

ENGL 3401.002  
MWF 11:30-12:25 PT 321  
Prof. Cathy Dice

English 3401 provides an introduction to the study of children's literature and will focus on works representing a wide variety of time periods, cultures, and genres. Students will examine each work in its historical and cultural context and on the basis of such general literary elements as character, theme, symbolism, point of view, setting, and tone. Furthermore, the course will focus on issues specific to *children's* literature: How is the work specifically directed towards readers who are children? What is the age group of the intended audience? The reading level? How do text and illustrations interact in telling the story? What types of characters (human, animal, somewhere in between) are featured? How are children depicted? What are their roles, abilities, responsibilities, fears, needs, etc.? What about adults, especially parents?

Readings include:

- Primers and other historical works of reading instruction
- Trickster tales of Europe, Africa, and the Americas
- The works of—and controversy surrounding--Dr. Seuss
- Modern children's novels, including *Charlotte's Web*, *Number the Stars*, *One Crazy Summer*, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963*
- Picture books