

English 271.3: Literature for Young Children

Spring 2017 Professor Jan Susina

Class Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday 2 -3:15 p.m.

Class Room: Stevenson 221-B

Office: Stevenson 402

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11a.m. - noon.

Office Phone: 438-3739 Email: jcsusina@ilstu.edu

Web site: <http://ghostofthetalkingcricket.squarespace.com>

Tentative Syllabus:

Jan. 17 Introduction and Overview to the Course

Jan. 19 French Fairy Tales in M.C. Waldrep's *Favorite Fairy Tales*:

Perrault's "Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper," "Little Red Riding-Hood,"

"Toads and Diamonds," "The Master Cat; or, Puss in Boots."

Madame De Villeneuve's "Beauty and the Beast," &

Perrault's "Sleeping Beauty in the Wood" (website)

Jan. 24 German Folk Tales in M.C. Waldrep's *Favorite Fairy Tales*:

Grimm's "Snowdrop [Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs]," "Rapunzel,"

"Rumpelstilzkin," "The Goose-Girl,"

Grimm's "Little Red-Cap" & "Hansel and Gretel" (website)

Jan. 26 Hans Christian Andersen's Literary Fairy Tales in M.C. Waldrep's *Favorite*

Fairy Tales: "How to Tell a True Princess [The Princess and the Pea]," "The

Nightingale," "The Ugly Ducking," "The Story of the Emperor's New Clothes,"

& Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales*

"The Little Mermaid" "The Swineherd," "The Steadfast Tin Soldier"

Deadline for Sign-up for Children's Film for Film Paper

Jan. 31 English Folk Tales & Arabian Night Tales;

In M.C. Waldrep's *Favorite Fairy Tales*: "Jack and the

Beanstalk," "The Ratcatcher [Pied Piper of Hamelin]," &

"Three Little Pigs"

"Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" & "The Forty Thieves [Ali Baba]" (website)

Feb. 2 American Fairy Tales: Walt Disney's film adaptation of fairy tales:

"Steamboat Willie" "The Three Little Pigs" "Snow White and the Seven

"Dwarfs," "Cinderella" & "The Little Mermaid" (show clips in class)

Feb. 7 Rewriting and Revising Fairy Tales: Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith's

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales

Deadline for Sign-up for Picture Book for Picture Book Paper

Feb. 9 Fables: Joseph Jacobs, ed., *The Fables of Aesop*
Children's Film Paper Due

Feb. 14 Early Readers: Arnold Lobel's *Frog and Toad Are Friends*

Feb. 16 Mother Goose Rhymes: E. F. Bleiler, ed., *Mother Goose's Melodies*
 (website)
**Proposal for Picture Book Paper, Working Title, Thesis Statement, &
 Works Cite with four Secondary Sources Due**

Feb. 28 Children's Poetry: Philip Smith, ed., *Favorite Poems of Childhood*

Mar. 2 Children's Music

Mar. 7 Molly Bang's *Picture This: How Pictures Work*

Mar. 9 **Midterm Exam**

Mar. 14 **Spring Break**—no class

Mar. 16 **Spring Break**—no class

Mar. 21 Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, *Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, *Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies* & *Tale of Mr. Tod* in *The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit*

Mar. 23 Alphabet Books, Board Books, Pop-up Books & Golden Books

Mar. 27: Lois Lenski Children's Literature Lecture: Betsy Bird, Evanston Public Library, "Using Society Media to Promote Children's Literature." Schroeder Hall 130, 7--8:15 p.m.

Mar. 28 Crockett Johnson's *Harold and the Purple Crayon*

Mar. 30 Margaret Wise Brown's *Goodnight Moon*
 Brown's *Runaway Bunny* and *My World* (Reserve in Milner Library)

Apr. 4 Dr. Seuss's *And To Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street* & *The Lorax* (Reserve in Milner Library)

Apr. 6 Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*
Picture Book Paper Due

Apr. 11 Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*
 Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen* & *Outside Over There* (Reserve in Milner Library)

Apr. 13 Diversity in Children's Picture Books:

Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day*

Faith Ringgold's *Tar Beach*, Emily Jenkins's *A Fine Dessert*, Ed Young's *Lon Po Po*, & Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell's *And Tango Makes Three*

(Reserve in Milner Library)

Apr. 18 Information Books: Barbara Kerley's *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*

Apr. 20 Chapter Books (Fantasy): A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Apr. 25 Chapter Books (Fantasy): A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Apr. 27 Chapter Books (Realism): Beverly Cleary's *Ramona the Brave*

May 2 Chapter Books (Realism): Beverly Cleary's *Ramona the Brave*

May 4 Graphic Novels: Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm's *Baby Mouse: Our Hero*
Review for Final Exam

May 8--12: **Final Exam** (TBA).

Goals of the course:

This will be a course in children's literature, which concentrates on texts that are read to or read by children from ages five to nine or grades one through three. We will consider various interpretations of folk tales, fables, nursery rhymes, poems, music, picture books, informational books, chapter books, series books, and and/or video created for, or presented to children, what we know about how children understand and use them, and how children's books express and confirm certain attitudes and beliefs about childhood.

Required Texts:

M.C. Waldrep, editor. *Favorite Fairy Tales: 27 Stories by Brothers Grimm, Andersen, Perrault and Others*. Dover.

Hans Christian Andersen. *The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales*. Dover Evergreen Classics.

Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Puffin.

Aesop. *The Fables of Aesop*. Joseph Jacobs, editor. Dover Evergreen Classics.

Arnold Lobel. *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. Harper Trophy.

Philip Smith, editor. *Favorite Poems of Childhood*. Dover.

Beatrix Potter. *The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit*. Viking.

Margaret Wise Brown. *Goodnight Moon*. Harper Collins.

Crockett Johnson. *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. Harper Collins.

Dr. Seuss. *The Cat in the Hat*. Random House.

Maurice Sendak. *Where the Wild Things Are*. Harper Trophy.

Barbara Kerley. *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*. Harper Collins.

Ezra Jack Keats. *The Snowy Day*. Penguin.

More Required Texts:

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

Beverly Cleary. *Ramona the Brave*. Dell Yearling.

Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm. *Babymouse: Our Hero*. Random House.

Molly Bang. *Picture This: How Pictures Work*. Chronicle Books

Recommended Text:

Joseph Gibaldi. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. MLA.

(This text is not required, but strongly recommended)

Course Format:

The class will be reading and discussing a variety of children's texts that are intended for pre-readers and young readers up until the third grade. Students need to read the assignments prior to class and be prepared to discuss them in class. The class will involve lecture, discussion, and small group work. Throughout the semester, students will be assigned a series of short writing projects and pop quizzes related to the readings.

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is important and is intended to be a valuable experience. If you must miss class, you should have a good reason for your absence. Since you can't be two places at the same time, avoid scheduling other activities during class time. Students are expected to participate in class discussion and a portion of the final course grade will be based on class discussion. If a student misses more than three classes, the final grade will be lowered a third of a letter grade for each additional class missed. Students who miss a class or come in late will not be allowed to make up an in-class writing assignment and/or a pop quiz. No use of cell phones, pagers, texting devices in class. Turn them off prior to class.

Exams:

There will be two exams given during the semester, one of which will be a cumulative final exam. The final exam will be scheduled, according to the Spring 2017 Final Exam Schedule when it is made available to faculty & students. The exams will include objective and short identification items as well as essay questions.

Picture Book Paper:

Each student will write a short (eight-ten page, typed, doubled spaced) scholarly analysis of a children's picture book selected from a list of titles provided by the professor. Students will submit a proposal for their research paper, which will include a minimum of **four** secondary sources in their Works Cited section. **Only half** of the secondary sources can be electronic sources. Critical papers need to conform to the format that is outlined in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. *The MLA Handbook* shows the appropriate method for citing material and manner to create a Works Cited page. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of *The MLA Handbook*, if they do not already own a copy. This handbook will be of use in this course and any other English course you plan to take. The Work Cited section of the picture book paper must have a minimum of **six** secondary sources. Once again, **only half** of those

secondary sources can be electronic. Please keep an extra copy of all your submitted papers for your records.

Children's Film Paper:

Students will write a short analysis (three-four page, typed, doubled spaced) on a children's film selected from a list provided by the instructor. Students will locate and read the entry for the film on Wikipedia and at least one film review of the film from either *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* online, or Roger Ebert's website (rogerebert.com). The analysis should cite at least two of those secondary sources and cite the film. The film analysis paper needs to conform to the format outlined in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Please consult the Illinois State University policy in the *ISU Undergraduate Catalog* under "Academic Integrity" and chapter 2: "Plagiarism" in the *MLA Handbook*. Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and may result in failure on an exam, paper, or project and in some cases failure in the course. All written work submitted for this course must be your own and produced for this specific course.

Grades:

Grades will be based on the following point scale: Grades for papers: A+=100, A=95, A-92, B+= 87, B=85, B-=82, C+=77, C=75, C-=72, D+=67, D=65, D-=62, F=50. For the course grade, the following scale will be used A=90 and above, B=80 and above, C= 70 and above, D=60 and above, F=50 and below. The course grade will be based on the following assignments, which will be weighted as follows:

Children's Film Paper: 10%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Picture Book Paper: 20%

Writing Assignments & Quizzes: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Class Participation: 10%

Student Access & Accommodation Services:

Students needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell, 309-438-5853, or visit the website at ableisu.ilstu.edu

Picture Books for Picture Book Paper:

Jean de Brunhoff's *The Story of Babar*

David Macaulay's *Black and White*

Willilam Steig's *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*

David Weisner's *Tuesday*

Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*

Verna Aardema's *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon

Chris Van Allsburg's *Jumanji*

More Picture Books for Picture Book Paper:

Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings*

Virginia Lee Burton's *The Little House*

Julius Lester's *Sam and the Tigers*, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Jacqueline Briggs Martin's *Snowflake Bentley*, illustrated by Mary Azarian

Eve Bunting's *Smoky Night*, illustrated by David Diaz

Nancy Willard's *William Blake's Inn*, illustrated Alice and Martin Provensen

Dr. Seuss's *The Butter Battle Book*

Mo Williams's *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

Jon Klassen's *This is Not My Hat*

Jen Bryant's *The Right Word: Roget and his Thesaurus*, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Lindsay Mattick's *Finding Winnie*, illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Children's Films for Film Papers:

Chris Noonan's *Babe* (1997)

Brad Bird's *The Iron Giant* (1999)

Brad Bird's *The Incredibles* (2004)

Hayao Miyazaki's *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988)

John Lasseter's *Toy Story* (1995)

Robert Stevenson's *Mary Poppins* (1964)

Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005)

Mel Stuart's *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971)

Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* (1937)

Andrew Stanton's *Finding Nemo* (2003)

Peter Docter's *Monsters, Inc.* (2001)

Andrew Adamson's *Shrek* (2001)

Erin Darell's *Madagascar* (2005)

Pierre Coffin & Chris Renaud's *Despicable Me* (2010)

John Lasseter's *Cars* (2011)

Ron Clements's *The Princess and the Frog* (2009)

Rich Moore's *Wreck-It-Ralph* (2012)

Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee's *Frozen* (2013)

Phil Lord's *The Lego Movie* (2014)

Peter Docter's *Inside Out* (2015)

Steve Martino's *The Peanuts Movie* (2015)