

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
SUMMER SEMESTER 2008**

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

Beth Marshall  
email: [beth\\_marshall@sfu.ca](mailto:beth_marshall@sfu.ca)  
Office: edb 8545

WEDNESDAY 1:00-4:50 WMC 3510

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**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**

Carroll, L. (1998). Alice's adventures in wonderland & through the looking glass. Penguin

Classics Edition. London: Penguin.

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.

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

Rowling, J.K. (2000). Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone. Vancouver, BC:

Raincoast Books.

Steinberg, S. and Kincheloe, J. (Eds.). Kinderculture: The corporate construction of childhood. Boulder, CA: Westview press.

Tatar, M. (2002). The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales. NY: W. W. Norton.

Wiesner, D. (2001). The three Pigs. New York: Clarion Books.

### **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.

Marsden, J. and Tan, S. (2003). The rabbits. Vancouver, BC: Simply Read Books.

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

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**

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

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