

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Library Science
LS 361 Fall07
Literature and Related Materials for Children

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Course Description

This course is designed to acquaint students with the selection, critical analysis, and historical development of literature for children. In this course, the emphasis will be placed on selecting materials which meet the needs and interests of children, identifying techniques and strategies which will motivate ALL children to read and respond to literature, and developing critical abilities for evaluating literature and related materials for children. A strong multicultural/diversity element will also be a part of this course.

Required Reading (You may NOT use these titles for other assignments!)

Appelt, Kathi. *Bubba and Beau... (any title)*. (Read prior to 1st class if possible.)
Cole, Joanna. *The Magic School Bus... (any title—not from TV show)*
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963*
dePaola, Tomie. *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*
Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*
Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker* (not the graphic novel).
Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*
Patterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*
Ringgold, Faith. *Tar Beach*
Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
Sendak, Maurice. *Where The Wild Things Are* (Read prior to 1st class if possible.)
Soto, Gary. *Too Many Tamales*
Willems, Mo. *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus* (Read prior to 1st class if possible.)
Any biography written for children. (Copyright no older than 1998.)
A poetry collection intended for children (Copyright no older than 1998)

Required Text

Instructor Packet (\$20.00 at first class)

Recommended Text

Lesesne, Teri S. *Naked Reading: Uncovering What Tweens Need To Become Lifelong Readers*. New York: Stenhouse, 2006

Skills:

- Identify and use book selection tools and reviewing sources.
- Annotate and respond to a variety of children’s books.
- Evaluate books using criteria for specific genres.
- Select books developmentally appropriate for various learners.
- Distinguish between selection and self-censorship.
- Recognize the benefits and importance of using multicultural literature in the classroom.
- Provide reading materials that reflect diversity.

Dispositions:

- Model ethical behaviors befitting a pre-teacher.
- Model appropriate literate behaviors.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm for books and reading.

Standards Matrix:

Objectives/Learning Outcomes	Activities (* indicates field-based activity)	Performance Assessment	Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Standards• IRA Standards• AASL Standards
Describe the reading needs and interests of elementary school children	Writing and responding	Analysis of postings to discussion board and written responses, literary and personal.	<i>Standards 1 and 2</i> <u>239b(6)</u> 4.1
Evaluate books using criteria for specific genres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside reading of children’s books• Lecture and class presentations	Response bibliography	<i>Standard 1</i> <u>239g(6), (9)</u> 2.2, 2.3
Identify various artistic styles, techniques, and media used in illustration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside reading of children’s books• Lecture and class presentations	Response bibliography	<i>Standard 1</i> <u>239g(11)</u> 2.3
Understand the role of the librarian /reading specialist in reading guidance and motivation, such as through author visits, booktalks, book discussions, book related “chat rooms,” interaction with parents (suggested reading lists, relevant articles)	Literature Circles/Group Read of Newbery title	Role sheets for circles	<i>Standard 2</i> <u>239b (6), (9)</u> 4.3, 4.1

Web address for state standards:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=239&rl=55](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=239&rl=55)

Web address for IRA standards:

<http://www.reading.org/advocacy/standards/introduction.html>

Web address for AASL Standards:

http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasleducation/schoollibrarymed/ala-aasl_slms2003.pdf

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & REQUIREMENTS

1. Respond to Literature (25 points)

- **For all of the books you read for this assignment, you will prepare a bibliography and with “responses” as noted below.** The books you are to include on this bibliography should meet the requirements below. **YOU MAY NOT USE THE REQUIRED BOOKS** (see front of syllabus) **FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.** This assignment must have 15 books.
 - 1 Newbery Award book (**GROUP ASSIGNMENT**)
 - 2 Coretta Scott King Award or Honor books (may be Illus or Author Award)
(<http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/corettascottkingbookaward/corettascott.htm#winner>)
 - 3 Texas Bluebonnet books – 1 from any of the annual lists, 2 must come from the 07-08 or 08-09 list. (www.txla.org/groups/tba/index.html)
 - 2 Fiction series books (copyright no older than 1998), each from a different series—not sagas or serials like Harry Potter (*A clear series name, such as Junie B. Jones, Treehouse Mysteries, Hank the cowdog, Time Warp Trio, etc. must be included in the citation*)
 - 2 Texas 2x2 books, from any lists (<http://www.txla.org/groups/crt/2x2intro.htm>)
 - 2 Nonfiction/Informational books. You **MAY** use the same titles for your Book Talk Assignment. (copyright no older than 1998.)
 - 2 Picture books or beginning chapter books. Titles of your choice with approval from Instructor. (copyrights must be no older than 2006).
- **Prepare an additional simple list arranged by category and list the titles chosen for those categories. Attach this list to the end of your assignment.**

WRITING TIPS

- A bibliography is an alphabetical list of the titles you read. A bibliographic citation includes the following elements:
Author, Title (series if appropriate), Illustrator (if given) City (not country; state not necessary unless City is not internationally known) of Publication: Publisher, Copyright date.
- Do not use second person (you). Write in complete sentences. Write about the books in the present tense. For example: *Shiloh* **is** about a dog, not **was** about a dog.
- For a fiction novel include:
 - a. character and age (if available)
 - b. basic plot, setting, and climactic event
 - c. unique format if present, such as diary style writing, flashback or alternating voices
- For nonfiction include:
 - a. the general subject area
 - b. a few of the main points given
 - c. note if the format is encyclopedic or narrative

For a fiction picture book include:

- a. character/s
- b. basic plot, setting, etc.
- c. note about illustrations/photos

For nonfiction picture book include

- a. same as above
- b. note about illustrations/photos

- Responding to Literature YOU WILL SEE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IN CLASS.

*** **LITERARY RESPONSE:** (Most important response for this class):

Write a literary response (literary elements, strengths and weaknesses of particular genres) to the book. For example, if the book you choose is historical fiction then review the criteria and comment on writing style or illustrations or another aspect. You may compare your chosen book to a required book or to another book you have read that is similar in a logical way. Clearly state how the two books are similar or different. If the book is illustrated, comment on the illustrations. Since you have a word limit, confine your literary response to one literary element or to one strength or weakness of the genre.

DO NOT SUMMARIZE books! A literary response is closer to a review or critique than to a retelling of the story. Provide ONE OR TWO examples for each book, such as well-developed characters, integral setting, appealing writing style, fast-paced plot, worthwhile literary theme, etc. Then provide a specific example from the book. Don't try to include every element; instead, focus clearly on one or two of the most important ones. If there are illustrations, you could critique them intelligently according to color, design, media used, etc.

*** **PERSONAL RESPONSE:**

This response has two levels: 1) Liking or not liking the book. Did you like the book? Why or why not? 2) Identifying personally with a character, setting, or situation. Relate your response to something personal in your life. Examples: "I felt like the main character when I was her age because..." Or, "Since I lived in New Mexico as a child, the setting was especially meaningful to me."

*** **CLASSROOM ACTIVITY:**

Describe one specific activity appropriate for the classroom using the book. Reading aloud, booktalking, and storytelling are legitimate activities. Be sure to vary your suggestions. You may have experiences to share or ideas you have heard about that you would like to try. "Use during storytime" is too general. Provide a few details about the activity.

2. Newbery Group Assignment (20 points)

You will read ONE of the following titles for a group project; your group to be assigned alphabetically—see below.

Group 1: Last name:

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*. (Newbery Winner 2000)

Group 2: Last name:

DiCamillo, Kate. *Tale of Despereaux* (Newbery Winner 2004)

Group 3: Last name:

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. (Newbery Winner 1990.)

Group 4: Last name:

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. (Newbery Winner, 1999)

Each class meeting your group will be given time to work on various assignments.

Week 1: * Introduce yourselves

* Decide how many pages you will read by our next class meeting.

Week 2: Everyone will have read ___ number of pages and be prepared to discuss the book cover, redesign, etc.

Week 3: Group work as assigned in class.

Week 4: Rehearse presentation, complete unfinished work, Presentation!

3. Book Talk Power Point OR Book Talk Class Presentation/Handout (20 points)
Books needed: 5 books on the same subject or idea—holidays, or WWII, or horses, etc. 3 must be nonfiction; 2 must be fiction.

- Decide on a grade level range, i.e. K-2 or 3-4, etc.
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation over 5 books that are on the same topic. The books are to be of your selection. **They may not come from the Required Reading list.** Choose a subject of interest to children (Pk-3rd or 4th grade) and prepare a bibliography to give to all students.
- Include a minimum of 3 informational (nonfiction) books, published 1998– 2008.
- Include 2 fiction chapter-book titles or fiction picture books on the subject.
- Part of your grade is based on the appeal to children (in our range) Choose a topic of interest to, i.e. friendship, chocolate, sports, dinosaurs, animals, etc.
- In your Power Point presentation, include the cover of the book, a brief “hook” that can include a short summary to entice someone to read the book, and, of course, the title and the author.
- Your Power Point should be submitted to Assignments in Blackboard before you come to class on the day of the class presentations. Each presentation may not exceed 5 minutes.
- Prepare a bibliography for class members, as well as **two copies for the instructor.** Be sure to include your name.

OR

- Decide on a grade level range, i.e. K-2 or 3-4, etc.
- Prepare a Book Talk presentation over 5 books that are on the same topic. The books are to be of your selection. **They may not come from the Required Reading list.** Choose a subject of interest to children (Pk-3rd or 4th grade) and prepare an attractive handout for students including a bibliography of the titles.
- Include a minimum of 3 informational (nonfiction) books, published 1998– 2008.
- Include 2 fiction chapter-book titles or fiction picture books on the subject.
- Part of your grade is based on the appeal to children (in our range). Choose a topic of interest to, i.e. friendship, chocolate, sports, dinosaurs, animals, etc.
- Write a descriptive attention-grabbing sentence for each entry. These are not to be professional annotations. They are to pique the children’s interest.
- The handout may be an 8 x 11 page (you may use both sides). You may also use bookmarks or other types of attention getting physical formats. Be creative. Use graphics, shapes, colored paper, etc. to attract attention.
- Provide copies of your handout for class members, as well as **two copies to the instructor.** Be sure to include your name.
- Prepare a presentation for the class, not to exceed 5 minutes.
- You **must** have your books for the presentation.

4. Picture Book Assignment (10 points)

Read 10 Caldecott Award or Honor books, (www.ala.org/alsc/caldecott.html) and prepare a simple **bibliography**—NOT annotated. Bring bibliography to class and be prepared in class to answer written questions regarding 2 of these 10 books.

5. Traditional Literature Assignment (5 points)

Choose 3 Traditional Literature (fairy-tale-type) titles about the same story, i.e. The Three Little Pigs, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, The Three Wolves and the Big Bad Pig—note that these are all versions of “the 3 little pigs.” Or you could read 3 versions of Snow White, or 3 versions about Little Red Riding Hood, etc. You need 3 versions of the SAME story. This will be an in-class assignment. Prepare a **bibliography of your 3 titles**, and bring your 3 books to class. You **MUST** have your books to receive credit.

6. “How-to” book Presentation (10 points)

- * Choose a “how-to” nonfiction book (copyright no older than 1998).
- * For your “how-to” book, prepare something from the book to show to the class. For example, if you choose a book on making greeting cards, have several examples to show the class. If you choose a cookbook, prepare one of the recipes. If you choose a book on how to make candles, show the class what you have made. The items will NOT be MADE in class, but rather shown to the class
- * You **MUST** bring your book to class for the presentation or lose points.
- * Prepare a bibliography for class members, as well as two copies for the instructor. In one or two sentences tell us about the book. Be sure to include your name.

7. Quiz (10 points)

Course Evaluation/Grading Scale:

1. Respond to Literature	..... 25	A=90-100
2. Newbery Group	..... 20	B=80-89
3. Booktalk	..... 20	C=70-79
4. Picture Book	..... 10	D=60-69
5. Traditional Literature	.....05	F=below 60
6. “How-to”	..... 10	
7. Quiz	..... <u>10</u>	
 TOTAL:	 100 points	

Class Policies

1. Late work is not accepted.
2. Attendance is strongly encouraged and roll will be taken. Absences exceeding three hours will result in serious grade reduction of at least one letter grade. Absences are NOT excused unless the student is participating in a university-sponsored program and has provided information to the instructor in advance for approval. Being tardy to class or asking to leave early on a regular basis will also result in grade reduction.
3. Assignments are to be sent to the Assignment area of Blackboard by stated deadlines. Hardware and software failure is NOT an excuse for late work. It is also acceptable to turn in a print copy of assignments, rather than submitting to Blackboard.
4. Plagiarism is not tolerated.

5. Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.
6. Students need to be aware of the drop dates for the semester. It is the student's responsibility to either withdraw from the university (drop all classes) or drop this course by deadlines published in the catalog and on-line at <www.shsu.edu>.