

Biography of Charlotte S. Huck

Charlotte S. Huck is a professor emeritus in the College of Education at Ohio State University where she joined the faculty in 1955. She specialized in elementary education with particular emphasis on the teaching of children's literature and the development of early literacy.

Dr. Huck, born in Evanston, Ill., is primarily a product of a midwestern education. She graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Il., and after a year at Wellesley College, received her B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University. After teaching for seven years in the elementary schools of Missouri and Illinois, she joined the faculty of Northwestern, serving as an instructor in education while working on her advanced degree.

From the single course in children's literature that existed at Ohio State, she built a nationally known program that offers specialization in children's literature at the M.A. and Ph.D. level. Dr. Huck has played a key role in other programs and research efforts over three decades, including the OSU Critical Reading Project of the 1960s and the development of EPIC, a teacher preparation plan emphasizing an integrated curriculum that began in the 1970s. More recently she has been instrumental in establishing the Ohio Reading Recovery project, an adaptation of the New Zealand program which identifies children at risk of failure in their efforts at beginning reading and provides the means for them to "recover" and move forward.

Many presentations and publications have helped to take Dr. Huck's influence beyond the OSU community, particularly her college text, Children's Literature in the Elementary School (Harcourt Brace), and The WEB (Wonderfully Exciting Books), a review quarterly which she founded at Ohio State in 1976. This quarterly focuses on the classroom uses of children's books. She is well known for her work with the National Council of Teachers of English, which she has served in many capacities including Chair

of the Elementary Education Section and national President. She has also served the American Library Association as Chair of the Caldecott Committee and has contributed her time to many other professional organizations, boards, and commissions.

Among the many honors Dr. Huck has received are the Ohio State University Distinguished Teaching Award (1972), the Landau Award for Distinguished Service in Teaching Children's Literature (1979), and the 1987 NCTE Distinguished Service Award. In 1988, the International Reading Association honored her with the Arbuthnot Award which recognizes an outstanding university teacher of children's literature. She was also elected to the Reading Hall of Fame in that same year. She has also been honored by the Ohio Department of Education for her efforts with Reading Recovery and by the faculty of the College of Education at Indiana University for her "Outstanding Contributions to the Development of Literacy."

Upon her retirement, the Ohio State University established The Charlotte S. Huck Children's Literature Endowment Fund to provide for the first endowed children's literature professorship in the United States.

Charlotte Huck now lives in Redlands, California. Since her retirement, she has written three books for children, Princess Furball, Secret Places and Toads and Diamonds (in press), all published by Greenwillow.