

Department of English & Writing Studies

Children's Literature
English 2033E (651)
Summer 2016**Instructor:** Jennifer Venn**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- Place individual texts in their context within the historical development of children's literature;
- Recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, the cautionary tale, nonsense, adventure, domestic fiction, and fantasy;
- Display a knowledge of several classic children's novels, as well as more recent contributions to the genre;
- Analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course;
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion posts and persuasive essays);
- Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

Methods of Evaluation

Assignment 1 Due by the end of Week 1 (May 14)		5%
Assignment 2 Due by the end of Week 2 (May 21)		10%
Assignment 3 Due by the end of Week 6 (June 18)	about 1500 words	20%
Assignment 4 Due by the end of Week 10 (July 16)	about 2000 words	20%
Participation in weekly discussions with classmates	2 posts weekly	10%
Final exam (last week of July or first week of August)		35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Reading Schedule:

During the Summer term, you should complete two units per week.

WEEK ONE (May 9 - 14) **ASSIGNMENT ONE (RESTATEMENT) IS DUE ON SATURDAY**

Unit 1: Introduction / Traditional Fairy Tales

Read the following fairy tales from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

- "The Story of Grandmother" – Paul Delarue
- "Little Red Riding Hood" – Charles Perrault
- "Little Red Cap" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "The Chinese Red Riding Hoods" – Isabelle C. Chang
- "Sun, Moon, and Talia" – Giambattista Basile
- "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood" – Charles Perrault
- "Brier Rose" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Cinderella: Or the Glass Slipper" – Charles Perrault
- "Cap o' Rushes" – Joseph Jacobs
- "Hansel and Gretel" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Snow White" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Rapunzel" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Jack and the Beanstalk" – Joseph Jacobs
- "Beauty and the Beast" – Madame Leprince de Beaumont
- "The Brave Little Tailor" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Puss in Boots" – Charles Perrault
- "Bluebeard" – Charles Perrault
- "Rumpelstiltskin" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "The Goose Girl" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Also, read the Grimm brothers' "Cinderella," available at

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm021.html>

Unit 2: Revisionist Fairy Tales

Robert Munsch, *The Paper Bag Princess*

*** Read the following stories from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

- "The Company of Wolves" – Angela Carter
- "When the Clock Strikes" – Tanith Lee
- "The Tale of the Handkerchief" – Emma Donoghue

WEEK TWO (May 16-21) ** ASSIGNMENT TWO (PASSAGE PATTERNS) IS DUE ON SATURDAY**

Unit 3: Fairy Tale Novel

George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*

Unit 4: Nonsense

This Little Puffin

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

read Perry Nodelman, "The Nursery Rhymes of Mother Goose: A World Without Glasses" (coursepack)

WEEK THREE (May 23-28) Unit 5: Nonsense

Edward Lear, *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear*

*** Read the following poems and stories:

“Self-Portrait of the Laureate of Nonsense”

all limericks

“The Owl and the Pussy-Cat”

“The Jumblies”

“The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went Round the World”

“The Dong with the Luminous Nose”

“The Pobble Who Has No Toes”

Unit 6: Nonsense Novel

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and

Through the Looking-Glass

WEEK FOUR (May 30-June 4)

Unit 7: Realistic Adventure

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

Unit 8: Animal Adventure

Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

*** Read Jackie F. Eastman, “Beatrix Potter’s *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*: A Small Masterpiece” (coursepack)

WEEK FIVE (June 6 - 11)

Unit 9: Fantasy Adventure

J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Unit 10 Realism

E. Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

WEEK SIX (June 13-18) ** ASSIGNMENT THREE (ESSAY) DUE ON SATURDAY**

Unit 11 Realism

John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Unit 12 Realism

Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*

read Lissa Paul, “Feminist Writer as Heroine in *Harriet the Spy*” (coursepack)

WEEK SEVEN (June 20-25)

Unit 13: The Domestic Novel

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

Unit 14: The Domestic Novel

L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

*** Read the following articles from the coursepack:

Perry Nodelman, “Progressive Utopia, or How to Grow Up without Growing Up”;

Susan Drain, “Community and the Individual in *Anne of Green Gables* The Meaning of Belonging”;

Eve Kornfeld, Susan Jackson, “The Female Bildungsroman in 19th-Century America: Parameters of a Vision”

WEEK EIGHT (June 27-July 2)

Unit 15: Domestic Novel

Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

Unit 16: Domestic Novel

Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*

WEEK NINE (July 4-9)

Unit 17: Animals

Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

*** Read Jane Darcy, "Representation of Nature in *The Wind in the Willows* & *The Secret Garden*" (coursepack)

Unit 18: Animals

E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

*** Read Perry Nodelman, "Text as Teacher: The Beginning of *Charlotte's Web*" (coursepack)

WEEK TEN (July 11-16) ** **ASSIGNMENT FOUR (ESSAY) IS DUE ON SATURDAY****

Unit 19: Fantasy

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Unit 20: Fantasy

C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

WEEK ELEVEN (July 18-23)

Unit 21: Fantasy

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

*** Read Alexandra Mullen, "Harry Potter's Schooldays" (coursepack)

Unit 22: Fantasy

Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

WEEK TWELVE

Unit 23: Fantasy (July 25-29)

Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

Unit 24: Fantasy

Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

How to Proceed

READING LIST: For each unit in this course, you should begin by reading the assigned text(s).

LECTURES: When you have finished the book (or the stories/poems), click on the learning module for that unit (these can be found on the left-hand side of the course page). Within the learning module, you'll find a document containing notes on the assigned readings. These notes are designed to play the role that a lecture would play in an on-campus course.

NO QUIZZES FOR US: At the end of the course notes there are several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to help you assess your grasp of the lecture material. In some cases, the answer can be found explicitly in the course notes; in other cases, the questions prompt you to think more deeply about the ideas presented in the notes. I ask students to do the questions in the full-year course. Us? We're just too busy! **DO NOT BOTHER WITH THESE :**)

DISCUSSION FORUMS: You will also find several discussion questions listed below the self-testing questions. Have a think about these ideas. They are very similar to the formal questions on the FORUMS tab on the left hand tool bar. The Discussion mark of 10% will be based primarily on your activity in the forums, reflecting both the quality and the quantity of your responses.

WANT MORE? Additional optional readings can be found at the end of each unit. For several units, I have provided a link to a relevant article or website that provides additional information about the author and/or text. While these readings are not required, you may find them helpful, especially for books on which you are writing an essay. (If you use information from these sites, be sure to cite the source using MLA format!)

Citing Sources

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Any student who commits this or any other act of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero and a note will be placed on his or her academic record. Here are some steps to follow to avoid plagiarism:

1. Do as much work as possible *before* beginning your written assignments – read the novel(s), think of a thesis statement, sketch out your argument. Write down your own ideas before reading any criticism.
2. Develop a note-taking style that clearly indicates what ideas are your own and what ideas are taken from another source. You can use different coloured pens, cue cards, or any other method that helps you distinguish your own ideas from those of other critics.
3. Feel free to disagree with any critic you may be reading – don't simply regurgitate somebody else's argument.
4. When you are incorporating someone else's ideas into your essay, acknowledge them within the essay itself using
 - a. quotations marks (whenever you have even part of a sentence that's the same as the original)
 - b. introductory tag phrases – i.e. According to John Smith...
As Smith points out...
Smith observes that...
 - c. a reference in parentheses that indicates the source of the idea (often just the page number, if you've already used a tag phrase)
5. Cite the source in full in your Works Cited list (see guidelines below). **REMEMBER TO CITE THE PRIMARY TEXTS TOO!**

MLA Guidelines

Your essays should follow the MLA format:

1. In the top left-hand corner of the first page, put your name, the name of your professor, the name of the course, and the date.
2. Number your pages in the top right-hand corner.
3. Double space.
4. If you use a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it up with an informative sub-title that indicates your topic and the works you will be discussing (i.e. Touching Pitch: Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's Treasure Island).
5. Titles of books should be underlined or *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories should be put in quotation marks.
6. Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: i.e. Bettelheim argues that "The fairy tale ... confronts the child squarely with the basic human predicaments" (311). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material.
7. If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotation marks; instead, indent the passage ten spaces from the left and continue to double space.
8. For short quotations, indicate the page number(s) in parentheses after the quotation marks and before the end punctuation. For long, indented quotations, place the parentheses after the end punctuation. Do not use abbreviations such as p. or pp. or include the author's name if the identity of the author is clear from the context.
9. List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper. Use the following format in your Works Cited list:
Author's last name, Author's first name. "Title of article or short story." Title of Book. City of publication: Publisher, date of publication.

There is a useful online guide to MLA format at the following address:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.