



## Undergraduate Research Symposium May 18, 2012 Mary Gates Hall

### Online Proceedings

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#### SESSION 2G

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#### **RADICAL MOVEMENTS FROM CICERO TO BANASSI, WAGNER TO THE GHANAIAI CONCERT PARTY**

*Session Moderator: Julie Villegas, English*

**Mary Gates Hall 251**

*3:30 PM to 5:00 PM*

\* Note: Titles in order of presentation.

#### **Through the Eyes of the Mongoose: The Intent of Audience**

*Jon Volkman, Senior, Comparative History of Ideas, English*

*Mentor: Michelle Liu, English*

Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* was published in 1894 and included the short story *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*. Since its original publication, *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* has been published outside of this collection, with its adaptations mainly targeting children. Through textual studies, my research is employing an examination of the text through the application of an anthropological lens. I focus on comparing the original text to a 2006 "Easy Reader Classic" edition of the text as well as the 1975 Chuck Jones animated film adaptation. These two adaptations dramatically alter the presence of the themes of family, religion, and violence. The alteration of these themes prompt further exploration into their significance. This in depth analysis frames my research and allow a shifting of focus from *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* to its audience. Any discussion of audience tends to start with categorization, but I wish to prove that this approach can be dangerous, especially for scholars. By concentrating on the categorization of the audience, one loses sight of what the audience intends to do with the text. The audience's relationship with a text is defined by their intent, or more explicitly, how they utilize the text. When literature is identified as for children and subsequently adapted, how is it changing the audience's relationship with that text? Through these adaptations of *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, I plan to investigate how drastically audience intent is altered through adaptation of the original version. Researching the loss of themes as well as the simplification of Kipling's text will allow me to extrapolate the affects of these changes on the audience's intent.