

ENGL 3703 - Literature for Young Children

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 40460,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Dr. Terry Benton

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Public Instructor Information

Part-time Faculty, English

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction, Kent State University, 2015

M.A., English, Youngstown State University, 2001

B.S., Education, Youngstown State University, 1999

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Course Description

3703. Literature for Young Children. Study of the development of children's literature, giving the prospective elementary teacher criteria for evaluating books for children. Required of all elementary education candidates. Prereq.: Completion of ENGL 1551 with grade "C" or better. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Essentials of Children's Literature, 10th edition	Kathy G. Short & Desireé W. Cueto	9780137451418
Required	Ramona Quimby, Age 8	Beverly Cleary	9780380709564
Required	Doctor De Soto	William Steig	9780312611897
Required	Blizzard	John Rocco	9781423178651
Required	Chester's Way	Kevin Henkes	9780688154721
Required	Julius, the Baby of the World	Kevin Henkes	9780688143886
Required	Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse	Kevin Henkes	978066128975
Required	The Blue House	Phoebe Wahl	9781984893369
Required	The Little House	Virgina Lee Burton	9781328741943
Required	Charlotte's Web	E. B. White	9780064400558
Required	Some Writer!: The Story of E. B. White	Melissa Sweet	9780358137290
Required	Juana and Lucas	Juana Medina	9781536206395
Required	El Deafo	Cece Bell	9781419712173
Required	Moses Goes to a Concert	Isaac Millman	978374453664
Required	A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms	Paul B. Janeczko	978076341320
Required	Student-selected children's books, as assigned		
Required	Supplemental online resources will be posted in the appropriate modules on Blackboard		

The focus of this course is literature for young children from birth through grade three, so the books are necessarily short and include many picture books. Required children's books can be purchased from the university bookstore or borrowed from a library.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Textbook, Chapter 1: Connecting to the Value of Story	Introduction to Course	Introduction Discussion Week 1 Discussion Goodreads Setup Assignment Final Assignment - Question 1
8/31	Textbook, Chapter 2: Connecting Children with Literature Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary (chapter book) Textbook, Chapter 10: Realistic Fiction	Connecting Children with Literature Realistic Fiction Ramona Quimby, Age 8	Week 2 Discussion
9/7	Textbook, Chapter 2 (continued) Textbook: Appendix A: Children's Book Awards	Connecting Children with Literature (continued)	Week 3 Discussion Begin Book Selection Assignment Part One (Due September 20)
9/14	Textbook, Chapter 2 (continued) Textbook, Appendix A (continued)	Connecting Children with Literature (continued)	Week 4 Discussion Book Selection Assignment Part One Final Assignment - Question 2
9/21	Textbook, Chapter 3: Learning about Literary Elements Doctor De Soto by William Steig (picture book) Blizzard by John Rocco (picture book) Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes (picture book) Julius, the Baby of the World by Kevin Henkes (picture book) Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes (picture book) Links to online resources will be posted on Blackboard	Learning about Literary Elements	Week 5 Discussion Literary Elements Assignment
9/28	Textbook, Chapter 3 (continued) Textbook, Chapter 4: Learning about Illustration and Visual Elements The Blue House by Phoebe Wahl (picture book) The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton (picture book) Links to online resources will be posted on Blackboard Children's picture books from the week of 9/21 (continued)	Learning about Literary Elements (continued) Learning about Illustration and Visual Elements	Week 6 Discussion Book Research Assignment
10/5	Textbook, Chapter 4 (continued) Textbook, Chapter 6: Picturebooks Links to online resources will be posted on Blackboard Children's picture books from the weeks of 9/21 and 9/28 (continued)	Learning about Literary Elements (continued) Learning about Illustration and Visual Elements (continued)	Week 7 Discussion Illustration Assignment



10/12	No new readings Continue readings from the weeks of 9/21, 9/28, and 10/5, as needed to complete assignments	Learning about Literary Elements (continued) Learning about Illustration and Visual Elements (continued)	Work on Book Selection Assignment Part Two (Due at end of semester)
10/19	Charlotte's Web by E. B. White (chapter book) Textbook, Pages 73-75: Understanding the Categories of Literature Textbook, Chapter 9: Fantasy and Science Fiction	Charlotte's Web Categories of Literature Fantasy and Science Fiction	Week 9 Discussion
10/26	Charlotte's Web (continued) Some Writer!: The Story of E. B. White by Melissa Sweet (biography) Textbook, Chapter 12: Nonfiction and Biography	Biography Charlotte's Web (continued)	Week 10 Discussion Begin working on Picture Book Analysis assignment (Due November 24)
11/2	Textbook, Chapter 13: Literature in the Curriculum Textbook, Chapter 5: Learning about Diversity through Literature Juana and Lucas by Juana Medina (chapter book)	Literature in the Curriculum Learning about Diversity through Literature Juana and Lucas	Week 11 Discussion Continue working on Picture Book Analysis Assignment (Due November 24)
11/9	El Deafo by Cece Bell (graphic novel) Moses Goes to a Concert by Isaac Millman (picture book) Links to online resources will be posted on Blackboard	El Deafo	Week 12 Discussion Evaluation Assignment Continue working on Picture Book Analysis (Due November 24)
11/16	Textbook, Chapter 7: Poetry A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms, edited by Jack Prelutsky (poetry collection) Links to online resources will be posted on Blackboard	Poetry	Week 14 Discussion Poetry Assignment Final Assignment - Question 3
11/23	No new readings	Picture Book Analysis	Picture Book Analysis
11/30	Textbook, Chapter 8: Traditional Literature Links to online resources will be posted on Blackboard	Traditional Literature	Week 15 Discussion End of Semester Discussion Book Selection Assignment Part Two
12/7	No new readings	Final Assignment	Final Assignment due December 9

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