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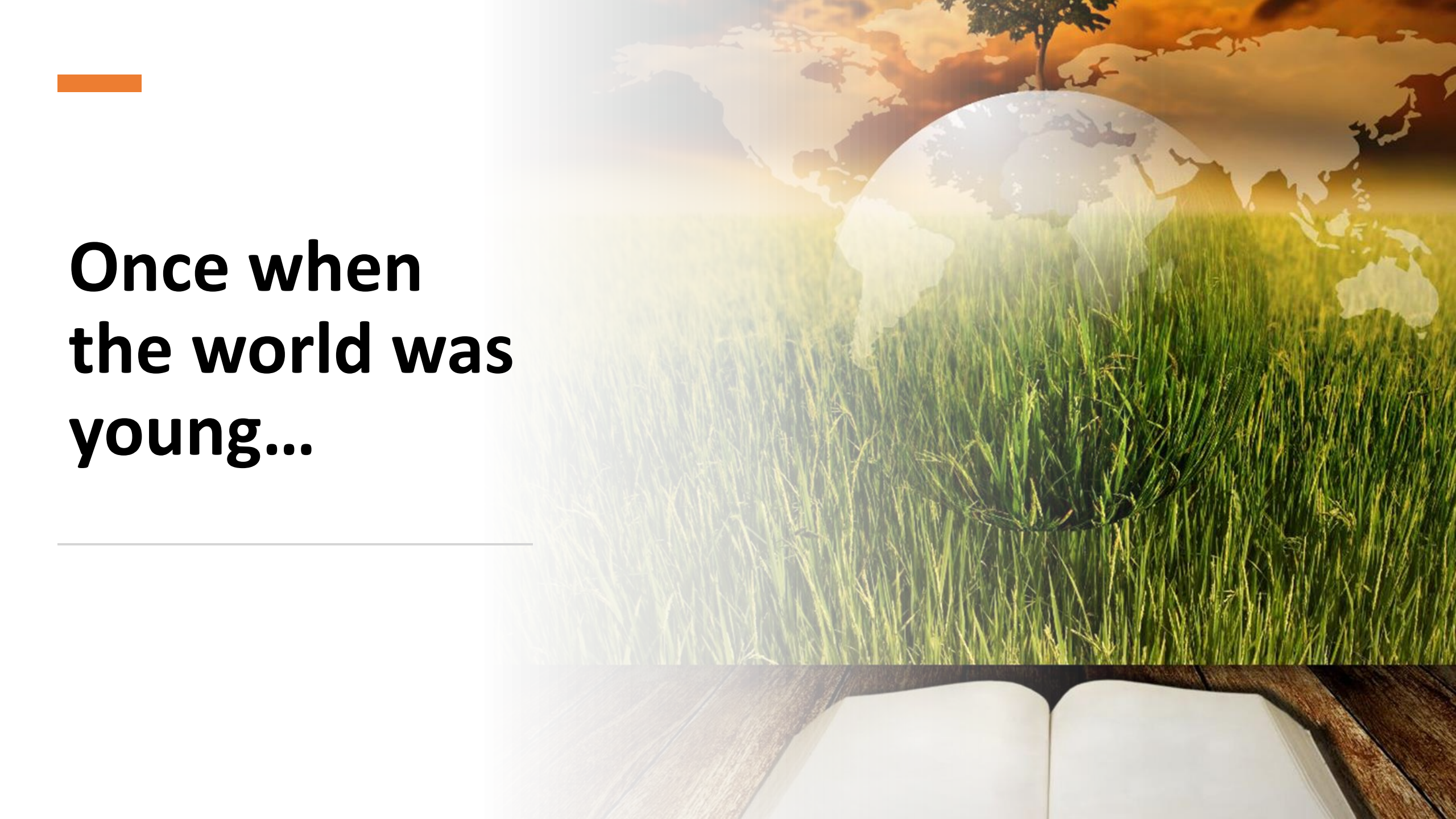
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**Once when  
the world was  
young...**

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# **Shifting perspectives on nature through illustrations in children's literature**

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Dr Tracy Ann Hayes  
Institute of Health  
University of Cumbria

# Bear illustrations in children's literature

- Acknowledge co-authors Prof Ian Convery & Prof Heather Prince
- Plethora of animals illustrated in children's literature, however, these images tend to be anthropomorphised images of non-human animals, living in a limited range of habitats.
- A plea – when using/citing please credit both author and illustrator, for example:
  - Winnie the Pooh (Milne and Shepard).
  - Paddington Bear (Bond and Fortnum).
  - Going on a Bear Hunt (Rosen and Oxenbury).



# Insert word cloud activity

Word cloud

What bear stories have you / do you read?



....if we believe that an animal will naturally want to harm, kill or eat us, then the mere idea of co-existence becomes untenable and foolhardy (Bekoff, 2014)...



Over time, the traditional tales have become sanitised and purified, deemed more fitting for the ears of children (Nikolajeva 1996)...



In children's literature,  
sometimes the animals  
are illustrated in  
character form as toys  
(the bear is noticeably a  
teddy bear), other times  
they are more  
representative of an  
animal...





... these symbolic images  
are also a window into a  
culture's ideas about  
children and animals and  
how they are related...  
(Melson, 2005, 18)



If we adopt an anthropocentric view  
of the world, nature is seen as  
expendable, with the needs of  
humans coming first...

Habitat destruction...

Biodiversity loss...



Goldilocks and the One Bear does not have the same appeal as when there are three....

The Red Riding Hood story does not work in the absence of wolves.... (Hayes, work in progress)





...it is time for some honest stories for children of all ages to share  
...stories that encourage respect for bears (and other predators) and illustrate the need for them to be given the space to be bears, in all their wondrous and fearsome glory...



# References

- Bekoff, M. (2014). *Rewilding our hearts: Building pathways of compassion and coexistence*. California, US: New World Library.
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- Nikolajeva, M. (1996). *Children's Literature Comes of Age: Toward a New Aesthetic*, London: Garland Publishing Inc.
- Sousa, E, Quintino, V, Teixeira, J, and Rodrigues, A M. (2017). *A Portrait of Biodiversity in Children's Trade Books*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill.

## Images on slides

- Slide 3 by Mabel Amber from Pixabay, available at <https://pixabay.com/photos/teddy-bear-teddy-bear-2855982/>
- Slide 5 by HulmDesign from Pixabay, available at <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/bear-fierce-fearsome-predator-2166796/>
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