

GLSP, HUMS 609: Children's Literature
Thursday, 6-8:30
Allbritton 004

Professor Indira Karamcheti
Office: # 110, 285 Court St., X3625
Hours: after class and by appointment

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Probably the first literature we fall in love with, children's literature shapes individuals and cultures in profound ways, investing us with important mythologies and guiding our identities and behaviors. This course will examine fairy tales, some works from the "golden age" of children's stories, and some contemporary works. We will enrich our reading of the fiction with some of the central theorists of this genre, including Jack Zipes, and Maria Tatar.

TEXTS: Because many of these books are past copyright, they can be found on line, for instance, on the Project Gutenberg site at www.gutenberg.org. You are welcome to use this resource, which often has very interesting versions of these texts. For instance, look at the HTML version of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, published in 1884. However, some of the texts available for purchase through Broad Street Books are special editions which contain critical articles and supplemental material, and you should plan on buying them. These are marked with an asterisk (*) in the list below.

There are some picture books and other materials copied to Moodle; in the syllabus, I have marked these with an (M).

**The Cambridge Companion to Children's Literature*, eds. M.O. Grenby and Andrea Immel (listed in the schedule as CCCL)

**The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales*, Maria Tatar (listed in the schedule as "Tatar")

**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll, ed. Richard Kelly

**Peter Pan*, J.M. Barrie, ed. Anne Hiebert Alton

The Magician's Nephew, C.S. Lewis

The Enchanted Castle, Edith Nesbit

Half Magic, Edward Eager

The BFG, Roald Dahl

Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Eight Cousins, Louisa May Alcott

The Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Grahame

The Borrowers, Mary Norton

Mistress Masham's Repose, T.H. White

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling

Little Lord Fauntleroy, Frances Hodgson Burnett

Pollyanna, Eleanor H. Porter

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers of 4-5 pages each, and a final research project of 15-20 pages. One class presentation.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND LECTURE TOPICS

An Education in Literacy

Week 1

Thursday., Sep. 15: The idea of the child; literature for children

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (M)

Fun With Dick and Jane (M)

The Cat in the Hat (M)

From *The Cambridge Companion to Children's Literature* (hereafter CCCL):

Preface and Chronology

Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 8

From Tatar: "Scenes of Storytelling," pp. 4-15

An Education in Pleasure

Week 2

Thursday, Sep. 22: Language and Pictures

The BFG

Amelia Bedelia (M)

Madeline (M)

Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp (M)

From CCCL: Ch. 5, "The fear of poetry"

The Very Hungry Caterpillar (M)

Mother Goose (M)

From Tatar: Appendix 3, "Walter Crane's Illustrations"

Appendix 4, "George Cruikshank's Illustrations"

From CCCL: Ch. 4, "Picture-book worlds and ways of seeing"

An Education in Morality

Week 3

Thursday, Sep. 29: *Aesop's Fables* (M)

"Matilda," Hilaire Belloc (M)

From Tatar: all the Perrault stories

"Setting Standards for Civilization Through Fairy Tales," Jack Zipes (M)

"The Bloody Chamber," Angela Carter (M)

from Tatar: all the Grimm Brothers and Hans Christian Andersen's stories

"Who's Afraid of the Brothers Grimm?" and "Hans Christian Andersen and the Discourse of the Dominated" (M)

Beast Fables

Week 4

Thursday, Oct. 6: *The Wind in the Willows*

From CCCL: Ch. 15, "Animal and object stories"

ESSAY # 1 DUE IN CLASS

Difference and Audience

Week 5

Thursday, Oct. 13: *The Borrowers*

From CCCL: Ch. 11, "Ideas of difference in children's literature"

Mistress Masham's Repose

From CCCL: Ch. 16, "Humour and the body in children's literature"

Week 6

Thursday, Oct. 20: *Little Black Sambo* (M)

The Story of Babaji (M)

Sam and the Tigers (M)

Nappy Hair (M)

"What Has Happened to the 'All-White' World of Children's Books?" (M)

Magic in the World

Week 7

Thursday, Oct. 27: *The Enchanted Castle*

Half Magic

Fantasy, and Science Fiction

Week 8

Thursday, Nov. 3: *The Magician's Nephew*

A Wrinkle in Time

ESSAY # 2 DUE IN CLASS

Fantastical Boys and Girls

Week 9

Nov. 10: *Peter Pan*

Alice in Wonderland

Wild Children

Week 10

Thursday, Nov. 17: *Pippi Longstocking* (M)

Eloise (M)

The Story of Babar (M)

“Of Elephants and Ducks,” Dorfman (M)

The Jungle Book

THURSDAY, NOV. 24: THANKSGIVING

Real Girls and Boys

Week 11

Thursday, Dec. 1: *Tom Sawyer*

Eight Cousins

The Child as Savior

Week 12

Thursday, Dec. 8: *Pollyanna*

Little Lord Fauntleroy

FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY NOON ON FRI., DEC. 16