
Literature for the Young: Graduate Reading List
Missouri State University

[valid for students entering their programs between Fall 2012 and Fall 2017]

Part One: Touchstones/“Classics”

Folktales/Myths/Hero Tales (the following):

- A short, general collection of international folktales which includes tales collected/retold by Charles Perrault; Jeanne-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont; Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm; Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe; and Joseph Jacobs. Suggested texts: Andrew Lang’s *The Blue Fairy Book*, 1889; Iona and Peter Opie’s *The Classic Fairy Tales*.

Fantasy (all of the following):

- Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. 1900.
- Carroll, Lewis. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. 1865, 1871.
- White, E. B. *Charlotte’s Web*. 1952.

Domestic Fiction (choose **two** of the following):

- Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*. Parts I & 2. 1868-69.
- Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*. 1911.
- Montgomery, Lucy Maud. *Anne of Green Gables*. 1908.

Adventure-Romance/Survival Stories (choose **two** of the following):

- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. 1883.
- Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. 1876.
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House on the Prairie*. 1935.

Picture Books--Touchstones (all of the following; **they are all very, very short**):

- Brown, Margaret Wise. *Goodnight Moon*. Illus. Clement Hurd. 1947.
- Burton, Virginia Lee. *The Little House*. 1942.
- Caldecott, Randolph. Any picture book.
- Gág, Wanda. *Millions of Cats*. 1928.
- Keats, Ezra Jack. *The Snowy Day*. 1962.
- McCloskey, Robert. *Make Way for Ducklings*. 1941.
- Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. 1902.
- Sendak, Maurice. *Where the Wild Things Are*. 1963.
- Seuss, Dr. *The Cat in the Hat*. 1957.

Part Two: Modern Children’s/Young Adult Literature (1965-present)

“The New Realism”/Problem Novels (choose **one** of the following):

- Blume, Judy. *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret*. 1970.
- Childress, Alice. *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich*. 1973.
- Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*. 1974.
- Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*. 1964.
- Hinton, S. E. *The Outsiders*. 1967.
- Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman*. 1968.

Family and School Stories (choose **one** of the following):

- Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. 1983.
- Lowry, Lois. *Rabble Starkey*. 1987.
- Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. 1977.
- Paterson, Katherine. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*.
- Rylant, Cynthia. *Missing May*. 1992.
- Voigt, Cynthia. *Dacey's Song*. 1982.

Adventure/Survival Stories (choose **one** of the following):

- George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*. 1972.
- O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. 1960.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*. 1987.
- Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. 1998.

Historical Fiction (choose **one** of the following):

- Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*. 1995.
- Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. 1997.
- Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. 1989.
- Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*. 1991.
- Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. 1976.
- Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings*. 1976.
- Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. 1988.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. 1985.

Literary Myths and Hero Tales/High Fantasy (choose **one** of the following):

- Alexander, Lloyd. *Taran Wanderer*. 1967.
- Cooper, Susan. *The Dark is Rising*. 1973.
- Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. A.k.a. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. 1997.
- Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit*. 1937.

Domestic Fiction/Animal Fantasy (choose **one** of the following):

- Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. 1975.
- DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. 2004.
- Norton, Mary. *The Borrowers*. 1952.
- O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. 1971.

- Pearce, Philippa. *Tom's Midnight Garden*. 1958.

Science Fiction/Dystopian Literature (choose **one** of the following):

- Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. 1985.
- Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. 2008.
- Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion*. 2002.
- L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time*. 1962.
- Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. 1993.

Life Writing/Biography/Memoir (choose **one** of the following):

- Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl*. 1952.
- Freeman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography*. 1987.
- Fritz, Jean. One of her biographies for children/young adults, such as *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?*, *Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?*, *Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?*, or *The Double Life of Pocahontas*.

Post-modern/Nonlinear/Wordless Picture Books (choose **two** of the following)

- Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. *The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters*. 1986.
- Briggs, Raymond. *The Snowman*. 1978.
- Macaulay, David. *Black and White*. 1990.
- Scieszka, Jon. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Illus. Lane Smith. 1992.
- Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. 2007.
- Wiesner, David. *The Three Pigs*. 2001.

Post-modern/Nonlinear/Experimental Fiction (choose **two** of the following)

- Avi. *Nothing But the Truth*. 1991.
- Block, Francesca Lia. *Weetzie Bat*. 1989.
- Cormier, Robert. *I Am the Cheese*. 1977.
- Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. 1997.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. 1999.
- Schlitz, Laura Amy Schlitz. *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village*. 2007.
- Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. 2009.

Children's and Young Adult Poetry (one poetry anthology meeting the following criteria):

- An anthology of children's poetry including poems by major children's poets, both past and present. Examples: Jack Prelutsky's *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children* (1983); X. J. and Dorothy M. Kennedy's *Knock at a Star: A Child's Introduction to Poetry*, Revised Edition (1999)

Criticism

The following books and journals represent some of the many critical sources that may prove useful in your studies:

Books

- Clark, Beverly Lyon. *Kiddie Lit: The Cultural Construction of Children's Literature in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2004.
- Griswold, Jerry. *Audacious Kids: Coming of Age in America's Classic Children's Books*. Oxford/NY: Oxford UP, 1992.
- Gubar, Mara. *Artful Dodgers: Reconceiving the Golden Age of Children's Literature*. Oxford/New York: Oxford UP, 2009.
- Hunt, Peter. *Criticism, Theory, & Children's Literature*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.
- Kuznets, Lois. *When Toys Come Alive: Narratives of Animation, Metamorphosis, and Development*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1994.
- Nikolajeva, Maria. *Children's Literature Comes of Age: Toward a New Aesthetic*. New York: Garland, 1996.
- . *From Mythic to Linear: Time in Children's Literature*. Lanham: Scarecrow, 2000.
- Nodelman, Perry. *Words about Pictures: The Narrative Art of Children's Picture Books*. 1988. Athens, GA: U Georgia P, 1985.
- , ed. *Touchstones: Reflections on the Best in Children's Literature, Volume One*.
- op de Beeck, Nathalie. *Suspended Animation: Children's Picture Books and the Fairy Tale of Modernity*. University of Minnesota Press, 2010.
- Rose, Jacqueline. *The Case of Peter Pan, or the Impossibility of Children's Fiction*. London: Macmillan, 1984.
- Stephens, John. *Language and Ideology in Children's Fiction*. London: Longman, 1992.
- Townsend, John Rowe. *Written for Children: An Outline of English Language Children's Literature*. Sixth American ed. Lanham: Scarecrow, 2003.
- Trites, Roberta Seelinger. *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent Literature*. Iowa City: U Iowa P, 2000.
- . *Waking Sleeping Beauty: Feminist Voices in Children's Novels*. Iowa City: U Iowa P, 1997.
- Zipes, Jack. *Fairy Tale as Myth/Myth as Fairy Tale*. Louisville: UP Kentucky, 1992.
- Thomas, Joseph T., Jr. *Poetry's Playground: The Culture of Contemporary American Children's Poetry*. Detroit: MI: Wayne State University Press, 2007.

Journals

- ALAN Review* (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents).
- Children's Literature Association Quarterly*.
- Children's Literature in Education*.
- Children's Literature*.
- Horn Book Magazine*.
- Lion and the Unicorn*.