

## George A. Smathers Libraries Exhibit Explores History of Children's Literature

GAINESVILLE, FL. – The George A. Smathers Libraries are presenting an exhibition of children's books from 1800 – 2015. On view August 13, 2018 – October 15, 2018 *Racism, Representation, and Resistance in Children's Literature 1800 – 2015* illustrates the power of children's literature to shape young minds. The exhibit explores the long history of racism in children's literature by examining the dehumanization and colonization of people of color, primarily Africans and African Americans, through images of minstrelism and colonialism. It also explores how self-representational children's books by African American authors resisted and subverted racist ideologies.

*Racism, Representation, and Resistance* is curated by Suzan Alteri, Stephanie Birch, and Dr. Hélène Huet. The exhibit is on view in the Smathers Library Grand Reading Room. Items on view are from the George A. Smathers Libraries' Special and Area Studies Collections, Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature.

The Special and Area Studies Collections Grand Reading Room is located on the second floor of the Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified and with occasional exceptions for maintenance. All exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.

A complimentary online exhibition will launch September 4, 2018  
<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/RacismRepresentation>

### **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, September 12, 3:00 pm – 4:00pm  
Smathers Library Room 100

Speaker:

Dr. Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Thomas examines the ways that literature is positioned in schooling and society today. Her research is most keenly focused on children's and adolescent texts, the teaching of African American literature, history, and culture in K-12 classrooms, and the roles that race, class, and gender play in classroom discourse and interaction. She is currently writing a critical volume about the ways that children and teens of color are represented in early 21<sup>st</sup> century speculative fiction, comics, and multimedia.

Dr. Thomas will speak on the role race plays in children's literature.

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*All events are free and open to the public.*