



ENGL710

Children's Literature: Concepts and Theories

S1 Evening 2017

Dept of English

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Victoria Flanagan

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W6A 627

By appointment - please email to arrange

Ryan Twomey

ryan.twomey@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

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. Students will develop their own research projects that address a key analytical aspect of children's literature. Research 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; and 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:

Develop a coherent and advanced knowledge of the range and kinds of literature produced or children

Develop and expand the ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to the field of children's literary criticism

Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources and be aware of the

various ways in which the literature can be understood within perspectives suggested by cultural theories, practices and ideologies

Articulate a clear and coherent argument in written form to a variety of audiences

Think critically and make informed judgements of the arguments of others to arrive and reasoned and meaningful arguments and apply new ideas to new contexts

Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and scholarship

Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Task 1	10%	No	weekly
Task 2	40%	No	20/03/2017
Task 3	50%	No	14/06/17

Task 1

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Active participation and contribution to online discussions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop a coherent and advanced knowledge of the range and kinds of literature produced or children
- Develop and expand the ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to the field of children's literary criticism
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources and be aware of the various ways in which the literature can be understood within perspectives suggested by cultural theories, practices and ideologies
- Articulate a clear and coherent argument in written form to a variety of audiences
- Think critically and make informed judgements of the arguments of others to arrive and reasoned and meaningful arguments and apply new ideas to new contexts
- Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and scholarship
- Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships

Task 2

Due: **20/03/2017**

Weighting: **40%**

Write a 1500 word research essay on the Session 1 topic: Power and Subjectivity in Children's Literature. You must consult at least 4 additional secondary sources (other than those already listed in the Handbook).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop and expand the ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to the field of children's literary criticism
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources and be aware of the various ways in which the literature can be understood within perspectives suggested by cultural theories, practices and ideologies
- Articulate a clear and coherent argument in written form to a variety of audiences
- Think critically and make informed judgements of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and apply new ideas to new contexts
- Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and scholarship

Task 3

Due: **14/06/17**

Weighting: **50%**

One major essay of 2500 words on one of the topics listed in the ENGL 710 Handbook.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop a coherent and advanced knowledge of the range and kinds of literature produced or children
- Develop and expand the ability to apply literary and cultural concepts to the field of children's literary criticism
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources and be aware of the various ways in which the literature can be understood within perspectives suggested by cultural theories, practices and ideologies
- Articulate a clear and coherent argument in written form to a variety of audiences
- Think critically and make informed judgements of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and apply new ideas to new contexts
- Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in

the context of professional practice and scholarship

- Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships

Delivery and Resources

The unit is delivered online via the LIT864/ENGL710 ilearn site. Set texts are available from the University Coop Bookshop. Other resources are available from 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

Assessment Policy 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

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): 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/

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.m](#)

mq.edu.au.

Departmental Policies

Extensions and Penalties

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. Formal requests for disruption to study need to be made via ask@mq.edu.au (appropriate documentation needs to be provided). A 2% per day penalty may otherwise apply.

Word Length

Word lengths need to be adhered to. Papers which are 10% over or under the required word length may incur a penalty.

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) 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

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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:

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 3

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:

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3

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:

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3

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:

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3

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:

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 3

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:

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 3