Call for Papers

The 39th Annual Children’s Literature Association Conference will consider a multiplicity of interpretations of "Literary Slipstreams," a theme thriving in the present but involved with waking the past. As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, this theme invites participants to think about literature for children and young adults as a literature both of and in transition. Where has the field been? Where is it going? What are the patterns of critical inquiry in the field? How can Bruce Sterling’s use of the term slipstream to mean a "fiction of strangeness" and "a parody of mainstream" be applied to our understanding of children's and young adult literature?

We suggest the topics below but, in the true spirit of slipstream, we welcome other paper and panel topics suggested by the conference theme.

Revisions, re-versions, and retellings
Adaptations
Prequels and sequels
Literary heirs and ancestors
Fan fiction
Narrative playfulness
Changing the historical record
 Literary conventions
Slipstreams of time and time travel
Scholarly authorship as slipstream
Hybridity (in all forms and contexts)
Genre boundaries, genre bending, and genre crossings
Parodies
Irreverence in children’s literature
Inscriptions and re-inscriptions
Machinima
Multimedia projects
Books as moving objects
Emerging scholars and scholarship

We also welcome papers on the work of Karen Hesse, winner of the 2012 Phoenix Award for Letters from Rifka.

Send 300-500 word paper proposals to Conference Chairs at childrensliterature@simmons.edu.

The submission window for proposals will be open from October 15, 2011 until January 15, 2012.