

Ashik Valookaran

CCY 4998

Professor: Cheryl Cowdy

August 1, 2022

Analyzing the Relationship Between the Success of the *Bomba, the Jungle Boy* Novel Series and the Colossal North American Transition from Rural to Urban Living in the 1920s and 30s

Children's books and novels are a popular commodity in modern times, but it was not always like this. Children's novels were not seen as important one- hundred to two-hundred years ago. Not until it became easy to print out novels and books did people start to cater more towards children and youth in terms of reading for leisure. A huge reason for this is because it was not cheap to produce books until the nineteenth century. I argue that *Bomba, the Jungle Boy* is a children's adventure novel series filled with careless racial connotations and stomach-turning didacticism. However, the success of this series for speaks volumes of what children and youth yearned for during the colossal North American transition from rural to urban living in the 1920s and 30s. In this essay I will first explore how children are given a new, creative, and educational outlet for leisure through this adventure book series. Secondly, how adults became aware of the economic relevance of boys' adventure series books in the twentieth century. Thirdly, I will explore how *Bomba, the Jungle Boy* became one of the many successful adventures based novel series adaptations of the Tarzan novel series. Finally, I will show how this displays the brilliant economic model set by the Stratemeyer Syndicate that allowed these adventure books to flourish.