

EDUCATION 465-4 Children's Literature

Instructor: M.S. O'Connell

Intercession (May 9 - June 17) Monday, Thursday 8:30 - 12:20 PDC 402

Summer Session (July 4 - August 12) Tuesday, Friday 8:30 - 12:20 PDC 402

TEXTS: Egoff, Sheila The Republic of Childhood (A Critical Guide to Canadian Children's Literature in English) Second Edition, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1975

Lukens, Rebecca J. A Critical Handbook of Children's Literature, Agincourt: Gage Educational Pub. Ltd., 1976

EMPHASIS:

Whereas discussions and presentations will refer to the broad field of children's literature, the emphasis in this section of the course will be on materials relevant to Kindergarten and Lower Elementary school teachers.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. That students become familiar with the scope of children's literature through a survey of:
 - 1. the fiction, fantasy, poetry, lore,...
 - 2. the resources and criticism in the field
 - 3. award-winning books; evaluative criteria
- B. That students have in-depth knowledge of one genre (fantasy, poetry,...) within the field of children's literature.
- C. That students know ways of integrating children's literature with an elementary school program.

REQUIREMENTS:

- (50%) 1. Write a paper on one genre within the field of children's literature. Your paper should be one that you could share with a teacher who has expressed a wish to know more about the selected genre. (i.e. Fantasy for pre-teen children; Canadian fiction for older children; Indian legends;....) List references used in order of their value to you.
- (30%) 2. Plan and present with a group of four (approx.) a workshop that illustrates a way or ways of either integrating children's literature with a class project or generating a class project as an outcome of reading a book or several books.

(over)

- (20%) 3. Outline (on no more than two pages) the books you would use and the points you would make if you were invited to give a "book talk" to the parents of children in a selected age range.

TOPICS:

In addition to the literary elements discussed by R. Lukens in Chapters Two through Eight, and the Canadian children's literature (in English) discussed by S. Egoff, the following topics will be considered:

1. Children's Literature as a way of knowing.
2. Books of yesterday - an historical perspective.
3. Censorship and children's books.
4. Storytelling.
5. Creative writing.
6. Films and filmstrips as resources in Children's Literature.
7. Children's books from the perspectives of a publisher, an author and an illustrator.
8. Other topics requested by students.