

Title: Foucault's precursor: Nikolaj Nosov on questions of discipline and health in Neznajka's trilogy
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Children's literature, like its adult counterpart, reflects reality and transmits culture while challenging both. In his *Neznajka* trilogy, Nosov depicts three imaginary societies whose realities reflect the socio-political paradigms in our own world: the gatherer in Flower Town, the technological communist of Sun City and the capitalist on the Moon. The foundational premises of these worlds are dialogically consistent with the real-life referent: our world, where anthropologists present cases of all three socio-cultural models.

Since the political/economic organisation of a society is largely contingent on its definition of health, Nosov's social models offer three possible paradigms for control of physical and social dysfunctions. The problematic of the doctor's role and of definitions of illness and health appears throughout the trilogy: in the doctors' arguments in Flower Town, in the episode of Neznajka debating with his conscience in the context of the police of Sunny City, and in the lack of access to medical care on the Moon. These questions have constantly reappeared in political election debates in Europe and North America and, in a post-Foucauldian era, they have become almost self-evident. Nosov, though, presented the complexities of health and control years before Foucault, in a Soviet Russia locked behind the Iron Curtain, where he succeeded not only to critique the capitalist model, but offer a sophisticated challenge to the Soviet health paradigm.

These vital questions of social and individual health transcend national and cultural boundaries and can shift vital considerations in reading children's literature as a case of literary and cultural theory.