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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Childish things -- Coming of age on stage: Jonson's epicoene and the politics of childhood in early Stuart England -- Children, literature, and the problem of consent -- Contract's children: Thomas Hobbes and the culture of subjection -- 'Perplex't paths': youth and authority in Milton's early work -- 'Children of reviving libertie': the radical politics of Milton's pedagogy -- 'Youthful beauty': infancy and adulthood among the angels of Paradise Lost -- Children of paradise -- Epilogue: 'Children gathering pebbles on the shore'.
Sommario/riassunto	As the notion of government by consent took hold in early modern England, many authors used childhood and maturity to address contentious questions of political representation - about who has a

voice and who can speak on his or her own behalf. For John Milton, Ben Jonson, William Prynne, Thomas Hobbes and others, the period between infancy and adulthood became a site of intense scrutiny, especially as they examined the role of a literary education in turning children into political actors. Drawing on new archival evidence, Blaine Greteman argues that coming of age in the seventeenth century was a uniquely political act. His study makes a compelling case for understanding childhood as a decisive factor in debates over consent, autonomy and political voice, and will offer graduate students and scholars a new perspective on the emergence of apolitical children's literature in the eighteenth century.

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