



# LIT 864

## Children's Literature: Concepts and Theories

S1 Evening 2017

*Dept of English*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Victoria Flanagan

[victoria.flanagan@mq.edu.au](mailto:victoria.flanagan@mq.edu.au)

W6A 627

By appointment - please email to arrange.

Ryan Twomey

[ryan.twomey@mq.edu.au](mailto:ryan.twomey@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MChildLit or MCrWrit or GradDipChildLit or GradDipCrWrit or MEChild or MA in Children's Literature

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to contemporary literary and cultural theories pertinent to reading and analysing texts produced for children. Topics include social and historical contexts for the production and reception of children's literature; constructions of childhood; semiotics of visual and verbal texts; critical approaches to children's texts; ideology and value; classics, canons and postmodernity.

## 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:

Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people

Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field

Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss

literature

Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	10%	No	Evaluated Weekly
Literature Review	40%	No	20th March, 2017
Major Research Essay	50%	No	14th June, 2017

### Participation

Due: **Evaluated Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

A threshold requirement for participation marks is **attendance and involvement** in all the seminars. Attendance is mandatory in LIT864—there is no quota of classes you can miss without impact on your participation grade. Absences will be excused only under exceptional circumstances.

#### Class Participation for External Students:

External students must participate in online discussions via the LIT 864 iLearn site. **One post per week is the minimum participation requirement.** External students should read the weekly texts and prepare the seminar discussion topics in advance, then post responses to the seminar questions and respond to the postings of other students, to facilitate an active discussion such as would occur in a face-to-face seminar. Students are also encouraged to raise other relevant points of interest in their online discussions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people
- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss literature

## Literature Review

Due: **20th March, 2017**

Weighting: **40%**

Write a critical review of two of the articles of literary criticism provided for this task (please consult the LIT 864 Handbook). This review, of approx 1500 words, should examine the extent to which these articles are informed and/or shaped by concepts employed by their authors to position themselves in relation to the texts they discuss, and whether these concepts enhance reading or limit it.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people
- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

## Major Research Essay

Due: **14th June, 2017**

Weighting: **50%**

Please select a topic for this essay from the LIT 864 Handbook. Your essay should be 3000 words in length.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people
- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss literature
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

## Delivery and Resources

The unit is delivered online via the LIT864 ilearn site. Set texts are available from the University

Coop bookshop and other resources are available in E-reserve in the library.

### **Required Reading:**

1. Culler, Jonathan, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*
2. Allan Baillie, *A Taste of Cockroach*
3. Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*
4. Margo Lanagan, *White Time*
5. Philip Reeve, *Mortal Engines*
6. Shaun Tan, *The Lost Thing*
7. Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks, *Fox*

## **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\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html)

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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/)

## **Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

### **Departmental Policies**

All assignments are to be submitted through turnitin on the LIT864 ilearn site.

**Extensions and Disruptions to study.** If you have a legitimate reason for being unable to submit your work by the due date please contact the unit convenor before the due date; a lateness penalty may otherwise be imposed (2% per day). Formal requests for disruption to study should be submitted via [ask@mq.edu.au](mailto:ask@mq.edu.au)

### Word Limits

Word limits need to be adhered to. Papers which are 10% over or under the word limit may be penalised.

## 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://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

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

## Graduate Capabilities

### 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**

- Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people
- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

## **Assessment tasks**

- Participation
- Major Research Essay

## **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**

- Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people
- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss literature
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

## **Assessment tasks**

- Literature Review
- Major Research 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**

- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss literature
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

### **Assessment tasks**

- Participation
- Literature Review
- Major Research 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**

- Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss literature
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

### **Assessment tasks**

- Literature Review
- Major Research 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**

- Students should have refined a conceptual and analytic language with which to discuss literature
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

### **Assessment tasks**

- Participation
- Literature Review
- Major Research 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**

- Students should have a broad knowledge of the kinds of approaches possible in the criticism of literature produced for young people
- Students should have developed and expanded their understanding and ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to a particular field
- Students should have developed and refined skills in textual and critical analysis, especially the ability to recognize and analyse the extent to which texts are implicated in and by relationships to cultural practice

### **Assessment tasks**

- Participation
- Major Research Essay