

ENGL 3401: Children's Literature

Course theme: Adventures Home and Away—Visual and Verbal Spaces and Places of Adventure in Children's Books from the Past and Present

CRN 81301 3401.001 MWF 10:20-11:15

CRN 81299 3401.350 (HONORS EMBEDDED) MW 10:20-11:15

Offered by Dr. Lori Cohoon, PT Hall 110,901.428.8504, lcohoon@memphis.edu

Fall 2026 Office hours MW 11:15-12:30, and by appointment

Catalogue Description:

Study of children's literature through reading, discussion, and writing about history, characteristics, and authors of its major genres. PREREQUISITE: ENGL 1010,1020, 2201 or 2202 with a "C-" or better, or their equivalent. 3.000 Credit hours

This course explores how children's books, both historic and contemporary, convey the spaces and places of childhood adventure through words and art. This course is a survey of children's literature. You will be introduced to authors and texts that have defined the field of children's literature. You will discuss children's books and write about how children's literature shapes and reflects cultural ideas about children and childhood. You will develop knowledge of children's books and children's authors and illustrators, and you will learn about the history of children's literature as well as contemporary issues in the field of children's literature and demonstrate this knowledge in discussions, exams and quizzes, presentations, and papers.

Projects: One researched paper (3-5 pages, or 4-8 for honors); one presentation on an award-winning form, genre, or author, one poem presentation, one presentation on a children's literature article, one exam, engaged participation (reading quizzes, informal writing exercises, significant contributions to class discussions and presentations, demonstrated engagement with the class through review of course materials, discussion posts, and presentations)

Required Texts

*Reading Children's Literature: A Critical Introduction*, second edition. Eds. Carrie Hintz and Eric Tribunella, 9781554814435 / 155481443X

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll, Dover. 9780486275437

*Charlotte's Web*, E. B. White, Harper Collins, 9780064400558

*Lunar Boy*, Jes and Cin Wibewo, Harper Collins, 9780063057593

*A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeline L'Engle, Square Fish, 9780312367541

*All the Blues in the Sky*, Renée Watson, Bloomsbury, 9781547605897

*Sundust*, Zeke Peña, Kokila, 9780593700112

*How I Became a Ghost*, Tim Tingle, Roadrunner Press, 978-1937054557