

## Empowered by Nature? The child-heroines in Lucy Maud Montgomery's novels "Emily of New Moon" and "Anne of Green Gables" and 'The Green-World Archetype'



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## EMPOWERED BY NATURE? THE CHILD-HEROINES IN LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY'S NOVELS "EMILY OF NEW MOON" AND "ANNE OF GREEN GABLES" AND 'THE GREEN-WORLD ARCHETYPE'



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GRIN Verlag Dez 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 213x144x12 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Institut für Anglistik), course: Children's Literature, language: English, abstract: In her book *The Second Sex* (Beauvoir 1953: 362) the world-famous French philosopher and feminist Simone de Beauvoir writes that [t]he adolescent girl will devote a special love to Nature: still more than the adolescent boy, she worships it. Unconquered, inhuman Nature subsumes most clearly the totality of what exists. The adolescent girl has not yet acquired for her use any portion of the universal: hence it is her kingdom as a whole; when she takes possession of it, she also proudly takes possession of herself. The idea of nature as a safe haven and retreat where a young girl refuges to and repeatedly finds solace and empowerment also penetrates children's literature. What Annis Pratt calls *The Green-World Archetype* (Pratt 1981: 16-24), an adolescent girl who lives close to nature, is one of the most common female protagonists in children's fiction. (Nikolajewa 2002: 332) Nature features prominently in the novels of the 20th century Canadian authoress Lucy Maud Montgomery best known for her classic girl's book *Anne of Green Gables*. In all of her books Montgomery's protagonists are female heroes. The heroines of her novels and short stories vary from each other in age. Out of her twenty-one books eleven focus on female protagonists in late childhood or early adolescence of about nine to approximately eleven years of age. (Epperly 1992: 7) A prominent theme that runs through all of those novels is the development of self-confidence of the,...

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