

Publications on the African Children's Literature Research Collection

Dike, V.W. (2012). Exploring relevance and appeal as stories travel across cultures. *Sankofa: A Journal of African Children's and Young Adult Literature* 11, 23-34. What stories do Nigerian children need? This single question raises a number of related questions of literary relevance and appeal. What kinds of stories will be relevant to children in Nigeria? What does relevance entail? What stories appeal to Nigerian children? The article explores these questions by considering the relevance and appeal of folktales, both for children in Nsukka, Nigeria and internationally.

Dike, V. W. (2011). Meeting the challenges of publishing for children in Nigeria. *Sankofa: A Journal of African Children's and Young Adult Literature* 10, 6-15. Picture books make many contributions to a child's reading and personal development and are ideally children's first books, yet few such books are available in Nigeria. After a brief history of Nigerian picture book publication, this article explores the efforts of three Nigerian publishers have made to produce picture books that meet the needs of younger children, focusing on the philosophy and publications of Lantern Books (Literamed), Farafina (Kachifo) and Cassava Republic Press. The article concludes with a discussion of strategies for overcoming challenges.

Dike, V. W. (2008). Growing up on the hard side: Male adolescent experience in contemporary Nigeria." *Sankofa: A Journal of African Children's and Young Adult Literature* 7, 23-31. This article examines the experience of adolescent males growing up in difficult circumstances as seen in three novels. Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* views life from the perspective of a boy soldier in an unidentified West African civil war. Chris Abani's *Graceland* portrays the experience of an adolescent uprooted from stable family life in an Igbo village to life with a derelict father in the slums of Lagos. Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* illuminates the life of a houseboy growing up during the Nigerian Civil War. Themes considered include the role of family and culture, relationships with fathers, sexual awareness, and sources of strength and identity.

Dike, V. W. (2006). Developing fiction for today's Nigerian youth." *Sankofa: A Journal of African Children's and Young Adult Literature* 4, 6-17. The article considers realistic fiction for Nigerian young people aged 11 to 19 years in relation to their needs, interests and circumstances. The paper documents the body of fiction literature written for Nigerian young people, tracing its history from the beginnings in the 1960s, through its blossoming in the 1980s, to the present day. It then examines the characteristics of the novels in terms of societal realities and the personal concerns and challenges facing youth, focusing on eight novels.

Finally, the author explores questions of availability and access and the way forward in providing literature of relevance and quality for Nigerian youth. A variation of this paper was presented at the IBBY Congress in Capetown, South Africa, September 3-7, 2004.

Dike, V. W. & Chijioke, M. E. (1993). Thirty years of Nigerian juvenile fiction, 1960-1990: A bibliography. *Anambra State School Libraries Bulletin* 18(1/2), 28-41.

Dike, V. W. (1992). The world of Nigerian children's literature: Its role in providing the personal touch. In School libraries in a diverse world: Providing the personal touch. Proceedings of the 20th annual conference International Association of School Librarianship, 30-42. IASL. Nigerian children's literature can play a role in providing the personal touch, within Nigeria and beyond. In Nigerian school libraries, literature can help children understand themselves and others in a complex and heterogeneous world. The same literature can make the lives of Nigerian children and youth more immediate and understandable to those on other continents. The paper looks at twelve titles of realistic fiction for ages 9 – 16 in terms of describing the Nigerian cultural and physical environment, the challenges of growing up, and societal values and issues.

Dike, V. W. (1990). Documenting African children's literature. Paper presented at the IFLA General Conference of 1990 held in Stockholm, Sweden, Round Table on Children's Literature Documentation Centres. This paper begins by describing the Children's Centre Library research collection and its efforts to document African children's literature. It then traces the development and provides an overview of African children's literature. Finally, the paper discusses some of the problems the library has encountered in developing its collection.

Dike, V. W. (1983). Sharing literature for effective social education: The example of African literature. In Sharing: A challenge for all. Proceedings of the 11th Annual conference International Association of School Librarianship, compiled and edited by John G. Wright, 59-73. IASL. The paper seeks to explore ways in which the sharing of literature from many lands can further the aims of social education. This is because the relationships and dilemmas which are the focus of both social education and literature pose dilemmas without easy solution. The author explores African novels suitable for secondary school students outside Africa. These include works by Camara Laye, John Munonye, Mongo Beti, Buchi Emecheta, Chinua Achebe, Sembene Ousmane, Elechi Amadi, Nkem Nwankwo, Vincent Ike, T. M. Aluko and Ayi Kwei Armah on the themes of growing up, inequality and justice, conflict, and the individual and society.

