

Children's Literature DELI Course description 2022



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Office hours: Wednesday 13:15-14:00, Thursday 12:15-13:00

Course objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the history and development of English-language literature for children. It aims to establish its traditions chronologically in order to emphasize how these traditions influence and shape the later production of children's literature. Another aim is to demonstrate how literary texts from the genre of children's literature can be adapted to teach language in EFL classes (both for children and adults).

Tentative syllabus:

☞ **22 Sept** – Approaching children's literature. The beginnings of children's literature
Read: Puskás, Andrea. 2021. *Children's Literature – Part 1*. Brno: Tribun EU. pp. 13-18, pp. 33-42.

☞ **29 Sept** – Fairy tales and folk tales – origin, structure, classification. Symbolic tale.
Kipling: Just so Stories (The Elephant's Child). Oscar Wilde: **The Nightingale and the Rose. The Selfish Giant. The Happy Prince**.
Read: Puskás, Andrea. 2021. *Children's Literature – Part 1*. Brno: Tribun EU. pp. 19-32.

☞ **6 Oct** – Victorian children's literature. Nonsense tale. Edward Lear. Lewis Carroll, poetics of literary nonsense, logical nonsense. **Lewis Carroll: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**
Read: Puskás, Andrea. 2021. *Children's Literature – Part 1*. Brno: Tribun EU. pp. 43-57.

☞ **13 Oct** – Children's Fantasy. Qualities, elements and classification of fantasy. Journey fantasy. **Frank Baum: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. J. M. Barrie: Peter Pan**.
Read: Puskás, Andrea. 2021. *Children's Literature – Part 1*. Brno: Tribun EU. pp. 87-115.

☞ **20 Oct** – Animal stories. Beatrix Potter: The Tale of Peter Rabbit. **A. A. Milne: Winnie-the-Pooh**. Kenneth Grahame: The Wind in the Willows. Stories with girl protagonists. The family story. Louisa May Alcott: Little Women **Laura Ingalls Wilder: Little House in the Big Woods. L. M. Montgomery: Anne of Green Gables**.
Read: Puskás, Andrea. 2021. *Children's Literature – Part 1*. Brno: Tribun EU. pp. 58-86.

☞ **27 Oct** – Stories with boy protagonists. Adventure fiction. Robert Louis Stevenson: Treasure Island. Children's Literature: The Long Weekend 1920-1939. **P. L. Travers: Mary Poppins**

☞ **3 Nov** – **Half-term-test**

☞ **10 Nov** – Types and forms of modern fantasy. C. S. Lewis: The Chronicles of Narnia. **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**. J. R. R. Tolkien: The Hobbit.

Read: C. S. Lewis – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe In: McCulloch, Fiona. 2011. *Children's Literature in Context*. London & New York: Continuum International Publishing Group. pp. 92-97.

☞ **17 Nov – Public holiday**

☞ **24 Nov** – Subversion in Roald Dahl's Fantasy Tales. **Roald Dahl: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The Witches.** Matilda. The BFG.

Read: Roald Dahl In: Hunt, Peter. 2001. *Children's Literature*. Blackwell Publishers. pp. 56-61.

☞ **1 Dec** – The school story. J. K. Rowling: **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.**

Read: J.K. Rowling – Harry Potter In: McCulloch, Fiona. 2011. *Children's Literature in Context*. London & New York: Continuum International Publishing Group. pp. 97-112.

☞ **8 Dec** – Teenage fiction. **Judy Blume: Are You There God? It's Me Margaret.** Children's literature today. Young adult literature: **John Green: Paper Towns,** Contemporary authors in children's literature: Jeff Kinney: The Diary of a Wimpey Kid, Liz Pichon: Tom Gates series, Cressida Cowell, John Flanagan, Rick Riordan, **Nancy Springer: Enola Holmes and the Case of the Missing Marquess.**

Read: Judy Plume In: Hunt, Peter. 2001. *Children's Literature*. Blackwell Publishers. pp. 33-36.

☞ **15 Dec – End-of-term test**

Assessment based on:

- regular class attendance – **no more than 2 absences**, if you miss more than 2 classes, you have to retake the course
- **a presentation** on a selected literary work; All students are asked to **upload the presentation in Moodle, final deadline: 18 Dec 2022**. The presentation has to be prepared in Power Point/Prezi, the minimum number of slides: 12 (it does not include the title page with your name and the title of presentation). You mustn't read your presentation, please talk to the audience. It should last for about 15-20 minutes. You can also prepare some activities, handouts, discussion questions, quizzes for your colleagues.
- **2 tests** – one at mid-term and a final one at the end of the course, you have to reach at least 50% as the average of the 2 tests.
- active participation during the lessons;
- you might be given a micro-test on a selected reading assignment – the literary works indicated in bold letters in the syllabus are compulsory reading assignments i.e. you have to read them for the seminar.

Compulsory reading:

- **Rudyard Kipling: The Elephant's Child (from the collection Just So Stories)**
- **Oscar Wilde: The Nightingale and the Rose, The Selfish Giant, The Happy Prince**
- **Lewis Carroll: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**
- **Frank Baum: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**
- **J. M. Barrie: Peter Pan**
- **A. A. Milne: Winnie-the-Pooh**

- **Laura Ingalls Wilder: Little House in the Big Woods**
- **L. M. Montgomery: Anne of Green Gables**
- **P. L. Travers: Mary Poppins**
- **S. Lewis: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**
- **Roald Dahl: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**
- **Roald Dahl: The Witches**
- **J. K. Rowling: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**
- **Judy Blume: Are You There God? It's Me Margaret**
- **John Green: Paper Towns**
- **Nancy Springer: Enola Holmes and the Case of the Missing Marquess**

Recommended literature:

☞ Puskás, Andrea. 2021. *Children's Literature – Part 1*. Brno: Tribun EU.

☞ Lerer, Seth. 2008. *Children's Literature: A Reader's History from Aesop to Harry Potter*. The University of Chicago Press.

☞ McCulloch, Fiona. 2011. *Children's Literature in Context*. London & New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.

☞ Levy, Michaels – Farah Mendlesohn. 2016. *Children's Fantasy Literature: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

☞ Manlove, Colin. 2003. *From Alice to Harry Potter. Children's Fantasy in England*. Cybereditions.

☞ Hunt, Peter. 1994. *Introduction to Children's Literature*. Oxford University Press.

☞ Hunt, Peter. 2001. *Children's Literature*. Blackwell Publishers.

☞ Pamela S. Gates – Susan B. Steffel – Francis J. Molson. 2003. *Fantasy Literature for Children and Young Adults*. The Scarecrow Press, Inc. Lanham, Maryland and Oxford.

Enjoy the course and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

