-. History of Reading and Children's Literature

Prof. Claudia Alborghetti

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to present a historical, critical-literary, and educational approach to the education of our new generations, centred around the potential and value of reading and children's literature.

Students will come to know the historical development of writing and reading, and will compare the historical problems with the changes that have occurred in the current economic and socio-cultural context. They will be able to detect the fundamental aspects related to the cultural debate on reading education today. Following the reading of a selection of literary works for children, they will be able to report on the contents and produce a critical analysis of the literary aspects and educational values, demonstrating independent judgment and developing initial specific skills in selecting suitable literary works for children.

COURSE CONTENT

The course includes a critical discussion on the evolution of reading and the training of new generations of readers, including in relation to social and technological changes. The main changes that have occurred throughout history regarding reading and writing practices will be addressed. The course foresees the reading and analysis of some literary works for children, which will include a literary representation of the reading and the readers. More specifically, a look at the construction of the fairy tale as a hybrid form between orality and narrative writing will provide the starting point for a critical analysis of the triadic relationship between author, book and reader. It will also present useful elements for orientating oneself in the world of reading education projects and specialised journals that deal with children's literature.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

A. Chambers, *Il lettore infinito*, Equilibri, Modena, 2015. [*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/aidan-chambers/il-lettore-infinito-educare-alla-lettura-tra-ragioni-ed-emozioni-9788890580826-225807.html)

P. Boero, C. De Luca, *La letteratura per l’infanzia,* Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2009, (chaps. 2, 3, 4, 8). [*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/boero-pino-de-luca-carmine/la-letteratura-per-linfanzia-9788842076629-174251.html)

I. Filograsso, *Non siamo nati per leggere. Il ruolo dell’adulto nella formazione del pre-lettore,* in S. Fava (Ed.),… the rest will be given to you as an addition. Studi in onore di Renata Lollo, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2014 (article available separately on the website of the publishing house).

R. Lollo, *Lo spazio del leggere come crocevia di relazioni: cenni interpretativi*, in S. Fava (Ed.), La letteratura per l’infanzia a partire dagli studi di Renata Lollo. Linee di ricerca, Pensa Multimedia, Lecce-Rovato, 2021.

Reading of:

A) a narrative work between:

HC Andersen, *Fiabe,* in any complete edition (selection of 10 fairy tales).[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/hans-christian-andersen/fiabe-9788804709183-698387.html)

J. Grimm - W. Grimm, *Fiabe,* in any complete edition (selection of 10 fairy tales).[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/jacob-grimm-wilhelm-grimm/fiabe-9788806226329-224956.html)

L. Carroll, *Alice nel paese delle meraviglie,* in any complete edition.[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/carroll-lewis/alice-nel-paese-delle-meraviglie-9788807900150-184121.html)

B) a narrative work between:

G. Rodari, *Favole al telefono,* Einaudi Ragazzi, Trieste, 2010.[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/rodari-gianni/favole-al-telefono-9788879268493-231499.html)

G. Rodari, *Tante storie per giocare,* Einaudi Ragazzi, Trieste, 2011.[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/gianni-rodari/tante-storie-per-giocare-9788879268813-302434.html)

M. Ende, *La storia infinita,* Salani, Florence, 2017.[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/michael-ende/la-storia-infinita-9788893810753-249077.html)

R. Dahl, *Versi perversi*, Salani, Florence, 2016.[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/roald-dahl/versi-perversi-9788869186370-236258.html)

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures in the classroom; reading and analysis of passages taken from literary works (novels, short stories, fairy tales); teaching materials available on the Blackboard platform accessible on the University website.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam will take the form of an oral interview aimed at ascertaining students' command of the disciplinary knowledge acquired, their capacity for critically argumentative and inferential reflection, and their presentation skills in terms of relevance, clarity and fluidity of speech.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Being introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, a basic knowledge of historical-educational and literary manuals is recommended.

**Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students**.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.

1. The texts indicated in the reading list may be purchased at the University bookstores; they may also be bought from other outlets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)