Magical Realism

By Dani Merar
History

• first used by art critic Franz Roh in 1925 then taken up by Alejo Carpenter in 1949

• transformed into the phrase ‘lo real maravilloso americano’ which means the marvelous real in America
Intro Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kQxkW5Hjo8&feature=player_detailpage
So...

What Is Magical Realism?

• “a literary genre or style associated with Latin America that incorporates fantastic or mythical elements into otherwise realistic fiction”

• always serious, not a form of escapism

• it attempts to convey the reality of one or many worldviews that actually exist or have existed.

• possible to read it as fantasy

merriamwebster.com
Elements of Magical Realism

- fantasy
- reality
- feelings of uncertainty on whether real or not
- distortion of time
- juxtaposition of reality and fantasy
- multiple perspectives
3 Main Effects in Magical Realism

- time is not linear (it does not always move forward)
  - REPETITION IS NOT PROGRESSION

- causality is subjective
  - events are linked by more than chance

- magical and ordinary are the same
  - the whole world is enchanted/mysterious
  - fit the miraculousness into the ordinariness of daily life
5 Characteristics of Magical Realism

- According to Wendy B Faris, the 5 characteristics are...
  - an irreducible element of magic
  - a grounding in the realistic world
  - production of unsettling doubts in reader because of mixture of real and fantastic
  - near merging of 2 realms or worlds
  - disruptions of traditional ideas about time, space and identity
Examples in Children’s Literature

- Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- Matilda by Roald Dahl
Effects of Magical Realism

- makes you believe in things you never would have before
- shows us the world through someone else’s eyes/point of view
Conclusion

• Magical realism is relatively new to children’s literature.

• Combines the real with fantasy in a way that makes you unsure if what you just read was fantasy.