

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION**

**INF 322T (28265) Children's Literature – Spring 2013
Wednesdays 6:00-8:45 p.m. in FAC 21**

Dr. Amanda Williams, Assistant Adjunct Instructor
Office – UTA 5.460**

Office Hours: After class or by appointment. I work full-time for the Austin Public Library. I am happy to make arrangements to meet with any student at his or her convenience.

Telephone: 415-9430 (cell phone) No early or late telephone calls please.

Email: utkiddielit@yahoo.com

Jenna Cooper, Teaching Assistant

Office – UTA 5.460**

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30 – 5:00pm

Before and after exams additional hours will be posted on Blackboard.

Also available by appointment – please email to arrange an appointment

Telephone: 471-4374 (w) DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

Email: jcooper@ischool.utexas.edu

****The School of Information is located in the University Administration Building (UTA) which is located off campus at 1616 Guadalupe.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIRMENTS

Description: INF 322T - Children's Literature and Related Materials: A survey course in the evaluation, selection, and proper and creative use of books and other media with children ages 0 to 12. Extensive reading of children's books. Intended to help students develop a frame of reference for working with children's materials. Instructor's emphasis and expertise is the literature and media for young children.

Requirements: There will be 3 examinations administered in class, a Newbery Book Paper, and one optional Replacement Exam. The questions for exams will be taken from materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from course packet, and reading of children's books as listed under the assignment for each class day. If you choose to take the **Replacement Exam** on May 1st, the 3 best grades will be used to compute your final test average. You also have the option to complete an extra credit.

Exam Format: The class will be divided into two sections for each in class exam, but there will be only one section of the final. **Consult the Class Calendar** for your three exam times. Exam times cannot be changed unless you have a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students. **If you take an exam at the wrong time without permission, you will receive no credit for that exam!**

Exams (90 points): The questions on the 3 exams and optional final will be objective—either matching or multiple choice. Exams will consist of 30 questions are worth 1 point each. Scantrons will be provided. You have **two weeks** see your exam answers during office hours or by appointment. **Inquiries about grades must be made within two weeks after the exam date. After two weeks, students cannot view exams. For example, Exam I is on February 20th. Students may come to office hours to review you exam until March 6th. Grades are usually posted by the Monday after the exam unless there is a problem.** You may request to have your exam brought to class for your review. Email Jenna to arrange for this.

Make-up exams are given in emergency situations only. (Remember you have the option to skip an exam and take the Replacement Exam.) If you have a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students that entitles you to special exam taking options, effort will be made to accommodate your needs. University of Texas rules in regard to academic dishonesty are enforced in this class.

Grading: Grades are based on 3 exams, a paper based on the Newbery Award and Honor Books, and one extra credit option. Students may take the Replacement Exam and drop one test grade.

Exam I	30 points
Exam II	30 points
Exam III	30 points
Notables Paper	10 points

The grading scale for this class will be as follows:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = Below 60

Students taking the class CR/F must earn at least a 60 average to earn a CR. (Graduate students must earn at least a 70 average to earn a CR.) **Grades are not rounded up! For example, an 89.5 requires an extra credit paper to become an A.** The grade of X (incomplete) will be given only in cases of emergencies that have been reported at the time of the emergency. **No plus or minus grades will be given.**

Blackboard: Please refer to Blackboard if you need access to Course Packet Documents and Lecture slides, and grades. Course Packet articles and lecture notes are not available through Blackboard. A current Course Packet is on reserve at the PCL.

**Required Paper: Review of a Newbery Award or Honor Book (10 Points):
Due April 3rd in Class – No Electronic Papers Accepted!**

In this paper, you should choose a Newbery Award or Honor book (the runners-up) and analyze why it was chosen as a Newbery book, using the criteria given by the ALSC organization. In your introduction, establish which book you have chosen and give your main reasons for believing it is worthy of the honor. In the body of the paper, you should *briefly* summarize the book, and then go on to give a detailed analysis and explanation of why it was deserving of the honor of being chosen as a Newbery book, again, making sure you reference the criteria. You might also briefly compare it to other ALSC Newbery books with which you are familiar or that we have discussed in class. This paper should be approximately three pages, double spaced. **You may only review Newbery books that were awarded after 1937 when the award split from being the Caldecott/Newbery Award.**

In the Additional Resources you may want to read Fiction in "From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books" by K T Horning.

Students may not review *Tale of Despereaux, Feathers, and Because of Winn Dixie* which are already required reading.

Information about the Newbery Award Process:

TERMS

1. The Medal shall be awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in the United States in English during the preceding year. There are no limitations as to the character of the book considered except that it be original work. Honor books may be named. These shall be books that are also truly distinguished.
2. The Award is restricted to authors who are citizens or residents of the United States.
3. The committee in its deliberations is to consider only the books eligible for the award, as specified in the terms.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Contribution to American literature" indicates the text of a book. It also implies that the committee shall consider all forms of writing—fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Reprints, compilations and abridgements are not eligible.

2. A "contribution to American literature for children" shall be a book for which children are an intended potential audience. The book displays respect for children's understandings, abilities, and appreciations. Children are defined as persons of ages up to and including fourteen, and books for this entire age range are to be considered.

3. "Distinguished" is defined as:

- Marked by eminence and distinction; noted for significant achievement.
- Marked by excellence in quality.
- Marked by conspicuous excellence or eminence.
- Individually distinct.

4. "Author" may include co-authors. The author(s) may be awarded the medal posthumously.

5. The term "original work" may have several meanings. For purposes of these awards, it is defined as follows:

- "Original work" means that the text was created by this writer and no one else. It may include original retellings of traditional literature, provided the words are the author's own.
- Further, "original work" means that the text is presented here for the first time and has not been previously published elsewhere in this or any other form. Text reprinted or compiled from other sources are not eligible. Abridgements are not eligible.

6. "In English" means that the committee considers only books written and published in English. This requirement DOES NOT limit the use of words or phrases in another language where appropriate in context.

7. "American literature published in the United States" means that books first published in previous years in other countries are not eligible. Books published simultaneously in the U.S. and another country may be eligible. Books published in a U.S. territory, or U.S. commonwealth are eligible.

8. "Published...in the preceding year" means that the book has a publication date in that year, was available for purchase in that year, and has a copyright date no later than that year. A book might have a copyright date prior to the year under consideration but, for various reasons, was not published until the year under consideration. If a book is published prior to its year of copyright as stated in the book, it shall be considered in its

year of copyright as stated in the book. The intent of the definition is that every book be eligible for consideration, but that no book be considered in more than one year.

9. "Resident" specifies that the author has established and maintains a residence in the United States, U.S. territory, or U.S. commonwealth as distinct from being a casual or occasional visitor.

10. The term, "only the books eligible for the award," specifies that the committee is not to consider the entire body of the work by an author or whether the author has previously won the award. The committee's decision is to be made following deliberation about the books of the specified calendar year.

CRITERIA

1. In identifying "distinguished contribution to American literature," defined as text, in a book for children,

a. Committee members need to consider the following:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Interpretation of the theme or concept
- ³⁵/₁₇ Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity, and organization
- ³⁵/₁₇ Development of a plot
- ³⁵/₁₇ Delineation of characters
- ³⁵/₁₇ Delineation of a setting
- ³⁵/₁₇ Appropriateness of style.

Note: Because the literary qualities to be considered will vary depending on content, the committee need not expect to find excellence in each of the named elements. The book should, however, have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent to it.

b. Committee members must consider excellence of presentation for a child audience.

2. Each book is to be considered as a contribution to American literature. The committee is to make its decision primarily on the text. Other components of a book, such as illustrations, overall design of the book, etc., may be considered when they make the book less effective.

3. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., sound or film equipment) for its enjoyment.

Note: The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and quality presentation for children. The award is not for didactic content or popularity.

Link to Newbery Award Web Site:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>

Newbery paper is due on April 3rd – in class. No electronic papers accepted.

Extra Credit Options: Students may earn one extra credit point during the semester. Extra credit options are described in the course packet.

Any student who successfully completes the **electronic extra credit** assignment mentioned in the Course Packet will receive one point extra credit (one point added to class average).

Course Packet: Available at Speedway Copying located at 715 W 23rd Suite N in the University Tower Parking Garage. They have moved from Dobie Mall this Fall. Telephone number is 512-478-3334.

Students with Disabilities Information: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

Required Reading:

Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
Tale of Despereaux: the Graphic Novel by Matt Smith
Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Bird in a Box by Andrea Pinkney
Four Reading Lists – Books at PCL
Assigned Readings in Class Packet and on Reserve at PCL
Poetry Folder on Reserve at PCL

Children's Literature Reserves Information

1. The collection is located in the Periodical Room (PCL 2.400) just walk through the lobby
2. PLEASE RETURN ALL BOOKS TO THE SHELVES AFTER READING!!
3. Ideally, use the books in an area near the collection. This will make sharing with classmates more efficient.
4. An extra copy of each title is available for formal check-out at the reserves desk in the lobby of PCL computer lab
5. Quick questions can be answered at the Information & Research Help Desk and/or the Check-out & Reserves Desk
6. Questions specific to this collection can be sent to EdLibrarian@lib.utexas.edu

CALENDAR

- 01/16** **Introduction**
Course Requirements
- 01/23** **Children and Books Today and Developmentally Appropriate Literature**
Media: A selection of the following:
 "Where the Wild Things Are"
 "William Wegman's Mother Goose"
 "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom"
 "Alligators All Around"
- READINGS: PC:** Nursery Rhymes, Songs and ABC Books
Articles: "Why We're Still in Love with Picture Books"
 "Runes to Ward off Sorrow: Rhetoric of the English Nursery Rhyme"
 "Letters Numbers Shapes and Colors: Getting a Grasp on
 Concept Books"
 "Building a Board Book Collection"
- 01/30** **Developmentally Appropriate Literature**
Media: A selection of the following:
 "Zin Zin Zin a Violin"
 "Rosie's Walk" (in Spanish)
 "Danny and the Dinosaur"
- READINGS: PCL:** Counting Books, Concept Books, and Controlled Vocabulary Readers
Articles: "Building Blocks for Literacy: What Current Research Shows"
 "Learning to Read Through Picture Books"
 "Readers for Early Readers"
 "Author/Illustrator – Donald Crews"
- 02/06** **Wordless Books and Picture Story Books: An Artistic Perspective**
Media: A selection of the following:
 "Tuesday"
 "In the Night Kitchen"
 "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble"
 "Chrysanthemum"
- READINGS: PCL:** Wordless books and picture story books
Articles: "Every Picture Tells a Story: The Magic of Wordless Books"
 "Perennial Picture Books"
 "Author/Illustrator – William Steig"
 "The Randolph Caldecott Medal"
- 02/13** **No Class – Ash Wednesday**

02/20 EXAM I - Flawn Academic Center, Room 21

If your last name begins with **M - Z**, you will take Exam I between **6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

If your last name begins with **A - L**, you will take Exam I between **7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

02/27 History of Children's Literature
Media: A selection of the following:

"Millions of Cats"
"Harold and the Purple Crayon"

READINGS: PCL: Second Reading List
Articles: "The John Newbery Medal"
"Peter Rabbit Turns 100"
"Author/Illustrator -- Robert McCloskey"

03/06 Folklore
Media: A selection of the following:

"Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears"
"Strega Nona"
"Swamp Angel"

READINGS: PCL: Third Reading List (Folklore)
Articles: "Tomie dePaola"
"Retelling Myths for Children"
"Author/Illustrator – Diane and Leo Dillon"

03/13 Spring Break – go to the beach!

03/20 Modern Fantasy and Graphic Novels
Media: A selection of the following:

"Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree"
"Sendak" - An Interview with Maurice Sendak

READINGS: PCL: Third Reserve Reading List (Modern Fantasy)
Chapter Book: *Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
Graphic Novel: *Tale of Despereaux: the Graphic Novel* by Matt Smith
Articles: "Graphic Novels for (Really) Young Readers"

03/27 EXAM II - Flawn Academic Center, Room 21

If your last name begins with **A - L**, you will take Exam III between **6:00 p.m. and 7:00p.m.**

If your last name begins with **M - Z**, you will take Exam III between **7:00p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

04/03 Realistic Fiction:
Contemporary Fiction and Popular Fiction

Media: A selection of the following:

Molly's Pilgrim
Amazing Grace

READINGS: PCL: Fourth Reading List: (Fiction)

Molly's Pilgrim and *Amazing Grace*
Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Articles: "Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy, and Louisa"
"Author/Illustrator – Beverly Cleary"

04/03 Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Newbery Paper Due in class. See Course Description for more details. NO ELECTRONIC PAPERS ACCEPTED!

04/10 Historical Fiction and Poetry
Media: A selection of the following:

"Antarctic Antics"
"Frog Went A-Courtin"

READINGS: PCL Reserves: *Bird in a Box* by Andrea Pinkney
Poetry Folder (on reserve at PCL)

Articles: "Beyond Silverstein and Prelutsky: Enhancing and Promoting the Elementary and Middle School Poetry Collection"

04/17 Informational Books including Biography
Media: A selection of the following:

"Charlie Needs a Cloak"

READINGS: PC: Fourth Reading List (Informational Books and Biographies)

Articles: "In Quest of Excellence"
"Author/Illustrator – David Macaulay"

04/24 **EXAM III** - Flawn Academic Center, Room 21

If your last name begins with **M - Z**, you will take Exam II between
6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

If your last name begins with **A - L**, you will take Exam II between
7:00p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

05/01 **REPLACEMENT EXAM**
Drop lowest exam grade and replace with this exam.

Exam will consist of 30 matching or multiple choice questions based on material from the entire semester.

05/08 **Optional Extra Credit Due – 5:00 p.m.** See course packet for details. Electronically to Jenna.

05/13 **Final grades due to Registrar at 10:00 a.m.**