

The Crossed Narrative Plane and Layered Activism:

Ethnic and Nonhuman Animal Support Structures in Marguerite Henry's *King of the Wind*

Abstract: The significance of activism toward human and nonhuman animal subjects often appears in youth and children's literature. However, it is with controversial and/or species-crossing issues that activism becomes so relevant that the author/narrator also partakes in the effort. In one famous work of children's literature, Marguerite Henry's *King of the Wind* (1948), activism toward ethnic and nonhuman animal interests crosses from the real world and onto the literary plane, where it, in turn, allows the characters who benefit from it to inspire others. Henry, as an author, was willing to write about cultures and characters whom other writers would not approach (Collins 62); she then used the influence of her narrator to support Arab culture (Carazo 1) and nonhuman animal rights and agency. As a result of this support, the main characters, Agba, an Arab boy, and Sham, an Arabian horse whose blood founded a line of modern Thoroughbreds, bring similar concerns to other characters at the end of the work. Thus, from these roles of activism in the novel, it is evident that activism is not static or prevented from crossing planes from the real world into the literary world in a chain of actions and reactions that continue to affect others (within the novel and without).

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