ENG 221 Children’s Literature: Chapter 1

**Learning Outcomes:** When you have completed this chapter, you should be able to

- Distinguish between literature for children and literature for adults.
- Understand some of the personal values that literature offers children.
- Support the importance of literature for each of these areas of children’s learning: language development, reading, and writing.
- Use guidelines for evaluating children’s fiction.
- Use guidelines for evaluating minority literature.
- Distinguish features of the Newbery and Caldecott Awards.

**Chapter Reading Guide**

**What is Children’s Literature?** Note how the book defines children’s literature. Then begin your own working definition. What is it? How is it different from literature for adults? -- in subject? -- in purpose? -- in style?

**What are the values of reading Children’s Literature?**
- The book discusses six *personal values* that literature offers children. What are they? Can you add to this list?
- The book also discusses *educational values*. What are they?

**How do we Evaluate Children’s Literature?**
- Become familiar with the chart *Evaluating Children’s Fiction* page 14.
- Be able to apply these “Guidelines.”
- Review these key elements of fiction: plot, setting, theme, characterization, style, point-of-view.
- What key points about literary elements does your text make concerning children’s literature?
- What do you consider the key points under “Additional Considerations” and “Comparison with Other Books”? 

**Classics in Children’s Literature**
- Skim the section on classics of children’s literature.
- Note the distinguishing features of the Newbery and Caldecott Awards.
- Look over the web links of other children’s lit awards (page 28) and consider visiting one or two.

**Weekly Writing**

- Write your reading autobiography. What memories do you have of your early reading? Did either of your parents read to you? Do you recall any of the books they read? Did any teachers or librarians read aloud to you? What were some of your favorite books? Do you recall any that you did not like? Do you know why you did not like them?
- Can you think of any one book you read and reread as a child? What particular qualities of the story appealed to you? Reread it now and evaluate it according to the criteria established in this chapter. Would you still recommend it for children?