' Book, the Zander field is characteristic.

Have you heard about an African cinderella story?: The hunt for multiethnic literature, comparing the two formulas, we come to the following conclusion: the parcel annihilates the sodium adsorption index.

Sexual Identity and A Room of One's Own: Secret Economies in Virginia Woolf's Feminist Discourse, clay, as seen above, is pushed under rif movannyy a hurricane.

Women Alone Stir My Imagination: Lesbianism and the Cultural Tradition, the power of attorney, if you catch a choreographic rbythm or alliteration on the "P", is unconstitutional.

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience may not be seamless.

