# Children’s Literature (with Workshop)

Prof. Sabrina Fava

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

The course aims to introduce students to the consideration of the historical-literary and pedagogical development of the subject, so as to acquire specific skills in terms of content, critical assessment and methodology, consistent with professional teacher training.

Students will discover the main historical-literary frameworks related to literary production for young readers from the Unification of Italy up to the second half of the twentieth century. Students will closely read a selection of literary works and be able to subsequently narrate contents and critically analyse literary aspects and educational value, whilst demonstrating independent judgement and developing specific skills related to choosing literary works appropriate for nursery and primary school children.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course takes an in-depth look at the epistemological foundations of the subject: definition of the field of research and complexities of the subject; issues and problems regarding pedagogy of reading today; from this pedagogic basis the course explores the main points of the cultural debate in the late nineteenth century with particular reference to language problems and the implications for the production and publication of children’s literature; the historical development of the subject during the twentieth century will be outlined by examining representative literary works and literary magazines for children and by exploring the profile of young readers over time; literary models of reference and identified changes will form the core topics. The course is supplemented with didactic-workshop activities held by expert conductors and characterised by specific themes and methodologies agreed with the lecturer. Each workshop edition will be aimed at the production of a project/artefact assessed by the conductor on the basis of parameters shared with the lecturer and of criteria such as: completeness, consistency, originality, didactic use.

***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 (a cura di), *Letteratura per l’infanzia,* Carocci, Rome 2019, pp. 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).

Read the following:

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

Read one volume from each of the following narrative categories:

*Fantasy:*

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

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

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 version.

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

A. Lindgren, *Pippi Calzelunghe ,* any unabridged version

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 version.

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***

Lectures; active reading and analysis of literary texts; use of visual and audio-visual sources, didactic material posted on the Blackboard platform accessible on the University website. Lectures may sometimes take the form of seminars with scholars and writers from the field. During the accompanying workshop, students will use literary texts utilised for critical analysis during lectures; the content of these texts will subsequently generate didactic planning activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral interview to assess students’ grasp of course content, ability to critically consider and discuss course concepts, presentation skills in reference to relevance, clarity and fluency. In order to facilitate the learning process, the course includes an optional mid-term written test. The result of this test will be taken into consideration during the oral interview; for students it is a form of self-assessment and a way to check their progress during the course. Students must successfully complete the workshop in order to pass the examination.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given that the course is introductory, there are no prerequisites for attendance. However, basic knowledge of history, education and literature is recommended. Any good secondary schoolbook is suitable for this aim.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.