

Children's Literature  
English 3311  
Spring 2016

### Goals

This course is about genres of children's literature, such as fairy tales and modern fiction. We will not read the books for their own sakes, but as representatives of various genres and styles. After taking the course, you should understand what the genres are and have criteria for each and ideas about ways to select books and present them.

After taking the course you should:

- know how children learn to enjoy reading
- know what books mean to children and how to make reading meaningful
- be able to develop a reading program for a particular level
- be able to develop your own way to evaluate and present children's books
- know children's books from a variety of cultures and times

### Grading

Your grade will be based on how well you understand the principles of selecting books for children and presenting them. You will take quizzes, give reports, write essays, and prepare a reading program. A perfect score will be 1,000; if you get 900 or more, you will get an A and so on.

Reading program. 270 points. You will develop a reading program for the age group you plan to teach. You will determine your goals and evaluate books according to those goals and finally decide, for example, which books you would use for certain activities.

Essay on children's responses or an adolescent's interests. 100 points. If you plan to teach young children, you will read a book to children and write a two-page essay on their responses, answering questions such as how the child showed that the book developed his or her imagination. If you plan to teach older children, you will interview an adolescent and write about how you could use his or her interests to get him interested in reading.

Analyses. 520 points. After reading a book, you will answer questions designed to help you analyze the book according to criteria of the genre.

Teaching plans. 70 points. In addition to the analyses, you will submit short plans about how you would teach seven of the books. That does not mean you would necessarily teach the book, but you would need to know how to discuss books like it.

Class participation. 40 points. You will post two questions on Blackboard and answer two questions and will get 50 points for each posting and each answer.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Plagiarism means turning in someone else's work for credit. We will discuss documentation and citation so you will know how to submit work without plagiarizing. If you plagiarize work, I shall drop you from the class with an F and turn your name over to the dean.

### Students with disabilities

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students who need accessibility services should contact Kathy Biddick at 830-279-3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, Texas 78801.

### Distance education

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students

in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

#### Texts

Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Cheney, *We the People*

Freedman, *Lincoln, a Photobiography*

Giblin, *When the Plague Strikes*

Prelutsky, *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*

Sachar, *Holes*

Tafolla, *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans*

Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Velásquez, *Maya's Divided World*

White, *Charlotte's Web*

In addition, the library has a shelf of children's books that you can use to plan your reading program. You can use Huck and Kiefer to prepare your oral discussions.

#### **schedule**

January 19

Introduction to the course

Meet in D116

January 21

Discussion of poetic techniques

Meet in D116

January 22

Due: matching examples of poetic techniques to the technique

January 26

Due: finding examples of poetic techniques

February 2

*The Little Mermaid*

Due: Analysis of plot, character, etc. in *The Little Mermaid*

February 4

Due: teaching *The Little Mermaid*

February 9

Due: analysis of Plot, character, theme, etc. in *Charlotte's Web*

February 11

Due: a plan for teaching *Charlotte's Web*

February 16

Analysis of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

February 18

Teaching *Alice*

February 23

Due: Analysis of *Tuck Everlasting*

February 25

Due: teaching *Tuck Everlasting*

March 1

Due: analysis of *Holes*

Texas Independence Day

Due: your first online post

March 4

Due: analysis of hermeneutics of *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans*

March 5

Due: your response to the first online post

March 7

Due: analysis of poetics of *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans*

March 8

Your second online post

March 10

Due: analysis of *Maya's Divided World*

March 11

Due: your response to the second online post

March 15 and 17

Spring break

March 22

Due: teaching *Maya's Divided World*

March 24

Due: response to *Tom Sawyer* as historical realism

March 29

Due: analysis of *Lincoln: A photobiography* as non-fiction

March 31

Due: teaching *Lincoln*

April 5

Due: analysis of *When the Plague Strikes* as non-fiction

April 7

A plan for teaching *When the Plague Strikes*

April 12  
Essay

April 19  
Due: reading program: report on a class's reading proficiency

April 21  
Due: the goals of your reading program

April 26  
Due: 10 books for your reading program, reading times, and activities

April 28  
Times and activities for your reading program

May 3  
Power Point presentation on your reading program

May 11  
Your oral presentation on your reading program.  
Meet in Eagle Pass