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## **Memory, modernity and children's literature in Japan: premodern warriors as national icons in nineteenth and twentieth century literature and curriculum**

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# Propositions

accompanying the thesis

## **Memory, Modernity, and Children's Literature in Japan:**

Premodern Warriors as National Icons in Nineteenth and  
Early Twentieth Century Literature and Curriculum

1. There was no children's literature in Edo period Japan, but there were books for children. (*this thesis*)
2. The most powerful interpretative layer on the text of the Imperial Rescript on Education was modern pedagogy. (*this thesis*)
3. The focus on Iwaya Sazanami's *Koganemaru* (1891) as 'the first modern Japanese children's book' has led to a distorted view of the development of the genre of children's literature in Japan, and this author's contribution. (*this thesis*)
4. Meiji period authors did not merely complement the state's views on citizenship but also used children's literature as a platform and medium for the contestation of the government's views of the ideal citizen as disseminated through textbooks. (*this thesis*)
5. Literary quality is not a defining characteristic of children's literature. (*the field*)
6. The term 'early modern' is counterproductive when trying to understand how societies in Asia made the transition to modernity. (*the field*)
7. Although digital collections and gatherings have a positive influence on research and the climate, too much praise for the 'benefits' of the corona pandemic is a form of toxic optimism. The best discoveries are done in the Special Collections in the company of other scholars. (*the field*)
8. The introduction of conscription for women has as little to do with emancipation as the inclusion of a female bog body in *De Canon van Nederland*. (*the field*)
9. The joy and societal benefit of mastering a foreign language is that you can open many doors for yourself and others.
10. Schools that censure books should not get government money.
11. In order to understand the absurdities of the nation-state one ought to read *Das Totenschiff* (1926) by Ben Traven.
12. Wendy, Tinker Bell, and Tiger Lily should go on an expedition together.

Leiden, June 2022

Aafke van Ewijk