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978-1-107-04854-6 - Books for Children, Books for Adults: Age and the
Novel from Defoe to James
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BOOKS FOR CHILDREN, BOOKS FOR ADULTS

In this ground-breaking and wide-ranging study, Teresa Michals explores why some books originally written for a mixed-age audience, such as Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, eventually became children's literature, while others, such as Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*, became adult novels. Michals considers how historically specific ideas about age shaped not only the readership of novels, but also the ways that characters are represented within them. Arguing that age is first understood through social status, and later through the ideal of psychological development, the book examines the new determination of authors at the end of the nineteenth century, such as Henry James, to write for an audience of adults only. In these novels, and in their reception, a world of masters and servants became a world of adults and children.

TERESA MICHALS is Assistant Professor in the Department of English Literature at George Mason University, Virginia.

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CAMBRIDGE
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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107048546

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Michals, Teresa, 1963–

Books for children, books for adults : age and the novel from Defoe to James / Teresa Michals.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-04854-6

1. English fiction – 18th century – History and criticism. 2. English fiction – 19th century – History
 and criticism. 3. American fiction – 18th century – History and criticism. 4. American fiction –
 19th century – History and criticism. 5. Books and reading – Great Britain – History. 6. Books
 and reading – United States – History. 7. Fiction – Appreciation – History. 8. Children's
 literature – History and criticism. 9. Adulthood in literature. 10. Children in literature. I. Title.

PR851.M53 2014

823.009/354 – dc23 2013039532

ISBN 978-1-107-04854-6 Hardback

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For my parents, Vivien and Edward Michals

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Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
1 Introduction	I
2 Rewriting <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> : Age and the island	19
3 Dating <i>Pamela</i> : Mr. B., <i>Goody Two-Shoes</i> , and the age of consent	62
4 Rational moralists, highland barbarians, and the taste for adventures	100
5 Educating Dickens: Old Boys, Little Mothers, and school time	137
6 “The time of real amusement”: Henry James and the cult of adulthood	176
<i>Notes</i>	209
<i>Bibliography</i>	244
<i>Index</i>	262

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Illustrations

- 1 Woodcut from *The Surprising Life, and Most Strange Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, 1770. Archives and Research Collections, McMaster University page 38
- 2 Catalogue from *The History of Pamela*, 1769. Robert Taylor Collection. Rare Books Division. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Princeton University Library 74
- 3 Hand-colored frontispiece from *The History of Pamela*, 1830. Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC 79

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Acknowledgments

Although a book's faults are the author's own, it owes its existence to the virtues of many other people. I want to thank Frances Ferguson, who as a teacher showed me how to make few assumptions about what a literary text may mean, and who as a mentor and friend has been equally open-minded about the directions a scholarly career may take. At George Mason University, Kristin Samuelian has been a source of infectious pleasure in the practice of literary criticism, and Amelia Rutledge has opened children's literature for me as an academic field. My colleagues Miruna Stanica, Alok Yadov, David Kaufman, and Roger Lathbury read and insightfully commented on large swathes of this book, as did Elaine Hadley at the University of Chicago. I am also grateful for George Mason University's Junior Faculty Fellowship, which provided time to write, and Jen Stevens, our library's tireless friend of research in the humanities. The scholarship of Andrea Immel, Curator of the Cotsen Children's Library at Princeton University, was a starting point for this project, and her help navigating rare books kept it from flagging. Laura Wasawicz, Curator of Children's Literature at the American Antiquarian Society, was my guide in tracking Robinson Crusoe. A portion of this book's final chapter first appeared in *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* as "Henry James and the Invention of Adulthood," and is now reprinted by permission of the present publisher, Duke University Press. I am grateful to my son, David, for his patience when I compared his middle-school challenges to those of eighteenth-century midshipmen over the dinner table, and to my daughter, Rachel, for all the cups of tea she kindly brought me. Robert Matz believed this was a book when it started as a conversation by the fire, and then spent years helping that belief to become reality. His insight and enthusiasm animate every page. He is my first reader, and my best. I would like to thank Lorraine Matz and the late Joseph Matz for summers of writing by the lake. Finally, I want to thank my parents, Vivien and Edward Michals, who are my model of pride and joy in family. This book is dedicated to them.