ENGH 452: Selected Works of Children's Literature

This annotated bibliography is not intended to be exhaustive, and not all of the texts listed here are necessarily in print, although most are available from public libraries. Fantasy and nineteenth-century texts dominate the list, because of the focus of the courses currently offered.

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Women
Little Men
Jo's Boys
Eight Cousins
Rose in Bloom

The first three stories narrate the lives of the March daughters from their adolescence to that of their children. The other stories deal with the childhood and the coming of age of Rose Campbell.

Alexander, Lloyd
The Book of Three
The Black Cauldron
The Castle of Llyr
Taran Wanderer
The High King

This series of stories is also known as the Chronicles of Prydain. They are set in a kingdom modeled on medieval Wales, and Taran's adventures are roughly adapted from the Welsh Mabinogi.

Bellairs, John
The House with a Clock in its Walls
The Figure in the Shadows
The Letter, the Witch, and the Ring
The Face in the Frost

The first three stories present the adventures of Lewis, a timid and overweight boy, and his uncle who is a wizard of sorts. The fourth story describes the battles of two magicians to save their country from a colleague who has mastered spells that trigger wholesale terror.

Boston, Lucy
The Children of Green Knowe
The River at Green Knowe
The Treasure at Green Knowe
A Stranger at Green Knowe
An Enemy at Green Knowe  
The Stone of Green Knowe  

Green Knowe is a house endowed with a magic that allows former inhabitants to visit with the present dwellers, Tolly and his great-grandmother, even when the visitor lived centuries ago. Boston's evocation of place is superb.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson  
Little Lord Fauntleroy  
The Secret Garden  
A Little Princess

The first story is not as bad as its reputation would have one believe. The second work is Burnett's best--two children restore an abandoned garden and find that they themselves have been restored. The third story concerns the reversals of fortune experienced by a child in a boarding school.

Cameron, Eleanor  
The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet  
Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet  
Mr. Bass's Planetoid  
A Mystery for Mr. Bass  
Time and Mr. Bass  
The Terrible Churnadryne  
A Room Made of Windows  
Court of the Stone Children

The "Mushroom Planet" books were written for Cameron's son, who wanted a planet just his size. The stories are informed as well with a strong feeling for Wales, the home on earth for the Mushroom people, one of whom is the mentor of the boy-adventurers. A Room Made of Windows is significant in that the child-protagonist is blind; the final book demonstrates Cameron's dealings with time-fantasy.

Collins, Suzanne  
The "Gregor the Overlander" series  
The Hunger Games  
Catching Fire  
Mockingjay

The "Gregor" books were Collins' first published fiction. The young Gregor follows his toddler sister through a "place in the wall" into a world populated by what one would expect in an urban apartment--rats (helpful), cockroaches (not helpful at all), and a group of snobbish Underland teenagers. Collins varies the liminal adventure with a protagonist who must survive with a sibling--in the first books--who is still in diapers.
The "Hunger Games" series, for which she is best known, is set in a dystopic North America in which political discipline is maintained the twelve (official) districts by annual gladiatorial competitions to the death among young people chosen by lot. The protagonist, Katniss Everdeen, must use her survival skills and struggle between ruthlessness and her humane instincts to become an active exemplar of a movement for social change. Collins is unrelentingly honest in her depictions of decadence and oppressive powers.

**Cooper, Susan**
- *Dawn of Fear*
- *Over Sea, Under Stone* *
- *The Dark is Rising* *
- *Greenwitch* *
- *The Grey King* *
- *Silver on the Tree* *
- *Jethro and the Jumbie*
- *The Boggart*
- *The Boggart and the Monster*
- *King of Shadows*

Cooper is one of the most accomplished contemporary writers of fantasy. The first book is autobiographical, describing the experience of English children during the Blitz of WWII. Her sequence, "The Dark is Rising"* has won several awards, including the Newbery award for *The Grey King. Jethro and the Jumbie* is notable for her use of Caribbean folklore and local dialect.

**Dahl, Roald**
- *Matilda*
- *The BFG*
- *The Twits*
- *James and the Giant Peach*
- *The Witches*
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
- and many more...

Dahl's relentlessly satirical view of adult, and occasionally regressive politics, have occasioned some resistance among the latter, but it has not harmed the popularity of his books, several of which have been filmed. His whimsical books do not neglect the need for hard choices.

**de la Mare, Walter**
- *The Three Royal Monkeys*
- *The Magic Jacket* (short stories)
- *Eight Tales*
de la Mare's stories are a blend of irony and a strong sense of the supernatural. There are several other collections (somewhat hard to find) of his other short fiction.

**Duane, Diane**  
*So You Want to Be a Wizard*  
*Deep Wizardry*  
*High Wizardry*  
*A Wizard Abroad*  
*The Wizard's Dilemma*  
*A Wizard Alone*  
*Wizards at War*

This series creates an alternate, but recognizable, version of our reality in which Nita Callahan and her friend Kit Rodriguez learn that they are not simply adolescents regarded as "strange" but wizards, subject to being "on call" in case of magic-related crises. Duane varies the setting of each novel, from a dreary and dangerous future New York City in the first novel, to a reenactment, in Ireland, of the Second Battle of Moytura, the oldest Irish myth. All of the novels interweave commonplace adolescent problems with magical and dangerous adventures. *Deep Wizardry* and *The Wizard's Dilemma* are notable for the serious dilemmas they present.

**Engdahl, Siri**  
*Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains*  
*Enchantress from the Stars*  
*The Far Side of Evil*  
*This Star Shall Abide*

Competent science fiction for the young audience.

**Flanagan, John**  
The "Ranger's Apprentice" series  
The "Brotherband" series

In Flanagan's "Ranger's Apprentice" series (twelve books), the apparently untalented orphan, Will, is apprenticed to the Ranger, Halt, one of the most accomplished of the kingdom's justice and trouble-shooting corps. Will grows, under the stern discipline of Halt, into a young Ranger worthy of his mentor, and gains the friendship of Horace, a fledgling knight, and Cassandra, the kingdom's Crown princess. Although the series sometimes flags in later volumes, Flanagan is a master of deft plotting, especially in the long trajectory of Will's development.

The "Brotherband" series takes place in the same world, but in a culture modeled after those of the Vikings and the Saxons. The protagonist and his "bound brothers" are, in fact, those whom the culture has rejected from full warrior status and forced to make their own places in their world.
Funke, Cornelia  
*The Thief Lord*  
*Inkheart*  
*Inkspell*  
*Inkdeath*  
*Dragon Rider*

In *The Thief Lord*, two German orphans escape an oppressive foster home to hide among a group of homeless children in Venice. They discover that the children are an organized gang of thieves managed by "The Thief Lord." Learning the latter's identity leads to a series of mysterious encounters and the uncovering of several families' secrets. In *Inkheart*, the first of a projected trilogy, book-loving Meggie does not understand why her father, Mortimer ("Mo"), a master bookbinder and preservationist, adamantly refuses to read stories aloud to her. Escaping with Mo and the enigmatic carnival fire-eater Dustfinger, she learns not only the reason, but also encounters an enclave of people who may not be of this world. *Dragon Rider*, one of Funke's earlier works, is the story of an orphaned boy who sets out to find a refuge for the last dragons in Europe with the aid of a young dragon and a brownie girl.

Garner, Alan  
*The Wierdstone of Brisingamen*  
*The Moon of Gomrath*  
*Elidor*  
*The Owl Service*  
*The Red Shift*

Garner specializes in "incursion fantasy," i.e., people and creatures from an alternate world invade this world. He and his protagonists often seem hostile to the fantastic, but his work is competently written. The fourth book caused a critical furor because of its frank portrayal of thwarted passion; the story is based on a Welsh myth of betrayal.

Grahame, Kenneth  
*The Golden Age*  
*The Wind in the Willows*

The first book is focalized through a child, but the tone and commentary are adult-oriented--and interesting "mixed implied audience." The second is the story for which Grahame is best known, one of the classic animal fantasies, and clearly one of the influences on Brian Jacques's "Redwall" series.

Gripe, Maria  
*The Glassblower's Children*  
*The Night Daddy*  
*Elvis and his Friends*  
*Elvis and his Secret*  
*Josephine*
Hugo
Hugo and Josephine

Gripe's stories range from the first, a fable about the perils of having one's every wish granted, to the stories of a young girl and her sitter, a young man with an owl named Elvis. Her protagonists are often lonely children.

Hamilton, Virginia
M. C. Higgins the Great
The House of Dies Drear
The Mystery of Drear House
Arilla Sun-Down
Zeely
A White Romance
The Planet of Junior Brown
The Marvellous Adventures of Pretty Pearl
The "Justice" Trilogy:
   Justice and Her Brothers
   Dustland
   The Gathering
Cousins (and more)

Hamilton won many awards for her stories, which range from African-American folklore (Pretty Pearl), to science fiction (the "Justice" trilogy), to the stories of African-American children in her home region of the Ohio River valley. The two "Dies Drear" books (first novel has been filmed) are set in a house that was part of the Underground Railroad.

Heinlein, Robert
Red Planet
Have Spacesuit Will Travel
Citizen of the Galaxy
Farmer in the Sky
Podkayne of Mars
Rocket Ship Galileo
The Rolling Stones

Although these books are not given much critical attention, Heinlein's science fiction for young readers presents some of his best writing. Red Planet, Citizen of teh Galaxy, and Podkayne of Mars are especially worthy of attention.

Ibbotson, Eva
Dial-a-Ghost
The Great Ghost Rescue
Not Just a Witch
Island of the Aunts
Ibbotson's stories are fairy tales with protagonists who maintain their curiosity and altruism despite alienation and neglect. Her antagonists are greedy wastrels depicted with occasionally heavy-handed satire. Her plots range from fantastic whimsy, as in *Dial-a-Ghost, Which Witch* or the environmental fantasy *Island of the Aunts* (the aunts "borrow" two neglected children to train them as the future stewards of their animal refuge), to more mimetic narratives that depend on creative problem-solving and convenient but believable coincidences.

**Jacques, Brian**
*Mossflower*
*Redwall*
*Mattimeo*
*Mariel of Redwall*
*Salamandastron*
*Martin the Warrior* (and many more)

This series, a medievalized animal fantasy, focuses on the countryside surrounding the abbey of Redwall, a community of monastic mice and their allies. The first three are the most solidly realized of the series, which is still in progress.

**Jansson, Tove**
*Finn Family Moomintroll*
*Moonimpappa at Sea*
*Moonimsummer Madness*
*Comet in Moominland*
*Moominvally in November*
*Moominland Midwinter*
*Tales from Moominland*

These books are translated from the Swedish, but their dryly humorous tone has not been lost. Moomins resemble small hippopotami with long tails. Jansson tempers her whimsy with irony and with scenes of real power, e.g., the deadly peril of Arctic winter.

**Jones, Diana Wynne**
*Fire and Hemlock*
*The Chrestomanci Quartet*
  *Charmed Life*
  *Witch Week*
  *The Magicians of Caprona*
  *The Lives of Christopher Chant*
*The Dalemark Quartet*
Cart and Cwidder
Drowned Ammet
The Spellcoats
The Crown of Dalemark
Dark Lord of Derkholm
Year of the Griffin
Hexwood
The Homeward Bounders
The Merlin Conspiracy
Howl's Moving Castle
Castle in the Air*
The House of Many Ways (Completes a trilogy with the previous two books)
The Pinhoe Egg (a Chrestomanci book)
and many more...

Wynne Jones's fantasies often deal with the difficulties of "managing" magic; being gifted in magic tends to create as many problems as it solves. Some of her works are comic, e.g., the "Chrestomanci" series, others, such as the "Dalemark" books are more serious in tone. *Fire and Hemlock* is perhaps her most impressive work, combining the faery lore of "Thomas Rhymer" and "Tam Lin" with the life of a young girl with unsettled family relations.

**Kipling, Rudyard**
*Kim*
*Puck of Pook's Hill*
*Just-so Stories*

The first story is the coming of age of a boy in India as he journeys with a Tibetan lama. The second book is a collection of time-fantasies, including the Arthurian legend; the third collection is a series of fanciful myths told to a very young child.

**Le Guin, Ursula K.**
*A Wizard of Earthsea*
*The Tombs of Atuan*
*The Farthest Shore*
*The Beginning Place*
*Far Away from Any Place Else*
*Gifts*
*Voices*
*Powers*

The first three books are a trilogy set on a world, Earthsea, where magic is the equivalent of our science. They are the tales of the coming of age and later adventures of the wizard Ged (the third volume won the National Book Award for children's literature). The last two books represent Le Guin's current work--a blend of fantasy and realism.
L'Engle, Madeleine
A Wrinkle in Time
A Wind in the Door
A Swiftly-Tilting Planet
The Young Unicorns
The Arm of the Starfish
Meet the Austins
Dragons in the Waters
L'Engle is best known for the first three books, a trilogy of time-fantasies focusing on the Murry family, especially Meg and her brilliant younger brother, Charles Wallace. The other books are varied in content, but all express L'Engle's interest in moral dilemmas.

Lewis, C.S.
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Prince Caspian
The Voyage of the Dawn-Treader
The Horse and his Boy
The Silver Chair
The Magician's Nephew
The Last Battle
These books, the "Chonicles of Narnia" are the adventures of children who enter a world of sentient animals, dwarves, witches, and humans all governed by the Lion, Aslan. On one level these books are Christian allegory, but didacticism does not necessarily spoil the reader's enjoyment of well-told story.

Lindgren, Astrid
Pippi Longstocking
Pippi in the South Seas
Pippi Goes on Board
Lindgren, a Swedish author, created Pippi, whose father is a pirate king, who has a house of her own, and is constantly shocking her relentlessly conventional foils Tommy and Annika.

McCaffrey, Anne
Dragonsong
Dragonsinger
Dragondrums
These books should probably be read with McCaffrey's "adult" series, "The Dragonriders of Pern." The first two books are the adventures of Menolly, oppressed by a family that believes that no girl can ever be a professional harper. She realizes that she must escape even if no one is supposed to be able to survive unsheltered in a world menaced by noisome "Threads," airborne spores that must be destroyed in mid-air by the
dragonriders. The story of Menolly's adventures (the first two books) is McCaffrey’s best work.

**MacDonald, Betty**
*Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*
*Hello, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*
*Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's Magic*
*Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's Farm*

A series, similar to P. Travers' "Mary Poppins" books, about a magical helper who specializes in curing/socializing difficult children.

**Macdonald, George**
*The Princess and the Goblin*
*The Princess and Curdie*
*The Golden Key*
*The Light Princess*
*At the Back of the North Wind*
*The Wise Woman*
*The Gifts of the Child Christ*

Anyone reading the first two books will immediately see how MacDonald influenced C.S. Lewis (who claimed that MacDonald "baptised [his] imagination") and J.R.R. Tolkien. MacDonald combines humor, Victorian piety, and convincing fantastic lands and dwellings in a wide variety of novels and short stories.

**Mayne, William**
*Earthfasts*
*A Game of Dark*
*A Parcel of Trees*
*Ravensgill*
*Royal Harry*

Mayne's work varies from fantasies set in the contemporary world to "straight" adventure-tales. The second work is one of great power; a boy escapes from an intolerable everyday existence into a fantasy-world that is grimmer than his own.

**McKinley, Robin**
*Beauty: A Retelling of the Tale of Beauty and the Beast*
*The Door in the Hedge*
*The Blue Sword*
*The Hero and the Crown*
*Rose Daughter*
*Spindle's End*
The first two books are retellings of various familiar fairy-tales, including "The Princess and the Frog." The other books are the first two volumes of a trilogy of adventures set in the legendary kingdom of Damar, each with a heroine who finds her place, often painfully, in her realm.

**Miéville, China**
*Un Lun Dun*
*Railsea*

Although Miéville is best known for his adult science fiction, his two young adult novels demonstrate his skill in presenting complex social concerns, *e.g.*, environmental preservation and economic justice to younger audiences as well as his delight in Carollian word-play. *Un Lun Dun*, influenced, like his novel *Kraken*, by Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*, builds on the idea of an "under-city" than reflects, and comments on, the "everyday" world with which it exists in complex tension. *Railsea* is a more straightforward *Bildungsroman* and includes a quest by the protagonist's obsessive captain for a legendary white "mouldiwarp." Both novels present protagonists who are not members of the dominant culture of their worlds.

**Napoli, Donna Jo**
*Zel*
*Sirena*
*Beast*
*The Magic Circle*
*The Prince of the Pond*
*Spinners*

Napoli specializes in retelling traditional stories, primarily fairy tales (*Sirena* is based on the Trojan War), from perspectives other than that of the conventional omniscient narrator. *The Magic Circle* presents the "Hansel and Gretel" story from the witches perspective; *Zel* moves between the personae of Rapunzel, the prince, and the surrogate mother. In *Beast*, the "Beauty and the Beast" tale is narrated from the point of view, primarily, of the Persian prince cursed to become the Beast, after a serious error in a religious ritual sacrifice. Napoli's implied audience is the contemporary young adult; she deals effectively and sometimes movingly with inchoate sexuality.

**Nesbit, Edith**
*The Five Children and It*
*The Phoenix and the Carpet*
*The Story of the Amulet*
*The Story of the Treasure-Seekers*
*The Wouldbegoods*
*The Railway Children*

Nesbit's stories fall into two groups--the first three are stories of five siblings and their adventures with magical creatures, and the fourth and fifth--the "Bastable" stories--
engaging tales of the adventures of a family of mischievous children. The final story has been made into a film.

**Odell, Scott**
*The King's Fifth*
*The Island of the Blue Dolphin*
*The Black Pearl*
*The Hawk that Dared not Hunt*
*Sing down the Sun*
*Child of Fire*

Historical novels and realistic adventure-tales.

**Paterson, Katherine**
*The Great Gilly Hopkins*
*Bridge to Terabithia*
*Jacob I Have Loved*
*The Master Puppeteer*
*Of Nightingales that Weep*
*The Sign of the Chrysanthemum*

Paterson has won many awards--Newbery, National Book Award--for her fiction. The first three books are set in contemporary Maryland; the other books are set in Japan in the time of the samurai.

**Pierce, Tamora**
*Sandry's Book* (Circle of Magic Series #1)
*Tris's Book* (Circle of Magic Series #2)
*Daja's Book* (Circle of Magic Series #3)
*Briar's Book* (Circle of Magic Series #4)

*Magic Steps* (Circle Opens Series #1)
*Street Magic* (Circle Opens Series #2)
*Cold Fire* (Circle Opens Series #3)
*Shatterglass* (Circle Opens Series #4)

*The Will of the Empress* (The Circle Reforged Series #1)
*Melting Stones*
*Battle Magic*

*Alanna: The First Adventure* (Song of the Lioness Series #1)
*In the Hand of the Goddess* (Song of the Lionness Series #2)
*The Woman Who Rides Like a Man* (Song of the Lioness Series #3)
*Lioness Rampant* (Song of the Lioness Series #4)
Pierce favors short novels in series, and focuses on children and young adults learning to control magical powers, either "elemental magic," as in the "Circle of Magic" books, or learned magic, as in the Alanna or "Lioness" series; Daine, of the "Immortals" series possesses a unique "wild" magic. All of her characters must deal not only with their personal flaws and inhibitions but also with social customs and prejudices that oppose them either because of their ages, or, in the case of the first and second female knights, Alanna and Keladry, the Protector of the Small, because of their sex. Pierce has begun a third series set a a period 2000 years prior to the "Lioness" books.

Pullman, Philip

The Ruby in the Smoke
Shadow in the North
The Tiger in the Well
The Broken Bridge
His Dark Materials:
   The Golden Compass (in the UK as Northern Lights)
   The Subtle Knife
   The Amber Spyglass
Lyra's Oxford
Spring-Heeled Jack
I Was a Rat!
Count Karlstein
The Firework-Maker's Daughter
The Scarecrow and his Servant

The first three books are cast as Victorian thrillers. Lyra's Oxford is a beautifully-produced short sequel to Pullman's award-winning fantasy sequence His Dark Materials, a work that combines a rescripting of Milton's Paradise Lost among humans accompanied by animal-formed daemons (their inspiriting principles) in a secondary world of multiple universes, witches, armored bears, zeppelins, Calabi-Yau spaces, and angels. The last four books are shorter, comic novels.
Rowling, J. K.
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (the US ed. is entitled Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone)
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
The Prisoner of Azkaban
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows

The seven books of the famous series. An updated "school story" presenting Harry Potter's years at Hogwarts' academy of magical arts.

Sidney, Margaret (pseud. of Harriet M. Lothrop)
The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew
The Five Little Peppers at School
The Five Little Peppers Midway (and others sequels)

Sidney's stories are sometimes described as a working-class variation on the March family stories of Alcott. Five children and their mother work together to survive severe poverty. Their fortunes change at the end of the first novel, and the sequels follow the later adventures of the family in their new circumstances. The characters are effectively individualized and Sidney avoids most of the sentimentality associated with stories about the poor.

Sutcliff, Rosemary
Mark of the Horselord
Warrior Scarlet
Blood Feud
Dawn Wind
Shield Ring
Sun Horse, Moon Horse
The Lantern Bearers
The Eagles of the Ninth
The Silver Branch
The Sword and the Circle
The Light Beyond the Forest
The Road to Camlann

Sutcliff favors late Roman Britain as the setting for her works. They are powerful and sometimes harsh in their realistic portrayal of the hardships of that time. The last three books are masterful retellings of the Arthurian legend.

Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Hobbit
The Lord of the Rings
Farmer Giles of Ham  
Smith of Wooton Major  
The Silmarillion  
Roverrandom  

Tolkien is probably the best-known modern fantasist. His greatest gifts are the creation of a consistent "secondary world" and an awareness of the power of language--both his own native English and those languages he creates.

Travers, Pamela  
Mary Poppins  
Mary Poppins Comes Back  
Mary Poppins in the Park  
Mary Poppins Opens the Door  

Stories of an improbable, wry governess with magical powers, written by one who claims that no one writes for children.

White, T.H.  
The Once and Future King  
The Book of Merlyn  
Mistress Masham's Repose  
The Master  

The first part of the first book, "The Sword in the Stone," is undeniably fine children's literature, even if the subsequent parts raise some questions of audience. The third book is the tale of a young female Gulliver. The last is White's least successful children's book.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls  
The Little House in the Big Woods  
On the Banks of Plum Creek  
By the Shores of Silver Lake  
Little House on the Prairie  
Little Town on the Prairie  
The Long Winter  
These Happy Golden Years  
The First Four Years  
Farmer Boy  

A series of autobiographical novels of life on the American frontier. The books are much misrepresented by the television series.

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