

ENGL 230: Literature and Culture I

Young Adult Fiction: The Magic of Books

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Course description:

In this class, you will explore the numerous ways in which books depict magic – and represent the experience of reading as magical. While encountering works created for young adults, we will reflect critically on the purposes and pleasures of reading; the history and materiality of books; and the ways in which books create communities of readers. Anyone who developed a love for books while reading the *Harry Potter* series will find this course of particular interest, but all readers are welcome.

Proposed assignments:

Written work

- Reading autobiography: 1-2 page personal reflection on the student's experiences as a reader = 10%

- Biography of a book = 1-2 page discussion of a book's encounters with a reader or readers = 10%
- Final project = essay (4-5 pages or equivalent), website, or creative project that demonstrates how a book of the student's choice represents reading and/or books as "magical" = 20%

Formal assessments

- Short reading quizzes: 5 of 7 multiple choice online quizzes at 6% each = 25%
- Midterm exam: in class, combination of multiple choice and passage identification = 10%
- Final exam: during the exam period, combination of multiple choice, passage identification, and a brief essay = 25%

Proposed reading list:

Tomi Adeyemi, *Children of Blood and Bone*

Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

Michael Ende, *The Neverending Story*

Cornelia Funke, *Inkheart*

Ursula LeGuin, *A Wizard of Earthsea*

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*