Contents

	Acknowledgements	vii
	Introduction	1
1	Criticism before 1945	14
	Sarah Fielding from the 'Preface' to <i>The Governess or</i> Little Female Academy (1749) Elizabeth Rigby from 'Children's Books', <i>The Quarterly</i>	16
	Review, 74 (1844)	19
	Charles Dickens from 'Frauds on the Fairies', Household Words, vol. 8, no. 184 (October 1853)	24
	John Ruskin from 'Fairy Stories' (1868) G. K. Chesterton from 'The Ethics of Elfland',	26
	Orthodoxy (1908) Arthur Ransome from 'A Letter to the Editor',	28
	The Junior Bookshelf, 1:4 (1937)	33
2	Key essays in children's literature criticism	35
	Roger Lancelyn Green, 'The Golden Age of Children's Books', Essays and Studies 1962	36
	John Rowe Townsend, 'Standards of Criticism for Children's Literature', Top of the News (June 1971) Felicity A. Hughes, 'Children's Literature: Theory and	57
	Felicity A. Hughes, 'Children's Literature: Theory and Practice', ELH, 45 (1978) Aidan Chambers, 'The Reader in the Book', in	71
	Booktalk; Occasional Writing on Literature and	
	Children, Bodley Head (1985)	91
3	Specialist areas of criticism	115
	Hugh Crago, 'The Roots of Response', Children's Literature Association Quarterly, vol. 10, no. 3	
	(Fall 1985)	118
	William Moebius, 'Introduction to Picturebook Codes', Word & Image, vol. 2, no. 2 (April-June 1986)	131
4	Directions in children's literature criticism	148
	Lissa Paul, 'Enigma Variations: What Feminist Theory Knows About Children's Literature', Signal, 54	
	(September 1987)	148

CONTENTS

Margaret Meek, 'What Counts as Evidence in Theories of Children's Literature?' Theory into Practice, vol. 21, no. 4

	(Autumn 1982)	100
5	The contemporary critical scene: a review	183