

## Syllabus for Contemporary Trends in Children's Literature BEN52702

**Class Time:** Mondays 5,6 1:30-3:20 Room R0202

**Class Website:** <http://english.scu.edu.tw/jmklassen/>

**Professor:** Jonathan Klassen

**Office:** Q102; tel: 2881-9471 ext. 6505 | **E-mail:** [jmklassen@scu.edu.tw](mailto:jmklassen@scu.edu.tw)

**Office Hours:** Mondays 10-1, Thursdays 3-6, and by appointment

### Texts

- *The One and Only Ivan* by Catherine Applegate
- *The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DiCamillo
- *Out of the Dust*, by Karen Hesse
- *Monster*, by Walter Dean Meyers
- Other readings to be downloaded from the class website
- Familiarity with around 20 picture books including those students have written about in their reading logs.
- **Picture books presented in class.**

### Class Goals

- To become critical readers.
- To be able to converse and write critically about children's literature.
- To articulate and modify your own ideas about children's literature and culture.

### This Spring Semester Class

- This semester long class looks at **current trends** in English language children's literature. What issues are facing children's literature in the 21st century? How are these similar to and different from the past? What issues are particularly relevant to parents and teachers as well as scholars of literature? Issues such as multiculturalism, feminism, and methods of analyzing texts will be considered. In addition, there will be an emphasis on **poetry** and on **picture books** and their design.

### Class Schedule and Policies

- See the class website for specific week by week schedule of readings, topics, and assignments.
- See the Moodle website for supplementary reading, class PPTs, and student presentation PPTs.
  - Please revise your profile to make sure it includes your student number, full Chinese name, and English name.
- Make sure you complete all the reading in English before class each week.
- Assignments
  - Picture book reading log with 10 or more picture books (each from a different author/illustrator)
  - Two presentations given in small groups: picture book (3/26), and author (6/25).
  - One brief poetry presentation given with your group at the beginning of class (different date for each group).
  - One 4-6 page paper comparing a similar topic in two or more books.
  - Three 1-page book response papers
- **Timeliness:** Late attendance, absences, and late assignments are not represented in the grading scheme below but they do affect your grade. Students who miss many classes invariably perform poorly in presentations, quizzes, and written papers. You are always responsible to know the schedule, arrive on time, and complete all assignments on time. Check the website and discussion group members for any information you may have missed. Please feel free to talk with me about anything you don't understand.
- **Quizzes:** These happen at the beginning of most classes and it is not possible to make up quizzes you miss. The following are some reasons for giving frequent quizzes.
  - Encourage students to do the reading and review class notes.
  - Check for student understanding of reading material and class concepts
  - Give students some ideas about the information that is important to know for exams.
  - Encourage students to get to class on time

### Grading

<b>Comparison Paper</b>	30%	One written paper comparing a similar topic in two books (4-6 pages).
<b>Quizzes</b>	20%	Quizzes will cover the reading for the week as well as information from the previous class.
<b>Presentations</b>	20%	Picture Book (to a small group), Author (to a small group), Poetry (to the class)
<b>Book responses</b>	20%	3 short papers giving your personal response to one of the four class books
<b>Participation</b>	10%	Involvement in class, picture book reading log, punctuality, etc.
	100%	

Note: The official schedule is posted on the website and is subject to change. Be sure you check it regularly.