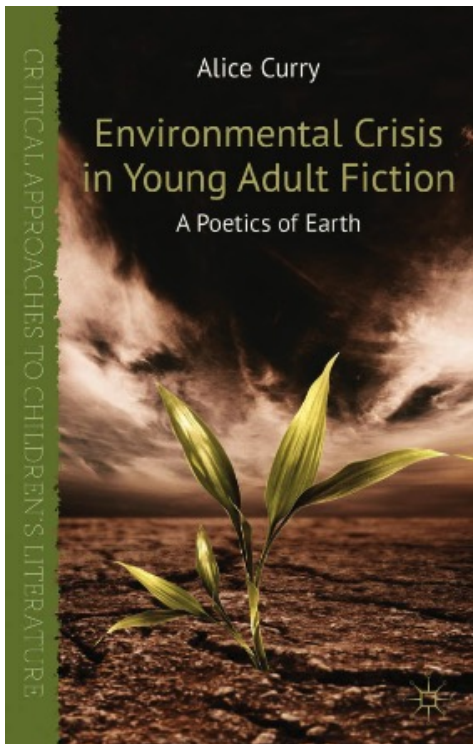


***Environmental Crisis in Young Adult Fiction: A Poetics of Earth* (2013)  
by Alice Curry, Publisher Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. 218 pp.**

IN the concluding paragraph of the concluding chapter, ‘Apocalypse as Ecopoeisis’, Alice Curry writes that in attempting to fill a lacuna in the ecocritical analysis of children’s fiction she has ‘explored ecofeminist philosophical and ethical insights and applied them to current theorising on subjectivity, identity formation and agency within children’s literature. Such a melding of critical perspectives . . . can be of manifold relevance to both ecofeminist thinking and children’s literature criticism alike . . .’ (198)



Curry explores the landscapes of America, Britain, Australasia, and South Africa in post-apocalyptic and post-disaster worlds in contemporary young adult fiction. Among the works examined are New Zealand-born author Justin D’Ath’s *Shadow Master*; Cape Town’s Jenny Robson’s *Savannah 2116 AD*; British writer Julie Bertranga’s stories *Exodus* and *Zenith*, set in 2099, whose characters face the consequences of global warming; as well as Suzanne Collins’s *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*. Eleven dense pages of works cited show the extensive and impressive scope of Y/A literature and criticism Curry analyses—it’s a who’s who of ecofeminist scholarship. And equally dense and insightful are Curry’s six chapters on apocalypse and our post-natural future; writing on the body; an ecofeminist ethic of care; competing epistemological frameworks; ecofeminist spiritualism; and the embodied, embedded hybrid of ecology and ecofeminism.

Throughout the work Curry returns to a number of essential concepts, such as situated knowledges, green shift, tipping point, and ‘blind space’, the last with its origin in film theory—the notion that with alienation the earth becomes ‘a site of cultural production lacking in self-determination’, hence it is ‘blind’. These and other conceptual keys in understanding environmental crises in Y/A literature undergo Curry’s multilayered ecofeminist appraisals and critiques.

Curry’s is a stunning, ambitious work, amply fulfilling the objectives of the *Critical Approaches to Children’s Literature* series as set out by series editors Kerry Mallan and Clare Bradford, ‘to identify and publish the best contemporary scholarship and criticism on children’s and young adult literature, film and media texts’ based on theoretically informed scholarship.

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