ENGLISH 208C
CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

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Fall 1999

Office Hours: Mondays: 6:00 - 6:45 pm or by appointment

Schedule and required texts:
September
13 Introduction
20 Grimms' Selected Tales
27 Carroll Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass

October
4 Kipling The Jungle Book
11 Thanksgiving Holiday
18 Twain Huck Finn
25 Montgomery Anne of Green Gables

November
1 Grahame Wind in the Willows, TERM TEST
8 Barrie Peter Pan
15 White Sword in the Stone
22 Leguin A Wizard of Earthsea
29 White Charlotte's Web, Babbitt Tuck Everlasting, Raskin Figgs and Phantoms

December
6 Review and Exam Preparation

Recommended text:
(Royalties from the purchase of this book go to an English Scholarship Fund)

Assignments:
ESSAYS:
First Essay, 750 words, 2-3 typed pages, due October 4, 1999, worth 15%.
Second Essay, 1500 words, 5-6 typed pages, due November 15, 1999, worth 35%.

EXAMINATIONS:
Term Test, November 1, 1999, one hour, worth 15%
Final Examination, three hours, worth 35%

READINGS from Grimms' Selected Tales:
2. "Rumplestiltskin" 7. "Snowwhite"
5. "Rapunzel" 32. "Many Pelts"
1. Children's Literature (208C) is not a course in child psychology or a guide to the selection of books for young readers. Although we will be always mindful of the intended audience, we will examine books written for children as a literary genre. The texts selected are landmarks in the field of literature as a whole, and we shall discuss both the historical development of children's literature and the internal structure of this particular branch of the literary tree. We begin with a central artifact in the development of children's literature, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's Selected Tales (pub. 1823 in English), where the oral tradition of folk tales or household tales appears in printed form, and then pick up with the tradition of literary entertainment and education for children largely inaugurated by Lewis Carroll in the Alice books (1865, 1871).

2. The formal essays will be marked for the quality of literary interpretation and of writing. The examination will be marked for the knowledge of the texts displayed and for the ability to find connections between them.

3. Students must have the Penguin Classic Selected Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Other collections of folk or fairy tales may have stories with the same or similar titles, but they will be very different in content.