

Enid Blyton 破坏公物的艺术

Vocabulary: social attitudes 词汇: 社会态度

English writer Enid Blyton is one of the most popular authors in the world. More than 400 million copies of her children's books have been sold worldwide and generations of British children have grown up **hooked on** her stories of adventure and magic.

But not everyone likes Enid Blyton.

Some people are **objecting to** plans to put up a **plaque** where her house once stood in the town of Beaconsfield, as part of a festival to celebrate her life and work. They complain that her books are racist, sexist and **snobbish**.



One of the problems is that Blyton wrote between the 1920s and 1960s. Since that time British society has changed enormously, especially with regards to how we should speak about **race**, **gender**, **class** and how to bring up children.

Many of her stories are enthusiastic about physical punishment, like **smacking**, which is now considered wrong by many in the UK. Girls also tend to play a very **passive role** in her popular **detective** series, like The Famous Five and the Five Find-Outers.

Working class characters don't do well either. They are often **mocked** for the way they speak or **portrayed** as lacking intelligence and **social graces**.

Blyton is also **notorious** for her attitudes to race. The **baddies** are often foreign or **gypsies** and she wrote about toys called golliwogs. Golliwogs are **caricatured** images of black people, which are still seen in shops today. But many companies now refuse to sell golliwogs because they are felt to be racist.

Generations of children have been **willing to overlook** the punishments and prejudice and have avidly read her 5,000 short stories and 150 novels. Children's writer Michael Rosen says this is because she knew what children wanted in a story.

Adults are usually absent in Blyton books, allowing children to be powerful: travelling and cooking for themselves, visiting magic lands or solving mysteries. But in modern British life, children are more than ever being constantly watched and controlled, as people become more **security conscious**.

Blyton's books are now published with changes, to make them more acceptable to modern **sensibilities**, and sales are increasing. Regardless of criticisms, Enid Blyton stories are as much a part of childhood for this generation of British children, as they were for their parents and grandparents.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Where is the planned Enid Blyton festival?
2. According to the article, is the following statement true, false or not given? *Attitudes in Britain haven't changed since the 1920s.*
3. According to the article, who is mocked for the way they speak in Enid Blyton books?
4. In Enid Blyton books, are children watched closely by adults?
5. Are Enid Blyton books still sold?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. We're hooked _____ the new TV series. We just can't miss a single one.

up	to	on	over
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2. His films have very strong _____ class characters.

working	work	worker	worked
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3. It's stupid, the goodies are all beautiful and the _____ are all ugly.

baddies	bads	bad ones	bad
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4. The women in the book are shown to be weak, but the men are _____ as strong.

made	done	given	portrayed
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5. His family don't like working class people, they're very _____.

snob	snobbish	snobbed	snobbing
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Where is the planned Enid Blyton festival? In the town of Beaconsfield.
2. According to the article, is the following statement true, false or not given? *Attitudes in Britain haven't changed since the 1920s.* False. The article says attitudes have changed.
3. According to the article, who is mocked for the way they speak, in Enid Blyton books? Working class characters.
4. In Enid Blyton books, are children watched closely by adults? No, adults are usually absent.
5. Are Enid Blyton books still sold? Yes, and sales are increasing.

Exercise 练习

1. We're hooked **on** the new TV series. We just can't miss a single one.
2. His films have very strong **working** class characters.
3. It's stupid, the goodies are all beautiful and the **baddies** are all ugly.
4. The women in the book are shown to be weak, but the men are **portrayed** as strong.
5. His family don't like working class people, they're very **snobbish**.

Glossary 词汇表

hooked on	被吸引
objecting to	去干涉
plaque	牌匾
snobbish	势利的
race	种族
gender	性别
class	阶级
passive role	被动角色
detective	侦探
working class characters	工人阶级的角色
mocked	嘲笑挖苦
portrayed	被描绘
social graces	社交礼仪
notorious	臭名昭著的
baddies	坏人
gypsies	吉普赛人
caricatured	漫画讽刺手法
willing to overlook	愿意忽略
security conscious	安全意识强
sensibilities	感性