



# LIT 847

## Romanticism to Postmodernism: Developments in Children's Literature

S2 External 2014

*English*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Robyn McCallum

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MA in (English Literature or Children's Literature or Creative Writing) or PGDipArts in Children's Literature or MEChild in Multiliteracies or PGDipEChild in Multiliteracies

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the critical and cultural development of children's literature from the nineteenth century to the present. The unit relates the literature to social and intellectual history, and considers the impact of major paradigm shifts. Topics may include the social and literary constructions of childhood; the development of the Bildungsroman for younger readers; representations of gender, class, race and power; and the development of social realism and of fantasy.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for

example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism

E. To examine and explore changing relationships between authors and readers over time

F. To understand how the predominant genres of the literature have changed and evolved

G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>PARTICIPATION</u>	10%	WEEKLY
<u>REPORT</u>	20%	WEEK 5
<u>SEMINAR PAPER</u>	30%	TWO WEEKS AFTER CHOSEN SEMINAR
<u>FINAL ESSAY</u>	40%	17TH NOVEMBER

### PARTICIPATION

Due: **WEEKLY**

Weighting: **10%**

INTERNAL STUDENTS ATTEND AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY CLASSES.  
EXTERNAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE EACH WEEK ON ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUMS.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
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- F. To understand how the predominant genres of the literature have changed and evolved

## REPORT

Due: **WEEK 5**

Weighting: **20%**

STUDENTS WRITE A REPORT ON TEXTS CHOSEN FROM WEEKS 1-3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism
- E. To examine and explore changing relationships between authors and readers over time
- F. To understand how the predominant genres of the literature have changed and evolved
- G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

## SEMINAR PAPER

Due: **TWO WEEKS AFTER CHOSEN SEMINAR**

Weighting: **30%**

WRITE A 2000 WORD PAPER BASED ON one OF THE SEMINAR PAPER TOPICS LISTED FOR WEEKS 4-12.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for

example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism

- E. To examine and explore changing relationships between authors and readers over time
- F. To understand how the predominant genres of the literature have changed and evolved
- G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

## FINAL ESSAY

Due: **17TH NOVEMBER**

Weighting: **40%**

WRITE A 3000 WORD ESSAY ON ONE OF THE TOPICS LISTED IN THE UNIT PROGRAM.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism
- E. To examine and explore changing relationships between authors and readers over time
- F. To understand how the predominant genres of the literature have changed and evolved
- G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

## Delivery and Resources

DELIVERY: TWO-HOUR WEEKLY SEMINARS

RESOURCES: THE SET TEXTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE COOP BOOKSHOP AND THE LIBRARY. SECONDARY READINGS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH E-RESERVE.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism
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- G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

### Assessment tasks

- PARTICIPATION
- REPORT

- SEMINAR PAPER
- FINAL ESSAY

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
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### Assessment tasks

- REPORT
- SEMINAR PAPER
- FINAL ESSAY

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.



This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism
- E. To examine and explore changing relationships between authors and readers over time
- F. To understand how the predominant genres of the literature have changed and evolved
- G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

## **Assessment tasks**

- SEMINAR PAPER
- FINAL ESSAY

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- G. To enhance essay writing skills through identifying the main features of problems posed in tutorial and essay topics, identifying appropriate questions to ask when researching a topic, assembling information to develop an argument and arguing their own view

## **Assessment tasks**

- PARTICIPATION
- REPORT
- SEMINAR PAPER

- FINAL ESSAY

## PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
- D. To understand the relationships of literature to social and cultural paradigm shifts – for example the emergence of romanticism, and its relation with subsequent developments in modernism and postmodernism
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### Assessment tasks

- PARTICIPATION
- SEMINAR PAPER
- FINAL ESSAY

## PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- A. To develop a broad sense of how children's literature has evolved over the past three centuries
- B. To become familiar with the principal themes of children's literature over this period
- C. To gain an understanding of the relationship between texts and the changing cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence
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## **Assessment tasks**

- PARTICIPATION
- REPORT
- SEMINAR PAPER
- FINAL ESSAY