ENGLISH 208C
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Prof. K. McArthur  
Spring 2004

HH 262  
Office Hours: Tues. 6:00 - 6:45 pm, Wed. 12-1, Thurs. 11:30-1  

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Schedule and required texts:

May
4  
Introduction
11  
Grimms' Selected Tales
18  
Carroll Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass
25  
Carroll, cont'd and Kipling The Jungle Book

June
1  
Twain Huck Finn
8  
Montgomery Anne of Green Gables  FIRST ESSAY DUE
15  
Grahame Wind in the Willows
22  
Barrie Peter Pan
29  
Barrie cont'd  TERM TEST

July
6  
White Sword in the Stone
13  
Leguin A Wizard of Earthsea  SECOND ESSAY DUE
20  
Opel, Silverwing
27  
White Charlotte's Web, Babbitt Tuck Everlasting

Recommended:

(Royalties from the sale of this book go to an English Scholarship Fund)

Assignments:

ESSAYS:  
First Essay, 750 words, 2-3 typed pages, due June 8, worth 15%.  
Second Essay, 1500 words, 5-6 typed pages, due July 13, worth 35%

EXAMINATIONS:  
Term Test, June 29, one hour, worth 15%  
Final Examination, three hours, worth 35%

READINGS from Grimms' Selected Tales:
2. "Rumplestiltskin"  
7. "Snowwhite"
3. "Hansel and Gretel"  
8. "The Juniper Tree"
4. "Little Redcape"  
31. "Ashiepattle"
5. "Rapunzel"  
32. "Many Peits"
6. "Briar Rose"  
36. "The Goose Girl"
ENGLISH 208C

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 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.

The Dean of Arts Office requires the inclusion of the following statement on all undergraduate course outlines:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1: I 1). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Note: Undergraduate Calendar, p. 1: I 1 is also available at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/poUcy_71.html

A very useful link is available as well on the Arts Faculty Web page, “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors.” (http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html)