

**Being honest about difficult issues with stories**

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**1 PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

1.1 Definition

Anthropomorphism = assigning a human trait to an animal or object

1.2 Why anthropomorphic books?

Children love animals and can relate to them.

**2 PURPOSE OF ANTHROPOMORPHIC CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

2.1 face-saving emotional distance; soften didactic tone

Farrell, Darren (2010) Doug-Dennis and the Flyaway Fib. NY: Dial Books.

Henkes, Kevin (2013) Penny and Her Marble. NY: Greenwillow Books.

Mills, Joyce C; Crowley, Richard J (1988) Sammy the Elephant & Mr Camel: A Story to Help Children Overcome Bedwetting. Washington, DC: Magination Press.

2.2 provide instruction on certain topics

Mills, Joyce C. (2003) Little Tree: A Story for Children with Serious Medical Problems. Washington, DC: Magination Press.

2.3 ease tension raised by controversial topics

Fierstein, Harvey (2002) The Sissy Duckling. NY: Simon & Schuster.

2.4 add emotional distance when topic is painful

Browne, Laurene (1986) Dinosaurs Divorce. London: William Collins .

Henkes, Kevin (2000) Wemberly Worried. NY: Greenwillow Books.

Wild, Margaret (1995) Old Pig. Australia: Allen & Unwin.

**3 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

3.1 Anthropomorphic books = age-free, gender-free, social status-free

3.2 Honesty is the best policy

Winthrop, Elizabeth (2000) Promises. NY: Clarion Books.