

## Representation of nature in children's literature and its role in shaping environmental literacy

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In the world saturated with technology and digital entertainment, society slowly loses connection with natural environment. The phenomenon is particularly worrying among children for whom the "nature deficit disorder" has been observed and defined as a wide range of behavioural problems caused by limited or negligible contact with nature (Louv, 2005).

Inspired by a project "Lost words" (2017), which tries to help children rediscover the beauty of natural world, I decided to design a research project that would contribute to solving the problem of disappearing understanding of the need for nature in our lives.

The principal aim of the project would be to investigate the representation of nature in current children's environmental literature and determine the scope of themes that are dominating this genre. In order to achieve this, I will conduct a close analysis of the primary sources in context of the messages that are conveyed, the tools that are used to achieve certain effects and the topics that are being omitted. It will be an interdisciplinary project covering the interconnections between literature, education, and social transition in context of Polish and British culture. Furthermore, I would contrast my theoretical framework with currently introduced directives for environmental education, e.g. UNEP Strategy for Environmental Education and Training. Important aspect of my research will be to find the differences between the approaches to environmental education in the two countries to see what aspects of education for sustainability need to be further developed. The analysis of the topic's coverage in literature contrasted with broader framework for implementation will be a good guidance for future environmental programmes and I hope it could be an original contribution to existing scholarship and a starting point for developing new approaches in this field.

### References:

Louv, R. (2005) Last child in the woods: saving our children from nature-deficit disorder. *A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education*. 21(1), pp. 136–137.

Morris, J. & Macfarlane, R. (2017) *The Lost Words: A Spell Book*. London: Penguin Publishing.