

Once Upon A Time...

"I do not like green eggs and ham, I do not like them," said Son of Sam.

Children's literature. We all grew up with it. It was a rare day when the pre-adolescent mind was not blitzed by the stories of Aesop and Doc Suess.

It was from these stories that the kids who grew up when I did learned their values. I grew up in the 'Age of the Metal Toy'. When you hit another kid over the head with your toy, his head broke, not your toy.

Today, things are different. Kids grow up with values and traits that are much different from the ones I knew, but children's literature remains the

same. What is needed are new, up-to-date stories and fables which reflect the values of contemporary society. Here is a sampling of some updated stories up for consideration.

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. From there, he could pour generic beer on the children as they waited for the school bus.

"Har Har Har Take that you little rugrat," Humpty would say as he drenched a small child.

From his vantage point atop

the wall, Humpty would pilfer as much loot as possible. If he saw something he especially liked, say, a Johnny Quest lunchbox, he would bound off the wall, burn the kid with his cigarette and make off with the goods.

With the various goods he obtained from the children, Humpty would go to the pawnshop to acquire large sums of money. With this money, Humpty would buy assorted hallucinogenics. One day Humpty took some bad acid while sitting atop the wall and got fried. He toppled to his demise, scrambling his brain over the sidewalk.

The moral of this story: don't be a bad egg.

Jack Be Nimble

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick. Jack be in a hurry because he's got lots of coppers chasing after him since he looted the Seven-Eleven. Jack be running because he spray-painted "Jim Morrison Lives" on the mayor's Fiat. Jack be hurting cause the coppers cornered him and used their riot sticks to play a tune on his face. Kids, if you be like Jack, make sure you can run the 100 in 10-flat.

Besides children's literature, kid's TV shows also need to be restructured to reflect values today. Let's face it, Mr. Rogers and the Cap'n just don't cut it anymore. Here's a crew that does.

"The Brand New Captain Kangaroo Hour"

Wake up early as the captain shows you all the things you



Illustration by Lorraine Rath

really need to know, like how to hotwire a car and how to take a cutting torch to parking meters.

"All right kids, let's hide in this dumpster and see the look on Mr. Policeman's face when he discovers his patrol car has vamoosed. Hee-hee-hee"

Watch as that nutty Mr. Moose has fun with Captain's weak heart. "Hey, Captain. The producers are outside; your show's just been cancelled again.

"Just kidding, ha, ha, ha"

Mr. Green Jeans provides comic relief by holding food just out of the reach of small animals.

The whole gang is here with the Captain. It's fun for the whole family.

"The Revised Muppet Show"

The show has been overtaken by special musical performer, Ozzy Bear. Ozzy performs several numbers each show, biting the head off a different Muppet during each one. Make sure the kids see this one. Not recommended for the faint of heart.

"Fun with Freddie"

Learning is a pleasure when you learn from Freddie. Freddie's classroom is the real world, not some stuffy building. Freddie will teach you all of the tricks you need to stay ahead in today's business world.

Problems with mathematics? Learn the subject with Freddie's kids.

"So Billy, if I have \$50 and sell my friend's calculator for \$50 more, how much do I have?"

"Um, \$100?"

"Wrong. Trick question. I took the money to buy a sledgehammer and broke into three cars, pilfering stereos worth \$395.95. Nice try though."

Having troubles with physics? Worry no more.

"If the shot from my shotgun travels at a velocity of 1.4 x 10,000 meters per second and I shoot it at the instructor, who is running at a speed of 6.5 meters per second 200 meters away from me, how long will he live, assuming non-elastic impact?"

Perplexing economics questions will become clear after Freddie takes you through his econ lectures.

"Today, we're going to learn about the principle of barter. I'm gonna make a little trade with Hank here. I'm gonna trade my fist for his bike."

Every once in a while, Freddie will have the police department visit his show to help him with a physical education lecture. Afterward, the officers may or may not help Freddie through a first aid lecture.

It's all there. A well-rounded student is the student who grows up with Freddie. "Fun with Freddie" — don't deprive the kids of this experience.

Like I said before, kids' literature and TV need to be revised. This is a step in the right direction. Kids need something to stimulate their minds. As the immortal philosopher Hermie Schmutz once said, "I think — therefore I raid gumball machines."

A mind is a terrible thing to waste, isn't it?

— JIM WEEKS

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In the afternoons it's Mark Ellis and Bob Valdez for your favorite hits and extended local and national news. Monday-Friday, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Depend on KUGN AM 590 for coverage of all the U of O games.

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Spectrum

A publication of the Oregon Daily Emerald

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*Cover photo by Michael Wilhelm

The editors will not be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or artwork. Submissions must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Writer's guidelines may be picked up at the Oregon Daily Emerald office, Rm. 300, Erb Memorial Union. Mailing address for Spectrum magazine is P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, Oregon 97403.