English 208C Spring 1998

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English 208C deals with classic works of children's literature, including fantasy written primarily for children. It 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. During the course we will discuss the historical development, narrative conventions, and recurring themes/concerns of the genre. We will begin with the oral tradition of folk tales, and move on to consider novels and other texts. Class work will include lecture, discussion, and "workshops" on readings. No marks are assigned for attendance, but participation is expected.

Texts

short readings on reserve at Dana Porter Arts Library

Tuck Everlasting, Natalie Babbitt (HarperCollins Sunburst, 1985)
Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie (Puffin Books, 1994)
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll (Dover Thrift Editions, 1993)
The Dark is Rising, Susan Cooper (Collier, 1986)
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Christopher Paul Curtis (Dell Yearling, 1997)
The BFG, Roald Dahl (Puffin, 1982)
Mowgli Stories from "The Jungle Book," Rudyard Kipling (Dover Children's Thrift Classics, 1994)
Dealing with Dragons, Patricia Wrede (Point Fantasy, 1992)

One additional text by a Canadian author, from a list to be provided by or as negotiated with instructor

Assignments

10% Short Essay (2-3 pages) - June 1
15% Midterm - June 22
15% Book Report - by July 6
25% Long Essay (5-6 pages) - July 29
35% Final Exam - final exam period
Reading Schedule

May
4-6  Introduction
11-13 folk/fairy tales, see below (on reserve, Dana Porter Arts Library)
18  holiday
20-25 Alice in Wonderland
27  Mowgli Stories from "The Jungle Book"

June
1-3  Peter Pan, short essay due June 1
8-10 Charlotte’s Web
15-17 Tuck Everlasting
22  Midterm
24-29 BFG

July
1  holiday
6-8  The Dark is Rising, “book report” due by July 6
13-20 The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963
22-27 Dealing with Dragons
29  Review; long essay due

on reserve at Dana Porter Arts Library:

for May 11:
- “Manypelts”

for May 13:
- from Folk and Fairy Tales: “Jack and the Beanstalk,” Jacobs (106); “Puss in Boots,” Perrault (94);
“The Blue Light,” Grimms (154)
- “Jack the Giant-killer”

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. Essays are due on or before the assigned dates; 3 marks will be deducted per each day of unarranged lateness. Be aware of the University of Waterloo’s policy regarding plagiarism, “the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.” Essay topics and the use of external resources will be discussed in class and on hand-outs.