

# Children's Literature

English 275.1, Spring 2021

Instructor: Elizabeth Caulfield Felt [efelt@uwsp.edu](mailto:efelt@uwsp.edu)

Class meets Monday and Wednesday, 8-9:15am

Attend class link:

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/95191302839?pwd=dy9tOGc2bFhrZjZJT2JaekN5SzZtQT09>

Office hours Tuesdays from 1-2pm or by appointment.

Attend office hour link:

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/97108873314?pwd=YW1ZWEZUQ1BJWmxxN2xET2lLam5Zdz09>

## Course Description

From the catalog: "Read, select, and present materials suitable for elementary school readers."

The focus of this class will be middle-grade fiction, materials appropriate for children in grades 3 through 6.

## Course Goals:

- (Re)discover the pleasures of reading books for children
- Be familiar with the history of children's literature
- Know past and present authors of stories for children
- Explain the educational value of different genres in children's literature
- Recognize and analyze the use of literary elements in children's literature
- Evaluate children's stories on the quality of writing and the needs of students
- Be familiar with issues in selecting and teaching various categories of children's books
- Apply techniques for discussing literature and incorporating literature into the classroom.

Pre-Requisites: English 101 or 150.

## Text Rental:

Griffith & Frey. *Classics of Children's Literature*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

Norton, Donna E. *Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children's Literature*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

Text Purchase: *The Wizard of Oz*; Scholastic choice books.

## Technology:

In order to take this class, you must have a reliable internet connection as well as a computer with video and audio. There will be times when computers don't work, when internet goes down, etc. We will try to be flexible with each other. When these situations arise, communication is important. As soon as you (or I) have e-mail, explanations should flow both ways.

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. If you must miss a class, please contact me to discover if you can make-up anything that was missed. All classes will be available on the Canvas Zoom cloud recording tab.

## Note Taking:

**Textbook readings:** When the semester is finished, you will return your rental textbook and no longer have access to its content. As such, I want you to take notes, so you will have that information later.

**Literature Circles:** You will participate in student-led book activities and take notes, so that you will have information about those activities accessible to you later, when you might need them.

**Presentations:** To help you be engaged in presentations, you will take notes.

Your note-taking “grade” is based on content (not good writing, neatness, etc.) -- basically whether or not you have actually done the work and taken down enough information for it to be useful to you three or five years from now. You will upload your notes as a single file. You can take photos of notebook pages and convert them to a single pdf (genius scan app, etc.) or you can import them into a word document. I encourage you to take notes by hand; you will remember material much better this way.

### Communication

I will use your university email account to communicate with you outside of class. Please check your email regularly. I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours, but there may be some occasions when I am offline all weekend. If my Zoom office hour times are not open for you, I am happy to work with you to find a time that is convenient for us both.

If you have questions about an assignment, do NOT email me your assignment and ask me to look at it. I am happy to meet with you during my office hours to go over any questions you may have.

### Units and Point Values

Early Children’s Literature	66 points
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	35 points
Authors	65 points
Genre Literature Circle	172 points
Picture Books	15 points
Thematic Unit	~118 points
Final Exam (Dec 16, 8am)	~50 points
Total	~521 points

### Grades

I prefer using points to using percentages, but as Canvas shows you what percentage you have in my course throughout the semester, I’ve listed both the point totals needed for each grade as well as the percentage.

A	489 - 521	94%
A-	468 – 488	90%
B+	453 – 467	87%
B	432 – 454	83%
B-	416 – 431	80%
C+	401 – 415	77%
C	380 – 400	73%
C-	364 – 379	70%
D+	349 – 363	67%
D	312 – 348	60%
F	below 312	

Good Writing: I expect you to write well. Many of you are going to be teachers, so you need to take special care that anything you write does not cause others to think poorly of you. If this is an area in which you know you struggle, I am happy to work with you. I also recommend scheduling regular meetings at the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) to improve your writing.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarized occurs when you use another's words or ideas without properly citing them. Every assignment will be submitted to plagiarism-checking software (the canvas dropbox). I will fail work that is plagiarized and report offenders to the dean's office.

Late work. In general, I do not accept late material; however, this semester I'm trying to be "flexible in all things." Communication is key. Let me know what is going on and what you need from me. If you turn something in late, let me know. I don't spend my downtime browsing Canvas to see if students have turned in late material.

Due Dates: In person, my due dates are usually "due by the time you get to class on this date." Many online classes use midnight as a deadline, but I use the time of class. For all the dates below, the due day/time is either 8am (for section 1) or 9:30 (for section 2).

English Department Policy: Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students.

University Policy: Lecture materials and recordings for English 275 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct