

Children's Literature

English 275.2 Fall 2021

Instructor: Elizabeth Caulfield Felt efelt@uwsp.edu

Class meets Monday and Wednesday, 2-3:15pm in CCC 204

Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 11-noon in CCC 430 or by appointment.

Course Description

From the catalog: "Read, select, and present materials suitable for elementary school readers." This class focuses on middle-grade fiction, material appropriate for children in 3rd-6th grades.

Course Goals:

- (Re)discover the pleasures of reading books for children
- Be familiar with the history of children's literature
- Know past and present authors of stories for children
- Explain the educational value of different genres in children's literature
- Recognize and analyze the use of literary elements in children's literature
- Evaluate children's stories on the quality of writing and the needs of students
- Be familiar with issues in selecting and teaching various categories of children's books
- Apply techniques for discussing literature and incorporating literature into the classroom.

Pre-Requisites: English 101 or 150.

Text Rental:

Griffith & Frey. *Classics of Children's Literature*. 6th ed.

Norton, Donna E. *Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children's Literature*. 8th ed.

Text Purchases: *The Wizard of Oz* (or read free online); Lit circle book options.

Masking

You and I are required to comply with university policy related to masking and social distancing. For more information, visit the UWSP covid page at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus>

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. If you must miss a class, please contact me to discover if you can make-up anything that was missed. I realize that there is still a pandemic going on. If you get sick or are required to quarantine, please stay in touch with me. If we have to stop in-person classes and move to Zoom, we will continue to meet at our regular time. This class works quite well online.

Communication

I will use your university email account to communicate with you outside of class. Please check your email regularly. I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours, but there may be some occasions when I am offline all weekend. If my office hour times are not open for you, I am happy to work with you to find a time that is convenient for us both.

If you have questions about an assignment, do NOT email me your assignment and ask me to look at it. I am happy to meet with you during my office hours to go over any questions you may have.

Note Taking:

Textbook readings: When the semester is finished, you will return your rental textbook and no longer have access to its content. As such, I want you to take notes, so you will have that information later.

Literature Circles: You will participate in student-led book activities and take notes, so that you will have information about those activities accessible to you later, when you might need them.

Presentations: To help you pay attention and be engaged in presentations, you will take notes.

Your note-taking grade is based on content (not good writing, neatness, etc.). I want to see that you have done the reading or paid attention in class and have taken down enough information for it to be useful to you later. For any given assignment, you will upload your notes as a single file. You can take photos of notebook pages and convert them to a single pdf (genius scan app, etc.) or you can import them into a word document. I encourage you to take notes by hand; you will remember material much better this way.

Units and Point Values

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| Fairy Tale Essay | 50 points |
| Midterm | 40 points |
| Notes on Readings/Presentations | ~60 points |
| Author Assignment | 50 points |
| Genre Literature Circle | 100 points |
| Thematic Unit | 100 points |
| Final Exam | ~45 points |

Grades

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|----|-----------|
| A | 94% |
| A- | 90% |
| B+ | 87% |
| B | 83% |
| B- | 80% |
| C+ | 77% |
| C | 73% |
| C- | 70% |
| D+ | 67% |
| D | 60% |
| F | below 60% |

Good Writing: I expect you to write well. Many of you are going to be teachers, so you need to take special care that anything you write does not cause others to think poorly of you. If this is an area in which you struggle, I am happy to work with you. I also recommend scheduling regular meetings at the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) to improve your writing.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarized occurs when you use another's words or ideas without properly citing them. Every assignment will be submitted to plagiarism-checking software (the canvas dropbox). I will fail work that is plagiarized and report offenders to the dean's office.

Late work. In general, I do not accept late material; however, this semester I'm trying to be "flexible in all things." Communication is key. Let me know what is going on and what you need from me. If you turn something in late, let me know. I don't spend time browsing Canvas to see if students have turned in late material.

Due Dates: In person, my due dates are usually "due by the time you get to class on this date." Many online classes use midnight as a deadline, but for material submitted online for this class, I expect material to be submitted by the time of class, so be aware of that. During this pandemic, I'll try to be flexible about late material.

English Department Policy: Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students.

University Policy: Lecture materials and recordings for English 275 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Tentative Due Dates

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|-----------------|---|
| Sept 13: | Textbook Chapter 2; video: "The Danger of the Single Story" |
| Sept 15: | Textbook Chapter 6; <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> : Anthology pp 22-29 & Disney movie |
| Sept 27: | Fairy Tale Essay due; <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , chapters 1-11 |
| Sept 29: | <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , chapters 12-end |
| Oct 6: | <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> movie |
| Oct 11: | Midterm Exam |
| Oct 18: | Fantasy novel; Textbook Chapter 7 |
| Oct 25: | Historical Fiction novel; Textbook Chapter 10 |
| Nov 1: | Contemporary Realistic Fiction novel; Textbook Chapter 9 |
| Nov 8: | Novel in Verse / Graphic novel; Textbook Chapter 8 |
| Nov 15: | Textbook Chapter 3 |
| Nov 22: | Thematic Unit novel; |
| Dec 1: | Thematic Unit assignment due |
| Oct 3 – Nov 14: | Author Presentation / book by author |
| Dec 3 – Dec 12: | Thematic Unit presentations |

Wed. Dec 15, 10:15am-12:15pm Final Exam