

Sam Houston State University
School of Library Science

LS 361: Literature and Related Materials for Children

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Course Description:

A survey course of children's literature that deals with the selection, evaluation, and use of recreational and informational materials for children reflecting our multicultural society. Students will gain knowledge through reading, listening to and viewing various types of media.

Course Objectives:

- To become acquainted with the vast amount of literature available to children.
- To be able to evaluate critically the books children read by using specific criteria for each genre.
- To be cognizant of the joys and values literature can bring to the child.
- To be able to match and guide children's reading, utilizing knowledge of child development and reading levels/interests in our multi-ethnic society.
- To be acquainted with and to realize the importance of expressed child reading interests in the creation of lifetime readers.
- To enjoy children's literature.

Course Readings:

Students will read a number of children's books assigned by the instructor and chosen individually. There are no required texts for the class.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend class. Role will be taken. After three missed hours, your grade will drop by one letter grade for each hour missed. If you need to be gone for a good reason, please contact me before class begins and make arrangements to make up what you miss. Since the summer courses will only meet 2days, if you have to miss an entire day, you should drop the course and arrange to take it another time when it's more convenient for you to attend.

All assignments are due at Midnight on the day specified in the course schedule. Late assignments will drop by one letter grade for each day they are late. Some assignments are to be presented in class either individually or in small groups. If missed, those oral assignments cannot be made up unless your absence was approved prior to class beginning.

Course Assignments:

Reading Records (48)	5 points apiece=	240 pts.
Read Aloud (1)		20 pts.
Oral discussion of Assigned books (3)	10 points apiece=	30 pts.
Poem Card Assignment		30 pts.
Jackdaw		30 pts.
Book Talk		30 pts.
Controversial book group presentation		50 pts.
Final Exam		100 pts.
Total Points		530 pts.

Grades: A= 477-530
B=424-476
C=371-423
D=318-370
F= below 318

Written Assignments:

All written assignments must be typed and double-spaced. Hand written papers will not be accepted. Proper grammar/mechanics/punctuation is expected. Points will be subtracted for poorly written papers.

Plagiarism is not accepted for any work in the class. Be sure to write using your own words and ideas. Do not copy from the back cover of books or from any reviews, other students, etc. You may be expelled from the class with a grade of F if you are caught plagiarizing.

Reading Records:

There is a rubric for completing the reading records at the end of this syllabus. We will discuss specific details in class.

Read Aloud:

You will choose 1 quality picture book which you will practice reading at home and then read to a small group in class. Students will critique each other with a rubric we design together as a class.

Poem Card Assignment:

Students will look through poetry books for children and choose a favorite poem. Using a piece of poster board or mat board, students will write, type, paint, etc. their chosen poem onto the poster board and then decorate the poster to fit the poem. A grading rubric will be provided.

Jackdaw:

A jackdaw is a type of show-and-tell book report. Students will read a historical fiction chapter book and choose real objects to represent symbols, objects, characters, and other important components of the book to tell the story of the book. A written paper will be required.

Book Talk:

A book talk is an advertisement for books similar to a commercial or movie preview. Students will choose 1 chapter book to read and develop a short advertisement to entice people to want to read the book. You may spruce up your talk with props, posters, pictures, video presentation or anything else you can think of. We will talk about this assignment in class.

Controversial Book Group Presentation:

Students will work in small groups of 5 or 6 to present a report about a controversial or censored chapter book. Specific information will be provided in class.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be given in class. It will include matching, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay.

Reading Record Format Page

APA or other accepted bibliographic citation

Genre: *Picture book:* Is it a fairy tale, an I Can Read story, an award book, a biographical or informational book, etc.?

Chapter books: What type? Fantasy, Historical fiction, Realistic, etc.

Source: Where did you find the title?

For Picture Books--Literary Element: Choose one literary element that was a strength and one that was a weakness in the book chosen. Explain your answer. (5-6 sentences)

For Chapter Books—What was your favorite scene in the book and why? (4-5 sentences)

Rate this book according to the quality/taste quadrant discussed in class. Explain which quadrant you would place the book in and why.

Course Schedule:

***denotes a due assignment**

First Class Meeting Course Overview
Birthday Cake Theory of Reading Development
Why is reading important? What is a Quality book?
Finding good children's books
Books for young children:
 --picture, participation, concept, wordless,
 predictable, beginning reader
Thinking about Reading books Aloud
Criteria for evaluating picture books
Mother Goose
Fairy Tales
Realistic Fiction & Censorship
Discussion of assignments due next week

Second Class Meeting The Caldecott Medal
Poetry
Historical Fiction
Discussion of jackdaws
Fantasy
Biographies and Informational Books/Nonfiction
Final Exam
*Poem Cards
*Bring a Caldecott winner or honor book to share
*Bring a Nonfiction book to share
*Bring a biography to share
*Booktalk
*Bring a picture book to read aloud
*Group presentation

Reading Records Due Dates:

*Each week on Sunday (June 8, 15, 22, and 29th), 9 picture book records and 3 chapter book records will be due.

*The Jackdaw will be due on June 22nd.

Following are sources you need to use in finding your books to read. On the 29th, please give me a list of the sources and the titles you read from each source along with the records due that day.

48 Required Books from the following lists:

5 Multi-cultural books (2 from Pura Belpre—www.ala.org—look under awards; 3 Coretta Scott King books—www.ala.org—look under EMIERT-Coretta Scott King)

7 Bluebonnet Nominees from any year (www.txla.org)

10 Caldecott winner or honor books from any year (www.ala.org)

5 Newbery or Honor books from any year (www.ala.org)

10 from the Notable Books for Children List (www.ala.org; under awards; current or past Notable Children's Book lists)

5 New York Times Bestseller for Children's List (www.nytimes.com; scroll down to children's books)

3 series books from different series (you must do 1 Junie B. Jones book and 1 Magic Tree House book, and 1 from another series—you choose)

3 Challenged books—suitable for children (www.bookspot.com)