

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 112A Section 1 The Literature of Childhood Experience
Spring 2014

Instructor:	Clare Browne
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Friday 9:30-12:15pm
Classroom:	BBC 120

Course Description

English 112A is an upper division course designed to introduce the literature of childhood experience to adult readers. Although children are the central characters and the main readers, writers of this genre structure their works using many of the same complex literary devices and themes found in adult literature. We will discuss these techniques as we analyze the readings, which represent a variety of cultures and ethnic diversity. Students will also have the opportunity to become familiar with picture books, fairy tales and folk tales. This course is designed to meet the subject matter requirement for those considering a teaching credential; though the information and curriculum approaches that we will explore will be helpful for elementary, middle or secondary levels of instruction, this is a literature class, not an educational methodology class.

English Department Student Learning Objectives

Students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency in all of the following:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of Children's Literature.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to Children's Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, context, and the nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

Required Texts/Readings

Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*

Paterson, Katherine. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*

Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings*

Classroom Protocol

Attendance and participation are key components in this class. Come to class on time, prepared, with your reading completed, ready to contribute to discussions. Lack of attendance/participation affects your grade. Put mobile phones and electronics away.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Reading:

Reading is a crucial part of this course. We move fairly quickly through the works. Look ahead on the syllabus and make sure you have your reading completed for the class. (SLO 1&2)

Class Participation:

This course is primarily based on discussion. Participation means that you have read the material and are ready to contribute your ideas and questions. Quizzes and presentations also factor into this portion of your course grade. (SLO 1, 4 & 5)

Mini Essay:

You will write a minor paper on an assigned course text using MLA format and present this essay to the class. (SLO 2&3)

Exams:

There will be a mid-term and final exam (dates on schedule). There will be essay portions for both exams, so you will need to bring large green books. Both exams are open-notes, open-book. (SLO 2&3)

Annotated Bibliography:

You will prepare an annotated bibliography of non-fiction, fiction, or poetry for a particular age range. You will receive more information in class. (SLO 2&4)

Book Project:

Working in groups, you will create (write, illustrate, and bind) your own children’s book. (SLO 1, 3 &5)

Grading:

Mini Essay	10%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Book Project	20%
Participation	20%

Submitting Work:

All work assigned is due on the date indicated on the schedule. Late work is graded down one letter grade for each day it is late.

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas conveyed. Your grade depends on what you say—and how you say it. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester’s catalog policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. Late drop policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your

academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

January 24	Review syllabus and expectations for class. Introduction to Children's Literature
January 31	Picture Books, Fairy Tales. Mini Essay assigned
February 7	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> Sign up for Annotated Bibliography
February 14	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> Chapters 1-6 Sign up for Book Project
February 21	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> Chapters 7-End. Mini Essay Presentation
February 28	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> Chapters 1-8

- March 7 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* Chapters 9-End
Mini Essay Presentation
- March 14 *Tuck Everlasting*
Mini Essay Presentation
- March 21 *Number the Stars* Chapters 1-7
Midterm Exam
- March 24-28 Spring Break**
- April 4 *Number the Stars* Chapters 8-End
Book Project
- April 11 Annotated Bibliography Presentations. Bring copies for everyone
in class
- April 18 *Dragonwings*
Mini Essay Presentation
- April 25 *The Great Gilly Hopkins*
Mini Essay Presentation
- May 2 *Maniac Magee*
Mini Essay Presentation
- May 9 Book Project Presentations

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY 20th MAY 7:15-9:30am