

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SUMMER INTERSESSION 2007**

**EDUC 465-4
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
(E01.00)**

KIRSTEN NOWAK
Office: edb 9508
EMAIL: knowak@sfu.ca

Monday & Wednesday 5:30-9:20 PM
AQ 2120

PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours.

DESCRIPTION

Children's literature? Children's literature? Children's literature? Is there, in fact, something that can be legitimately called children's literature? If there is, is it different from other forms of literature and, if so, why and in what ways? And does it have its own standards and yardstick of excellence?

Why bring literature and children together, anyway? And which books should we bring to which children. And when? -- is there, for instance, a way of fitting book to child (or child to book) like the glass slipper to Cinderella. And to what ends? And in what different ways?

These and related questions are surely at the very center of the educational enterprise, both at home and at school, from the earliest years of infancy to the last stages of adolescence. And the answers to these questions speak to our most basic notions of what it is to be human, what it is to be educated. Or, as Jean-Jacques Rousseau put it in his Confessions: "I do not know how I learned to read. I only remember my first books and their effect on me; it is from my earliest reading that I date the unbroken consciousness of my own existence."

OBJECTIVES

- *Get in touch with and reflect on your own stories and story experiences through childhood and adolescence.
- *Ponder whether there is, in fact, something that can legitimately be called 'children's literature'.
- *Learn to survey children's literature through a study of genre; and examine some major genres — e.g., folk & fairy tale, picture books, verse & poetry, novels, etc.
- *Learn to examine children's books through their themes and issues.
- *Critically examine why and how children and books should be brought together.
- *Learn about story and storytelling.
- *Learn about reading and reading aloud.

REQUIREMENTS

The course will comprise a range and variety of learning experiences. These include: individual study, research, and field-work with children; focused practice of instructional strategies and procedures, with peer review and feedback; small group and whole-class discussion, projects and presentations; workshops and demonstrations.

Course Requirements comprise the following:

- *Regular class attendance: 5% to minus 10% of final grade
- *Text preparation and group participation: 15% of final grade

- *Picture book author study: 15% of final grade
- *Read-aloud field project: 20% of final grade
- *Novel responses: 20% of final grade
- *In-class exam: 20% of final grade
- *Bedtime story booktalk: 5% of final grade

REQUIRED READINGS

Trelease, J. The New Read-Aloud Handbook. Penguin Handbooks. ISBN: 0140469710
Chambers, Aidan. The Reading Environment. Markham, ON: Pembroke Publishers. ISBN: 1-55138-075-7
Yolen, Jane. Touch Magic. August House Publisher ISBN: 0874835917
Anderson, Laurie Halse. Speak. Penguin. ISBN: 14131088-X

SUGGESTED (not required) SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Chambers, Aidan. Tell Me. Markham, ON: Pembroke Publishers. ISBN: 1-55138-074-9
Pennac, Daniel. Better Than Life. Markham, ON: Pembroke Publishers. ISBN: 1-55138-116-8
Swartz, Larry. The Novel Experience. Markham, ON: Pembroke Publishers. ISBN: 1-55138-200-8

Other readings will be identified and made available throughout the course.