

English 3025 Children's Literature

Fall 2027

Professor: Dr. Kimberly Athans

E-mail Address: kathans@pointloma.edu

Important Course Information:

Office Location: Evans Hall 124 (hallway by the stairs to Taylor)

Office Hours: M, W, F 10am-11am & 3pm-5 pm & by appointment T/Th.

Office Phone: (619) 849-2913

*This syllabus is tentative. The professor reserves the right to make changes to it at any time.

PLNU Mission

To Teach~To Shape~To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description: This is an upper division literature course that offers a survey of classical and contemporary children's literature. It provides the historical background of children's literature as well as the modern application of the literature. This course is taught as a literature course, not a methods course; therefore, it provides an opportunity for students to read, analyze, synthesize, and develop an understanding of what quality children's literature is. It functions as an important literary foundation for students preparing to teach, to work with children in fields such as illustration, psychology, sociology, as a children's pastor, or in other fields requiring a basic knowledge of children's literature. While this course is focused on reading children's books, it is a rigorous 3-unit upper division literature course that supports the survey of human endeavors from an historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective developing a critical appreciation of human expression in both artistic and literary forms.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation. (PLO 2,3, 5)
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts:
3. Standard literary terminology
4. Modes/genres of literature
5. Elements of literary genres
6. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
7. Contemporary critical approaches
8. Engage in literary research (PLO 2, 3, 5)
9. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives. (PLO 1)
10. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that analyze several of the fundamental concepts of literary study with mastery increasing beyond the 2000 course level (PLO I).

Institutional Learning Outcomes

1. ***Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ***
   Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits of the mind that foster lifelong learning.

2. ***Growing, in a Christ-centered Faith Community***
   Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of others as they negotiate complex professional, environmental, and social contexts.
3. ***Serving, in a Context of Christian Faith***
   Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources:

We will be using *Literature for Children: A Short Introduction* (9e) by David Russell as our textbook in this class. I will provide the picture books we will be reading, and each day at the start of class one of us will read a picture book aloud to the class. You will also select ***two books for longer study*** (5 weeks each) to read with your literature circle groups. Finally, I will read *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate Di Camillo to the class each week as part of our whole class book. So essentially, you will be "reading" around 35 picture books, three longer books, our class textbook, and a text of any genre of your choice (poetry, folktale, graphic novel, YA novel, picture book series, or collection of nursery rhymes) for your final presentation.

Note: Students are responsible for having the required textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law. All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy: This class is designed to be interactive & engaging. ***As such, attendance is required.*** Regular and punctual attendance at all class

sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade. Please communicate with me via e-mail in the case of an absence.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

Refer to Academic PoliciesLinks to an external site. for additional details.

Synchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

For synchronous courses that have specific scheduled meeting times (including in-person, hybrid, and synchronous online courses), absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student's enrollment. For courses with specific attendance requirements, those requirements are outlined in the course syllabus.

Note: For synchronous courses with an online asynchronous week, refer to the Online Asynchronous Class Attendance policy listed below.

Online Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with faculty members within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.

Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction are fully online.
    1. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
    2. Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

LJWL Department Policy on Plagiarism: The Department of Literature, Writing, and Languages deems intellectual and academic integrity to be critical to academic success and personal development; therefore, any unethical practice will be detrimental to the student's academic record and moral character. Students who present the work of others, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the thoughts or ideas of others as if their own (using information in a paper without citation), commit plagiarism. Writing that has been edited and rewritten by anyone but the student in the class is considered to be plagiarized as well. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. In either event, a written report will be filed with the department chair and area dean. The dean will review the report and submit it to the provost and the vice president for student development. It will then be placed in the student's academic file.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started

on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see Loma Writing Center webpage or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

Appointment Calendar: https://plnu.mywconline.com/

Website: https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center

Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Academic Accommodations: While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. These students are requested to file documentation during the first two weeks of the semester with the Educational Access Center (EAC). This policy assists the university in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. Once the student files documentation, the EAC will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

Assignments:

- Reading Quizzes from textbook chapters (25%)
- Literature Circles: weekly jobs, book talks, reflection (25%)
- Participation [in class activities, attendance, library visit] (10%)
- *Winn Dixie* Discussion/Reflections (10%)
- Final Presentation on book/author of choice (20%)
- Final Exam (10%)

Course Assignment and Grading Approximations

Grading Scale

Percentage	**Grade**
90-100	A
80-89	B

70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Literature Circle Assignment:

Please select a book you have not read before. See Lit Circle Handout for job descriptions and follow them carefully. Lit Circle groups will meet each Friday to share jobs and discuss books. Jobs MUST be completed before class! You will upload your jobs at the end of the class. Be sure to get the book ASAP, and keep up with the reading each week. You must bring a copy of your book with you to class on Fridays. We will go through two lit circle rotations this semester of five weeks each, followed by book talks. Be sure to exchange contact information for your group members.

It is very important to be here on Lit Circle days- please do not miss class, as it is antithetical to the purpose of this activity. ***If you miss class on Fridays, you will only receive partial credit for your lit circle job. Half of your credit is attendance for this assignment. You still need to upload your job on Friday by 11:00 am for 50% credit. No late submissions will be accepted after that.***

Please be sure to adhere to the following for all assignments in this class: MLA Heading formatting: (upper left side of paper)
Student Name
Dr. Athans
English 3025
Date

Title should be centered one space after heading and include Lit Circle # & job (for example: Lit Circle #1: Biographer)

Lit Circle Books Options (choose 2):

A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Are You There God, it's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The City of Ember by Jeanne Du Prau

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

The One & Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a

different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted. In the event of a medical emergency or hospitalization, a doctor's note or paperwork must be provided.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Late points will be deducted for assignments that are submitted after the due date. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Spiritual Care

Please be aware that PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, prayer requests, or a desire to meet with the chaplain, you can contact your professor or the Office of Spiritual Life and Formation.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when, in reality, they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course.

For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See Academic PoliciesLinks to an external site. for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive, so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to ensure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars, we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice-free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX

Office. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors via our Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via our Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy.

Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the *Technology and System Requirements* information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Loma Writing Center

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Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see Loma Writing Center webpage or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment CalendarLinks to an external site.
- Website
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.eduLinks to an external site.

LOMABOOKS Instructions for Students

***Note**: For courses using materials available through Lomabooks*

This course is part of our course material delivery program, ***LomaBooks***. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pickup or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about ***LomaBooks***, please go to the LomaBooks site.