The Harry Potter books are a popular example of an important, much-loved genre, children’s fantasy! In this course, we’ll trace the development of children’s fantasy from the 1860s to the present day, studying the genre’s innovations, experiments, and influence. Most importantly, we’ll consider children’s literature as children’s literature, and take it seriously on its own terms, paying special attention to the attraction fantasies of magical powers might hold for people who are so often without any power of their own. What does it mean to be a child? How do we define the genre of fantasy? This class will focus on British literature, and we’ll read criticism as well as children’s literature.

**Texts**

You may purchase these texts at the school bookstore.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. M. Barrie</td>
<td><em>Peter Pan</em></td>
<td>9781551117935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis Carroll</td>
<td><em>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</em></td>
<td>9781551112237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roald Dahl</td>
<td><em>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</em></td>
<td>9780060765484</td>
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<td>Neil Gaiman</td>
<td><em>Coraline</em></td>
<td>9780380807345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Wynne Jones</td>
<td><em>The Chronicles of Chrestomanci vol. 2</em></td>
<td>9780064472692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Kingsley</td>
<td><em>The Water Babies</em></td>
<td>9781551117737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George MacDonald</td>
<td><em>The Princess and the Goblin</em></td>
<td>9780375863387</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. A. Milne</td>
<td><em>Winnie the Pooh</em></td>
<td>9780140361216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Molesworth</td>
<td><em>The Cuckoo Clock</em></td>
<td>9781406583113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Nesbit</td>
<td><em>Five Children and It</em></td>
<td>9780143039150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Pratchett</td>
<td><em>The Wee Free Men</em></td>
<td>9780060012380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. K. Rowling</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone</em></td>
<td>9780590353427</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. L. Travers</td>
<td><em>Mary Poppins</em></td>
<td>9780152017170</td>
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Other readings will be available on the course’s Blackboard site, which you will need your CAMS account user name and password to access.

**It is your responsibility to make sure you obtain all relevant readings in good time.**

**Schedule**

**Tuesday, February 1:** introductions; grammar

**Thursday, February 3:** *The Water Babies* – Charles Kingsley
writing concepts: close reading
Tuesday, February 8:  The Water Babies  
writing concepts: close reading

Thursday, February 10:  Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland – Lewis Carroll  
writing concepts: thesis, introduction, title

Tuesday, February 15:  Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland  
writing concepts: plagiarism and academic integrity

Thursday, February 17:  The Princess and the Goblin – George MacDonald  
writing concepts: paragraphs

Tuesday, February 22:  The Princess and the Goblin  
writing concepts: structure and argument

Thursday, February 24:  The Cuckoo Clock – Mrs. Molesworth  
Assignment for first paper

Tuesday, March 1:  The Cuckoo Clock

Thursday, March 3:  Five Children and It – E. Nesbit

Tuesday, March 8:  Five Children and It

Thursday, March 10:  Peter and Wendy – J. M. Barrie

Tuesday, March 15:  Peter and Wendy  
Optional first version of first paper due

Thursday, March 17:  TBA

Tuesday, March 22:  Winnie the Pooh – A. A. Milne

Thursday, March 24:  Mary Poppins – P. L. Travers

Tuesday, March 29:  Mary Poppins  
Final version of first paper due

Thursday, March 31:  The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – C. S. Lewis

Tuesday, April 5:  Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – Roald Dahl

Thursday, April 7:  Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Tuesday, April 12:  Witch Week – Diana Wynne Jones
Thursday, April 14:  
*Witch Week*  
Assignment for final paper

Tuesday, April 19:  
Spring Break

Thursday, April 21:  
Spring Break

Tuesday, April 26:  
Spring Break

Thursday, April 28:  
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* – J. K. Rowling  
Optional first version of final paper due

Tuesday, May 3:  
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*

Thursday, May 5:  
*Coraline*

Tuesday, May 10:  
*Coraline*

Thursday, May 12:  
*The Wee Free Men* – Terry Pratchett

Tuesday, May 17:  
*The Wee Free Men*  
Final paper due

**Assignments**

This course requires one introductory assignment, two 5-7 page papers, and a final exam. For the two papers, you will have the option of handing in a version and revising it based on my comments. Turn in assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized one-third of a grade for each day’s lateness. I will not accept late first versions of papers. Complete failure to submit any assignment will result in a zero for that assignment, a grade lower than F.

**Class Participation**

You are responsible for completing the readings and coming to class prepared to discuss them. You must use the editions and translations specified on this syllabus or on the blackboard website. *You must bring copies of all readings with you to class.* Good participation includes showing respect and consideration to others in the classroom. I expect you all to keep up with the assignments and to make yourselves productive participants in the class.

**Attendance**

Because this is a discussion-based class, it will only succeed if everyone is fully involved. On-time attendance is required at all class meetings unless you have obtained my permission in advance (i.e. for a religious holiday or illness) or can document a medical or family crisis after the event. I expect you all to be on time to class.

**Grading**

Class Participation 20%
Essay #2 25%
Essay #3 30%
Final exam 25%

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is presentation of somebody else’s words, thoughts, or ideas as if they were your own. It is a serious violation of academic integrity. It is absolutely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the course and an immediate report to the Office of Student Conduct.