

**San José State University**  
**Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
**English 112A, Section 1, The Literature of Childhood Experience,**  
**Spring 2017**

**Instructor:** Clare Browne  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm  
**Class Days/Time:** Monday/Wednesday 4:30-5:45pm  
**Classroom:** BBC 203

### **Course Description**

English 112A is an upper division course designed to introduce the literature of childhood experience to adult readers. Although children are the central characters and the main readers, writers of this genre structure their works using many of the same complex literary devices and themes found in adult literature. We will discuss these techniques as we analyze the readings, which represent a variety of cultures and ethnic diversity. Students will also have the opportunity to become familiar with picture books, fairy tales and folk tales. This course is designed to meet the subject matter requirement for those considering a teaching credential; though the information and curriculum approaches that we will explore will be helpful for elementary, middle or secondary levels of instruction, this is a literature class, not an educational methodology class.

### **English Department Student Learning Objectives**

Students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency in all of the following:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of Children's Literature.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to Children's Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, context, and the nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

### **Required Texts/Readings**

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*

Paterson, Katherine. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*

One of the following Roald Dahl novels: *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Danny the Champion of the World*, *James and the Giant Peach*.

### **Classroom Protocol**

Attendance and participation are key components in this class. Come to class on time, prepared, with your reading completed, ready to contribute to discussions. Lack of attendance/participation affects your grade. Put mobile phones and electronics away.

### **Assignments and Grading Policy**

#### **Reading:**

Reading is a crucial part of this course. We move fairly quickly through the works. Look ahead on the syllabus and make sure you have your reading completed for the class. (SLO 1&2)

#### **Class Participation:**

This course is primarily based on discussion. Participation means that you have read the material and are ready to contribute your ideas and questions. Reading responses, quizzes and presentations also factor into this portion of your course grade. In-class assignments cannot be made up. (SLO 1, 4 & 5)

#### **Mini Essay:**

You will write a minor paper on a Roald Dahl novel using MLA format and present this essay to the class. (SLO 2&3)

#### **Exams:**

There will be a mid-term and final exam (dates on schedule). You will need to bring large green books and black/blue pens. Both exams are open-notes, open-book. (SLO 2&3)

### **Film Review**

You will write an essay analyzing and evaluating a film adapted from a novel. In your review, you will write about the plot, message, clarity/complexity, acting, visual qualities, acting and creativity in the film. You will also compare the film to the novel. (SLO 2, 3, 5)

### **Annotated Bibliography:**

You will prepare an annotated bibliography of non-fiction, fiction, or poetry for a particular age range. You will receive further details in class. (SLO 2&4)

### **Book Project:**

Working in groups, you will create (write, illustrate, and bind) your own children's book. (SLO 1, 3 &5)

### **Grading:**

Mini Essay	10%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Film Review	10%
Book Project	20%
Participation	10%

### **Submitting Work:**

All work assigned is due on the date indicated on the schedule. Late work is graded down one letter grade for each day it is late.

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas conveyed. Your grade depends on what you say—and how you say it. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

**Dropping and Adding:** Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester's catalog policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. Late drop policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

## University Policies

Please read carefully the following information available at [www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policy/index.html](http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policy/index.html)

- Course guidelines
- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and AEC policies)
- Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload
- Recording policies
- Adding and dropping classes
- Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

## Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

## Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

JAN. 30	Review syllabus and expectations for class.
FEB. 1	History of Children's Literature Sign up for Annotated Bibliography Mini Essay assigned
FEB. 6	Picture Books
FEB. 8	Fairy Tales.
FEB. 13	<i>Charlotte's Web</i>
FEB. 15	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> Sign up for Book Project
FEB. 20	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>
FEB. 22	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>

FEB. 27	<i>James and the Giant Peach</i> Mini Essay due <i>Danny the Champion of the World</i> Mini Essay due
MAR. 1	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>
MAR. 6	<i>Harry Potter</i>
MAR. 8	<i>Harry Potter</i>
MAR. 13	<i>Harry Potter</i>
MAR. 15	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> Mini Essay due <i>Matilda</i> Mini Essay due
MAR. 20	Film Review Due Book Project
MAR. 22	Midterm Exam
MAR. 27-31	SPRING BREAK
APR. 3	<i>Number the Stars</i>
APR. 5	<i>Number the Stars</i>
APR. 10	Annotated Bibliography Presentations
APR. 12	Annotated Bibliography Presentations
APR. 17	Continue Presentations
APR. 19	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i>
APR. 24	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i>
APR. 26	Book Project
MAY 1	<i>Maniac Magee</i>
MAY 3	<i>Maniac Magee</i>

MAY 8 Book Project Presentations

MAY 10 Book Project Presentations

MAY 15 Last class/Review

**Final Exam: TUESDAY 23 MAY 2:45-5:00pm**