

Suggested Reading for 23rd May: Judith Kerr and Exile

In the first session we'll be looking at sections from *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr; it's a semi-autobiographical children's novel. If you have time to read it all the better but don't worry if not – we'll be looking at extracts in class and I'll provide photocopies as well as giving a synopsis of the book.

If you'd like a taster of the novel, the extract I've given is Chapter 2, which begins just after Anna discovers her father has gone. You might want to think about how Kerr constructs the child's perspective of what's going on, how her life is changing (and how it's staying the same), and what she's scared of.

In the second session we'll be looking at *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*, also by Judith Kerr. Whilst some critics read this picture book as an analogy for Hitler in Germany in WWII our concern will be in teasing out the safety of home and the effect the Tiger's visit has on the family. We'll also look at some of Judith's juvenilia, including illustrations her mother took with them when they left Germany on the eve of the Nazis coming into power in 1933.

You might also find these resources of interest:

A blog post on Kerr's juvenilia and *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, by current Newcastle PhD student Lucy Stone <https://cambridgechildrenslit.wordpress.com/2016/10/18/forced-migration-identity/>

An interview with Kerr on her childhood, life and best known books, including *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *Mog the Forgetful Cat*: <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/feb/18/judith-kerr-interview-when-hitler-stole-pink-rabbit-mog>

Suggested Reading for 30th May: Reclaiming Exiled Voices

This session will look at a different kind of exile: of the female authors who, until the 1970s, didn't appear in the English literary canon (and often still don't), and of female characters who are excluded from some of our culture-defining stories.

To do this we're going to look at some of the poems from Carol Ann Duffy's *The World's Wife* (1999) and fairy tales from Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* (1979) including 'The Snow Child' (which has echoes of 'Snow White' and 'Sleeping Beauty') and 'The Werewolf' (along the lines of 'Little Red Riding Hood', which are attached in case you'd like to read them in advance (not mandatory). The Carter stories are often graphic and you should be aware that 'The Snow Child' includes a reference to rape and both stories to death. Duffy's poetry includes some references to sex and uses coarse language.

When reading these poems think about what characteristics the women in the poems have. If you know the original texts, how do they differ from the women in those?

NB to print the PDFs with two pages per side: open the print dialogue box, select 'Multiple' under 'Page Sizing & Handling', then '1 by 2' and 'Portrait'. I'll bring better scans with me on the day.