



ENGLISH 2033E (670)
Children's Literature
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Hartley
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Course Information

Mode of Instruction: Online asynchronous

Calendar Description: Readings from significant books written for children, selected primarily for literary quality. Some attention will be given to the historic evolution of "Children's Literature" as a separate class, but the principal aim of the course will be to consider the nature and development of the two major genres: nonsense verse and romance.

Antirequisite(s): [English 2730F/G](#) (King's).

Prerequisite(s): None.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 1.00

Breadth: CATEGORY B

Subject Code: ENGLISH

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Department of English, French, and Writing
English 2033E/670: Children's Literature
Course Outline 2026-2027

Course Overview and Important Dates:

English 2033E/670 will be available on OWL-Brightspace starting September 9th and run until the end of Winter term on April 8th. Please check the Course Evaluation schedule and Reading Schedule for more detailed information on individual assignments and course obligations. You must check in at least twice every week. **There will be an in-person midterm exam in December and an in-person final exam in April**, so students will need to be available and in London on the date posted by the registrar.

Instructor Contact Information

My email address is mhartley@uwo.ca. Please contact me with questions or concerns, or if you need to make an appointment.

Note: students are required to keep all notes, research notes, outlines, and drafts as I may ask to see this preparatory work for minor or major assignments. **AI tools for research, grammar-checking, summary, etc. including but not limited to ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc. are not allowed for course assignments of any sort.**

Office Hours:

Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom. I will keep regular office hours on Wednesdays, but I'm happy to meet with you at other times, so please email me: mhartley@uwo.ca. I will reply within 24 hours during the week, usually on Monday mornings for any messages that come in after Friday at 3:30PM.

I will be happy to answer questions about the readings, the assignments, and course content in those hours. Please come by and see me especially if you're new to literature courses.

Course Description – From the Academic Calendar: Readings from significant books written for children, selected primarily for literary quality. Some attention will be given to the historic evolution of "Children's Literature" as a separate class, but the principal aim of the course will be to consider the nature and development of the two major genres: nonsense verse and romance.

Antirequisite(s): [English 2730F/G](#) (King's).

Instructor's Course Description:

English 2033E explores forms of and approaches to literature for children and young adults. A core of required texts by nineteenth- and early twentieth-century authors of significance to the historical development of children's literature will be supplemented by more contemporary classics and popular writings. Works may be considered from historical, cultural, generic, multicultural and/or theoretical perspectives. Attention will also be given to Canadian and Indigenous children's literature.

Mode of Instruction

This course will be online and asynchronous. Students should check in 2-3 times per week to the OWL-Brightspace site and ensure that class announcements are forwarded to their most frequently used email account. I use this method often weekly to send out reminders, more often preceding assignments. You must spend three hours per week online on Brightspace reading, listening, and taking notes from the lecture material in addition to completing all readings and assignments. Your successful completion of the course depends on regular attendance online and participation in Discussions.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- place individual texts in their context within the historical development of children's literature
- recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, nonsense, animal fiction, adventure, gothic fiction, and fantasy
- display a knowledge of several classic children's novels, as well as more recent contributions to the genre
- use and understand terms common to the genre
- analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.
- understand some of the political and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course
- communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion, analysis, and persuasive research essays) using MLA formatting and citation practices
- develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence from both primary and secondary sources
- **For successful completion of the course, students need to read the primary material (see the alphabetical list of course texts) listed in the timetable each week in time for the delivery of asynchronous lecture/assignment material.** Accordingly, students should read ahead during weeks with light reading (picture books, etc.) as some primary texts, such as longer novels like *Treasure Island* and *Anne of Green Gables*, tend to take far more time.

Course Materials

Many of the course's primary texts are now available electronically as they are old enough to be in the public domain. You will find these books and poems linked via hypertext in the Course Schedule below and hyperlinked on the landing page for each week on Brightspace. More recent texts, including picture books and novels also listed in the Course Schedule, will be available at the Western Bookstore and Cardinal Carter Library.

Booklist with prices for new books:

C.S. Lewis *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* \$12.99
E.B. White *Charlotte's Web* \$13.50
Sara Pennypacker *Pax* \$12.99
Matthew Cordell *Wolf in the Snow* \$12.99
Katharena Vermette and Julie Flett *The Girl and the Wolf* \$33.90
Neil Gaiman *Coraline* \$12.50
David A. Robertson, *The Barren Grounds: The Misewa Saga Book One* \$12.99
John Bellairs *The House with a Clock in Its Walls* \$12.99
Kit Pearson *Awake and Dreaming* \$12.99
Katherine Paterson *Bridge to Terabithia* \$12.50
Maurice Sendak *Where the Wild Things Are* \$9.95
Anthony Browne *Voices in the Park* \$14.99

You may also check your bookshelves, the Goodwill Bookstore, and your local library for copies. Avoid works that are abridged or illustrated. **It is your responsibility to ensure you have the full and complete work we are studying. Internet pdfs are not reliable and may be abbreviated or the incorrect edition.** Your version of the work should also be the equivalent of a pdf with page numbers for longer works so you can use them in citations.

Methods of Evaluation

Reading Quizzes	10%	Best 10 of 12**	Available Th-Sun end of every second week
Participation	10%	Best 10 of 12** 2000 words	Respond to one question every two weeks, roughly 200 words per question including evidence and citation
Essay 1	10%	1000 Words	Nov 6*
Group Video Assignment	10%	10-15 min	January 20*
Research Essay	20%	2500 Words	March 17*
In-person December Exam	15%	2 hours	December TBA
In-person Final Exam	25%	3 hours	April TBA

*Assignments are due at 11:59PM unless otherwise stated. For all written assignments, there is a grace period with no late penalty imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline. Students should plan to submit by the deadline. Papers handed in after the 72 hours will be penalized 3% and 2% per day thereafter. Papers will not be accepted after 14 days late. Because the submission deadlines for these assessments already include flexibility, they are not eligible for further academic consideration. Such requests will be denied without a request for accommodation from the ADO.

**I will take the best 10-12 quizzes and as they are available every second week for a four day window, no additional flexibility will be granted. Similarly, you can post a discussion at any time during a two week period, so try for earlier to avoid issues. No additional flexibility will be given.

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Course Schedule – One unit per week. The week starts on Wednesday.

Unit	Dates	Tentative Weekly Schedule of Topics and Required Texts
1	Sept 9	Introduction to the course, Children's Literature and Academic Integrity
2	Sept 16	Nursery Rhymes
3	Sept 23	Nonsense: Edward Lear, lyric poems and limericks (Brightspace)
4	Sept 30	Nonsense: Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (BS)
5	Oct 7	Fairy Tales and Fairy Tale criticism: see links on Brightspace-OWL pages
		Happy Thanksgiving and Reading Week
6	Oct 21	Fairy Tale Parody: George MacDonald, "The Light Princess" (BS)
7	Oct 28	Animal Fiction and Picturebooks: Katherine Vermette and Julie Flett, <i>The Girl and the Wolf</i> , and Matthew Cordell, <i>Wolf in the Snow</i>
8	Nov 4	Essay Writing, Citing, and Argumentation
9	Nov 11	Animal Heroes: E.T. Seton "Raggy-lug: The Story of a Cottontail Rabbit" (BS) and Beatrix Potter, The Tale of Peter Rabbit (BS)
10	Nov 18	Adventure: R.L. Stevenson, Treasure Island (BS)
11	Nov 25	J.M. Barrie Peter Pan (BS)
12	Dec 2	Exam Review
13	Jan 6	Domestic Fiction: Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden (BS)
14	Jan 13	Domestic Fiction: L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables (BS)
15	Jan 20	Research
16	Jan 27	Portal Fantasy: C.S. Lewis, <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>

17	Feb 3	Neil Gaiman, <i>Coraline</i>
18	Feb 10	David A. Robertson, <i>The Barren Grounds: The Misewa Saga Book One</i>
		Happy Reading Week
19	Feb 24	John Bellairs, <i>The House with a Clock in Its Walls</i>
20	Mar 3	Kit Pearson, <i>Awake and Dreaming</i>
21	Mar 10	Katherine Paterson, <i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>
22	Mar 17	Animal Novels: E.B. White, <i>Charlotte's Web</i>
23	Mar 24	Sara Pennypacker, <i>Pax</i>
24	Mar 31	Maurice Sendak, <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> Anthony Browne, <i>Voices in the Park</i>
	Apr 7	Exam Review

Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://uwo.ca/univsec//appeals_discipline/policies_procedures_and_applications.html

Students must have passed the most recent version (2025) of Western's Academic Integrity tutorial and uploaded their Certificate before their written assignments will be considered for this course.

Policy on AI (e.g. Chat GPT) Use:

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as online summarizing tools, ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. Use of Chat GPT or other AI services is prohibited in all assessments.

Notice of Turnitin Analysis:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this assessment.
- If instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs. (For example, if students need to submit X of Y assignments, this flexibility already provides consideration.)
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the “Special Examination” (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a multiple exam situation (i.e., you are scheduled to write more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

Western’s Mental Health Services site provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's by emailing care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Social Worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

6. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. **Check with you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

7. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

8. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

9. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.