

**Carleton University
Early Summer 2016
Department of English**

ENGL 2011A: *Children's Literature*

Monday & Wednesday / 11:35 to 14:25
Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Susan Cooper
Email: SusanAnn.Cooper@carleton.ca
Office: DT 1914 Office Hours: *To Be Posted on cuLearn*

Course Description: As C.S. Lewis famously pointed out: "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." The focus of this course is children's literature as literature: writing characterized by skilful techniques and thought-provoking content. Beginning with the deceptively simple fairy tale and continuing on to adventure tales, stories about home and family, and fantasy, we will study the formats and elements of fiction used by children's writers to express or imply a wide range of messages. Although some necessary historical context will be discussed, for the most part we will be reading for and discussing the themes conveyed by the assigned readings.

Note: This course precludes additional credit for ENGL 2006 (no longer offered).

General course requirements:

1. Academic Regulations 2.1 Credit: To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work and examinations as published in the course outline.
2. Extensions or exemptions may be granted in exceptional circumstances only; otherwise, assignments must be submitted or completed on due dates. Specific details are supplied in the descriptions of individual course components (see below). See also General course requirement # 9
3. Academic Fraud – **plagiarism**:
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:
 - reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
 - submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

4. Any important requests must be submitted in the form of a typed, hard copy formal business letter and should be accompanied with all necessary documentation (e.g. doctor's note). E-mail requests will **not** be considered. Please check that the request is clear and complete, because it will be evaluated in terms of the information and documentation supplied. This paper trail facilitates effective and fair administration of all problematic circumstances.
5. **Academic accommodations:** You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: <http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: <http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation.

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable): <http://carleton.ca/pmc/>

6. *Class room etiquette:* Cell phones must be switched off during class. Laptop computers may be used for note taking purposes only. Lively discussion of the course material is welcome, but private conversations, texting, and all other disruptive behaviour are not. Netiquette: Virtual space such as cuLearn is an extension of the class room, and e-mail correspondence is an extension of polite conversation – **the exchange of ideas must be clear, accurate, and polite, regardless of medium.**
7. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with cuLearn, and that they check the cuLearn page for the course on a regular basis. Any individual technical difficulties or other problems which can be resolved within the first few weeks of classes must be resolved or called to my attention at the start of term, not belatedly. (Any system-wide problems with cuLearn will be addressed as required throughout term.)
8. Students are responsible for ensuring that they obtain copies of the required readings in a timely fashion. Any problems obtaining texts must be immediately called to my attention.
9. In exceptional cases, extensions or exemptions may be granted. Students who face serious, foreseeable problems meeting a deadline must submit a detailed, documented request for an extension no later than 48 hours before the deadline. Only students who face unforeseeable, extraordinary problems may request an extension any later than this.

IMPORTANT: Extension requests must be submitted in writing, **in the form of a hard copy (paper) business letter** – NOT an e-mail. Documents verifying the problem (e.g., doctor's note) must be stapled to this letter. See also General course requirement # 4. **NB: The cover letter is mandatory** – documents such as a doctor's note will not be accepted without it.

NOTE: Sometimes Academic Regulation 2.6 may come into play, i.e., students may be required to apply for a deferral of an assignment deadline through the Registrar's Office. The RO website has a list of FAQs on deferred final exams/assignments. See: <http://www.carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/>

Specific Course Requirements:

Assignments and evaluation:

Participation work: 10%

Discussion Forum Posts: 10%

On-line quizzes: 40%

Take-Home examination: 40%

Marks for individual assignments will be posted on cuLearn, but not calculated grades and definitely not the final official grades.¹

Participation work: (10% final grade)

Due: Randomly, throughout the term.

Approximately five assignments will be assigned (could well be more).

Participation work will be completed **in class only**. It is primarily pop work, i.e., given with no prior warning. It may be assigned at any time during a class. Students are responsible for keeping track of and completing assignments. Work must be completed within the assigned class time, not belatedly. No make-ups permitted. Students who miss an assignment for medical or other valid reasons may request an exemption from it, following the protocol set out in General Course Requirements 4 and 9.

Format: Variable – will be adapted to suit needs of class: may include in-class comprehension and writing assignments, either open-book or closed book, individual or group work.

Participation work objectives: Ensuring familiarity and enhancing engagement with the assigned readings; enabling both student and instructor to gain insight into individual strengths and weaknesses in interpretation and writing skills; preparing students to write the quizzes and the take-home.

Discussion Forum Posts: (10% of final grade)

Due: Dates to be posted on cuLearn.

Format: Virtual/on-line work. **Eight posts** distributed as follows: two posts per discussion forum x 4 forums.

Four discussion forums will be created on cuLearn, spaced evenly throughout the term.

I will post one or more initial discussion topics/questions to each of these four forums.

Students must contribute the following posts to **each** of the **four** forums:

- One response to my initial post.
- One response to a post from a fellow student

Students are most welcome to contribute more than the minimum two posts per forum, but this will not off-set the requirement to contribute two posts to each and every one of the four forums.

Length: Posts should contain approximately 100 words (about 4 to 5 sentences).

Style: The medium may encourage informality, but this should be avoided. Use complete sentences and Standard English – without lapsing into unnecessarily elevated, wordy, vague language. (Additional information about writing style will be posted on cuLearn.)

Content: The medium may encourage reviewing, i.e., expressing preferences and personal feelings, but the objective is to discuss the ideas stated and implied by the assigned readings. For this reason, phrases such as “I think,” “I believe” and (especially) “I feel” should be avoided at all costs. (Additional information about summarizing, analyzing, reviewing, and other approaches to literature will be posted on cuLearn.)

Assignment objectives: Enhancing engagement with the assigned readings and preparing students for the take home examination.

¹ **Note:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean

On-line quizzes: (*Quiz # 1*:10%, + *Quiz #2*: 15% + *Quiz #3*: 15% = 40% of final grade)

Due: The quizzes will be spaced throughout the term. Dates to be posted on cuLearn.

Format: **On-line** work.

Each of the three quizzes will contain a minimum of 35 questions. Possible question formats include – but are not limited to – multiple choice, true false and short answer.

Only ONE attempt per quiz will be permitted, but a 72-hour window of opportunity (minimum) will be provided to complete each quiz.

Quizzes are open-book.

Content: Quizzes will cover the assigned readings, lectures, and any notes posted on cuLearn.

Quiz objectives: Ensuring students keep up with assigned reading, read thoughtfully and carefully, and grasp key concepts raised in lectures.

Requirements: This is a **mandatory** course component; it must be completed in order to pass the course.

Take home examination: (40% of final grade)

Due: Last day of exam period.

Format: An essay approximately 2,000 words long in which each student provides his or her original insights into one or more of the assigned readings.

Content: Essay topics to be handed out at the final class. Detailed instructions also supplied separately on cuLearn.

Style: Specific details to be posted on cuLearn.

Grading criteria: Essays will be graded in terms of and G.U.M. (Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics). Essays must be carefully documented, using MLA format; *all sources*, both primary and secondary, *must be cited*.

Objective: Providing students with a means of applying and/or developing ideas covered in the course.

Requirements: This course component is **mandatory**; it must be completed in order to pass the course

List of Required Readings

Texts (hard copy):

Alcott, L.M. *Little Women* (complete, unabridged edition)

Bradbury, R. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

Mahy, Margaret. *The Changeover: A supernatural Romance*.

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables* (complete, unabridged edition)

Pratchett, T. *The Wee Free Men*

Sachar, L. *Holes*.

Twain, M. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (complete, unabridged edition)

All books EXCEPT Mahy's *The Changeover* have been ordered from

Haven Books: 43 Seneca St., Ottawa, ON K1S 4X2; (613) 730-9888.

The Changeover may be purchased second-hand from on-line booksellers such as AbeBooks Canada (<https://www.abebooks.com/Canada/>) and Amazon.ca. You may be able to borrow an

e-book version from the Virtual Library <https://openlibrary.org/>, and a copy should be on hold at the MacOdrum Library.

E-texts:

Links to all the e-texts listed below have been posted on cuLearn. Please advise immediately if any links are broken.

Traditional fairy tales:

Abjornsen & Moe. "East of the Sun and West of the Moon." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang.

Beaumont, Mme de. Beauty and the Beast.

Grimm, Bros. "Cinderella" ["Aschenputtel"], *Household Tales*. Ed. Margaret Hunt.

Jacobs, J. "The Black Bull of Norrway," *More English Fairy Tales*.

Perrault, C. "Cinderella." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang.

Modern fairy tales:

Andersen, H.C. "The Snow Queen" in *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen*.

Ruskin, J. *The King of the Golden River*.

Other:

Crompton, R. "A Busy Day," "Knight at Arms," "William's Hobby," in *More William*.

Hoffmann, H. "Merry Tales and Funny Pictures," "Shock-headed Peter," "Harriet and the Matches," "Little Suck-a-Thumb," *Struwwelpeter: Merry Tales and Funny Pictures*

IMPORTANT: Please read the assigned editions of the e-texts.

Course calendar

02-May	Introduction & traditional fairy tales: Perrault's "Cinderella" (see list of e-texts above)
04-May	Traditional fairy tales: Abjornsen and Moe, Beaumont, Grimm, & Jacobs (see list of e-texts above)
09-May	Modern fairy tales: Andersen & Ruskin (see list of e-texts above)
11-May	Adventure tales: Twain, <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> and Hoffmann, <i>Struwwelpeter</i> (see list of e-texts above)
16-May	Adventure tales: Twain, <i>Tom Sawyer</i> & Crompton, <i>More William</i> (see list of e-texts above)
18-May	Adventure: Sachar, <i>Holes</i>
23-May	Holiday (Victoria Day)
25-May	Domestic tales: Alcott, <i>Little Women (Part I only)</i>
30-May	Domestic tales: Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
01-Jun	Coming of age tales: Bradbury, <i>Something Wicked This Way Comes</i>
06-Jun	Coming of age tales: Bradbury, <i>Something Wicked</i> & Pratchett <i>Wee Free Men</i>
08-Jun	Coming of age tales: Pratchett, <i>The Wee Free Men</i>
13-Jun	Coming of age tales: Mahy, <i>The Changeover</i>