

Virginia Western Community College

ENG 250

Children's Literature

Prerequisites

ENG 112, ENG 113, or departmental approval

Course Description

Examines the history and development of children's literature of diverse genres, time periods, and authors. Focuses on analysis of texts for literary qualities and audience. Develops critical thinking and interpretive skills through close reading, discussion, and analysis of literary texts.

General Course Purpose

ENG 250 examines the history and genres of children's literature across a variety of cultures and traditions. This course develops skills in close reading, interpretation, and comparative analysis.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Internet access
2. Canvas
3. Computer

Textbooks:

Essentials of Children's Lit (10e) 978-0-137-45141-8
The Classic Fairy (Norton Critical Edition) 978-0-393-60297-5
The Giver 978-0-544-33626-1
Novels and books as chosen by instructor.
Open Educational Resources.

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Critical Thinking

- Evaluate, interpret, and integrate information, ideas and arguments from a variety of perspectives (including the written arguments of others) to analyze complex issues related to literature and its study
- Interpret and combine information to reach and/or evaluate well-reasoned conclusions

Communication

- Explain the complex ideas of others
- Develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing
- Develop writing that is appropriate to a given context and for a specific audience

Cultural and Civic Engagement

- Assess the impact of culture as it relates to children's literature and its traditions
- Develop knowledge and civic values, within a humanities framework, that are necessary for contributing to civic life and the well-being of local, national, and global literary communities

Literary Traditions

- Describe salient features of writers, literary movements, genres and/or texts within children's literature

Inquiry

- Construct and explore meaningful questions about diverse human experiences through comparative literary study

Historical and social contexts

- Explain connections between literary texts and related historical, social, and literary contexts

Close Reading and Literary Analysis

- Analyze literary texts using appropriate vocabulary and a variety of methodological approaches and perspectives, exploring the ways literary texts reflect and challenge cultural values and beliefs
- Support interpretations of literary texts with valid textual evidence and use scholarly sources as appropriate to inform inquiry into literary texts
- Evaluate the role of audience in the creation and comprehension of children's literature

Writing

- Compose literary analysis that is well-organized and features substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas with appropriate documentation

Major Topics to be Included

Critical Thinking
Communication
Cultural and Civic Engagement
Literary Traditions
Inquiry through the Humanities
Texts and Contexts
Close Reading and Literary Analysis
Writing

Notes to Instructors:

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)