

LIT 4331 (1D25)  
Turlington 2350

Instructor: John Cech (√)  
Tues. 4<sup>th</sup> /Thurs. 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

## 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. <i>Songs of Innocence</i> .	Le Guin, Ursula. <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> .
Burnett, F.H., <i>The Secret Garden</i>	MacDonald, George. <i>The Golden Key</i> .
DiCamillo, Kate. <i>Because of Winn Dixie</i> .	Milne, A. A. <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> .
Dr. Seuss. <i>Green Eggs and Ham</i> .	<i>Perrault's Fairy Tales</i> .
Fitzhugh, Louise. <i>Harriet the Spy</i> .	Potter, Beatrix. <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> .
Hamilton, Virginia. <i>The People Could Fly</i> .	Saint-Exupery, Antoine. <i>The Little Prince</i> .
Hesse, Karen. <i>Out of the Dust</i> .	Sendak, Maurice. <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> .
Hoffmann, Heinrich. <i>Struwwelpeter</i> .	----- <i>The Nutshell Library</i> .
White, E. B. <i>Charlotte's Web</i> .	----- <i>A Hole is to Dig</i> .

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  
Office: 4364 Turlington Hall  
Telephone: (352) 294-2861  
Email: [jcech@ufl.edu](mailto:jcech@ufl.edu)

## Children's Literature

## Schedule

Spring 2015

- January 6 Introductions -- to the course. Some thoughts about children's literature.  
8 Introductions -- to each other. Autobiographical sketches.  
13 Historical, Cultural, Psychological, Critical Perspectives. Read: Blake's *Songs*.  
Read a Baba Yaga story online, for example:  
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/fttr/chap06.htm>  
Jessica Oreck screening of "The Vanquishing of the Witch Baba Yaga."  
4 p.m., Judaica Room, Special Collections, Smathers Library East.  
15 Images of the Child. Discussion of Blake; Read *Winnie-the-Pooh*.  
20 The Oldest Child and the Uncarved Block. Read: *The Golden Key*.  
22 "Carefully Taught": Fables and Cautionary Tales. Read: "The Prodigal  
Daughter" and Edgeworth's "The Purple Jar" online.  
27 The Didactic Mode. Tales of Filial Piety. *The Orbis Pictus*. Read: *Struwwelpeter*.  
29 A Visit to the Baldwin Library, Special Collections, Smathers Library East
- February 3 Domestic Fictions: Bildung and Spirit. Read: *The Secret Garden*.  
5 The "Lessons" of the Good/Bad Boy. Tom Sawyer. Boys' Books.  
10 Lullabies, Music, Games, and Folklore. The Great Other. Readings: TBA.  
12 The Oral Tradition and the Rhythms of Life. Read: Mother Goose, Seuss.  
17 Myths, Folklore, and the Archetypes of the Imagination. Read: Hamilton.  
19 Fairy Tales and the "'Uses' of Enchantment." Read: Perrault and others online.  
24 Fairy Tales, Traditional and Künstlich. Readings online in Grimm and Andersen.  
26 Fairy Tales to Fantasy. Read: *A Wizard of Earthsea*.
- March 3/5 SPRING BREAK  
10 The Dynamics of the Picture Book. Read: Sendak and others TBA  
12 The Caldecott Shift: Quickening. Read: Potter's *Peter Rabbit*.  
17 The Golden Age of the Picture Book. Sendak et. al.  
19 Films, Media, and Children's Literature.  
24 America's Golden Age of Children's Literature. Read: *Charlotte's Web*.  
26 The New Wave. Read: *Harriet the Spy* and *Out of the Dust*.  
31 "No More Lies": The New "Wave" of Diversity. Readings TBA.
- April 2 Problems, Problems. Readings TBA.  
7 The Philosophical Child and the Red Balloon. Read: *The Little Prince*.  
9 Child as Healer. Read *Because of Winn Dixie*.  
14 New Directions, New Forms, New Audiences.  
16 Term Projects due in class.  
21 Final Exam.

**Please note:** Any additions to or changes in these assignments, as well as specific project, reading, viewing, and presentation assignments will be announced in class and posted on the class listserv. Be sure to check your UF email regularly for these messages. Please note: you should create a network of contacts with others in the class -- this is especially important for getting an assignment you may have missed, since I will not (except in cases of emergency) be able to repeat the assignments via phone or email.

### Grading Rubric

This is a 100-point course based on the total scores of your quizzes and exams. There will be a one-point deduction for each unexcused absence after the three allowed for the course. Each absence after three will be a one-point deduction.

A = 92 - 100	B+ = 88 - 89	C+ = 78 - 79	D + = 68 - 69	E = 59 and below
A- = 90 - 91	B = 82 - 87	C = 72 - 77	D = 62 - 67	
	B - = 80 - 81	C- = 70 - 71	D - = 60 - 61	

### Final Grade appeals.

1000- and 2000- level courses: students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant in the English Department

### Composition and Humanities credit

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see: <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>

### Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

### Statement on Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

### Academic Honesty

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see:

[http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx#learning.](http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx#learning)"