

Children's Literature

ENGL 3401
TR 2:40-4:05

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This course is a survey of children's literature. You will be introduced to authors and texts that have defined 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 writers and the history of children's literature and demonstrate this knowledge in discussions, exams, presentations, and papers.

Outcomes:

- Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of approaches to children's literature and resources that will enhance the study of children's literature.
- Read multiple children's literature texts and respond to them orally and in writing.
- Develop critical thinking skills by writing and talking about children's literature.
- Learn to recognize and express ideas about textual, visual, and design elements of picture books, storybooks, and illustrated chapter books.
- Learn biographies and recognize projects of authors and illustrators and discuss how biographical, cultural, and historical context shapes children's texts.
- Understand how children's literature shapes cultural ideas about children's cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Recognize genres of children's literature and demonstrate critical awareness of how literature becomes available to children.
- Develop and put into practice strategies for teaching children's literature.

Requirements: Two essays (3.5-4 pages), 200 points each, one annotated bibliography, 100 points, one group presentation on a genre of children's literature, 100 points, one poem presentation, 100 points, mid-term exam, 100 points, participation (reading quizzes, contributions to class discussions at every meeting, in-class and out-of-class writing assignments and mini-projects), 200 points

Tentative list of texts:

Library reading and research is required.

Reading Children's Literature. ISBN Carrie Hintz and Eric Tribunella. ISBN: 10-0312608489.

Jack Gantos *Dead End in Norvelt* ISBN 13 978 1250001023043

Christopher Paul Curtis Bud, *Not Buddy* ISBN 13 9780553494105

Lewis Carroll *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* Dover ISBN 978048627434

Gene Luen Yang *American Born Chinese* ISBN 13 978031238447

Margarita Engle *The Surrender Tree Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* ISBN 13 9780312608712

Nikki Giovanni *Rosa* Illus. Bryan Collier ISBN 13 9780312376024

Louis Sachar *Holes* ISBN 13 9780374332662

Jacqueline Kelly *Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* ISBN-13 9780312659301

Jacqueline Woodson *Feathers* ISBN 13 9780142415504

