Ethical Transformations in Children’s Literature and Film

Karen Coats
Something Old, Something New

• Backgrounds and Histories
• New Horrors
• New Deeps
• New Moralities
Backgrounds and Histories

This slide is ironic.
Instruction with and without delight in the long 18th century
Between delight and social reform in the 19th century
The Unfinished Quest for Diversity in the 21st Century
New Horrors

This slide is still ironic.
From Personal Sovereignty to Helplessness in the Presences of Monsters

1963: *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak

2011: *A Monster Calls*, by Patrick Ness, illus. by Jim Kay
Shaun Tan’s *The Arrival*, 2006
Sound, Fury, and New(?) Images of Fear

_A Monster Calls_, 2017, directed by J. A. Bayona
New Deeps

Difficult Feelings and Cognitive Challenges
Visual Conceptual Metaphors

夏日里的规矩
千万别吃宴会上剩的最后一颗橄榄。

Never eat the last olive at a party.
Never give your keys to a stranger.

千万别把钥匙交给人。
Never wait for an apology.

千万不要去等人道歉。
That's it.

就那么回事啦。
New Moralities

Back to instruction with (or without) delight?
Human Rights, Universal Dignity, and Environmental Awareness