

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 334
<b>ENGLISH 334: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 334 studies and analyzes outstanding classical, contemporary and multicultural literature for children and adolescents, arranged by genre. Students are given an overview of the evolution of the literature from its cultural roots in myth and legend to its present role as a reflector of modern society.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Among the many possible texts for the course are the following:

*Best Loved Folktales of the World*, Joanna Cole, ed. (Doubleday)  
*The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales*, Virginia Hamilton (Knopf)  
*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, L. Frank Baum  
*Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White  
*The Animal Family*, Randall Jarrell (Knopf)  
*Harriet the Spy*, Louise Fitzhugh  
*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, Bette Lord  
*Taran Wanderer*, Lloyd Alexander (Dell)  
*War Comes to Willie Freeman*, James and Christopher Collier  
*Jacob I Have Loved*, Katherson Paterson

*Annie John*, Jamaica Kincaid (New American Library)  
*The Bennington Stitch*, Sheila Solomon Klass (Scribners)  
(Note: Picture books will be on reserve in the BMCC library.)

Background Readings: *The Classic Fairy Tales*, Iona and Peter Opie (Oxford)  
*The Lion and the Unicorn: A Critical Journal of Children's Literature* (Brooklyn College)

#### E. General Education Outcomes

Below are BMCC's general education goals that students who successfully complete this course can expect to have achieved: Communication Skills: Students will write, read, listen, and speak critically and effectively. (Assessment: class discussion, various formal and informal writing exercises, departments final exam.) Values: Students will make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness and social responsibility. (Assessment: class discussion and formal and informal writing assignments relating to the themes of the course.)

#### F. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be given a midterm, a term paper, and a final exam. They will be required to participate in class discussion and keep a journal to record their responses to the readings. Final grades will be based on students' total performance, including written work, exam, journal writing, and class participation.

#### **College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

#### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

#### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further

information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

## G. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction: Class Procedures and Overview

Weeks 2-4: Traditional Children's Literature

- A. Folktales: Kinds and Characteristics
- B. Oral vs. Written Expression
- C. Images of Women in Legends
- D. Cultural History and Values in Children's Literature

Weeks 5-7: Picture Books

- A. Theme, Plot, Characterization
- B. Visual Images and Narrative
- C. History of Illustration
- D. Interrelation of Words and Pictures

Weeks 8-10: Poetry

- A. Nursery Rhymes
- B. Narrative Poetry
- C. Lyric Poetry and Limericks

Weeks 11-14: Fiction

- A. Realistic and Historical Fiction
- B. Nineteenth Century: The Rise of the Novel and Conceptions of Childhood
- C. The 1960s: New Realism: Changed Perspectives on Children in Society
- D. Character, Plot, Language, Style