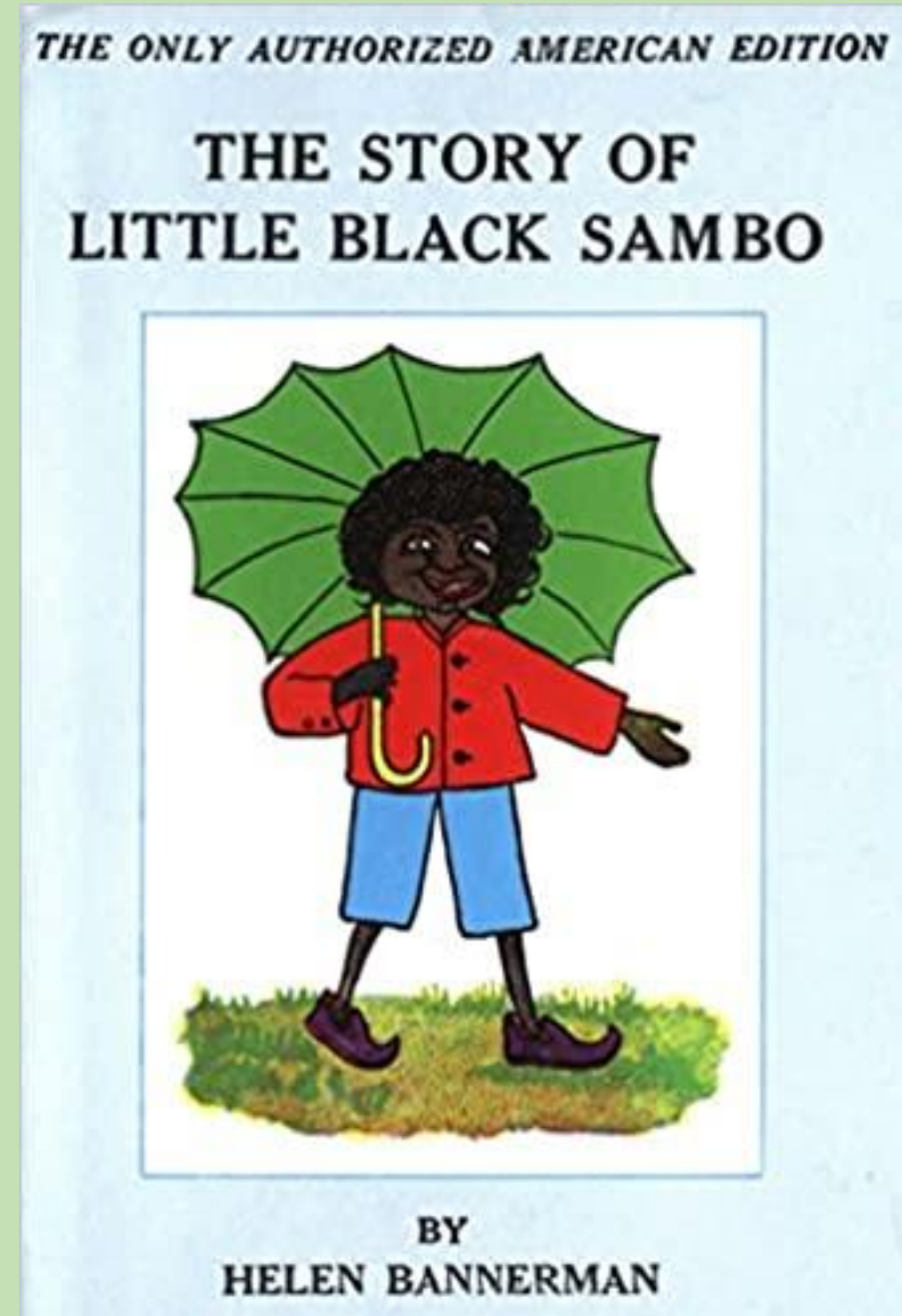


Hidden Racism in Children's Books: Preservation of White Supremacy

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Overview

Children's Literature has always been used to mold children into believing a specific set of ideas and values. As books are passed down generations, they carry the ideas and teachings that were common in the previous generations. The messages conveyed through Children's Literature can lead to ethical problems if left uncriticized, but there is a fine line between criticism and censorship.



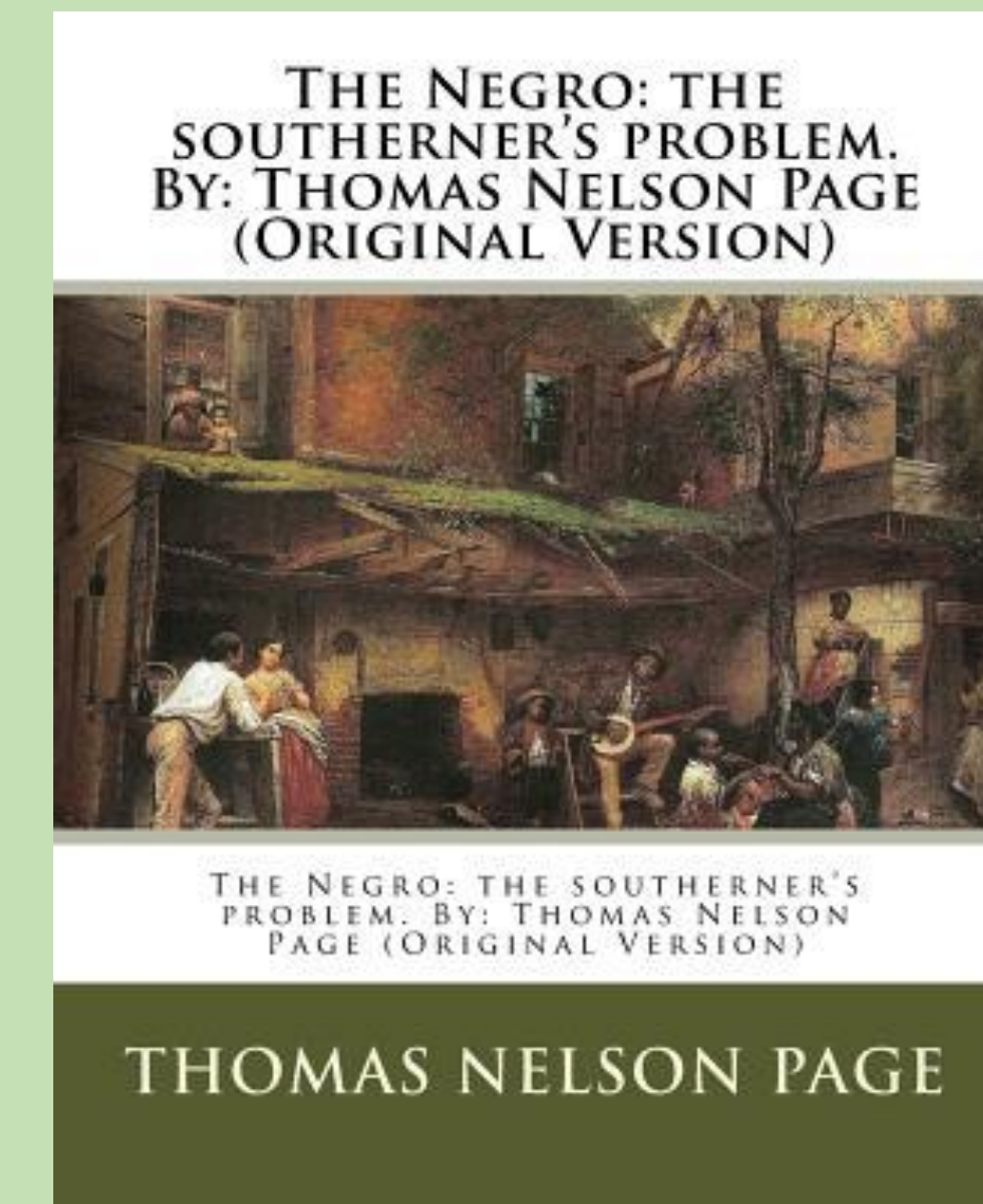
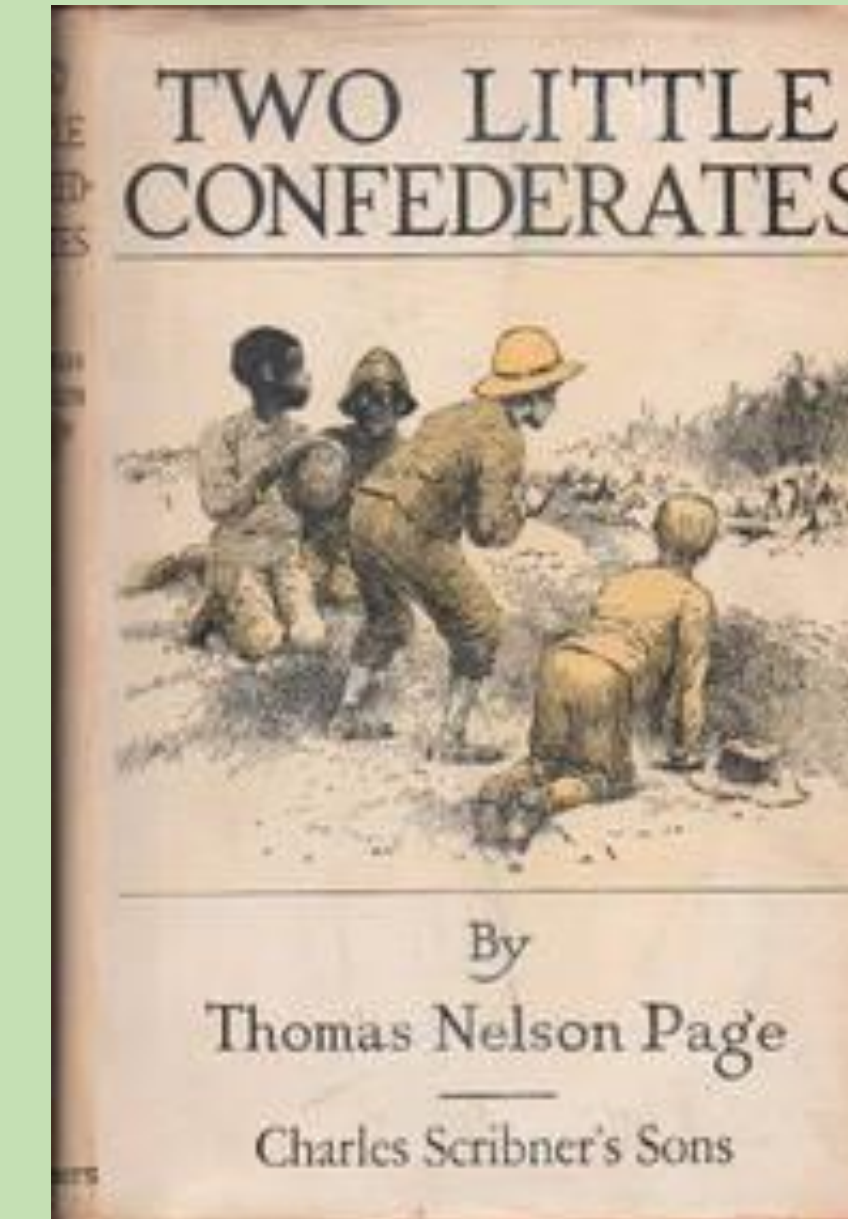
- After the Civil War, hundreds of books were written to rebuild the relationship between the North and South
- Children's literature fell into three categories: Plantation Stories, Adventure Stories, and Political/social satire.
- Writers masked the harmful effects of slavery, established an emotional connection between the north and south to create a common enemy out of the black community, and introduced impressionable children to racist stereotypes.
- This led to the continuation of Racist ideas and white supremacy.

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Thomas Nelson Page

- Thomas Nelson Page was a famous southern author at the end of the Civil War
- He can be credited for the widespread acceptance of the Plantation Myth depicting loyal, happy slaves and benevolent masters
- Two Little Confederates was written to encourage reconciliation between the north and the south while encouraging the belief that southern citizens were victims of a society that created the need for slavery.



- In 1904, Page wrote *The Negro: The Southerner's Problem*, which talks about the prevalence of lynching in the south.
- Page places the blame for the violent act on African Americans being lynched.
- He claims that lynching will not stop until the violent rape and murder of white women and children is stopped.
- He says that young African American men are being brainwashed with ideas of equality to believe that they "opportunity to enjoy, equally with white men, the privilege of cohabiting with white women."

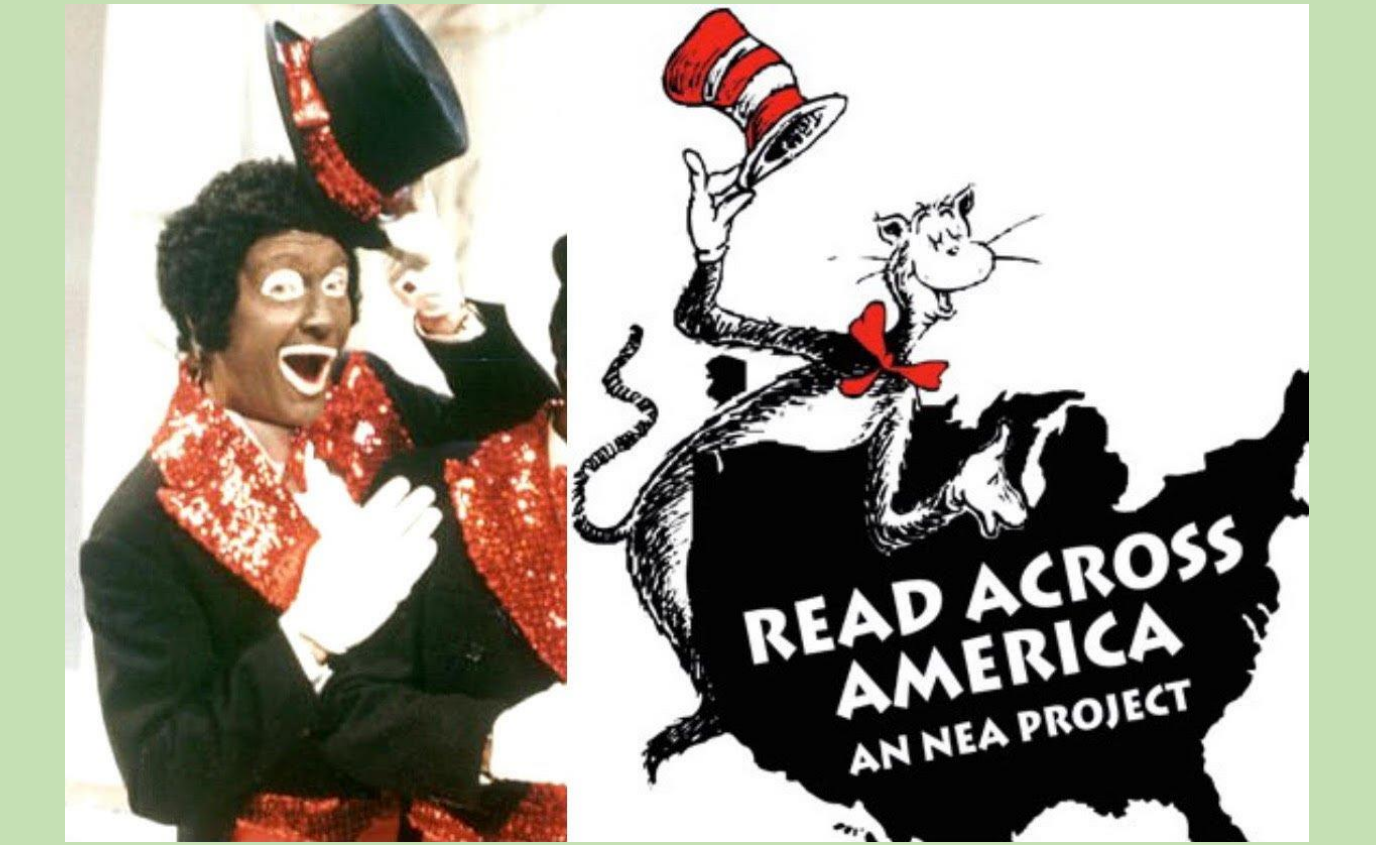
Dr. Dolittle



- *The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting, along with *The Story of Dr. Dolittle*, are littered with racist depictions of Africans.
- The story includes a side story where an African prince wants to marry a white princess. The doctor has the prince put his face in lye to bleach his face.
- Later editions of the story have been edited to appear less offensive, either by completely deleting the chapter or changing the Doctor's recommendation.
 - This demonize interracial relationships, prioritizes whiteness, and teaches young black children that they will never be accepted because of the color of their skin.

Dr. SUESS

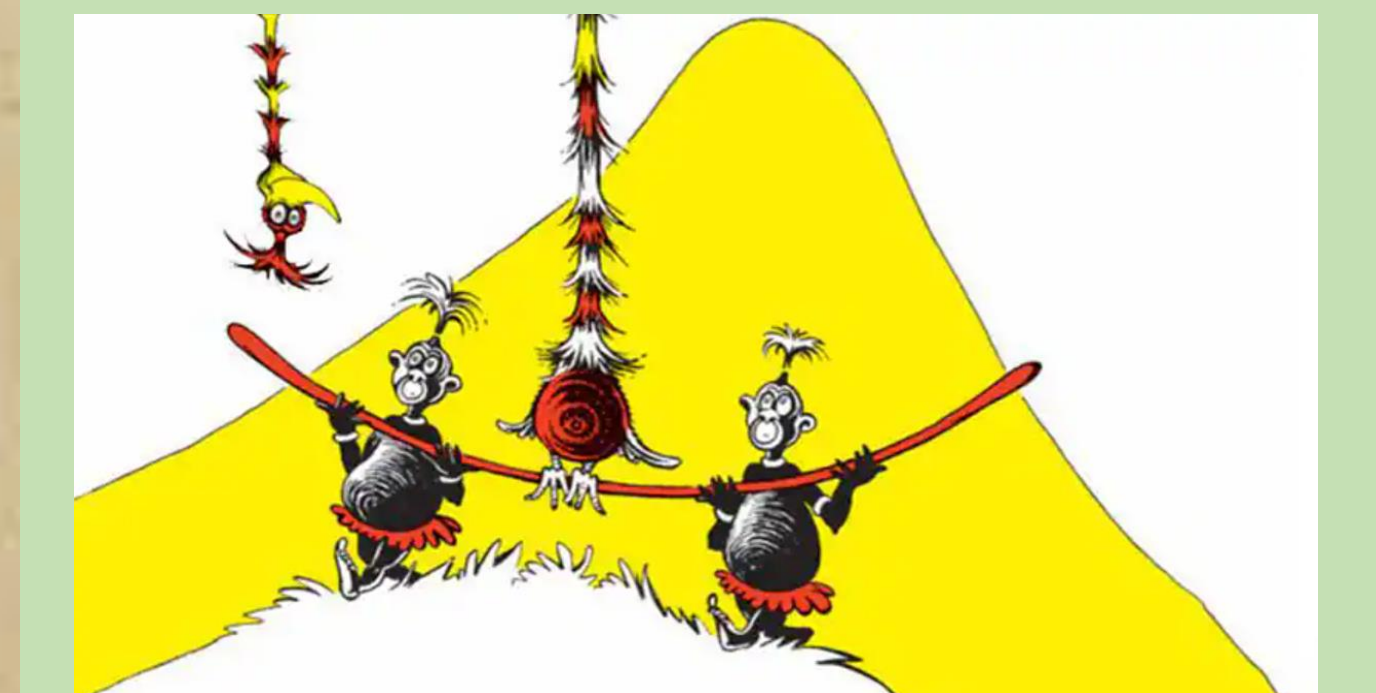
- In his early years, Dr. Seuss actively participated in racist practices such as performing in black face and writing and performing his own minstrel shows.
- He drew inspiration from these stereotypes for many of his early drawing.



He has repeatedly depicted African Americans as Monkeys in his cartoons and books.



Above Image reads: "My name's Crusoe, Robinson J. May I have the honor of joining you?" "Not unless you swim back after some Flit, mistah. The flies on this island are fearful". The Images shows a black men drawn as a monkey and surrounded by flies



Above image from *If I Ran a Zoo* depicting African Americans as monkeys



Above Image Reads: "Take home a high-grade Ni**** for your wood pile". The Image shows Black men drawn as monkeys.

- Later in his life, Dr. Seuss acknowledged that the images in his cartoons and books were harmful and edited some of the images to be more respectful.
- Toward the end of his career, Seuss wrote *Horton Hears a Who!*, *The Lorax*, and *The Sneetches* to teach young readers about inclusion and acceptance.
- This does not absolve him of all wrongdoing, but by acknowledging what he did was wrong and actively trying to improve future generations, he becomes the perfect example of the evolution ideas.

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