

### Some Significant Children's Books

- Richard Adams, *Watership Down*  
 Joan Aiken, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*  
 Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*  
 Lloyd Alexander, *The High King*  
 L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*  
 James Barrie, *Peter Pan*  
 Judy Blume, *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*  
 Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*  
 Betsy Byars, *The Summer of the Swans*  
 Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*  
 John Christopher, *City of Gold and Lead*  
 Robert Cormier, *The Chocolate War*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *I Am the Cheese*  
 Christopher Paul Curtis, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*  
 Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*  
 Marguerite De Angeli, *A Door in the Wall*  
 Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*  
 Esther Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*  
 Jean George, *Julle of the Wolves*  
 Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*  
 Virginia Hamilton, *M.C. Higgins the Great*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *The Planet of Junior Brown*  
 Irene Hunt, *Across Five Aprils*  
 Francisco Jimenez, *The Circuit* pub-1997  
 Eric Kelly, *The Trumpeter of Krakow*  
 Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Books*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *Just-So Stories*  
 E. L. Konigsberg, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*  
 Ursula LeGuin, *A Wizard of Earthsea*  
 Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*  
 C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*  
 Hugh Lofting, *The Story of Doctor Dolittle*  
 Lois Lowry, *The Giver*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *Number the Stars*  
 A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *The House at Pooh Corner*
- Walter Dean Myers, *Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *Somewhere in the Darkness*  
 L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*  
 Mary Norton, *The Borrowers*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *The Borrowers Afield*  
 Robert O'Brien, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*  
 Katherine Paterson, *Jacob Have I Loved*  
 Ellen Raskin, *The Westing Game*  
 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, *The Yearling* 1938  
 Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*  
 J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*  
 J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*  
 Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith, *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Ridiculous Tales*  
 Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*  
 Elizabeth Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*  
 Shirley Sterling, *My Name is SEEPEETZA* 1992, Canada  
 Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*  
 Rosemary Sutcliffe, *Eagle of the Ninth*  
 Mildred Taylor, *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *The Road to Memphis*  
 P.L. Travers, *Mary Poppins*  
 J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*  
 Cynthia Voigt, *Homecoming*  
 Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
 Yoshiko Uchida, *Journey to Topaz*  
 E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*  
 T. H. White, *The Sword in the Stone*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *The Once and Future King*  
 Laura Ingalls Wilder, *The Little House in the Big Wood*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *Little House on the Prairie*  
 Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*  
 Laurence Yep, *Dragonwings*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *Dragon's Gate*

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Lecture 1/24/07 - M Best  
Paper General W07

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## RESEARCH PAPER

1. Read a novel from the following list of significant children's books, and select one literary element (characterization, setting, point of view, theme, plot, style) which you believe is central to the literary quality and meaning of the novel. (To a certain extent, the importance of the elements will depend upon the genre of the novel. For example, setting is usually central in historical fiction, whereas it is often relatively unimportant in contemporary fiction.)
2. Then reread the novel carefully, consult scholarly secondary sources, and write a four- to five-page essay explaining how the literary element you selected contributes to the overall meaning and literary quality of the novel. Be sure to support your claims with sufficient examples from the novel.
3. Since this is a research paper, it must make reference to at least three secondary sources (books or articles of literary criticism, reference books, etc.), in addition to the primary work of literature discussed. Internet resources may be used as long as they are reliable and you have at least two written sources from scholarly books or periodicals.

### Acceptable Sources

- reference books
- books published by university presses or major commercial publishers
- articles published in scholarly journals, such as *Children's Literature*; *Children's Literature Quarterly*; *The Lion and the Unicorn*; *The ALAN Review*; and *Children's Literature in Education*
- articles in databases accessible through the Halle Library website
- articles on scholarly websites, such as *The Hungry Mind Review*, *Children's Book Section*, *The Looking Glass*; *The ALAN Review*.

### Unacceptable Sources

- brief reviews of one or two paragraphs in length
- articles/reviews from booksellers' websites, such as amazon.com
- reviews written by children
- websites with URLs ending in .com (except when a commercial company reprints reviews from scholarly sources).

4. You must document your sources accurately using MLA format which can be found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* or online through the Halle Library website. A brief version of the MLA format is included in your coursepack, but it only covers the most common situations. Remember: you must document all information you use from outside sources—whether you quote it or put it in your own words.
5. Be sure to leave sufficient time to edit and proofread the paper carefully (including checking it after the final copy is printed). Check carefully throughout the paper for inconsistent verb tenses (a common and distracting error in literature papers) and other mechanical errors. If a paper is submitted with frequent mechanical errors, imprecise or unclear wording, or multiple errors in documentation format, I reserve the right to stop marking specific errors and assign a grade of D or E. If you find an error after the paper is printed, you may make neat corrections in pen.
6. As stated in the Course Requirements document, plagiarism will not be tolerated. Penalties for plagiarism may range from a failing grade on the paper to a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Services for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal from the University. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, but, if you are not sure about whether something you're doing would be considered plagiarism, consult with me.
7. Your paper should be 4-5 pages in length (not including the Works Cited page), and should use standard fonts (10-12-point) and standard margins (1 inch on all sides). It should have a descriptive title, not just the name of the work you are discussing (e.g., "The Importance of Setting in *Little House on the Prairie*"—not just "*Little House on the Prairie*").