



Instructor: Dr. Siobhan O'Flynn

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Course Number: ENG 234 H5S

Course Title: Children's Literature

Course Description: The stories we hear as children form the basis for our evolving understanding of literature and most broadly, of human interrelationships. We will consider key aspects such as the classic themes of maturation and escape, the construction and performance of gender, the significance of animal protagonists, and the often didactic function of children's literature. We will also **attend** to the importance of historical context and the presence of "adult" concerns filtered (or not) through the presumably more limited perspective of children's fiction and poetry.

Required Reading:

B. Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*; C. Perrault, *Fairy Tales* (texts online); *The Thousand and One Nights* (various tales); L. Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*; Norton, *The Borrowers* or L. Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*; P. Pullman, *The Golden Compass*; A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*; S. Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*; M.T. Anderson, *Octavian Nothing*; Graphic Novels TBA

Films: *Gaiman, Mirror Mask*; others TBA

First Three Texts to be Studied: Perrault, Carroll, Norton

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion

Method of Evaluation: Short essay 30%
Essay 40%
Test 30%