ENGLISH 208C
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Mrs. K. McArthur

Office Hours: Tuesday  1:30-3pm
              Wednesday  11am-12pm, 6-6:45pm
              Thursday    1-2pm

Reading Schedule:

May
1     Introduction
8     Grimm's Selected Tales
15    Grimm continued, Carroll Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass

First Essay Due

22    Carroll continued
29    Kipling The Jungle Book

June
5     Twain Huckleberry Finn
12    Montgomery Anne of Green Gables
19    Term test
          Grahame Wind in the Willows
26    Barrie Peter Pan

July
3     T.H. White Sword in the Stone
10    Leguin A Wizard of Earthsea
17    E. B. White Charlotte's Web

Second Essay Due

24    Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting, Raskin Figgs and Phantoms

Assignments:

ESSAYS:  First Essay, 750 words, 2-3 typed pages, due June 15, 1996, worth 15%.
              Second Essay, 1500 words, 5-6 typed pages, due July 19, 1996, worth 30%.

EXAMINATIONS:

Term Test, June 19, 1996, one hour worth 15%
Final Examination, three hours, worth 40%

READINGS FROM GRIMM'S Selected Tales:

2. "Rumpelstiltskin"
3. "Hansel and Gretel"
4. "Little Redcape"
5. "Rapunzel"
6. "Briar Rose"
7. "Snowwhite"
8. "The Juniper Tree"
31. "Ashiepatte"
32. "Many Pelts"
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 essay 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.