

English 272:02 Literature for the Middle Grades

Fall 2022 Professor Jan Susina

Class Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

Classroom: Stevenson 234

This course will be in a hybrid format and some sessions will be in-person and some sessions will be held via Zoom. If you do not have the technology to participate or do the assignments for this class, you should contact Technology Support Center. (<https://ithelp.illinoisstate.edu>)

Email: jcsusina@ilstu.edu. (Email is the most efficient method to contact me.)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m. Students can email me during my office hours. If requested, I can arrange individual Zoom meetings during my office hours.

Website: <http://ghostofthetalkingcricket.squarespace.com>

Tentative Syllabus:

Aug. 23: Introduction and Overview to the Course and Course Format.

The World of Middle School & Tweens

NCTE Position Statement: “Preparing Teachers with Knowledge of Children’s and Young Adult Literature.” (website).

Aug. 25: Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (chapters 1-15).

If you don’t have a copy of the book, there is a link to the book on the website.

Milner Library also has an E-book edition.

Aug. 30: Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (chapters 16-36) & Conclusion.

Sept. 1: L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (chapters 1-10).

If you don’t have a copy of the book, there is a link to the book on the website.

Milner Library also has an E-book edition.

Sept. 6: L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (chapters 11-24).

Sept. 8: Gail Carson Levine’s *Ella Enchanted* (chapters 1-10) & “Fiddling with Fairy Tales” (website)

Sept. 13: Gail Carson Levine’s *Ella Enchanted* (chapters 11-19).

Sept. 15: Gail Carson Levine’s *Ella Enchanted* (chapters 20-29, Epilogue).

Sept. 20: Rick Riordan’s *The Lightning Thief* (chapters 1-8).

Sept. 22: Rick Riordan’s *The Lightning Thief* (chapters 8-16).

“Joseph Campbell’s Monomyth: Eight Stages,” “Archetypes: The Roles Characters Play,” & “Illustration of the Major Greek Gods & Goddesses.” (website).

Sept. 27: Rick Riordan’s *The Lightning Thief* (chapters 17-22).

****Deadline for Sign-up for Book for Critical Paper****

Sept. 29: How to do Research & MLA Style.

No class . Watch the following short videos on Milner Library website: In “Search Milner Library” type in “Finding items in the Catalog,” “Advanced Catalog Searches,” “Find Articles,” Find Databases,” “Teaching Materials Center (TMC),” “MLA Style”—“How to Use MLA Style,” & “Examples.”

Read “Starting the Research Process & Searching the Internet” & sample 272 proposal (website)

Note: There is a link to “*MLA 8th Edition* Quick Guide,” & “Formatting Your Paper.” on the website. You will need access to this information for your papers.

Oct. 4: Russell Freedman’s *Lincoln: A Photobiography*.

Abraham Lincoln’s “The Gettysburg Address,” & “Sullivan Ballou’s Letter.” (website).

Milner Library has an E-book edition, but only one person can read it at a time.

Oct 6: **Midterm Exam.** (Purchase & bring a Blue book to class).

Oct. 11: Linda Sue Park's *Prairie Lotus* "Author's Note" & (chapters 1-12).

Oct. 13: Linda Sue Park's *Prairie Lotus* (chapters 13-27).

Oct. 18: Karen Hesse’s *Out of the Dust* (pages 1-95).

Oct. 20: Karen Hesse’s *Out of the Dust* (pages 99-227).

Proposal for Critical Paper: Working Title & Works Cited with four annotated secondary sources Due**

Oct. 25: Christopher Paul Curtis’s *Bud, Not Buddy* (chapters 1-10).

Oct. 27: Christopher Paul Curtis’s *Bud, Not Buddy* (chapters 11-19).

Nov. 1: Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy* (chapters 1-5).

Nov. 3: Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy* (chapters 6-10).

Nov. 8: No class: Election Day.

Nov. 10: Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy* (chapters 11-15).

***** Critical Paper Due*****

Nov. 15: Blue Balliett’s *Chasing Vermeer* (chapters 1-12).

Nov. 17: Blue Balliett’s *Chasing Vermeer* (chapters 13-24).

Nov. 24: No Class: Thanksgiving Break.

Nov. 26: No Class: Thanksgiving Break.

Nov. 29: Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (pages 1-113).

Dec. 1: Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (pages 114-217).

Dec. 6: Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Part 1).

Dec. 8: Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Part 2).

Dec. 12--16: **Final Exam.** TBA. According to the final exam schedule. (Bring a Blue Book to Class).

Goals of the Course:

While this is a course in children's literature, it is also a university-level literature course. Students will be reading and analyzing a variety of texts that are intended for students in middle school. Since many of the students enrolled in this course are preparing to become middle school teachers, or librarians, students will want to know much more about these books than your future students. The class will attempt to understand how young readers make meaning from these texts and how these texts help to form ideologies and cultural beliefs concerning middle school children.

Required Texts:

Mark Twain. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, ed. John Seelye. Penguin Classics.

L. Frank Baum. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Dover.

Gail Carson Levine. *Ella Enchanted*. HarperCollins.

Rick Riordan. *The Lightning Thief*. HyperionMiramax.

Russell Freedman. *Lincoln: A Photobiography*. Houghton Mifflin.

Karen Hesse. *Out of the Dust*. Scholastic.

Christopher Paul Curtis. *Bud, Not Buddy*. Yearling.

Linda Sue Park. *Prairie Lotus*. Clarion Books.

Louise Fitzhugh. *Harriet the Spy*. Yearling.

Blue Balliett. *Chasing Vermeer*. Scholastic.

Jeff Kinney. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Amulet Books.

Brian Selznick. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Scholastic.

Recommended Text:

MLA. *MLA Handbook, Ninth Edition*. MLA (This book is not required, but strongly recommended).

Course Format:

The class will be reading and discussing a variety of children's texts that are intended for children aged nine-to-thirteen, including fantasy, mythology, information books, historical fiction, diverse novels, poetry, and graphic novels. Students need to read the assignments prior to class and be prepared to discuss them in class. The class will involve lecture, discussion, and small group work. Throughout the semester, students will be assigned a series of short writing projects that are intended to help you to think critically about middle school literature.

Grades:

Grades for assignments and papers will be based on the following scale:

A+=100	B+= 87	C+=77	D+=67	F=50
A=95	B=85	C=75	D=65	no submission=0
A- 92	B-=82	C-=72	D-=62	

The **course grade** will be based on the following assignments, which will be weighted as follows:

Midterm Exam: 25%

Critical Paper: 20%

Assignments: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Class Participation: 10%

For the **course grade**, the following scale will be used:

A=90 and above

B=80 and above

C= 70 and above

D=60 and above

F=50 and below

Students earn their grades by performance, not by negotiation. If you have a question concerning a grade on an assignment for exam, please set up an appointment during my office hours.

Communication/Netiquette:

Given that this some sessions will be conducted online, students and the instructor need to use appropriate netiquette or internet etiquette. Students should interact in a positive, cooperative and supportive manner, and display respect for the privacy and rights of others. For Zoom classes students will need to have the video on, unless otherwise told. To preserve privacy, students should have an appropriate virtual background screen. Students should dress appropriately for online sessions: as you would for a typical face-to-face session. The following netiquette guidelines has been developed for ISU classes:

- Keep questions & comments relevant to the topic. If another student posts a comment or question that is off topic, do not reply. The instructor will reply in private to the participant.
- Be courteous & treat other students with respect, using the same standards of behavior online that would be appropriate in a face-to-face class discussion.
- Be respectful & open to opinions & ideas that different from your own. Being deliberately hostile & insulting online is not appropriate. When responding to messages or posts made by others address the ideas not the individual.
- Avoid using slang terms or texting abbreviations. Avoid using all caps as it is interpreted as yelling.
- Read all the messages in a thread before replying.
- The instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are not collegial or fail to meet ISU netiquette guidelines.

Recording of Class Sessions:

Any recordings that the instructor makes are available for use only by students enrolled in the course. Recordings cannot be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to publicly accessible webs environments. Do not independently record the course without written permission of the instructor.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal sanction for violations or copyright law & disciplinary action under ISU's Code of Student Conduct.

Class Attendance:

As stated in the *ISU Undergraduate Catalog*, students are responsible for attending class & completing all academic work. Regular class attendance is important and is intended to be a valuable experience. You should diligently try to be on time for class. If you must miss class, you should have a good reason for your absence. Whenever possible, notify me by email before your absence. Since you can't be two places at the same time, avoid scheduling other activities during class time. Students are expected to participate in class discussion and a portion of the final grade will be based on class discussion. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion is expected. If you need to withdraw from the course, please remember this is your responsibility and you should be aware of the deadlines for dropping a course. Papers and assignments should be turned at the stated deadlines. If an extension needs to be made, it should be worked out with the instructor prior to the deadline, otherwise late work will be penalized with a lower grade.

Exams:

There will be two exams given during the semester, one of which will be a cumulative final exam. The final exam is scheduled, according to the Fall 2022 Final Exam Schedule. The exams will include short objective questions as well as essay questions.

Proposal for Critical Paper:

In preparation for your critical paper on one of the middle school books read in class or those listed on the syllabus as alternative texts, students will write a short proposal for their research paper which explains the focus of their paper. The proposal should be **1-2 pages, typed, double-spaced, single sided**, and include a working title and a Works Cited section with at least **four annotated** secondary sources. The proposal needs to conform to the format provided in the *MLA Handbook, Ninth Edition*. The *MLA Handbook, Ninth Edition* shows how to cite material within your paper and how to create a Works Cited page. Number the pages of your paper. Please keep a copy of your paper for your records.

Critical Paper:

Each student will write a short (**7-10 pages, typed, doubled spaced, single-sided**) analysis on a book appropriate for middle school readers from the books read in common or from the list of titles provided by the instructor. Secondary sources should be a combination of print and electronic sources. Students can request material for curbside pickup from Milner Library. Critical papers need to conform to the format that is explained in the *MLA Handbook, Ninth Edition*. The *MLA Handbook* shows how to cite material within your paper and how to create a Works Cited page. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of this handbook if they do not already own it.

The Works Cited section of the final paper must have a minimum of **six secondary sources**. The secondary sources in your final paper do not need to be annotated. Students will submit a **print copy** of their critical paper. Number the pages of your paper. Keep a copy of your paper for your records.

Additional Books for Critical Paper:

Roald Dahl. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Judy Blume. *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*.

Gail Carson Levine. *Ogre Enchanted*.

Scott O'Dell. *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

Raina Telgemeier. *Sisters*.

Gene Luen Yang. *American Born Chinese*

Jerry Craft. *New Kid*.

Jacqueline Woodson. *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Please consult the Illinois State University policy in the *ISU Undergraduate Catalog* under "Academic Integrity" and chapter 4: "Documenting Sources: An Overview" in the *MLA Handbook, Ninth Edition* (pages 95-102). Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and may result in failure on an exam, paper, or project, and in some cases failure in the course. All written work submitted for this course must be your own and produced for this specific course. If you need additional help in writing your papers, please consult the Julia Visor Center Academic Center at 309-438-7100 for in-person or online writing assistance.

Students Needing Support Services:

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853 (voice), or (309) 438-8620 (Sorensen), visit the website at StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu. Students using this service need to notify the instructor and provide the appropriate credentials.

Excused Students Absences Due to Communicable Disease:

If a student is required to be absent from class because of a required self-isolation or quarantine based on the directive of a public health official or health provide for a reason related to a communicable disease, the absence will be considered excused. Reasonable modifications/extensions will be offered for required work. For an absence to be excused, the student must provide appropriate documentation of a required quarantine/self-isolation to the Dean of Students Office at DeanOfStudents@IllinoisState.edu and arrange to complete missed classroom work as soon as possible. Students are responsible for material covered in class sessions missed. If a student needs a return to class notice issued to their instructors, they should email the release notice provided by a public health official or health provides to DeanOfStudents@IllinoisState.edu. While masks are optional on campus, students are encouraged to wear masks in class.