

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

EN 3890: Studies in Children's Literature

3 (3-0-0) UT, 45 Hours

Winter Term (Jan-Apr) 2009

A3 - Tuesdays, 6:00-8:50pm (B201)

Instructor: Victoria Abboud

Office Hours: M, 10:20-11:20a / T, 2:30-3:30p / R, 11:50a-12:50p / and by appointment
Room C308, Main Campus

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Course Description: This course examines children's literature in English in historical and contemporary contexts. We will trace the development of children's literature from its perceived origins as a didactic outlet to more contemporary versions with "purely" entertaining intentions. In addition we will interrogate the ways in which literature for children and young adults has crossed gender, culture, and social boundaries throughout its development.

Prerequisite: Six credits Junior English not including EN 1201.

Transferability: UA, UC, UL, AU (consult Alberta Transfer Guide for more details).

Required Texts (available at the GPRC Bookstore):

- ✓ Wyle & Rosenberg, *Considering Children's Literature: A Reader* (Broadview, 2008).
- ✓ Aesop's *Fables* (Signet, 1992).
- ✓ Fielding, *The Governess* (Broadview, 2005).
- ✓ Kingsley, *Water-Babies* (Broadview, 2008).
- ✓ Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* (Broadview, 2004).
- ✓ Carr, *Klee Wyck* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2003).
- ✓ Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia* (Harper Teen, 1977).
- ✓ Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (Scholastic, 1997).

Recommended/Optional Texts:

- ✓ Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook* 6th edition (2003).
- ✓ Lunsford, *Easy Writer: A Pocket Reference* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).

Note: You may need to retrieve readings from GPRC course reserves and from Blackboard.

Course Format: Some lectures will be delivered but this course will focus mostly on class discussion and activities. Attendance will be taken at every meeting. You are expected to attend every class on time and be prepared to ask questions, to raise issues you find

interesting/puzzling, and to be willing to engage with other students in a respectful, mature, and academic way. Participation plays a major role in final grades—being physically present will not constitute “good” participation.

Term Assignments:	✓ Response Essay #1 (2-3 pp.)	Feb. 10	15%
	✓ Response Essay #2 (2-3 pp.)	Mar. 10	15%
	✓ Presentation (incl. Book + Handout)	Apr. 7	30%
	✓ Final Research Essay (8-10 pp.)	Apr. 16	30%
	✓ Participation + In-Class Writing/Assignments		<u>10%</u>
			100%

- Guidelines:**
- ✓ All assignments will be discussed in class
 - ✓ Assignment details will also be available on Blackboard
 - ✓ Clean, white paper (double-sided, if desired)
 - ✓ Staple or paper-clip all pages (no folders/binders)
 - ✓ MLA Format only (1” margins, 12-point TNR font, etc)
 - ✓ **Due in the first 10 minutes of class (NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED)**

Late Policy and Classroom Rules:

- Students who miss two classes will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.
- For every two times a student is late, s/he will lose one letter grade from their final grade.
- No make-up assignments will be permitted for lateness or absence.
- Students are expected to behave like adults. No rude behaviour will be tolerated.
- Students are responsible for their performance in this class, NOT the instructor.
- Students who are unwilling or unable to follow these rules should seek another class.

Revisions: You can revise either/both of the Response Essays ONE TIME. Revisions will be due one week after you receive the marked essay. If you choose to revise an essay, be sure that you actually revise it—don’t just edit it. Revision requires re-thinking, re-organizing, and re-working your ideas, *not* changing your topic. When submitting a revision, you must attach the original, marked essay with it. The grade for the essay will be the higher of the two grades. Revisions lacking the original, marked version will NOT be accepted. Period.

Plagiarism: “Plagiarism” is the use of any material, words, sentences, phrases, ideas, etc. of an author without giving due credit. I take plagiarism very seriously. Violators of any form of academic honesty will be dealt with by following the guidelines listed in the “Academic Dishonesty” section of the GPRC 2008-09 Calendar. Do your OWN work!

Grading Scale: This scale is largely based on GPRC Grading Policy Guidelines. For four-point scale equivalents, see GPRC 2008-09 Calendar. Refer also to “Essay Grading Rubric” for essay grading guidelines (posted on Blackboard).

A+	95-100	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	55-59
A	87-94	B	74-76	C	64-66	D	50-54
A-	80-86	B-	70-73	C-	60-63	F	0-49

Course Schedule (subject to change as needed):

Note: *CCL* = Wyile & Rosenberg, *Considering Children's Literature*
(#) = page numbers

Dates

January

6 Syllabus + Course Introduction + Film

13 *CCL*, ch. I

20 *CCL*, ch. II + *Aesop's Fables* (3-143)

27 *Aesop's Fables* (144-283)

February

3 Fielding (entire text)

10 **Response Essay #1 DUE** + Kingsley (9-138) + Appendix A-E

16-20 ----- W I N T E R B R E A K -----

24 Kingsley (139-232) + Appendix F-J + *CCL*, ch. III, IV, V (Presentation Chat)

March

3 Montgomery (12-173)

10 **Response Essay #2 DUE** + Montgomery (173-334) + Appendix B-E

17 *CCL*, ch. VI + Carr (entire text)

24 Paterson (entire text) + *CCL*, ch. VIII + watch *Bridge to Terabithia* film version

31 Rowling (entire text) + article on reserve (to be determined)

April

7 **Presentations + Book Submissions**

14 Course summary + Final Essay Workshop (bring drafts!)

16 **Final Essays DUE** (9-11am only: bring to C308)

Enjoy your spring/summer break!

