

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SPRING SEMESTER 2008**

**EDUC 465-4
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
(D100)**

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Friday WMC 2220 12:30- 4:20PM

PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to literature and other cultural texts produced for children, including fairy tales, picture books, contemporary fictions, poetry, and film. Course readings include materials produced for children (kindergarten through middle-school) as well as current research and theory about children's literature and culture.

OBJECTIVES

This course draws on and introduces a range of theoretical perspectives that allow readers to ask questions about literary elements, cultural productions, representations of social categories such as gender and ethnicity, and to examine how these constructions of children and difference are tied to larger social and political contexts. Students will:

- Read a variety of titles and genres to become familiar with the range of materials available for children
- Use a variety of theories to analyze literary elements and to critically examine representations of race/ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality
- Read contemporary scholarship on children's literature
- Identify authors of landmark and contemporary texts and use professional resources to select and evaluate children's literature
- Research children's responses to literature

REQUIREMENTS

The course includes: individual study, daily assignments, research, small group and whole-class discussion, a mid-term and a final exam.

Course Requirements comprise the following:

Quizzes:	20%
Participation:	30%
Mid-Term:	20%
Final:	30%

REQUIRED READINGS

Doonan, J. (1993). Looking at pictures in picture books.

Download a copy of the book, <http://www.thimblepress.co.uk/looking.htm>

Grayden, S. (2003). *Made you look: How advertising works and why you should know*. ON: Annick Press.

Horning, K. (1997). *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books*. New York: HarperCollins.

Kitamura, S. (1986). *When sheep cannot sleep*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Pullman, P. (1995). *The Golden Compass*. New York: Random House

Tatar, M. (1996). *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Vasquez, V. (2003). *Getting beyond "I like the book: Creating space for critical literacy in K-6 classrooms*. Delaware: International Reading Association.

Picture Books

*Choose ONE—Exact titles will be selected in class.

Bunting, E. (1989). *Terrible Things*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society.

Heide, F. and J. Gilliland (1995). *Sami and the time of the troubles*. NY: Clarion Books.

Maruki, T. (1980). *Hiroshima no pika*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Sendak, M. (1993). *We are all in the dumps with Jack and Guy*. New York: HarperCollins.

Yee, P. (1996). *Ghost Train*. Toronto: HarperCollins Canada/Groundwood.

Contemporary Fictions

*Choose ONE — Exact titles will be selected in class.

Ellis, D. (2004). *The breadwinner*. Toronto: Groundwood books.

Ellis, D. (2006). *I am a taxi*. Toronto: Groundwood books.

Erdrich, L. (2005). *The game of silence*. Toronto: HarperCollins Canada.

Sanchez, A. (2006). *So hard to say*. New York: Simon Pulse.

Park, L. S. (2004). *When my name was Keoko*. New York: Yearling.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Kohl, H. (1997). *Should we burn Babar?: Essays on children's literature and the power of stories*. NY: New Press.

Seale, D. and B. Slapin (Eds.). (2006). *A broken flute: The native experience in books for children*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the Undergraduate Programs website:

http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html
