



The Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław has the honor to invite you to the first of three lectures in the series "Controversial Dimensions of Children's Literature"

**Prof. Junko Yokota**

***Interpretive and Hidden Controversies in Literature for Children***



Photo credit: Wojciech Drag

**DATE:** September 23, 2020

**TIME:** 18.00 (CET)

**VENUE:** MS Teams

If you are interested in taking part in the lecture, please contact us by email by 22 September at the following address:  
[barbara.kalla@uwr.edu.pl](mailto:barbara.kalla@uwr.edu.pl)

Controversies are found in many ways in the pages and pictures of books for children. Sometimes, those controversies are overt and the books are intended to be provocative. At other times, what might be considered controversial is presented in ways that normalize those topics and issues so as to be naturally inclusive. Controversies are often matters of reader interpretation whether authors have knowingly or unintentionally placed them, and some are subjected to interpretation that occurs years and even decades after the book is first published. What makes some controversies even more provocative is when the controversies are overlooked or seemingly hidden. Examples of interpretive and hidden controversies in both illustrations in picturebooks as well as in texts of longer works will be presented.

Junko Yokota is Director of the Center for Teaching through Children's Books, Professor Emeritus at National Louis University (Chicago), and formerly a classroom teacher and school librarian. Her research focuses on visual literacy of picturebooks, multicultural and international literature, digital storytelling, and literacy instruction through quality literature. Her publications include six editions of the coauthored textbook, *Children's Books in Children's Hands*, two coauthored books, *Learning through Literature for Children* and *Books Come Alive: Read Aloud to Young Children*, over 60 journal articles, 20 book chapters, two children's literature review columns, and edited *Kaleidoscope*. She has held research fellowships at the International Youth Library and the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, and was a Fulbright Scholar at University of Wrocław.