



English 3025: Children's Literature

Department: LJWL **Term:** Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Kimberly Athans

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Office Location: Evans Hall 101

Office Hours: M, W, F 10:00 am-11:00 am and by appointment

Class Time: M, W, F 11:00-11:55 am **Location:** Evans 122

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, a children's worker, a parent, 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:
 - a. Standard literary terminology
 - b. Modes/genres of literature
 - c. Elements of literary genres
 - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - e. Contemporary critical approaches
 - f. Engage in literary research (PLO 2, 3, 5)
3. 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)
4. 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).

Course Materials: 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 (6 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 Monday and Wednesday as part of our whole class book. If time permits, we will also read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. So essentially, you will be “reading” around 40 picture books, four 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. There are several picture books on reserve in Ryan Library. See Erinn Mullaney for help locating them.

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.

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.

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 10 textbook chapters (20%)
- Reading Responses (10%)
- Reading Log (10%)
- Literature Circles: weekly jobs, book talks, reflection (20%)
- Participation [read-alouds, in class activities, attendance] (10%)
- Picture book collaboration with Art Department student (10%)
- Final Presentation on book of choice (10%)
- Final Exam (10%)

Course Assignment and Grading Approximations

Percentage	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Lit Circle Books Options (choose 2):

A book of interest by Judy Blume (Can only select for one round of lit circles):

Then Again, Maybe I Won’t, Blubber, It’s Not the End of the World, Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself, Iggie’s House, Are You There God, It’s Me, Margaret (ages 9-12)

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Fudge books (if less than 50 pages read two books); (ages 6-8)

A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
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 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
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Lit Circle Group Members & Contact Information:

Name	Cell Phone	e-mail

See Lit Circle Handout for job descriptions. Lit Circle groups will meet each Friday to share jobs and discuss books. You will turn in your jobs at the end of the class. Be sure to get the book ASAP, and keep up with the reading. **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 six weeks each, followed by book talks and a reflection. The purpose of lit circles is to enjoy reading!

English 3025 Course Calendar:

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1 Introduction to the Course & Each Other	Labor Day	Sept. 4	Sept. 6 Create Lit Circle Groups & Choose Books
2 The History of Children's Literature	Sept. 9	Sept. 11	Sept. 13 LC #1
3 Reading the World	Sept. 16	Sept. 18	Sept. 20 LC #2
4 Experiencing Literature	Sept. 23	Sept. 25	Sept. 27 LC #3
5 The Art & Craft of Fiction	Sept. 30	Oct. 2	Oct. 4 LC #4
6 Picture Books	Oct. 7	Oct. 9	Oct. 11 LC #5
7 Poetry	Oct. 14	Oct. 16	Oct. 18 LC #6
8 Folk Narratives	Oct. 21	Oct. 23 Book Talks	FALL BREAK
9 Halloween Books	Oct. 28	Oct. 30 Halloween Book Party	Nov. 1 LC #1
10 Fantasy	Nov. 4	Nov. 6	Nov. 8 LC #2

11 Realistic Fiction	Nov. 11	Nov. 13	Nov. 15 LC #3
12 Non Fiction	Nov. 18	Nov. 20	Nov. 22 LC #4
13	Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Celebration & favorite children's book share (or homerun book)	THANKSGIVING	BREAK
14	Dec. 2 Presentations	Dec. 4 Presentations	Dec. 6 LC #5
15	Dec. 9 Presentations	Dec. 11 Presentations	Dec. 13 LC #6 Final Book Talk
16	Final Exam 10:30 am-1:00 pm		

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.

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 Policies 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 assure 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

In support of a safe learning environment, 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 accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are 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 at pointloma.edu/title-ix. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias. Title IX incidents- for all matters related to equitable access to education, discrimination based on sex, sexual violence or relationship violence, you can email or call Title IX Coordinator:

Danielle Brown Friberg

dfriberg@pointloma.edu

(619) 849-2313

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.

Name _____ Date _____

English 3025 Reading Log

Please keep track of each of the texts you read in this class as you read them. I also encourage you to find books on your own to explore. There are many read-alouds on YouTube for several of the books on our bibliography list.

Genre Key- (P=Poetry, F=Fable/Folktale, PB=Picture Book, YA=Young Adult Novel, CB=Chapter Book, GN=Graphic Novel, C= “classic”, D=drama). You can record the last names of the author/illustrator. For the notes section, write something meaningful that you will remember in the future, or a theme or something noteworthy that you associate with your experience with the text.

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