ENGLISH 208C
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Prof. K. McArthur

HH 262  Phone: 888-4567 X3398  Email: kmcarthur@watarts

Office Hours: Mon.: 6:00 - 6:45 pm or by appointment, Wed. 12:30 - 2:30 pm.

Schedule and required texts:

May
1  Introduction
8  Grimm's Selected Tales
15 Carroll Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass
22 Holiday- Victoria Day
29 Kipling The Jungle Book
FIRST ESSAY DUE

June
5  Twain Huck Finn
12 Montgomery Anne of Green Gables
19 Grahame Wind in the Willows, TERM TEST
26 Barrie Peter Pan

July
3  Holiday- Canada Day
10 White Sword in the Stone
SECOND ESSAY DUE
17 Leguin A Wizard of Earthsea
24 White Charlotte's Web, Babbitt Tuck Everlasting, Raskin Figgs and Phantoms

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 May 29, 2000, worth 15%.
Second Essay, 1500 words, 5-6 typed pages, due July 10, 2000, worth 35%.

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

READINGS from Grimm's Selected Tales:
2. "Rumpelstiltskin"  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.