

Children's Literature

"To understand our attachment to the world, it is necessary to add a childhood, our childhood to each archetype. We cannot love water, fire, the tree without putting a love into them, a friendship which goes back to our childhood. We love them with childhood.... we love them in a new found childhood, in a childhood reanimated with that childhood which is latent in each of us."

- Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Reverie*

Children's literature has become, in recent years, one of the most dynamic areas of publishing and media production. Currently, one of the wealthiest people in the world is a writer of children's books, and each year films drawn from stories for children or adolescents are among the biggest box office hits. There is even a television channel devoted to the entertainment of babies. Children's literature has, of course, been with us from the beginning and is the oldest and first form of literature that we experience. This course is meant to take you on a journey through this essential part of our literature — its history, genres, major figures, and some of its more familiar and celebrated works.

Readings

Blake, William. *Songs of Innocence*.

Blume, Judy, *Are You There, God?...*

DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn Dixie*.

Dr. Seuss. *Green Eggs and Ham*.

Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The People Could Fly*.

Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*.

Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl*.

Milne, A. A. *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

Mother Goose's Melodies.

Perrault's Fairy Tales.

Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Rowling. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Saint-Exupery, Antoine. *The Little Prince*.

Sendak, Maurice. *Where the Wild Things Are*.

----- *The Nutshell Library*.

These books are available at campus and local bookstores, through Amazon.com, and (often) in free, online editions. Other readings may be assigned during the course.

Requirements

Active, engaged, enthusiastic, punctual participation in the course (10 points).

You will lose a point for every unexcused absence over three.

A presentation for the class (10 points).

A creative term project (25 points).

Two reading quizzes and several short writing assignments (30 points).

A final exam (25 points).

Office Hours

Tuesdays 12:00 -1:30, Thursdays 12:45 -1:30, and by appointment

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