The commonly accepted notion that children literature was abundant in olden China has been proved to be untrue. For there has never been a piece of work written specially for children until the Literary Revolution of 1917 and the May Fourth Movement of 1919. During this period, a group of writers began to seriously study the theories of children literature while others helped in translating, adapting and writing children literature. However, as compared with other types of literature, little attention has been paid to children literature in the early period of the Literary Revolution, between 1917 and 1927. As a result, the information on children literature during this period was scattered and inadequate.

Hence, this academic exercise is an attempt to study the fragmented information on children literature in Modern China from 1917 to 1927 in order to find out the various important assertions, notions and contribution of researchers and writers of children literature. This attempt reveals the development and importance of children literature to later generations of researchers and writers.

Structurally, this academic exercise is divided into six chapters. Chapter one discusses the definition of children literature, the reasons for not encouraging the writing of children literature in olden China and the relationship between children literature and the Literary Revolution. Chapter one also establishes the aim, scope
and approach of this academic exercise. Chapter two surveys the types of children literature, its publication and theories between 1917 and 1927. Chapter three further explores the theories of children literature as expounded by three important researchers Zhou Zuoren (周作人), Zheng Zhenduo (郑振铎), and Guo Moruo (郭沫若). Chapters four and five analyse the works of four major children literature translators, adaptors and writers, Zheng Zhenduo (郑振铎), Mao Dun (茅盾), Ye Shengtao (叶圣陶), and Bing Xin (冰心). Chapter six, a concluding chapter, provides a final assessment of those who had worked on children literature during the period under study.