HONORS

PEDiatricians’ Advice to Parents on Behavioral Problems

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Raising children can be difficult. Few parents ever feel that they are ready to deal with the many stresses that accompany having children. This is compounded by the fact that no two children are exactly alike, even within one family. Furthermore, many parents have little knowledge concerning child development, typical behavior, or expected milestones.

Pediatricians are often the most knowledgeable professionals with whom these children and parents will come into contact during the first five years of a child’s life. As a result, pediatricians are in an ideal position to help educate parents concerning these anticipated developmental and behavioral milestones. However, many pediatricians receive little training in developmentally appropriate strategies in dealing with common childhood behavior problems.

This study focuses on the advice parents of preschoolers receive from pediatricians concerning typical child behavior, including biting, temper tantrums, and bedwetting. Parents and pediatricians are asked to complete a brief survey concerning child behavior problems presented to pediatricians and advice given during clinic visits.

LEAR’S Journey FROM eden TO Apocalypse: the Bible in Shakespeare’s King Lear

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My research with Dr. Matheson looks at the influence the Bible had on Shakespeare’s King Lear. We first studied the history of the English translations of the Bible to familiarize me with the Bibles Shakespeare would have known. We then read and reread the play several times while simultaneously reading critical discussions of King Lear. Some critics have argued for a Christian allegory in King Lear, others have simply pointed out echoes of the Bible and Christian principles in the text of this play. Several have rejected these theories and devoted much of their criticism to saying that King Lear is, if anything, anti-Christian; though many of those authors also looked at the possibility of religious interpretations. My research brought out a new cohesive theory of the Bible in King Lear that not only explains why critics see King Lear in such different ways, but also unites much of the extant criticism. This is done with the help of Northrop Frye's reading of the Bible as the story of one man's journey from the Garden of Eden to the Apocalypse of the Book of Revelations. This man, I argue, is Shakespeare’s great poetic character, King Lear.