# . - Children's Literature (with Workshop)

## Prof. Sabrina Fava

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course intends to consider the historical-literary and pedagogical development of the subject with the aim of teaching specific skills in terms of content as well as critical and methodological skills consistent with professional teachers.

Students will learn the main historical-literary frameworks related to literary production aimed at children from the Unification of Italy to the second half of the twentieth century. Particular emphasis will be placed on the complete reading of a selection of literary works of which students will be able to describe content and analyse textually. Analysis will focus on literary aspects and educational value students should express their independent opinion and use specific skills to choose suitable literary works for young readers from nursery and primary school.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course takes an in-depth look at the epistemological foundations of the subject: definition of the field of research and subject complexities; issues and problems regarding pedagogy of reading today; starting from this pedagogical basis, the course explores the main aspects of the cultural debate in the late nineteenth century with special reference to problems concerning language and implications in the production of children’s literature; the historical development of the subject during the twentieth century will be defined by analysing representative literary works and magazines for children and research into the physiognomy of young readers over time; reference literary models and detected changes will act as a guide to studying themes in current literary production.

The course is supplemented by didactic-workshop activities entrusted to expert conductors, and characterised by specific themes and methodologies agreed upon with the course teacher. Each workshop edition will be aimed at the production of a project/artefact, the assessment of which will be entrusted to the above-indicated conductor/s on the basis of parameters shares with the course teacher, and based on criteria of: completeness, coherence, originality, didactic value.

***READING LIST***

P. Boero-C. De Luca, *La letteratura per l’infanzia,* Laterza, Bari, 20092, chapters 3, 4, 8.

A. Chambers, *Siamo quello che leggiamo,* Equilibri, Modena, 2011.

S. Fava, *Percorsi critici sulla letteratura per l’infanzia,* in S. Barsotti, L. Cantatore (edited by), *Letteratura per l’infanzia,* Carocci, Rome 2019, p. 403-420.

S. Fava, *Piccoli lettori del Novecento. I bambini di Paola Carrara Lombroso sui giornali per ragazzi,* Pensa Multimedia, Lecce, Brescia, 2016 (new edition).

S. Barsotti, L. Cantatore (edited by), *Letteratura per l’infanzia,* Carocci, Rome 2019, chapters 3, 6, 11, and a chapter of their choice

Students should read the following:

C. Collodi, *Le avventure di Pinocchio,* any unabridged edition or by E. De Amicis, *Cuore,* any unabridged edition.

Read one volume for each of the following narrative paths:

*Novels:*

L. Carroll, *Attraverso lo specchio,*any unabridged edition.

J. Barrie, *Peter Pan,* any unabridged edition.

A. Vivanti, *Il viaggio incantato,* Teramo, Lisciani, 20173

E. Morante, *Le straordinarie avventure di Caterina,* Einaudi, Turin, 2007.

G. Rodari, *Favole al telefono,* Einaudi Ragazzi, Trieste, 2010.

G. Rodari, *Venti storie più una,* Einaudi Ragazzi, Trieste, 2009.

D. Almond,*Mio papà sa volare,* Salani, Milan, 2017.

*Poetry:*

G. Rodari, *Filastrocche in cielo e in terra,* Einaudi Ragazzi, Trieste, 2009.

R. Piumini, *C’era un bambino profumato di latte,* Mondadori, Milan, 1988.

G. Quarenghi, *E sulle case il cielo,* Topipittori, Milan, 2006.

B. Tognolini, *Rime di rabbia,* Salani, Milan, 2010.

C. Carminati, *Quel che c'è sotto il cielo. Poesie del mondo che è in me,* Mondadori, Milano, 2022

*Childhood:*

Vamba, *Il giornalino di Gian Burrasca,* any unabridged edition.

F. H. Burnett, *Il giardino segreto,* any unabridged edition.

A. Lindgren, *Pippi Calzelunghe in qualsiasi edizione integrale.*

A. Gobetti, *Storia del gallo Sebastiano,* Garzanti, Milan, 1940.

M. Ende, *Momo,* Longanesi, Milan, 1984.

R. Piumini, *Lo stralisco,* Einaudi Ragazzi, Turin, 1987.

R. Dahl, *Matilde,* Salani, Milan, 1988.

B. Masini, R. Piumini, *Ciao, tu,* RCS, Milan, 20152

B. Solinas Donghi, *Rosina e poi Annetta,* Fabbri, Milan, 2004.

D. Almond, *Skellig,* Salani, Milan, 2009.

*Memory:*

A. Frank, *Il diario di Anna Frank,* any unabridged edition

A. Molesini, *All’ombra del lungo camino,* Mondadori, Milan, 1996.

L. Levi, *Una valle piena di stelle,* Mondadori, Milan, 1997.

L. Segre D. Palumbo, *Fino a quando la mia stella brillerà,* Piemme, Milan, 2015

D. Ziliotto, *Un chilo di piume,un chilo di piombo*, Lapis, Rome, 2016.

A. Bucci, T. Bucci, *Noi, bambine ad Auschwitz. La nostra storia di sopravvissute alla Shoah,* Mondadori, Milano, 2019.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures; participatory reading and text analysis; use of visual and audo-visual sources, teaching material available on Blackboard on the University website. Lectures may take the form of seminars featuring scholars and writers .

The workshop will be focused on a selection of literary textbooks that will be analysed in class during the course, with the aim to carry out educational planning activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, aimed to test knowledge of the subject, ability to apply argumentative and inferential critical thinking skills, and ability to create a relevant, clear, and fluent argumentation. In addition, students will have the possibility to take an optional written interim test. The mark obtained in this test, together with the oral exam, will contribute to the definition of the final mark; this will also give students the opportunity to self-assess their learning skills. In order to be admitted to the final exam, students will have to attend the workshop regularly and pass its final test.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, basic textbook historical, educational and literary knowledge is recommended. For this reason, in case of need, students can consult a good high school textbook.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.