

ABSTRACT

ORIGINAL PICTUREBOOKS AND HOUGHTON MIFFLIN ANTHOLOGIES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This study examines the Houghton Mifflin reading anthologies to determine whether the story selections are “authentic” as the publisher claims. Since picturebooks are a unique literary art form whereby the illustrations, text, and peritext are interconnected and contribute to the aesthetic experience of the reader, any alteration modifies the author’s intentions and impacts the reading experience. A comparative analysis of the original picturebooks with the corresponding story selections in the anthologies concludes that the anthologized versions are not authentic as the publisher contends. The significant extent of these alterations distorts the author-reader relationship and diminishes the aesthetic reading experience. The effect of these abridged anthologies is far-reaching since the majority of school districts in the state of California have adopted the Houghton Mifflin reading program.

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May 2008