



**Instructor:** Siobhan O'Flynn

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**Course Number:** ENG234H5S

**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 and cultural contexts and the presence of "adult" concerns filtered (or not) through the presumably more limited perspective of children's fiction and poetry. And lastly, we will consider the shifts in contemporary children's literature, from the explosion in dystopian Young Adult fiction to the innovations supported by the iPad.

**Required Reading (a number of text 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*; P. Pullman, *The Golden Compass*; A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*; S. Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*; M.T. Anderson, *Feed*; Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*; iPad book adaptations TBA (demoed in class).

Continued...

**Films:** Gaiman, *Mirror Mask*; Studio Ghibli film, *My Neighbour Totoro/Spirited Away*

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** Perrault, Carroll, Milne

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture, class discussion, and in-class exercises

**Method of Evaluation:** short essay, long essay, in-class presentation, final exam.