

Proposal Submitted to the Women's Studies Panel Session II (SAMPLA 2014)**Title: Disenchanted: Disney, *The Moon-Spinners*, and The Year I Was Ugly**

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My transition from childhood to adulthood wasn't a matter of growing breasts or beginning to menstruate. Nor was it marked by a graduation ceremony, the acquisition of a job, or becoming a parent. My adulthood began when, looking for something to read at the beach, I found Mary Stewart's *The Moon-Spinners* in a drugstore bookrack and subsequently made my Rubicon crossing from children's literature to more adult fare. Stewart's story of a twenty-two year-old British Embassy secretary on holiday was, at that time in my life, telling me into being something other than an awkward twelve-year-old girl. My twelve-year-old being penetrated into the narrative created by Mary Stewart and it, in turn, penetrated my mind, my emotions, my soul in ways that only became apparent decades later as I explored it and the, to me, disappointing Disney movie version in light of Rosenblatt's discussion of "poem."

Rosenblatt contends that, between the text the author creates and the text the reader reads, lies a third text, what Rosenblatt termed the "poem." This third text, while largely constructed by the reader, perhaps in the gaps discussed by Iser, essentially takes on a life of its own. I consider Rosenblatt's theory through an autoethnographic account of my first encounter at age 12, with Mary Stewart's *The Moon-Spinners*, my reaction a few months later to Disney's movie version of the book, and my decades-later rereading/reviewing of both. Woven within narrative scenes from my early adolescence and from my present life, I consider factors that made the book memorable to me, i.e., factors that may have contributed to the construction of the "poem," how Disney's version—his poem?—conflicted with my own, and how, in resolving that conflict, I added another layer to my own construct of my identity.

Brief Bio: Anne W. Anderson's academic journey has led her from a B.A. in Creative Writing to an M.A. in Journalism to a doctoral program in Literacy Studies at the University of South Florida, Tampa, where she teaches children's literature and teaching writing. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate with research interests in children's/YA literature—broadly constructed—writing studies, and the intersecting of both with political satire.

AV Needs: Projector, if possible.