



## Book Week!

Take a look at the cover of the first ever children's book. It was published in Boston, America, in 1656. In 1620, the Pilgrims had arrived in America. The author of this book was a religious leader of the Pilgrims, who had separated from the English church and come to America for religious freedom. The Pilgrims fined people if they did **not** go to church, and if they **did** celebrate Christmas. (They interpreted the Bible strictly, and there is no specific reference to Jesus being born on December 25). They banned fancy clothing, and dancing on Sunday.

1. How do you think the book cover reflects what life was like in Boston in 1656?

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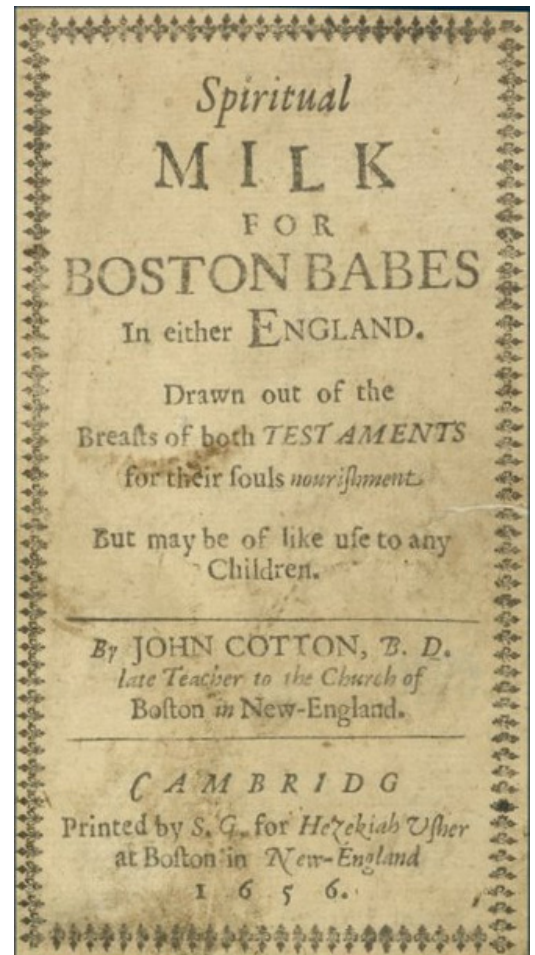
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New York Public Library

2. Do a quick sketch of the cover of the book you're reading right now, or have recently finished. How is it different from *Spiritual Milk for Boston Babes*? Are there any similarities?

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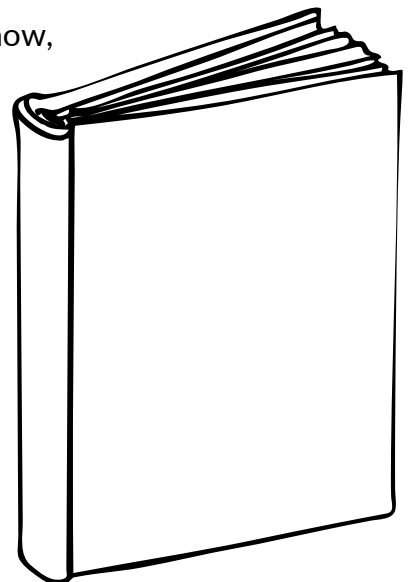
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4. Here are the top 20 best selling children's books. Mark the ones you **have read** with a tick, and the ones you'd **like to read** with an exclamation mark.

1. The Little Prince
2. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
3. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
4. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
5. The Adventures of Pinocchio
6. HP Chamber of Secrets
7. HP Prisoner of Azkaban
8. HP Goblet of Fire
9. HP Order of the Phoenix
10. HP Half-Blood Prince

11. HP Deathly Hallows
12. Heidi
13. Anne of Green Gables
14. Black Beauty
15. Charlotte's Web
16. The Tale of Peter Rabbit
17. The Very Hungry Caterpillar
18. The Wind in the Willows
19. Where the Wild Things Are
20. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

5. Why do you think there were no children's books published until the mid 17th Century? What might that say about education levels, and how adults saw children?

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*The notion of "childhood" began in Europe in the 1600s. Adults increasingly saw children as separate beings, innocent and in need of protection and training by the adults around them.*