Key Theme: Literature for children reflects society’s attitude toward children

Introduction
Note the chronological format of the chapter in the informal outline at the chapter beginning. As you read the chapter try to organize the information into time periods.

Early Beginnings
- Purpose of storytelling throughout history.
- Purpose of early lesson books.

17th and 18th Centuries
- Effect of Puritanism on children’s books
- Origin of the Mother Goose rhymes
- Didactic writers - their purpose

19th Century
- Contrast between 18th and 19th century of children’s literature
- Some leading collectors of folktales in the 19th century
- Literary features that magazines offered in the last half of the 19th century

20th Century
- At least 3 events that occurred in the 20th century which were indicative of the fact that children’s literature had been established as a field.
- Fantasy’s change in the latter quarter of the 20th century.
- Indicators of increased internationalism in children’s literature

Recent Trends
- 2 reasons why there is a steady increase in the number of books published yearly.
- The rise of the picture book.
- Shifts in publishing emphases
- Experimentation in writing and illustration styles.
- Reasons for increased censorship

The definition and range of Multicultural Literature

Weekly Writing (Choose One)
- Interview five adults of different ages and ask about their favorite childhood books and reading interests. How similar are their responses? How much overlapping of titles is there? Essay the conclusions that you draw from your findings.
- Compare two books with similar subjects that come out of different time periods. What do the differences illustrate about the varying attitudes toward children, or about the changing nature of children’s literature.