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Theme Essay by Stephen Roxburgh

Why YA? A Longtime Editor Surveys the Field

The most significant development in publishing in the last forty years is the emergence of a vibrant young adult literature. In the long run, this is far more important than the digital revolution. There is now a vast reading public of all ages who know what the genre has to offer and who look to it when they want something good to read. That reading public for young adult books is growing and will keep growing, and publishers—large and small, mainstream and nontraditional—are committing enormous resources to meet its needs.