# -. History of Reading and Literature for the Developmental Age

## Prof. Claudia Alborghetti

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

The course aims to offer a historical, critical-literary, and educational approach around the potential and value of reading and literature for the developmental age in the education of new generations.

Students will learn the process of historical development of writing and reading and will compare historical problems with the changes that have occurred in the current economic and socio-cultural context. They will be able to highlight the fundamental aspects of today’s cultural debate on reading education. They will be able to focus on reading a selection of literary works for children, describe their contents and develop a critical analysis of the literary aspects and educational values, using independent judgment and developing initial specific skills in selecting suitable literary works for readers in developmental age.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course includes a critical discussion on the evolution of reading and the training of new generations of readers also in relation to social and technological changes. It will address the main changes that have occurred throughout history and affected reading and writing practices. It involves the reading and analysis of some literary works for children that includes a literary representation of reading and readers. In particular, 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 orientation in the world of reading education projects and specialised magazines that deal with literature for the developmental age.

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

A. Chambers, *Il lettore infinito*, Equilibri, Modena, 2015. [*Buy 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 (chs. 2, 3, 4, 8).  [*Buy 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 (edited by), …il resto vi sarà dato in aggiunta. Studi in onore di Renata Lollo, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2014 (single article available on the publisher's website).

R. Lollo, *Lo spazio del leggere come crocevia di relazioni: cenni interpretativi*, in S. Fava (edited by), 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:*

H. C. Andersen, *Fiabe,* in any complete edition (selection of 10 fairy tales). [*Buy 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). [*Buy 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. [*Buy 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. [*Buy 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. [*Buy 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. [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/michael-ende/la-storia-infinita-9788893810753-249077.html)

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

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lessons in the classroom with the support of slides; discussions on specific themes around reading and the reader in the book; critical analysis of passages taken from literary works (novels, short stories, fairy tales).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral interview aimed at verifying the students’ mastery of the subect-specific knowledge acquired, their ability to reflect critically using argumentation and inference, their presentation skills relating to relevance, clarity and speech fluidity.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The teaching material produced during the course and any material useful for preparing for the exam will be made available on the Blackboard platform accessible on the University website. Since it is an introductory course, there are no content-related prerequisites for attending it. However, a basic knowledge of historical-educational and literary manuals is recommended.

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

1. The textbooks included in the reading list can be purchased from University bookstores; they can also be purchased at other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)