

Westfield State University Education Department

Children's Literature 0309/509 Online

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Course Description

In this online course you will be immersed in the world of children's literature through a genre study approach. Major emphasis will be placed on the identification and selection of quality literature for classroom settings including multicultural texts, the use of children's literature across all disciplines, the establishment of library centers in a classroom, and an increased awareness of how the new literacies can enhance children's responses to books. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Rationale

Children's literature is at the core of curriculum planning as can be evidenced throughout the Massachusetts English/Language Arts Curriculum Frameworks. Careful selection of books can help shape a classroom community and frame a unit of study. Teacher candidates and experienced teachers alike need to continuously examine both old and new texts to expand and employ this valuable resource. These skills can be enriched through collaborative examination and exploration of children's literature.

Textbook Requirement

The required textbook is *Children's Literature, Briefly*, Michael O. Tunnell & James S. Jacobs (2012). This text will be needed to successfully complete course assignments. We will also be using *Love That Dog*, Sharon Creech (2001).

Course Evaluation

Students' performance will be evaluated based on: completion of assignments, weekly participation and engagement in online activities. Students are expected to log onto the course and engage in course activities at least 2 times a week. The instructor will monitor online participation rates through PLATO and for full credit, the student must "enter" the course at least two times a week.

Technology

Students are responsible for addressing any technology related issues through CIT (ext 8142). Students must have a valid working email address on file with the instructor.