

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan

The Enigmatic World of The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan is a compelling and evocative work that has captured the imaginations of readers, educators, and critics alike. This unique collaboration between author John Marsden and illustrator Shaun Tan presents a powerful allegory wrapped in stunning visuals and poetic narrative. It's much more than a children's picture book; it's a profound reflection on colonization, environment, and cultural displacement. If you're curious about what makes this book a standout in Australian literature and why it resonates so deeply, keep reading as we delve into its themes, artistry, and significance.

Understanding The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan

At its core, *The Rabbits* is an allegorical tale that tells the story of an invasion. The narrative follows the arrival of the rabbits, who represent colonizers, and their impact on the native landscape and its original inhabitants. Although the story is set in an unspecified land, the metaphor is unmistakably tied to Australia's colonial history. The rabbits bring destruction, exploitation, and environmental degradation, while the native creatures suffer loss and displacement.

Marsden's text is sparse yet poetic, with carefully chosen words that evoke emotion and reflection. Shaun Tan's illustrations add depth and complexity, using surreal imagery and detailed symbolism to create a haunting atmosphere. Together, the text and imagery invite readers of all ages to consider the consequences of colonization from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

The Role of Allegory in the Narrative

The use of allegory in *The Rabbits* makes the story accessible yet profound. Instead of a straightforward historical account, the book uses animals and landscapes as symbols to explore broad themes. The rabbits symbolize the European settlers, often portrayed as destructive and relentless invaders. The native creatures, meanwhile, represent Indigenous Australians and their connection to the land.

This approach allows readers to engage emotionally and intellectually without feeling overwhelmed by historical specifics. It serves as a powerful educational tool, enabling discussions about history, culture, and environmental issues in classrooms and at home.

The Artistry of Shaun Tan in The Rabbits

One cannot talk about *The Rabbits* without highlighting Shaun Tan's extraordinary artwork. His illustrations go beyond mere decoration; they are integral to the storytelling. Tan employs a mix of collage, painting, and digital techniques, creating textured visuals that convey both beauty and unease.

Visual Symbolism and Style

The rabbits are often depicted in mechanical and unnatural ways—marching in uniformity, building factories, and consuming resources. In contrast, the native creatures are shown as organic, fragile, and interconnected with the environment. Tan's use of muted colors for the rabbits and vibrant earthy tones for the natives emphasizes the clash between artificiality and nature.

The imagery often includes detailed landscapes that change from lush and harmonious to barren and scarred, mirroring the narrative's progression. This visual storytelling enriches the reader's experience and encourages multiple readings to uncover hidden meanings.

How Illustrations Enhance the Message

Shaun Tan's art is not only aesthetically impressive but also emotionally resonant. The juxtaposition of innocence and devastation, hope and despair, invites readers to empathize with the native creatures' plight. The surreal elements—such as oversized machinery or distorted perspectives—highlight the unnaturalness of colonization and its disruptive impact.

For educators and parents, Tan's illustrations provide a valuable resource for teaching visual literacy and critical thinking. They prompt viewers to interpret symbols, analyze artistic techniques, and relate images to broader social issues.

John Marsden's Poetic Narrative and Its Impact

John Marsden is renowned for his skillful storytelling, and *The Rabbits* showcases his ability to convey complex ideas with economy and grace. The text reads almost like a poem, with repetition and rhythm that enhance its emotional power.

Language and Tone

Marsden's writing is deceptively simple. The choice of words evokes innocence but gradually introduces tension as the story unfolds. Phrases such as "they came with guns and guns and guns" emphasize the overwhelming force of the invaders. The tone shifts

from curiosity to alarm, reflecting the changing reality of the native creatures.

This linguistic style makes the book accessible to younger readers while still offering depth for adults. It encourages reflection on themes such as loss, resilience, and the consequences of human actions.

Educational Value and Cultural Significance

The Rabbits has become a staple in Australian schools for its ability to open discussions about colonization, Indigenous history, and environmental stewardship. Unlike traditional history textbooks, it offers a narrative that fosters empathy and critical engagement.

Teachers often use it to introduce topics like:

- Australian Indigenous history and culture
- The environmental impact of colonial settlement
- The role of storytelling and art in understanding history

Moreover, The Rabbits encourages readers to question dominant narratives and consider alternative perspectives, which is crucial for fostering cultural awareness and reconciliation.

The Rabbits as a Cultural and Environmental Commentary

Beyond its historical allegory, The Rabbits also functions as a commentary on ongoing environmental and cultural issues. The destruction wrought by the rabbits reflects real-world challenges such as habitat loss, invasive species, and ecological imbalance.

Environmental Themes

The book's depiction of the landscape's transformation—from vibrant to desolate—mirrors concerns about sustainability and conservation. It subtly warns readers about the consequences of exploiting natural resources without regard for balance.

This environmental message resonates in today's context of climate change and biodiversity loss, making The Rabbits relevant beyond its original scope.

Reflection on Cultural Displacement

The displacement of native creatures parallels the experiences of Indigenous peoples worldwide who have faced colonization, cultural erosion, and marginalization. By portraying these themes through animals and nature, Marsden and Tan invite readers to consider the human cost of these processes.

The book thus serves as a bridge between environmental and social justice conversations, emphasizing their interconnectedness.

Why *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and Shaun Tan Remains Relevant

More than two decades since its publication, *The Rabbits* continues to resonate due to its timeless themes and innovative storytelling. Its relevance is reflected in its use in educational settings, literary awards, and ongoing discussions about Australia's past and future.

Engaging Different Audiences

The Rabbits appeals to a diverse audience—from children encountering these themes for the first time to adults revisiting the allegory with deeper understanding. The layered narrative and rich visuals encourage repeated readings and discussions.

Influence on Australian Literature and Art

The collaboration between Marsden and Tan set a benchmark for picture books that tackle serious themes with creativity and sensitivity. It has inspired other authors and illustrators to explore history and identity through innovative forms.

In addition, *The Rabbits* has been adapted into stage performances and exhibitions, expanding its reach and impact.

Exploring *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and Shaun Tan offers readers a multifaceted journey through history, art, and ethics. Whether you're drawn by its haunting illustrations, poetic prose, or poignant themes, this work invites reflection on how past actions shape present realities and future possibilities. It stands as a testament to the power of storytelling to challenge, educate, and inspire.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Rabbits' by John Marsden and Shaun Tan?

The main theme of 'The Rabbits' is colonization and its impact on indigenous peoples and the environment, depicted through the metaphor of rabbits invading a land inhabited by native creatures.

How do Shaun Tan's illustrations contribute to the story in 'The Rabbits'?

Shaun Tan's detailed and evocative illustrations enhance the story by visually representing the contrast between the native inhabitants and the invading rabbits, using symbolism and mood to deepen the impact of the narrative on colonization.

What literary devices are prominently used in 'The Rabbits'?

The book uses allegory, symbolism, and metaphor extensively, with the rabbits symbolizing colonizers and the native creatures representing indigenous peoples, to convey complex historical and social themes in a poetic and accessible way.

Why is 'The Rabbits' considered an important work in Australian literature?

'The Rabbits' is important because it addresses Australia's colonial history and its consequences from an indigenous perspective, fostering reflection and dialogue about reconciliation and cultural understanding through a powerful narrative and artwork.

How does 'The Rabbits' approach the topic of environmental change?

'The Rabbits' portrays environmental degradation as a direct result of colonization, showing how the introduced rabbits disrupt the native ecosystem, symbolizing the broader impact of human colonization on nature.

What audience is 'The Rabbits' intended for and why?

'The Rabbits' is intended for both young readers and adults, using a picture book format to make complex themes of colonization, loss, and cultural impact accessible and thought-provoking for a wide audience.

Additional Resources

The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan: An Analytical Review

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan stands as a powerful and evocative work

that combines the talents of one of Australia's most renowned authors and an acclaimed illustrator. This collaboration results in a unique picture book that transcends traditional children's literature to deliver a poignant allegory on colonization and its effects. Since its publication, the book has garnered significant critical acclaim for its artistic innovation and its ability to communicate complex historical and cultural themes through compelling narrative and imagery.

Exploring the Themes in *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and Shaun Tan

At its core, *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and Shaun Tan explores the devastating impact of European colonization on Indigenous Australians. Marsden's poetic text, paired with Tan's surreal and detailed illustrations, provides a multilayered narrative that invites readers to reflect on environmental destruction, cultural displacement, and the loss of identity. The rabbits in the story symbolize colonizers—alien, invasive, and destructive—while the native marsupial-like creatures represent the Indigenous peoples and their connection to the land.

The allegorical nature of the book is subtle yet unmistakable, making it an essential resource for educators and readers interested in postcolonial discourse. The narrative avoids explicit historical recounting; instead, it uses metaphor and symbolism to provoke thought and empathy, which is a significant strength when addressing sensitive topics through a picture book format.

Visual Storytelling and Artistic Merit

Shaun Tan's illustrations in *The Rabbits* are integral to the book's impact. His mixed-media artwork blends watercolor, collage, and digital techniques to create haunting landscapes that evoke a sense of loss and alienation. The visual contrast between the soft, organic forms of the native creatures and the harsh, mechanical appearance of the rabbits enhances the thematic tension.

Tan's use of imagery also serves as a historical commentary, incorporating visual cues that allude to industrialization, environmental degradation, and cultural erasure. The artwork's meticulous detail encourages repeated readings, with new elements and symbols becoming apparent over time. This complexity positions *The Rabbits* not only as a narrative but also as a visual study of colonization's multifaceted consequences.

John Marsden's Narrative Approach

John Marsden's writing in *The Rabbits* adopts a lyrical and restrained tone, which contrasts with the often harsh subject matter. His choice to employ poetic language allows for emotional resonance without overwhelming younger readers. Marsden's narrative pacing gradually reveals the transformation of the land and its inhabitants, mirroring the

slow but inexorable changes wrought by colonization.

Additionally, Marsden's text is accessible enough to engage a broad audience—from children to adults—while remaining rich with interpretive depth. This balance is a testament to his skill as a storyteller and his understanding of how to communicate complex social issues through literature.

Contextual Significance and Reception

Since its release, *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and Shaun Tan has been widely studied in educational settings, particularly in Australia, where it contributes to conversations about Indigenous history and reconciliation. The book has won several awards, including the prestigious Crichton Award for New Illustrators and recognition from the Children's Book Council of Australia, underscoring its cultural and artistic importance.

The collaboration between Marsden and Tan also highlights the effectiveness of combining literary and artistic talents to address historical trauma. Unlike traditional textbooks or historical accounts, *The Rabbits* provides an emotional and sensory experience that fosters empathy and understanding, which is crucial in learning about colonization's complex legacy.

Comparisons with Similar Works

In comparison to other postcolonial picture books, such as Jeannie Baker's "Where the Forest Meets the Sea" or Bronwyn Bancroft's "The Little Refugee," *The Rabbits* stands out for its explicit allegory and symbolic layering. While many books address Indigenous themes through direct storytelling or autobiography, *The Rabbits* uses metaphor to universalize the experience of dispossession and cultural upheaval.

Furthermore, Shaun Tan's distinctive artistic style sets the book apart visually. His work is often celebrated for blending fantasy with reality, and in *The Rabbits*, this approach allows for a nuanced portrayal of historical realities without resorting to graphic or distressing imagery.

Educational Value and Usage

The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan is frequently incorporated into curricula focused on history, social studies, and visual literacy. Its multi-modal format—combining text and image—makes it an ideal tool for encouraging critical thinking and discussion about colonization, environmental stewardship, and cultural diversity.

Educators appreciate that the book does not provide simplistic answers but rather invites inquiry and dialogue. It serves as a starting point for exploring broader topics such as Indigenous rights, Australia's colonial past, and the ongoing effects of historical events on present-day society.

Pros and Cons of The Rabbits as a Teaching Resource

- **Pros:**

- Engages multiple learning styles through visual and textual storytelling.
- Introduces complex, sensitive topics in an accessible manner.
- Encourages empathy and critical thinking.
- Supports interdisciplinary teaching across history, literature, and art.

- **Cons:**

- The allegorical style may require guided interpretation for younger readers.
- Some readers may find the symbolism opaque without contextual background.
- Limited direct historical detail might necessitate supplementary materials.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

The lasting impact of *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and Shaun Tan is evident in its continued relevance in discussions about Indigenous experiences and environmental concerns. Its allegorical format allows the book to remain applicable beyond its immediate historical context, resonating with global audiences confronting issues of colonization and ecological change.

Moreover, the book's innovative fusion of text and illustration has influenced subsequent picture books and graphic novels tackling social justice themes. Its success demonstrates the power of visual storytelling to complement and enhance literary narratives, especially when addressing multifaceted subjects.

Ultimately, *The Rabbits* serves as a compelling example of how children's literature can be both artistically ambitious and socially conscious, fostering awareness and dialogue across generations.

The Rabbits By John Marsden And Shaun Tan

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: *The Rabbits* John Marsden, Shaun Tan, 2008
The rabbits came many grandparents ago. They built houses, made roads, had children. They cut down trees. A whole continent of rabbits ...--Back cover.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Rabbits Julie Murray, 2015-12-15 This very simple book about rabbits combines familiar with fun. Readers will learn about this favorite common animal while strengthening reading skills and being wowed with great photographs.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Australia's War Against Rabbits Brian Douglas Cooke, 2014-05-29 The management of wild rabbits is a vexing problem worldwide. In countries such as Australia and New Zealand, wild rabbits are regarded as serious pests to agriculture and the environment, while in many European countries they are considered an important hunting resource, and are a cornerstone species in Mediterranean ecosystems, modifying habitats and supporting important predator populations such as the Iberian lynx. The introduction of two viral diseases, myxomatosis and rabbit haemorrhagic disease, as biological control agents in Australia has been met favourably, yet their spread in southern Europe threatens natural rabbit populations. Despite this, scientists with very different goals still work together with a common interest in understanding rabbit biology and epidemiology. Australia's War Against Rabbits uses rabbit haemorrhagic disease as an important case study in understanding how animal populations adapt to diseases, caused in this case by an RNA virus. Looking at rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) in an ecological framework enables insights into both virus and rabbit biology that are relevant for understanding other emerging diseases of importance to humans. This book provides up-to-date information on recent advances in areas ranging from virus structure and disease mechanics through to the sociological implications of using biological control agents and the benefits to the economy and biodiversity. It is a compelling read for wildlife disease researchers, wildlife managers, rabbit biologists, people working in the public health and education sectors, and landholders and farmers with experience or interest in RHD.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Reinventing Curriculum Linda Laidlaw, 2005-05-06 In this book, Linda Laidlaw explores the questions: What happens when children begin to write? Why is it that the teaching and practice of writing seems at times to be difficult in schools? How might teachers work differently to create more inviting spaces for developing literacy? The premise is that written texts and literacy processes are developed within a complex weave of particular contexts, or ecologies, and the unique particularity of the learner's experiences, histories, memories and interpretations. Laidlaw offers new information about writing and literacy pedagogy linked to current research in the complexity sciences and cognition, and considers the possibilities that might emerge for pedagogy when alternative metaphors, images, and structures are considered for writing and curriculum. The volume includes qualitative and narrative description of writing and literacy situations, events, and pedagogy, and elaborates the historical, theoretical, and curricular background in which such instruction exists within contemporary schooling. *Reinventing Curriculum: A Complex-Perspective on Literacy and Writing*: *addresses literacy through a focus on writing rather than on reading; *develops an approach to literacy and writing pedagogy that incorporates recent theories and research on learning and the complexity sciences; *examines perspectives on writing from both a teaching perspective and that of the work of writers; *makes connections between the acquisition of literacy to research in other domains; *examines both the benefits and the costs of literacy; and *challenges commonsense understandings within instruction, for example, that literacy teaching and learning can occur apart from other aspects of children's learning, context, and subjectivity, or that learning occurs individually rather than collectively. This book is important reading for researchers, professionals, teacher educators, and students involved in literacy education and writing instruction, and an excellent text for courses in these areas.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Bush, City, Cyberspace John Foster, Ern

Finnis, Maureen Nimon, 2005-06-01 Aimed at academic, professional and general readers, *Bush, city, cyberspace* provides a snapshot of the state of Australian children's and adolescent literature in the early twenty-first century, and an insight into its history. In doing so, it promotes a sense of where Australian literature for young people may be going and captures a literary and critical mood with which readers in Australia and beyond will identify. The title of the work is intended to capture the fact that the field has changed dramatically in the century and a half that 'Australian children's literature' has existed, from the bush myths and heroism that inform the past and the present, through the recognition that the vast majority of authors and readers live in cities, to the third wave of 'cyberliterature' that incorporates multimedia, hypertext, weblinks and e-books - none of which lessens the enduring enthusiasm of practitioners and readers for books. *Bush, city, cyberspace* is not meant to be an encyclopedic volume. Rather, well-known, recent and/or award-winning works have been emphasised, with the addition of others where these help to illuminate particular points. The book is similar in coverage and approach to *Australian Children's Literature: An Exploration of Genre and Theme*, written by the same three authors and published by the Centre for Information Studies in 1995. In the intervening period, much has changed in the field, notable examples including the blurring of the dividing line between 'quality' and 'popular' literature; the blending of genres; the rise of a truly indigenous literature; the demise, to a significant extent, of 'Outbackery' in fiction; the acceptance of multiculturalism as the norm; and the advent of the literature of cyberspace, with new methods, and the sheer speed, of communication between writer and reader. All these trends, and others, are reflected in this work.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Developing Children's Critical Thinking through Picturebooks Mary Roche, 2014-07-25 This accessible text will show students and class teachers how they can enable their pupils to become critical thinkers through the medium of picturebooks. By introducing children to the notion of making-meaning together through thinking and discussion, Roche focuses on carefully chosen picturebooks as a stimulus for discussion, and shows how they can constitute an accessible, multimodal resource for adding to literacy skills, while at the same time developing in pupils a far wider range of literary understanding. By allowing time for thinking about and digesting the pictures as well as the text, and then engaging pupils in classroom discussion, this book highlights a powerful means of developing children's oral language ability, critical thinking, and visual literacy, while also acting as a rich resource for developing children's literary understanding. Throughout, Roche provides rich data and examples from real classroom practice. This book also provides an overview of recent international research on doing 'interactive read alouds', on what critical literacy means, on what critical thinking means and on picturebooks themselves. Lecturers on teacher education courses for early years or primary levels, classroom teachers, pre-service education students, and all those interested in promoting critical engagement and dialogue about literature will find this an engaging and very insightful text.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Understanding Prejudice and Education Conrad Hughes, 2016-08-19 What is prejudice in the 21st Century and how can education help to reduce it? This original text discusses prejudice in detail, offering a clear analysis of research and theory on prejudice and prejudice reduction, drawn from findings in social psychology, critical thinking and education. Presenting the underlying principle that prejudice can be reduced through the development of four core attributes - empathy, understanding, cognitive flexibility and metacognitive thought - the book offers effective educational strategies for preparing young people for life. Chapters explore a range of examples of classroom practice and provide a thorough engagement with the minefield of prejudice, set against challenging sociological, ideological, political and cultural questions. An integrative framework is included that can be adapted and adopted in schools, synthesising findings and emphasising the need for individuals and groups to work against preconceived beliefs and emotional reactions to situations, offering contra-intuitive, rational and affective responses. *Understanding Prejudice and Education* is essential reading for all those engaged in relevant undergraduate, Master's level and postgraduate courses in education, social psychology and cultural studies, as well as teachers and school leaders interested in

developing strategies to reduce prejudice in their schools.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Was the Cat in the Hat Black? Philip Nel, 2017-07-06 Racism is resilient, duplicitous, and endlessly adaptable, so it is no surprise that America is again in a period of civil rights activism. A significant reason racism endures is because it is structural: it's embedded in culture and in institutions. One of the places that racism hides-and thus perhaps the best place to oppose it-is books for young people. *Was the Cat in the Hat Black?* presents five serious critiques of the history and current state of children's literature tempestuous relationship with both implicit and explicit forms of racism. The book fearlessly examines topics both vivid-such as The Cat in the Hat's roots in blackface minstrelsy-and more opaque, like how the children's book industry can perpetuate structural racism via whitewashed covers even while making efforts to increase diversity. Rooted in research yet written with a lively, crackling touch, Nel delves into years of literary criticism and recent sociological data in order to show a better way forward. Though much of what is proposed here could be endlessly argued, the knowledge that what we learn in childhood imparts both subtle and explicit lessons about whose lives matter is not debatable. The text concludes with a short and stark proposal of actions everyone-reader, author, publisher, scholar, citizen- can take to fight the biases and prejudices that infect children's literature. While *Was the Cat in the Hat Black?* does not assume it has all the answers to such a deeply systemic problem, its audacity should stimulate discussion and activism.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Re-thinking Picturebooks for Intermediate and Advanced Learners: Perspectives for Secondary English Language Education Grit Alter, Thorsten Merse, 2023-11-27 Der didaktische Wert von Picturebooks für den Englischunterricht in der Grundschule gilt als unumstritten. Jedoch gibt es in Forschung und Unterrichtspraxis derzeit kaum Ansätze, wie der Transfer dieses vermeintlich kindlichen Literaturmediums in die Sekundarstufe gelingen kann. Dieser Band legitimiert Picturebooks als komplex angelegte Textform, die sich auch mit fortgeschrittenen Lernenden zu kompetenz- und inhaltsorientierter Arbeit im Englischunterricht anbietet. Die im Band versammelten konzeptuellen und empirischen Perspektiven zeigen angehenden und praktizierenden Lehrkräften konkret auf, wie vielfältig Picturebooks den Unterricht bereichern können. Eine große Bandbreite praktischer Beispiele verdeutlicht ihr Potenzial für den Englischunterricht der Sekundarstufen - von der Förderung verschiedener literacies und literarischen Lernens bis hin zur Fokussierung von Themen wie Umwelt, sozialer Gerechtigkeit oder kultureller Diversität.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Community Pest Management in Practice Tanya M. Howard, Theodore R. Alter, Paloma Z. Frumento, Lyndal J. Thompson, 2018-12-13 This book presents a collection of practitioner and community stories that reveal how invasive species management is a community issue that can spark community formation and collective action. It combines the unique first-person narratives of practitioners on the frontline of invasive species management in Australia with three case studies of community action for wild dog management across a range of geographical landscapes. The book offers readers a new understanding of how communities are formed in the context of managing different species, and how fundamental social and political processes can make or break landholders' ability to manage invasive species. Using narrative analysis of practitioner profiles and community groups, drawing lessons from real-world practices, and employing theories from community development, rural sociology and collective action, this book serves multiple functions: it offers a teaching tool, a valuable research contribution, and a practitioner's field guide to pursuing effective community development work in connection with natural resource management, wildlife management and environmental governance.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Reading by Right Joy Court, 2017-06-08 Literacy has now been recognized as a human right for over 50 years in several international declarations and initiatives. Every child has a right to read and we have a social responsibility, as parents, teachers, librarians, publishers, booksellers, campaigners and policy makers to ensure that they are able to exercise that right. *Reading by Right: Successful strategies to ensure every child can read to succeed* provides a collection of chapters from international experts covering aspects of

overcoming reading difficulties or reading reluctance in children and young people. The book reveals strategies that are proving effective in overcoming barriers to reading from birth to teens, looking at practices and projects from around the globe and revealing some common principles and drivers that have generated success. Content covered includes: an examination of the current state of reading in the UK and internationally and what the latest research tells us about children who are failing to read how youngsters become 'reluctant readers' and how to improve the situation for everyone examples of successful projects from the Republic of Korea and Finland – countries that consistently perform well in reading tests and international league tables analysis of diversity in publishing and children's books, drawing on expertise from authors and publishers. This book will be valuable for readers from all those professions that engage with young people and families and with the development of literacy, including librarians; teachers; service managers; consultants and other professional practitioners; and also to concerned parents.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: *Reading Race* Clare Bradford, 2013-05-09 How do children's books relate to the cultures that produce them, and how do they influence those cultures? In *Reading Race* Clare Bradford looks at representations of Australia's indigenous peoples in texts for children. She shows how these varying representations have helped to colour the attitudes, beliefs and assumptions of different generations of Australians. To what extent have children's books enabled readers to understand Aboriginal culture, relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and relationships between Aboriginality and national identity? Bradford draws on examples from popular and literary children's books of all genres—fiction, non-fiction, picture books and school texts. She reveals that many children's books display the tensions and uncertainties inherent in relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Bradford also uncovers the different ideologies of race that have informed Australian children's texts from the nineteenth century to currently popular writers, demonstrating cultural shifts in the representation of Aboriginality over time. The result is a ground-breaking and intelligent picture of how Australian children's books, by both white and Aboriginal writers, have negotiated the matter of race. *Reading Race* will enhance the ways in which we come to read and understand the complex and delicate issues around Aboriginal-white relations. It will be an invaluable resource in the fields of post-colonial studies, Indigenous and Aboriginal studies, literary and cultural studies and children's literature.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: *Ecocritical Perspectives on Children's Texts and Cultures* Nina Goga, Lykke Guanio-Uluru, Bjørg Oddrun Hallås, Aslaug Nyrnes, 2018-06-11 This volume presents key contributions to the study of ecocriticism in Nordic children's and YA literary and cultural texts, in dialogue with international classics. It investigates the extent to which texts for children and young adults reflect current environmental concerns. The chapters are grouped into five thematic areas: Ethics and Aesthetics, Landscape, Vegetal, Animal, and Human, and together they explore Nordic representations and a Nordic conception, or feeling, of nature. The textual analyses are complemented with the lived experiences of outdoor learning practices in preschools and schools captured through children's own statements. The volume highlights the growing influence of posthumanist theory and the continuing traces of anthropocentric concerns within contemporary children's literature and culture, and a non-dualistic understanding of nature-culture interaction is reflected in the conceptual tool of the volume: The Nature in Culture Matrix.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: *Rhetoric and Settler Inertia* Patrick Belanger, 2019-05-23 *Rhetoric and Settler Inertia: Strategies of Canadian Decolonization* explores how communication might accelerate decolonial actions in Canada. Tracing a middle path between essential Indigenous-focused calls for resurgence, and idealistic appeals to settler conscience, Patrick Belanger identifies communication forms that can generate settler support for decolonization. Accenting the importance of both Indigenous and settler audiences, this book suggests the promise of decolonial rhetoric framed in the language of mutual benefit.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: *Global Children's Literature in the College Classroom* Sara Austin, Tanja Nathanael, 2023-05-22 *Global Children's Literature in the College Classroom*

Classroom explores the importance of children's literature as a pedagogical resource in any college course. It can be used to introduce a complex topic, give students a glimpse into a specific culture, or expand the way students think about education and teaching. Global children's literature is particularly useful in language classrooms, education programs, and classes that discuss globalism and colonialism. This book includes fifteen essays (representing fifteen countries and eight languages) divided into four sections. The first section of essays, *Across the University*, looks at children's literature in non-traditional settings including British literature and multicultural studies, which considers what children's literature specifically brings to these courses. The second section, *Borders and Crossings*, examines how children's literature defines or defies political and cultural separations. The third section, *Childhood Studies and Education*, considers the importance of global children's literature in education classrooms as a way of promoting diversity and inclusion. The fourth section, *Non-English Texts and Texts in Translation*, focuses on the use of children's literature to teach language and folklore traditions in France, Russia, and Italy. The essay that closes this section discusses using children's literature to teach translation skills at the University of Taipei.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Australia's Music: Themes of a New Society (2nd ed.) Roger Covell, 2016-12-01 Described on its first publication in 1967 as "a scholarly account of Australian music that is also entertaining social history", Roger Covell's *Australia's Music: Themes of a New Society* has become a classic of Australian music history for its beautifully written explorations of almost two hundred years of music-making across classical, Indigenous and Anglo-Celtic traditions. This revised edition, including more than sixty musical examples, is supplemented by a new postscript written by the author.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Educating for Sustainability in Primary Schools Neil Taylor, Frances Quinn, Chris Eames, 2015-06-17 Education for Sustainability is a key priority in today's schools, as our society seeks to find a balance between environmental, social, cultural, political and economic imperatives that affect our future. As young children will become the next generation of adults, it is vital that they are educated about sustainability issues, so that they can learn to make informed decisions and take positive action for a sustainable world. Teachers are ideally placed to educate for sustainability issues, and indeed have a responsibility to do so. However, they often lack support and experience in this area, and constraints of current curriculum priorities can inhibit Education for Sustainability being taught effectively in many classrooms. *Educating for Sustainability in Primary Schools: Teaching for the Future* addresses this problem by showing how Education for Sustainability can be developed within and across all areas of the primary curriculum in the Australian and New Zealand contexts. The book provides a range of educational approaches and examples of activities to support teachers in addressing national requirements for teaching the major primary curriculum learning areas, while simultaneously educating for sustainability. This integrative approach to primary education can promote knowledge of, positive attitudes towards and suitable action for sustainability in relevant, meaningful, enjoyable and creative ways. This book is a valuable resource for all primary teachers who wish to make a real difference to educating children for the future.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Children'S Literature And Computer Based Teaching Unsworth, Len, Thomas, Angela, Simpson, Alyson M., 2005-06-01 Provides information on ways to implement lessons and activities in children's literature through information and communications technology.

the rabbits by john marsden and shaun tan: Mediating Vulnerability Anneleen Masschelein, Florian Mussnug, Jennifer Rushworth, 2021-11-25 *Mediating Vulnerability* examines vulnerability from a range of connected perspectives. It responds to the vulnerability of species, their extinction but also their transformation. This tension between extreme danger and creativity is played out in literary studies through the pressures the discipline brings to bear on its own categories, particularly those of genre. Extinction and preservation on the one hand, transformation, adaptation and (re)mediation on the other. These two poles inform our comparative and interdisciplinary project. The volume is situated within the particular intercultural and intermedial

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