

**San José State University**  
**Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
**English 112A, Children's Literature, Sec. 1, Fall 2013**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays, 10:00-11:00; Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00; and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:45
<b>Classroom:</b>	Sweeney Hall 413
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper-division standing

### **Faculty Web Page**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus and major assignment handouts may be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/Michelle.Hager>. If you navigate to the English 112A page, you can find links to additional children's literature resources and electronic copies of class handouts.

### **Course Description**

Welcome to English 112A! This class is an upper-division, discussion-based literature course designed to introduce adult readers to the genre of children's literature. Even though children are the central characters in the literary works that we will study, the writers of this genre structure their works with many of the same complex themes and literary devices found in adult literature. We will discuss these writing techniques as we analyze the readings. Though we will focus on the study of children's *novels*, we will also become familiar with picture books and fairy tales.

The course is designed to meet the subject matter requirement for students planning to enter a teaching credential program; though the information and curriculum approaches that we will explore can be adapted for various levels of instruction, keep in mind that this is a literature class, *not* an educational methodology course.

## Student Learning Objectives

In the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will demonstrate the ability to

**SLO 1** read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, and/or rhetoric;

**SLO 2** show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American and World Literature;

**SLO 3** write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject;

**SLO 4** develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively;

**SLO 5** articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

## Required Texts and Materials

- Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*
- Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*
- L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*
- Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*
- Paterson, Katherine. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*
- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising*
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*
- White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*
- Large green books for the final exam

## Course Content

### Reading

Since this is a literature course, reading will be assigned daily, and it is a crucial component of the class. Reading must be completed by the beginning of each class session, and *all* discussions and assignments will be based upon our reading material. It will be impossible to be a successful student in this course if you neglect to complete the daily reading.

### Class Work, Participation, and Homework

You will complete daily work in class that goes toward your participation score. Presentations, group work, minor papers, and creative projects will also factor into this portion of the course grade. You will not be able to complete in-class assignments if you do not attend class daily, come on time, and stay for the full class period. **Absences**

**and/or tardiness will affect your grade.** In addition, class participation does not simply mean that you are physically present in class. You must contribute to class discussions, listen to your peers, take notes as necessary, have the required class materials, and come to class with all assignments completed.

**Turn off cell phones or put them on silent mode during the class period; you will lose all participation points for the day if I see your cell phone (this especially includes text messaging—I do see you!).** This behavior is both rude and unprofessional. Laptop computers and tablets are also forbidden during class time unless you have a documented need for a computer as a note-taking tool.

### **Reading Quizzes**

You will take a unit quiz for many of our required novels, as noted on the class schedule. These quizzes will test your completion of the required reading assignments and your deeper understanding of the material.

### **Meeting of the Minds**

For the Meetings of the Minds assignment, you will write a literary analysis essay in response to one of our main course texts. On your Meeting of the Minds date, you will present your essay to the class in a small group. This presentation will then lead into a detailed, student-led discussion. As with all of your formal writing, I expect you to follow MLA formatting rules; if you are not familiar with MLA style, please ask me if you have questions.

We will be using [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com), and you will have to submit major writing assignments (including the Meeting of the Minds essay) to this website. The [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) class ID# is **6701823**, and the password is “**fantasy**.” Please register with the website as soon as possible.

### **Term Projects**

You will complete two term projects for this class. The first project will be an in-depth annotated bibliography; you will select a target age range and genre, and then you will research works of children’s literature within that category. The second project will be completed in a small group; each group will create an original work of children’s literature (with different group members taking on different responsibilities—writer, editor, artist, etc.).

### **Final Exam**

The date of the final exam is listed on the class schedule. There will be an essay portion of the examination, and you will need to bring large green books to class on the exam date. The exam will be open-book, open-notes. You will find that careful attention to our class discussions and thorough notes regarding the class material will be invaluable for this in-class examination.

## Grading Breakdown and Policies

### Grading Breakdown

Final Exam	20%	(200 points)
Term Project #1	15%	(150 points)
Term Project #2	20%	(200 points)
Meeting of the Minds	15%	(150 points)
Reading Quizzes	10%	(100 points)
Class Work, Participation, and Homework	20%	(200 points)

You can earn up to 1,000 points in this course. Please refer to the point breakdown as outlined below.

930-1,000 points = A (93%-100%)	730-769 points = C (73%-76.9%)
900-929 points = A- (90%-92.9%)	700-729 points = C- (70%-72.9%)
870-899 points = B+ (87%-89.9%)	670-699 points = D+ (67%-69.9%)
830-869 points = B (83%-86.9%)	630-669 points = D (63%-66.9%)
800-829 points = B- (80%-82.9%)	600-629 points = D- (60%-62.9%)
770-799 points = C+ (77%-79.9%)	0-599 points = F (0%-59.9%)

### Late Policy

I am a prompt person, so I expect the same from you. While I will accept work up to one week after the due date, it will be graded down significantly. **For each calendar day that your work is late, it will be graded down one full letter grade.** If the assignment is turned in after the class period on the assigned due date, it will be graded down half a letter grade. **After one week, I will no longer accept the assignment.** If extenuating circumstances apply for any class work, you must contact me *before* the due date in order to request an extension or make necessary accommodations.

### Departmental Grading Policy

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official *SJSU Catalog* (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of the ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

## **University Policies**

### **SJSU Academic Integrity Policy**

A student's commitment to learning, as evidenced by his or her enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy require all students to be honest in their academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S04-12.pdf>. The SJSU rules against plagiarism are set forth in the SJSU Catalog, which defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements.

Plagiarism at SJSU includes, but is not limited to: (1) the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. It is the role and obligation of each student to know the rules that preserve academic integrity and abide by them at all times. This includes learning and following the particular rules associated with specific classes, exams, and/or course assignments. Ignorance of these rules is not a defense to the charge of violating the Academic Integrity Policy.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please speak to me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (formerly known as the Disability Resource Center) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/drc> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Add/Drop Policy**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the policies in the catalog for the current semester at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar at <http://www.sjsu.edu/calendars>. The late drop policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

### **Credit Hours**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours per the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## **Recording Policies**

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that students obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for private, study purposes only. Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. Students may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

## **SJSU Writing Center**



The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

## English 112A, Fall 2013, Course Schedule

Assignments must be **completed** by the day they are listed!

SLO = Student Learning Objective

**ALWAYS bring any books to class from which reading is assigned for the day!**

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Wednesday, August 21	Introductions, syllabus review, brief in-class writing
Monday, August 26	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> , Chapters 1-11 (1-85) Introduction to Children's Literature <b>Meeting of the Minds Assignment, Sign-ups, and Grade Rubric</b>
Wednesday, August 28	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> , Chapters 12-END (86-END) Introduction to Fantasy
Monday, September 2	<b>No Class—Labor Day (Campus Closed)</b>
Wednesday, September 4	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 1-5 (1-87) <b>Term Project #1 Assignment and Sign-ups</b>
Monday, September 9	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 6-8 (88-142)
Wednesday, September 11	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 9-13 (143-227) <b>HPSS Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Monday, September 16	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 14-END (228-309) <b>Meeting of the Minds #1</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Wednesday, September 18	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapters 1-3 (1-98) <b>Term Project #2 Assignment and Sign-ups</b>
Monday, September 23	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapters 4-5 (99-173)
Wednesday, September 25	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapters 6-Chapter 7 (174-250) <b>GB Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Monday, September 30	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapter 7-END (250-307) <b>Meeting of the Minds #2</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5) <b>3-V Response Assignment</b>

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Wednesday, October 2	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 1-3 (7-63) Introduction to Fairy Tales
Monday, October 7	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 4-6 (64-126) <b>In-class Fairy Tale Analysis</b>
Wednesday, October 9	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 7-10 (127-193)
Monday, October 14	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 11-END (194-232) <b>3-V Response DUE</b> (SLO 1, 3)
Wednesday, October 16	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> , “Prologue”-Chapter 17 (3-88)
Monday, October 21	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> , Chapters 18-END (89-139) <b>Meeting of the Minds #3</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Wednesday, October 23	<i>Number the Stars</i> , Chapters 1-8 (1-73) Introduction to Historical Fiction <b>Term Project #1 DUE</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
Monday, October 28	<i>Number the Stars</i> , Chapters 9-END (74-132) <b>Meeting of the Minds #4</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Wednesday, October 30	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (1-57) Introduction to Picture Books <b>Picture Book Analysis, In-class Activity</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3)
Monday, November 4	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (58-120) <b>Picture Book Analysis, In-class Activity</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3)
Wednesday, November 6	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (121-178) <b>ER Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Monday, November 11	<b>No class—Veteran’s Day (Campus Closed)</b>
Wednesday, November 13	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (179-253) <b>Meeting of the Minds #5</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Monday, November 18	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i> (1-62) Introduction to Realistic Fiction

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
Wednesday, November 20	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i> (63-125) <b>GGH Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Monday, November 25	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i> (126-178) <b>Meeting of the Minds #6</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Wednesday, November 27	<i>Maniac Magee</i> , “Before the Story”-Chapter 17 (1-63)
Monday, December 2	<i>Maniac Magee</i> , Chapters 18-32 (64-118) <b>Final Exam Discussion and Study Tips</b>
Wednesday, December 4	<b>Term Project #2 DUE</b> (SLO 2, 3, 5) <b>Term Project #2 Group Presentations</b>
Monday, December 9	<i>Maniac Magee</i> , Chapters 33-END (121-184) <b>Term Project #2 Group Presentations</b>
Wednesday, December 11	<b>Final Examination, 12:15–2:30</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5) Bring pens, all novels, all class materials, and large green books