English 208C  Children’s Literature  Fall 1998

Instructor:  Mark Spielmacher
Extension:  888-4587  x2121
Office Hours:  W 1:30 - 3:30 in HH 258 (or by appointment)
Messages:  Mailbox in English Department mailroom (HH 229)
Email:  msspielem@watarts

Course Objectives:  After completing this course, students should be able to:

i) sketch a history of the development of children’s literature
ii) describe the generic features of literature written primarily for an audience of children
iii) identify and analyze the literary, and specifically the narrative, elements in a text written for children
iv) produce a thoughtful, carefully researched, and grammatically flawless written analysis of a text or texts of children’s literature

Course organization:  This session of English 208C will consist of lectures, small- and large-group discussions, and small-group presentations.

Course Assignments:
1. Weekly questions developed into essay topic (due 6 Nov.)  20%
2. Group presentation  15%
3. Essay, project, story (due 20 Nov.)  25%
4. Final exam  40%

Extensions will be granted only under extreme circumstances; extension-requests must be submitted in writing, reasons for the request must be provided, and an alternative submission date must be proposed.
Unauthorized late submissions will be penalized 5% for every day they are late.
Students are required to familiarize themselves with the University of Waterloo’s policy on plagiarism, which is defined as “the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.”

Course texts:

Babbitt, Natalie  Tuck Everlasting
Barrie, J. M.  Peter Pan
Carroll, Lewis  Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass
Dahl, Roald  The BFG
Grahame, Kenneth  The Wind in the Willows
Grimm, Jacob & Wilhelm  Selected Tales
Kipling, Rudyard  The Jungle Book
Le Guin, Ursula  A Wizard of Earthsea
Montgomery, L. M.  Anne of Green Gables
Twain, Mark  The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
White, E. B.  Charlotte’s Web
Wrede, Patricia  Dealing with Dragons
18 Sept.  Introduction

25 Sept.  Grimms' *Selected Tales*
          "Rumplestiltskin"
          "Hansel and Gretel"
          "Little Redcape"
          "Rapunzel"
          "Briar Rose"
          "Snowwhite"
          "Ashiepattle"
          "Manypelts"
          "The Goose Girl"
          "The Robber Bridegroom"

2 Oct.    Carroll *Alice in Wonderland*
          Group presentation:

9 Oct.    Kipling *The Jungle Book*
          "Mowgli's Brothers"
          "Kaa's Hunting"
          "Tiger! Tiger"
          "Her Majesty's Servants"
          "How Fear Came"
          "Letting in the Jungle"
          "The King's Ankus"
          "Red Dog"
          "The Spring Running"
          Group presentation:

16 Oct.   Grahame *The Wind in the Willows*
          Group presentation:

23 Oct.   Montgomery *Anne of Green Gables*
          Group presentation:

30 Oct.   Twain *Huck Finn*
          Group presentation:

6 Nov.    Essay topic due
          Barrie *Peter Pan*,
          Group presentation:
          E. B. White *Charlotte's Web*
          Group presentation:

13 Nov.   Le Guin *A Wizard of Earthsea*
          Group presentation:
20 Nov. 
Essay due  
Babbitt *Tuck Everlasting*  
Group presentation:  
Dahl *The BFG*  
Group presentation:  

27 Nov.  
Wrede *Dealing with Dragons*  
Group presentation:  

4 Dec.  
Review  

**********************************************************************************

**Weekly questions and essay topic (20%)**

You will be asked to generate one question for each of the texts we study, plus three supplementary questions on texts of your choice.  
Questions will be turned in at the beginning of each class on the sheets provided.  
Each question will be worth one mark for a total of 15%.  
Questions will be marked on their ability to provoke scrutiny of the text in question and/or its relationship to other course texts and/or its ‘value’ as children’s literature and/or its relationship to other kinds of literature or writing.  

You will also be asked to develop one of your fifteen questions into an essay topic.  
Your essay topic does not need to be on the same text about which you asked the question, but you must show how you will pursue the question you generated into a more thorough investigation of one of the course texts.  
Your essay topic is worth 5% and will be due on 6 November.  