

Instructor: Siobhan O'Flynn

Course number: ENG 234

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 (a number of texts from the following):

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*; M. Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; Norton, *The Borrowers* or L. Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*; P. Pullman, *The Golden Compass* & *The Subtle Knife*; 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/Authors to be Studied: Perrault, Carroll, Twain

Method of Instruction: Lecture, class discussion, and exercises

Method of Evaluation: short essay, long essay, final exam.