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## ENG 3405-002: Children's Literature

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3405-002

**Prof. Carol Stevens**  
**English 3405.002 Spring 2007 Children's Literature**

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**Class:** meets T 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
**Office Hours:** 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50, 3:30-4 T-Th,  
W 9:30-11:30, and many other times by appt.

**Course description and objectives:** By the end of this course, you should have a working knowledge of various types of children's literature—poems, folk tales, realistic fiction (including problem fiction), and fantasy among them, specific knowledge of particular works and forms, and skill in evaluating them. With lively and thoughtful discussion, you'll enjoy them too.

**Texts:** Griffiths and Frey, *Classics of Children's Literature*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
Coerr, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*.  
Curtis, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*  
Keats, *The Snowy Day*  
Keene, *The Secret of the Old Clock*  
Levine, *Ella Enchanted*.  
Lowry, *The Giver*.  
Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*  
Sendak, *Where the Wild Things Are*  
Wiesner, *Tuesday*  
Yolen, *The Devil's Arithmetic*

Other materials may be added, so stay tuned. Also, you are responsible for learning from each other, and exams etc. may include all handouts and materials such as picture books and poems presented in class, poems presented by students etc.

**Grading:** Unless otherwise specified in class, your grading will be based upon 100 points assigned as follows:

Mid-term exam 10 points

Final Exam 15 points

Paper and other assignments involving some research, and revision—45 points as follows:

Poem as assigned 10

Picture book as assigned 15

Chapter book as assigned 20

Group work and individual presentations 15 points

Participation (includes attendance, informal writings, class discussion, WebCT discussion) 15 points

**Grades:** I will use numbers rather than letters. This will convert into your final grade as follows: 91-100=A; 81-90=B; 71-80=C; 61-70=D. Grades will not be curved. All assigned writing and exams must be done for you to pass the course. Exams will be graded on the basis of 100 points, and changed to the appropriate number of course points using the appropriate multiplier—for example, an 80 on the midterm (80 x .10) becomes 8.0, or 8 points toward the course total. NOTE: We may add, cancel, or revise some assignments. In that case, point totals may be adjusted also. An announcement in class will be considered sufficient notification. Picture book or chapter book paper may be revised for inclusion in your Electronic Writing Portfolio.

**Responsibilities and Policies:**

1. Come to every class meeting, and keep the lines of communication open. Late work gets lowered grades unless we've come to a clear understanding BEFORE the due date. No laptops or cell phones in the classroom—period. They are a distraction.
2. Attendance is important, as is participating in the discussions and bringing your contributions to the class. More than three absences will result in your getting many fewer participation points. But there will be generous points for people who share their thoughts on the readings and issues through class discussion and the WebCT list.

3. The ethics of academic honesty dictate that students do their own work—always. Taking someone else’s words OR thoughts and using them in your own writing without giving credit is plagiarism. It can result in a failing grade for the paper and the course, must be reported to Judicial Affairs, and can receive other penalties as well. Students who have difficulty with the mechanics of documentation but make a good-faith effort to cite their sources will be required to rewrite their papers until satisfactory. The Writing Center has excellent tutors who can answer questions about documentation. The English Department’s Statement on academic honesty is as follows:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—“The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s original work” (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*) has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs office. Please cite all sources, including internet sources, and be sure the text of your paper makes it clear whether you are summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting directly.

4. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. Only properly documented disabilities can be accommodated.

5. Online discussion information: I will set up a WebCT discussion list for this class. Each student will be required to write and post five thoughtful responses to our reading assignments on the list. These responses must be done before we discuss the chapters or works in class, and should be 1-2 paragraphs long. I will sometimes suggest approaches in class, though a spontaneous response will usually be fine too. In each response, two things must be done: unless you are the first person posting on the assigned topic, respond to at least one other posting, and in making your point, quote from the work you’re discussing. Responses must be posted *at least 24 hours before the class for which the reading assignment is due*, so that they can be read by students and the instructor before the class discussion. I’ll record them week to week, and assign points at the end of the semester based on clarity, thoughtfulness, and completeness.

6. Papers should be typed, double-spaced with your name, the class, section number and date at the top, should have one-inch margins, and should use MLA style for citations.

**A reinforcing message: As this class meets only once a week, attendance is not optional to your success. It is CRUCIAL. Missing class because your ride is leaving early for Spring Break, or because your group is sponsoring a special event, etc., are not excused absences, and will damage your class participation grade.**