ENG 221
INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN’S LITERATURE
Spring 2003

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Havenick
OFFICE: Takena 232
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:30 and Mon/Wed 2:00-2:30
TELEPHONE: 917-4574
E-MAIL: robin.havenick@linnbenton.edu
COURSE INFO: Class Time & Place: Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:20
CRN & SEC: 42369 (1)
CLASS WEBSITE: http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/english/havenir/web.cfm?pgID=35
TEXT WEBSITE: www.mhhe.com/childlit

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Welcome to all of you. This class is designed for all students who have an interest in this literature and for education majors who are or will be working with children. We will study the history and various genres of Children’s Literature. Our focus will be on defining, valuing, and evaluating. Our main goal will be to understand and appreciate Children’s Literature as part of the mainstream of all great literature.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: When you successfully complete ENG221, you should be able to:
- Select, interpret, and evaluate Children’s Literature through critical reading.
- Recognize literature’s role in developing children’s language, literacy, and understanding of the human condition.
- Demonstrate how Children’s Literature enhances personal awareness and creativity.
- Write and speak confidently about your own and others’ ideas regarding Children’s Literature.
- Know your own best ways to nurture – in yourself and in children – a love of literature and a joy in reading.

A Note on Writing and Reading Skills: Succeeding in this class will require that you have college-level writing and reading skills (write at the WR121 level). If you have not yet taken WR1212 (or aren’t taking it this term), please see me.

THEMES: Essential ideas that form the foundation for discussion/appreciation/learning:
- Literature/Children’s Literature/Multicultural Literature
- Value/Evaluation/Standards
- Sense of story/Narrative
- Tradition
CONCEPTS: To demonstrate our Learning Outcomes, you’ll need to master the following concepts and distinctions:

- Story Elements (Plot, Character, Setting, Point-of-View, Theme)
- Oral Tradition/Variants
- Dynamic Response to Literature
- Fiction/Fantasy/Non-Fiction
- Contemporary Realistic
- Literary Merit/Popular Fiction
- Mother Goose/Rhymes/Poetry

ISSUES: Some challenging concerns we’ll need to address as we focus on our learning outcomes:

- Survey of ALL Children’s Literature (scope is wide rather than deep)
- Historical Perspective 2001: Viewing literature from our place in history

SKILLS: To reach our Learning Outcomes, you’ll need to master the following skills:

- Develop and use guidelines for evaluating literature.
- Create and use your own Annotated Bibliography of Children’s Literature (MLA).
- Focus on key concepts and write responses based on your own interests.
- Work in groups to develop creative responses to the literature.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENT:

**Group Activity/Presentations (10%):**
Please always be prepared for a discussion of the weekly readings as well as the works you are currently reading (the books you are reading for review/bibliography) by studying the assigned chapter (before Tuesday’s class) and by bringing 3 books in the area to be discussed. Be prepared for small group activities based on the weekly chapter reading in our text (*Children’s Literature in the Elementary School*). Present, participating, and presenting receives full credit.

**Chapter Focus Writings and Reflection (30%): DUE EVERY THURSDAY**
You’ll be gathering your responses to chapter readings as well as practicing and refining your description/evaluation skills for your annotated bibliography in a focused writing (or other format) each week. These focused writings, which are designed for you to reflect on and apply what you are learning in each chapter, must be typed (about 1 to 2 pages in length) and will be evaluated on the quality of your response. Please label and date each entry. To receive full credit, these writings must be turned in on time.

**Annotated Bibliography (30%): DUE WEEK NINE: May 29**
Please prepare an annotated bibliography of a minimum of 30 children’s books, at least 25 of which should be chosen from our text, *Children’s Literature Bibliography*. Include a variety of picture books, information books, works of traditional literature, modern fantasy, poetry, and contemporary realistic fiction mentioned in class or in the text. Feel free to personalize your annotations. Your annotations will be evaluated on the quality of literature chosen, the range of genre or types, and the quality of annotation.

**Tests (30%):** There will be two take-home essay tests.
CAMPUS RESOURCES:

- Conferences with your instructor – please visit with me early & often throughout the term.
- LBCC Library: (917-4638): Located on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center. You’ll find a growing collection of Children’s Books in our special class collection.
- Local Libraries: Become a steady visitor of your local library’s children’s room.
- LBCC Computer Labs: Learning Resource Center 213 and Forum 202. Use the Children’s Literature Database that comes with your text. Find your best ways for accessing information online and through electronic indexes.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- **Come to class.** It is essential to attend. Please keep in mind that in this class you are expected to be a team player in group activities. Please plan to attend all class sessions.
- **Do your work on time.** So that you will get the most out of the material we cover, please be up to date on reading and writing assignments each week before you come to class.
- **Do your own work.** Plagiarism (using someone else’s work as your own without proper documentation) will result in your failing the assignment.
- **Draw upon what you already know and love.** For your annotated bibliography, your class activities, and your writings, start with your own collection of favorite children’s books and your own interests.
- **Make use of what you’re learning** each week by sharing with young readers. This could mean volunteering in a school or library’s literacy program, reading hour, etc.
- **Design your own course goals.**

TENTATIVE CALENDAR

**Week One: April 1 & 3**
Chapter One: Knowing Children’s Literature

**Week Two: April 8 & 10**
Chapter Two: Understanding Children’s Response

**Week Three: April 15 & 17**
Chapter Three: Changing World of Children’s Books

**Week Four: April 22 & 24**
Chapter Four: Books to Begin On

**Week Five: April 29 & May 1**
Chapter Five: Picture Books
TEST ONE

**Week Six: May 6 & 8**
Chapter Six: Traditional Lit

**Week Seven: May 13 & 15**
Chapter Seven: Modern Fantasy

**Week Eight: May 20 & 22**
Chapter Eight: Poetry

**Week Nine: May 27 & 29**
Chapter Nine: Contemporary Realistic Fiction
**DUE: Annotated Bibliography/Celebration**

**Week Ten: June 3 & 5**
Chapter Nine: Contemporary Realistic Fiction
TEST TWO