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Reading outside the Book

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Papers: Explorations into Children's Literature

Volume 14 Issue 2 (Dec 2004)

Mackey, Margaret

Abstract: The current generation of readers and those of the future are faced with new, plural, supple and sophisticated possibilities, as reading moves outside the confines of the conventional paper book. Reading outside the book means that the book takes place alongside other media, such as the digital revolution, in a variety of interesting ways. In this article, I will look at the self-reported cultural behaviours of two adult readers, and take a more detailed look at how one of them interprets a

particular children's text. From there, I will move on to a more general exploration of some developments in the world of contemporary fiction for both young people and adults. It is my argument that these phenomena are all branches of the same development, which can briefly be described not as 'either reading or the digital world' but rather, 'both reading and the digital world'. I do not simply mean digital reading, though there is plenty of that; I mean that reading augments and supports forms of digital engagement in diverse ways.

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