**The Children's Special Collection At WCU: A Treasure Trove for Research**

**Presenter: Christopher Borroughs (English)**

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The Special Collections Department at West Chester houses an impressive array of children’s literature, though this collection has largely remained untapped and unstudied. However, I have identified many significant holdings upon the shelves, such as Newbery and Caldecott-winning titles, esteemed children’s classics, and other notable works by local authors and illustrators. My presentation will propose several potential research topics for scholarly investigation within the collection, such as studying the history of illustration through our Wind in the Willows collection, observing how depictions of race have progressed over time, and conducting gender and other theoretical studies. I also propose methods to make the collection more accessible for research, such as creating finding aids, highlighting thematic groupings, and applying best practices for collection management.