

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

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays, 12:00-1:00; Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00; and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:45
<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 literary devices and themes 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/blue books for the final exam

## Course Content

### Reading

Since this is a literature course, reading will be assigned on a daily basis, 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 **5913876**, 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/blue books to class on the exam date; the essay portion of 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 essay writing.

## 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

### Academic Integrity

Your commitment to learning is evidenced by your enrollment as a student at San José State University. The academic integrity policy of the university, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade in this course and sanctions by the university.

### 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 make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> 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/>.

### 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, Spring 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, January 23	Introductions, syllabus review, brief in-class writing
Monday, January 28	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> , Chapters 1-11 (1-85) Introduction to Children's Literature <b>Meeting of the Minds Assignment and Sign-ups</b>
Wednesday, January 30	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> , Chapters 12-END (86-END) Introduction to Fantasy
Monday, February 4	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 1-5 (1-87) <b>Term Project #1 Assignment and Sign-ups</b>
Wednesday, February 6	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 6-8 (88-142)
Monday, February 11	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> , Chapters 9-13 (143-227) <b>HPSS Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Wednesday, February 13	<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)
Monday, February 18	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapters 1-3 (1-98) <b>Term Project #2 Assignment and Sign-ups</b>
Wednesday, February 20	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapters 4-5 (99-173)
Monday, February 25	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> , Chapters 6-Chapter 7 (174-250) <b>GB Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Wednesday, February 27	<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>
Monday, March 4	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 1-3 (7-63) Introduction to Fairy Tales

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Wednesday, March 6	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 4-6 (64-126)
Monday, March 11	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 7-10 (127-193) <b>WiT Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Wednesday, March 13	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Chapters 11-END (194-232) <b>3-V Response DUE</b> (SLO 1, 3)
Monday, March 18	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> , “Prologue”-Chapter 17 (3-88)
Wednesday, March 20	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> , Chapters 18-END (89-139) <b>Meeting of the Minds #3</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Monday, March 25	<b>No Class—Spring Break!</b>
Wednesday, March 27	<b>No Class—Spring Break!</b>
Monday, April 1	<b>No Class—Campus Closed for Cesar Chavez Day!</b>
Wednesday, April 3	<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, April 8	<i>Number the Stars</i> , Chapters 9-END (74-132) <b>Meeting of the Minds #4</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Wednesday, April 10	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (1-57) Introduction to Picture Books
Monday, April 15	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (58-120) <b>Picture Book Analysis, In-class Activity</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3)
Wednesday, April 17	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (121-178) <b>ER Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Monday, April 22	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> (179-253) <b>Meeting of the Minds #5</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
Wednesday, April 24	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i> (1-62) Introduction to Realistic Fiction
Monday, April 29	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i> (63-125) <b>GGH Reading Quiz</b> (SLO 1, 2, 5)
Wednesday, May 1	<i>The Great Gilly Hopkins</i> (126-178) <b>Meeting of the Minds #6</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
Monday, May 6	<i>Maniac Magee</i> , “Before the Story”-Chapter 17 (1-63)
Wednesday, May 8	<i>Maniac Magee</i> , Chapters 18-32 (64-118) <b>Term Project #2 DUE</b> (SLO 2, 3, 5) <b>Term Project #2 Group Presentations</b>
Monday, May 13	<i>Maniac Magee</i> , Chapters 33-END (121-184) <b>Finish Term Project #2 Group Presentations</b>
Monday, May 20	<b>Final Examination, 9:45AM-12:00PM</b> (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5) Bring pens, large green/blue books, all novels, and class materials