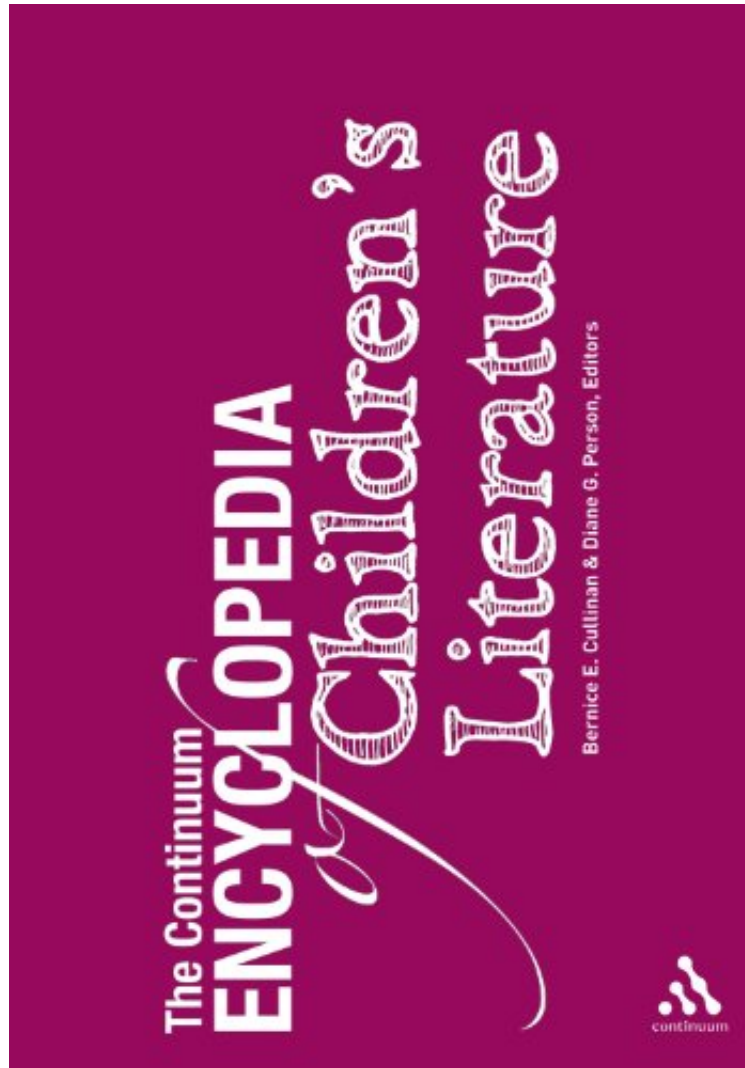


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Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature

Bernice E. Cullinan, Diane Goetz, Ph.D. Person
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From Publishers Weekly The reference work The Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature, edited by Bernice E. Cullinan and Diane G. Person, includes 1,200 entries, from "Aardema, Verna" to "Zwerg, Lisbeth." Topical articles treat such themes as "High-Interest Easy-Reading Book Series" and "Indian (East) Literature." Groups of author photos are interspersed. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Make room on your shelves for this encyclopedia. It is thick and pricey, but its goal is lofty: "a comprehensive single-volume reference source describing the development and current trends in children's literature throughout the world." The 1200 author/illustrator and 97 topical entries focus on books available in English and deemed "significant" by an advisory panel of luminaries in the field. All entries are cross-referenced. Most author/illustrator entries run from 100 to 300 words, but those for major figures, especially contemporary ones, are much longer. Each entry includes date of birth and death; some biographical information; a brief, critical discussion; and citation of major works, notable achievements, and significant awards. Each signed entry concludes with the resources used. Topical essays include genres, themes, formats, trends, awards, and others that defy category (Editors of Note, Australian Literature). Each one ranges from 1200 to 1800 words. The book picks up the idea behind Anita Silvey's Children's Books and Their Creators (Houghton, 1995), emphasizing 20th-century American authors and illustrators, and broadens the scope. It does not have the "Voices of the Creators" sections that personalize Silvey's book, but black-and-white photos of 130 authors and illustrators and a color art section provide visual interest. This volume fills a real need for many libraries. Sue Burgess, Framingham State College, MA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Based on five years of collaborative work by an international board, this encyclopedia represents the most comprehensive basic reference work on children's literature currently available. While editors Cullinan (Literature and the Child) and Person, a librarian specializing in children's literature, do not aim to fill a gap in the research market, the well-written author and topical entries provide enough information to make this a good source for parents and librarians trying to assess the suitability of an author or topical area for a particular child. Keywords, noted in small capitals within each entry, lead the reader to additional articles of interest. In addition, the inclusion of entries on illustrators is a welcome feature. However, while an index is provided (not seen by reviewer), the lack of title entries limits the usefulness of this work. Adequate for the time being, but one hopes that a more in-depth encyclopedia will soon be forthcoming. (Illustrations not seen.) Karen E. S. Lempert, Facing History and Ourselves, Brookline, MA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.