October 20th, 2014, Google Groups Post:

Brainstorming, by Heather Gilbraith

Hey, everyone! It's getting close to the end of October, so I figured it might be a good time to get us all thinking about the presentation, which is due on November 11th.

The first question we should ask is: What the heck should we focus on? Children's Illustration is such a huge, diverse topic, it's so hard to find a way of compressing it into a single 10-minute presentation.

Some possibilities:

* We could do a chronological history and try to highlight important changes in expectations for children's narratives/imagery and explore those based on the historical contexts of the time.
* We could do what many groups have done, and identify what is most interesting to each of us within this topic, then we each do a small lecture based on our own research and interests.
* We could try to define what childhood IS, and how children's illustration reflects or informs those ideas (I know I'd have to be careful not to get stuck in a western context, though).
* We could try and focus on identifying the very broad range of children's illustration, from picture books to comics to educational texts to advertising to toys to movies/cartoons, and focus on how large the field is and how many different ways one could approach children's illustration.
* We could take a look at children's illustration around the world, and highlight the different ways children's illustration has been used in a more global context of different cultures, styles, and histories, and how it reflects the cultures they live in.
* Does anyone else have any ideas, suggestions, or opinions? If we can figure out a direction it should be easier to start researching and identifying the important parts and expanding from there.

How's everyone doing, anyway? :) I've finished one of my comic projects for my grad-project, and I'm in the thick of planning/drawing the second. It's becoming much bigger than I thought it would be, and I'm feeling a little overwhelmed! A pretty standard state for midterm, I suppose!