

See Dick. See Jane. See Dick and Jane Perform Middle Class Values.

The Way We Were[n't]

The world created by William Gray, Zerna Sharp, and their collaborators depicting Depression Era and Postwar America was largely alien to wide swaths of their target audience. Not unlike depictions of middle-class, nuclear families featured in radio and television series, *Dick and Jane* showed no signs of want, neglect, or awareness of the realities that began at the end of their driveway.

When an adult was needed, the children were attended to by their impeccably dressed parents. Mother was a flawless homemaker and Father worked an undefined white-collar job. Throughout the series, the behaviors of the children and adults alike reinforced the adherence to traditional gender roles and obedience to authority, which resulted in both fulfillment and security.

