



Instructor: H. Forsythe Paul

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Course Number: ENG234H5S

Course Title: Children's Literature

Course Description: The class will study fiction written for children, with a special focus on heroines. Starting with cautionary tales from religious writers, rational moralists and fairy tale fabulists, we will explore the ways that female protagonists encourage children to imagine themselves in fictional situations and enable adults to project, prescribe and even proselytize. In classic 19th- and 20th-century children's stories, we will examine the use of heroines to reflect cultural norms, model behaviours, and shape reader ideals – an examination that may challenge our assumptions about the way that children's literature portrays girls and women.

Required Reading: Edward Lear, *The Owl and the Pussycat*; Martin Hallett & Barbara Karasek, *Folk & Fairy Tales*; E. Nesbit, *The Magic World*; Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*; Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*; George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*; Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*; L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*; Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*; Ludwig Bemelmans, *Madeline*; Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*; Mary Norton, *The Borrowers*; Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*; Diana Wynne Jones, *Howl's Moving Castle*

First Authors to be Studied: Lear's *The Owl and the Pussycat*, cautionary tales (online handouts), fairy tales (Hallett & Karasek)

Method of Instruction: lecture/discussion

Method of Evaluation: one-hour in-class test (15%); one 5-7 page paper (35%); 3-hour final examination (40%); informed participation (10%)