TEST TWO LEARNING OUTCOMES: In your essay responses to the following questions, you will be demonstrating the following skills:

- Selecting, describing, and evaluating children’s literature.
- Writing clear, effective essays organized and supported well using details, specific examples.

Directions: Please write short essay responses that illustrate your skills. Write in response to each of the following questions. Draw from your close reading of our text, your notes, and our class discussions. For each response, please begin with a thesis statement. As you develop each response, please use specific details. It is the support (the evidence) that you cite that indicates the thoughtfulness of your critical thinking.

Write your essay responses on a word processor, single spacing, and using 12 point font. Each response should take about ½ page. (This means that your entire test should be no longer than three pages.) Since the composition of each short essay response must be up to the highest standards of WR121, please consider visiting the Writing Desk for help in revising your work.

1. How can we account for the similarities among the stories that grew out of ancient cultures widely separated from each other? In trying to answer this question, folklorists and anthropologists have developed two theories. We talked about both theories – monogenesis and polygenesis. **Briefly explain both terms.** Feel free to illustrate your answer. Include in your explanation, a working definition of Traditional Literature.

2. Choose a book from one of the categories of Traditional Literature that we discussed (Myths, Folk tales/Fairy tales, Fables). Begin by identifying the book (myth, folktale/fairytale or fable) then **analyze the distinguishing characteristics** of the book you’ve chosen. Use the Group Activity handout and the accompanying pages in Chapter Six to guide your analysis.

3. Choose a book of modern fantasy. Give the title, author, publisher, date. In what category would you place this work (e.g. modern literary fairy tale, modern fantasy, high fantasy, science fiction)? Please **describe and evaluate** the modern fantasy by using Chapter Seven Guidelines.
4. Choose one of the poems in Chapter Eight to analyze. Choose a poem that has enough going on to merit a thoughtful discussion. Analyze your chosen poem based on at least 3 sound devices (rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, repetition) and at least 3 sense devices (imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, synaesthesia). Then use the Guidelines: Evaluating Poetry for Children (page 368) to further explore the way these elements reinforce the power of the poem. Please include a copy of the poem.


6. We began our term sharing our ideas about the definition of Children’s Literature. For this last essay response, draw from our text’s definition (Chapter One) and develop your own personal definition, informed by a term’s study. Feel free to include in your discussion what you – as an adult – find most valuable in the reading and enjoyment of this kind of literature.

The End