

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2033E (650)
Children's Literature
Summer 2025**Instructor:** Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi
gceraldi@uwo.ca**Delivery Type:** Online/AsynchronousCourse Description

This course examines the development of literature for and about children from its roots in fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and nonsense literature. Animal stories, adventure tales, picture books, and domestic novels will be considered alongside visits to fantasy realms like Wonderland, Neverland, or Narnia. A central focus will be the assumptions about children and childhood that shape these texts, all produced by adults based on what they believe children enjoy, want, or need.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- Place individual texts in their context within the historical development of children's literature;
- Recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, the cautionary tale, nonsense, adventure, domestic fiction, and fantasy;
- Display a knowledge of several classic children's novels, as well as more recent contributions to the genre;
- Analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course;
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion posts and persuasive essays);
- Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

Methods of Evaluation

Essay 1	Due by the end of Unit 8 (May 30)	2000 words	25%
Essay 2	Due by the end of Unit 18 (July 4)	3000 words	35%
Quizzes			5%
Participation			5%
Final exam			30%

Please note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Reading Schedule

During the Summer term, you should complete two units per week. The texts listed below may be purchased from the Western Bookstore; if you have a text in a different edition, then inform me what edition you will be using in your essays by including this information in your Works Cited list. The UWO Bookstore will have these texts in stock, or you may find the books at a library or another bookseller. Information on editions and prices can be found here: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2025&courses%5B0%5D=650> UW/ENG2033E

Fairy Tales

Unit 1 (May 5-9): Introduction / Traditional Fairy Tales

Read the following fairy tales from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

- "The Story of Grandmother" – Paul Delarue
- "Little Red Riding Hood" – Charles Perrault
- "Little Red Cap" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Sun, Moon, and Talia" – Giambattista Basile
- "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood" – Charles Perrault
- "Brier Rose" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Cinderella: Or the Glass Slipper" – Charles Perrault
- "Ashputtles" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Hansel and Gretel" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Snow White" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Rapunzel" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Jack and the Beanstalk" – Joseph Jacobs
- "Beauty and the Beast" – Madame Leprince de Beaumont
- "The Brave Little Tailor" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Puss in Boots" – Charles Perrault
- "Bluebeard" – Charles Perrault
- "Rumpelstiltskin" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Unit 2 (May 5-9): Revisionist Fairy Tales

Robert Munsch, *The Paper Bag Princess*

Read the following stories from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

- "The Company of Wolves" – Angela Carter
- "When the Clock Strikes" – Tanith Lee

Unit 3 (May 12-16): George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*

Nonsense

Unit 4 (May 12-16): *This Little Puffin*

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

Unit 5 (May 20-23): Edward Lear, *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear*

Read the following poems and stories:

“Self-Portrait of the Laureate of Nonsense”

all limericks

“The Owl and the Pussy-Cat”

“The Jumblies”

“The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went Round the World”

“The Dong with the Luminous Nose”

“The Pobble Who Has No Toes”

Unit 6 (May 20-23): Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*

Adventure

Unit 7 (May 26-30): Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

Unit 8 (May 26-30): Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Unit 9 (June 2-6): J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Realism

Unit 10 (June 2-6): E. Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

Unit 11 (June 9-13): John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Unit 12 (June 9-13): Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*

The Domestic Novel

Unit 13 (June 16-20): Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (Part 1)

Unit 14 (June 16-20): L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Unit 15 (June 23-27): Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

Unit 16 (June 23-27): Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*

Animals

Unit 17 (June 30-July 4): Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

Unit 18 (June 30-July 4): E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

Fantasy

Unit 19 (July 7-11): J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Unit 20 (July 7-11): C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Unit 21 (July 14-18): J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Unit 22 (July 14-18): Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Unit 23 (July 21-25): Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

Unit 24 (July 21-25): Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

SUMMER DISTANCE EXAM PERIOD: July 28-31 (our exam will occur online during this period with a 24-hour window for completion)

How to Proceed

For each unit in this course, you should begin by reading the assigned text(s) (listed above). When you have finished the book (or the stories/poems), you should click on the learning module for that unit (these can be found on the “Course Home” or the “Content” pages on OWL with titles like “Unit 1 and 2”). Within the learning module, you'll find a document containing notes on the assigned readings. These notes are designed to play the role that a lecture would play in an on-campus course.

At the end of the course notes for each unit, you will find several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to help you assess your grasp of the lecture material. In some cases, the answer can be found explicitly in the course notes; in other cases, the questions prompt you to think more deeply about the ideas presented in the notes.

You will also find several discussion questions listed below the self-testing questions. You should choose ONE question per week to respond to (this means you can choose one of the two assigned texts each week for your discussion response); you can post your response in the Discussions area, which you can find by selecting "Communications" from the top menu in OWL and then select "Discussions". The Participation mark of 5% will be based on your activity in the forums; in order to receive credit, your post must contain **at least one quotation from the assigned text**. The discussion questions for the previous week will remain open until the Sunday after the end of that unit at 11:59 pm. At that point, the topics will close and no further posts will be accepted.

Additional optional readings can be found at the end of each unit. While these readings are not required, you may find them helpful, especially for books on which you are writing an essay. (If you use information from these sites, be sure to cite the source using MLA format!)

Marks for Discussion Participation

For full credit, you must post a total of 10 substantial posts (spread out over 10 different weeks). A substantial post is one in which you discuss something specific about the text at hand, using **quotations** and specific details from the text and commenting on their significance. There is no penalty for contributing less substantial posts (such as expressions of agreement with another student or general reflections about childhood and/or children's literature), but these posts do not count towards your grade. Since there are twelve weeks in the course, you may skip posting in a given week if circumstances arise such as illness or other conflicts; discussion posts are not eligible for additional academic consideration, as this flexibility is already built into the structure of the course.

Quizzes

Each week, you will be required to complete a quiz containing ten multiple-choice questions testing your knowledge of the texts covered in those two units. The quiz will close at 11:59 pm each Friday; no quizzes will be accepted after this point. The questions will focus on content rather than interpretation; if you have read the material, you should have no difficulty answering the questions. You may keep your books handy and consult them freely, but you will be limited to ten minutes to complete the quiz. Your mark will be based on your best 10 quizzes (out of a total of 12); this is designed to address any situations that may arise where you are unable to complete a quiz due to illness or other circumstances. Quizzes are not eligible for additional academic consideration, as this flexibility is already built into the structure of the course.

Surname 1

Your Name

Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi (OR T.A.'s name)

English 2033E

15 November 2011

Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*
and Emma Donoghue's "The Tale of the Handkerchief"

Your title should indicate your topic and the works you will be discussing.

Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories (including fairy tales) should be put in quotation marks.

Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: i.e. Bettelheim argues that "The fairy tale ... confronts the child squarely with the basic human predicaments" (328). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material. If you are using an online version of a novel which has no page numbers, you may use chapter numbers instead (ch. 13). If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotation marks; instead, indent the passage five spaces from the left and continue to double space. i.e. MacDonald uses Darwin's theory of evolution to explain the goblins' origin:

Those who had caught sight of them said that they had greatly altered in the course of generations ... both in face and form. (ch. 1)

Do not include the author's name in the parenthetical reference if the identity of the author is already clear from the context. List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

Works Cited

Bettelheim, Bruno. "The Struggle for Meaning." *Folk and Fairy Tales*, edited by Martin Hallett and Barbara Karasek, 4th ed., Broadview, 2009, pp. 323-35.

MacDonald, George. *The Princess and the Goblin. Page by Page Books*,
[www.pagebypagebooks.com/George_MacDonald/
The_Princess_and_the_Goblin/](http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/George_MacDonald/The_Princess_and_the_Goblin/).

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please follow the instructions in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it in the Assignments area in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

Submitting Assignments

Submit your essays online using the "Assignments" tool before 11:59 pm on the due date. Email is not an accepted method of submission. No essay will be accepted beyond two weeks after the due date. Essays submitted late will receive a penalty of 1% per day (that is, one mark out of 100), including weekends. This is a flexible deadline; late penalties will not be deducted for a period of 48 hours after the due date (essays submitted on the third day will receive a 3-mark deduction). These assignments are not eligible for additional academic consideration without supporting documentation. Students can obtain additional academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty (see page 9 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only after you have contacted academic counselling.

All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Grading Rubric

THESIS

- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT

- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION

- Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

USE OF SOURCES

- Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

STYLE

- Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in the paper?
- Are sentences punctuated correctly?

A+ (90-100) = Excellent ("Yes, absolutely!" in all categories)

A (80-89) = Very Good ("Yes" in almost all categories)

B (70-79) = Good ("Yes" or "Somewhat" in all categories)

C (60-69) = Satisfactory ("Somewhat" in most categories OR "No" in one category)

D (50-59) = Poor ("No" in several categories)

F (49 or below) = Unsatisfactory (does not meet the requirements for the assignment)

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a) Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b) Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c) Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, all assignments have built-in consideration, as the essays have flexible deadlines and the discussion posts already allow for two missed weeks per term, so I am not making use of this designation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, here. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).