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The Chronically Ill Child: A Content Analysis Assessing the Realistic Portrayal of the "Illness Experience" for Child Characters in 21st Century Children's Picture Books

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Megan Proctor, The Chronically Ill Child: A Content Analysis Assessing the Realistic Portrayal of the "Illness Experience" for Child Characters in 21st Century Children's Picture Books, A Master's Paper for the M.S. in L.S. degree, November, 2014, 90 pages, Advisor: Brian Sturm

The growing realism that has emerged in children's literature in the past several decades has made it possible for more complicated topics such as chronic illness to be considered. Despite the growing presence of illness in children's literature, chronically ill characters are still vastly underrepresented and are often portrayed negatively or only partially. This remains true even as more children are diagnosed yearly with a chronic condition.

Research suggests that for children's literature featuring chronically ill characters to be valuable to its young readers, it must be reflective of the realistic emotions and behaviors chronically ill people experience. The "illness experience" has been defined in this paper by medical, social, and emotional factors. The following content analysis considers whether twenty children's picture books published since 2000 realistically present the illness experience of childhood chronic illness.

Headings:

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Abstract

The growing realism that has emerged in children's literature in the past several decades has made it possible for more complicated topics such as chronic illness to be considered. Despite the growing presence of illness in children's literature, chronically ill characters are still vastly underrepresented and are often portrayed negatively or only partially. This remains true even as more children are diagnosed yearly with a chronic condition. Research suggests that for children's literature featuring chronically ill characters to be valuable to its young readers, it must be reflective of the realistic emotions and behaviors chronically ill people experience. The "illness experience" has been defined in this paper by medical, social, and emotional factors. The following content analysis considers whether twenty

children's picture books published since 2000 realistically present the illness experience of childhood chronic illness.

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The article is devoted to the study of the immune system (IS) and cytokine sta-tus in frequently ill children (FIC) in the acute phase and remission in comparison with that rare-ly ill with children (RIC). The sample of 158 preschool children (PC) with abnormalities of the upper respiratory tract. Revealed at FIC features of cellular and humoral immunity, as well as an imbalance in the cytokine status indicate stress the IS and the possible depletion of the reserves of antiresistance in this group of children as a result of a long and massive antigenic effects on the child. Adjustment and coping of children with pediatric illness has been extensively researched, with some emphasis placed on family adjustment and the reciprocal influence it has on ill children's adjustment and coping [1–3]. The majority of studies conducted on family adjustment have focused on the adjustment of parents [4–6]. Fewer studies have focused on the adjustment of siblings [7–10], and most of these studies are specific to siblings of children with pediatric cancer.), including nine items assessing siblings' perceptions of themselves in the awareness. The second factor is interpersonal (Crosbeck). Questions were developed based on information gathered from

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