

EDUCATION 465-4 Children's Literature
Instructor: M.S. O'Connell

Summer Session, 1980

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. Glenview: Scott, Foresman, 1976.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. That students become familiar with the scope of children's literature through a survey of:
1. 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:

1. Write a paper on one genre within the field of children's literature. Your paper should be one that you could share with friends, parents or teachers who have expressed a wish to know more about the selected genre (e.g., fantasy for pre-teen children; Canadian fiction for older children; Indian legends, ...). List references used in order of their value to you.
2. Plan and present with a group 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.
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 within 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. Books of yesterday - an historical perspective
2. Children's literature as a way of knowing
3. Old Tales, Folklore
4. Fantasy
5. Storytelling
6. Death and War in children's books
7. Censorship and children's books
8. Films and filmstrips as resources in children's literature
9. Children's books from the perspectives of a publisher, an author and an illustrator
10. Other topics requested by students