English 208C
Children's Literature

Time: MWF 1:30 A.M.
Place: MC 2066
Instructor: Dr. J.S. North
Office hours: Hagey Hall 223, MWF 10:30-11:30, 3:30-5:00
or by appointment. I am normally in all day Tues and Thursday. Phone: 885-1211, ext 3743


Purpose:
We will study the classic works of children's literature, by genre: Nursery rhyme, nonsense verse, poetry, fairy tale, fable, fantasy, myth, romance, epic, the Bible, and selected Canadian and American titles. One author we will spend several weeks on—C.S. Lewis, whose Chronicles of Narnia are among the more popular of twentieth century children's stories. Students are expected to become thoroughly familiar with the stories, themes and literary elements of the works on our reading list, and to develop library research procedures for independent study of children's literature.

We will refer to Read for Your Life from week to week throughout the term, considering the author's perspective on the process of reading.

Assignments:
Reading: an average of 30 pages per lecture.
Writing: one six-page library paper 20 marks
                        one in-class mid-term
                        one twelve-page essay
                        final examination 100

Due dates: Library assign: Fri Oct 11
           Mid-term: Fri Oct 25
           Essay: Fri Nov 15
           Exam: Scheduled by the Registrar
Lecture Schedule

Sept  Mon  9  What is Children's Literature?
       11  Nursery Rhymes
       13  Nonsense Verse
   Mon  16  Poetry
       18  Poetry
       20  Lecture on Library methods & assignment
   Mon  23  Fables
       25  Fairy tales
       27  
   Mon  30  Fantasy
   Oct  2  
      4  The Magician's Nephew  (Assignment 1 due)
   Mon  7  Thanksgiving
       9  The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
       11  The Horse and His Boy
   Mon 14  Thanksgiving
       16  Prince Caspian
       18  The Voyage of the Dawntreader
   Mon 21  The Silver Chair
       23  The Last Battle
       25  Mid-Term

The Prudent Jailer
C.S. Lewis (Poems, 1964)

Always the old nostalgia? Yes.
We still remember times before
We had learned to wear the prison dress
Or steel rings rubbed our ankles sore.

Escapists? Yes. Looking at bars
And chains, we think of files; and then
Of black nights without moon or stars
And luck befriending hunted men.

Still when we hear the trains at night
We envy the free travellers, whirled
In how few moments past the sight
Of the blind wall that bounds our world.

Our Jailer (well he may) prefers
Our thoughts should keep a narrower range.
'The proper study of prisoners
Is prison,' he tells us. Is it strange?