



PAGINE GIOVANI

CALL FOR PAPERS n. 1/2027 RIVISTA «PAGINE GIOVANI»

«Pagine giovani», a biannual journal of children's literature founded in 1977, accredited in Band A for Area 11, Sector 11/D1, has scheduled a monographic insert for issue 1/2027 (January-June) entitled:

The Game in Children's Literature.

An Interdisciplinary Historical Excursus

A fundamental human ability, a free, spontaneous, and selfless exercise of physical, mental, and spiritual energies, the realm of spontaneity and autonomy, play, in its rich phenomenological manifestations and multiplicity of expressions, has always been enjoyed in various forms and modalities by children (and adults) of all times and places. For children, it represents a primary need, anthropologically grounded, so much so that it can be included, not arbitrarily, among the fundamental needs theorized by Decroly. The presence of play and its object, the toy, throughout human history is evidenced by archaeological finds, graffiti, mural paintings, bas-reliefs, and everyday objects, as well as myths, sagas, fairy tales and legends, poems, literary and autobiographical works, which also serve as ethnographic documents and a mirror of a civilization and culture.

The aim of this planned insert is to historically retrace the presence of games and toys in children's literature, both as texts—oral or written—intended to address the subject during the crucial years of their formation or as a result of their own experiences (as in the case of folk tales), and as a set of products of human imagination and ingenuity that do not rely solely on verbal language, and therefore also encompass children's periodicals, comics, graphic novels, and cartoons, all sharing the narrative dimension. At the same time, the approach of this specific literature—across various historical periods and cultures—toward this insuppressible childhood need will be examined. This historical reconstruction or investigation will hopefully be accompanied, from an interdisciplinary perspective, by appropriate anthropological, sociological, psychological, pedagogical, and cultural considerations.

Some possible avenues for research and exploration are outlined below:

Presences, traces, and testimonies of children's play in oral and written literature: myths, poems, fairy tales, and legends

Presence and testimonies of play in European folk tales

Presence and testimonies of play in the tales of other civilizations and cultures (Islamic, Asian, Oceanic, African, Andean, etc.)

Play and toys in fairy tales by authors

Play in picture books, from a diachronic perspective

Play in some classics of children's literature

Play in nineteenth-century children's literature

Play in twentieth-century children's literature

Play in children's literature of the new millennium

Most common types of play in children's and adolescent literature (nineteenth-century, twentieth-century, and new millennium)

Play and toys in children's writing in the age of electronic and digital technologies between the

twentieth century and the new millennium

Salvation play in children's literature

Detractive positions on children's play in children's literature [e.g., in *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, play is contrasted, in guilt-inducing terms, with study and duty]

Children with disabilities and their relationship with play in young adult literature

Play in primary school reading books: a historical overview

Play in comics from Yellow Kid to the present

Play in cartoons from the beginning of animation to the present

Play in the "Corriere dei Piccoli"

Game books and manuals from the nineteenth century to the present

The dimension of play in children's literature from its origins to the present.

Interested parties may submit an abstract of approximately 1,000 characters, including spaces, in Italian and English, along with a short biography and a brief bibliography, to the journal's editorial coordinator: claudiacamicia@libero.it no later than July 25, 2026. Submissions will be subject to a review process, the outcome of which will be communicated by August 5.

Articles, preferably in Italian or English (30,000 to 35,000 characters, including spaces), accompanied by an abstract in Italian and English and any relevant illustrations, must be received by December 15, 2026. They will undergo double-blind peer review. Publication: end of March 2027, in time for presentation at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

N.B.: If abstracts are of recognized scientific interest, articles that do not fit into the insert—which only allows for four contributions—may be published, by agreement with the authors, as individual articles in future issues of the journal, or included in a future volume.