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Jindal School of  
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India's First Transnational Humanities School

# The Literary Studies Program at Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities

*invites you to the talk*

## “What is the Point of Children's Literature?”

by

**Prof. K. Srilata**

on

**Friday, 25 August, 1-2 PM,**

at

**Classroom No. 29 (T2, 1<sup>st</sup> floor West)**



### Prof. K. Srilata

Quite apart from the hackneyed debate about children's literature and its “inferiority” vis a vis literature for adults, there exists in our learning systems an insidious assumption that the value of children's literature lies in the pragmatic uses to which it can be put. Some of these uses are perceived as “educational”, others as “moral” teaching points. At best, there is a confused attempt to hold up children's literature as a “healthier” form of entertainment than television or the internet. My talk challenges some of these perceptions, drawing on Freud's theory of creative writing and what the creative

**K. Srilata** is a poet, fiction writer and Professor of English at IIT Madras. Her books include four poetry collections: *Bookmarking the Oasis* (Paperwall/Poetrywala, 2015), *Writing Octopus* (Authorspress, 2013), *Arriving Shortly* (Writers Workshop, 2011) and *Seablue Child* (Brown Critique, 2002), a novel *Table for Four*, long listed in 2009 for the Man Asian literary prize and published by Penguin in 2011, two co-edited anthologies *The Rapids of a Great River: The Penguin Book of Tamil Poetry* and *Short Fiction from South India* (OUP), a translation of R. Vatsala's Tamil novel *Once there was a girl (Vattathul)* and a translation of women's writing from the Self-Respect movement *The Other Half of the Coconut: Women Writing Self-Respect History* (Zubaan). Forthcoming from Yoda Press is an Indo-Irish collaborative poetry anthology *All the Worlds Between* that she co-edited with Fiona Bolger. Srilata has been a writer-in-residence at the University of Stirling, at Sangam house and at the Yeonhui Art Space in Seoul. She co-curates the CMI Arts Initiative along with Madhavan Mukund and K.V. Subrahmanyam.



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