

Permission to take the Children's and YA Literature Qualifying Examination

What sets the Children's and YA Literature qualifying examination apart from the other examination areas is that it can only be taken by permission of the examination committee and the Graduate Director. This examination is intended primarily for those candidates who plan to write a dissertation in children's and YA literature or who are pursuing an English education doctoral concentration. Other students will need to have a compelling rationale for taking the exam.

Children's and YA Literature Qualifying Examination Reading List

Please note that there are two lists below. The first is the full list with the core readings in bold; the second is the core list separated out. You are responsible for all core readings and may incorporate readings from the full list into your tailored specialty list. You may also substitute a few texts, as long as you receive permission of the committee prior to the examination.

Primary Texts

"Classic"/Historical

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876) or *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884),
Mark Twain

***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), Lewis Carroll**

Anne of Green Gables (1908), Lucy Maud Montgomery

A Child's Garden of Verses (1885), Robert Louis Stevenson

***The Classic Fairy Tales* (1999), Maria Tartar**

Peter Pan (1903), JM Barrie

Ragged Dick; or, Life in New York with the Boot Blacks (1868), Horatio Alger, Jr.

***Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1744), John Newbery**

***Little Women* (1868), Louisa May Alcott**

The Secret Garden (1909), Frances Hodgson Burnett

Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book (1893), Christina G. Rossetti

The Wind in the Willows (1903), Kenneth Grahame

***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900), Frank L Baum**

Picture Books

***The Arrival* (2006), Shaun Tan**

Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky (1992), Faith Ringgold

***Black and White* (1990), David Macaulay**

***The Cat in the Hat* (1957) or *The Lorax* (1971), Theodor Seuss Geisel**

Goodnight Moon (1947), Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd

Harold and the Purple Crayon (1955), Crockett Johnson

Heart and Soul (2011) or *We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* (2009),
Kadir Nelson

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (2007), Brian Selznick**

Jumanji (1981) or *The Polar Express* (1985), Chris Van Allsburg

***The Little House* (1942), Virginia Lee Burton**

Madeline (1939), Ludwig Bemelmans

Make Way for Ducklings (1941), Robert McCloskey

Martin's Big Words (2001), Bryan Collier

***Snowy Day* (1963), Ezra Jack Keats**

***The Story of Babar: The Little Elephant* (1931), Jean de Brunhoff**

The Story of Ferdinand (1936), Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble (1969), William Steig

***The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902), Beatrix Potter**

***The Three Pigs* (2001), David Wiesner**

The Very Hungry Caterpillar (1969), Eric Carle

***Where the Wild Things Are* (1963), Maurice Sendak**

Realistic/Historical Children's Fiction

***Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970), Judy Blume**

Becoming Naomi Leon (2005) or *Esperanza Rising* (2000), Pam Muñoz Ryan

***The Birchbark House* (1999), Louise Erdrich**

***The Book Thief* (2005), Markus Zusak**

The Breadwinner (2000), Deborah Ellis

The Devil's Arithmetic (1988), Jane Yolen

Harriet the Spy (1964), Louise Fitzhugh

***Little House on the Prairie* (1932), Laura Ingalls Wilder**

Maniac McGee (1990) or *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* (1998), Jerry Spinelli

Ramona Quimby, Age 8 (1981), Beverly Cleary

Rules (2006), Cynthia Lord

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1975), Mildred Taylor**

The Secret of the Old Clock (1930), Carolyn Keene

To Kill a Mockingbird (1960), Harper Lee

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963* (1995), Christopher Paul Curtis**

Fantasy/Science Fiction

A Bear Called Paddington (1958)

The Blue Sword (1982) or *The Hero and the Crown* (1984), Robin McKinley

Bridge to Terabithia (1977), Katherine Paterson

***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), Roald Dahl**

***Charlotte's Web* (1952), E.B. White**

***Coraline* (2002), Neil Gaiman**

***The Giver* (1993), Lois Lowry**

The Golden Compass (1995), Philip Pullman

***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (1997), J.K. Rowling**

The Hobbit (1937), J.R.R. Tolkien

Holes (1998), Louis Sachar

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1950), C.S. Lewis**

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH (1971), Robert C. O'Brien

The One and Only Ivan (2012), Katherine Applegate and Patricia Castelao

A Series of Unfortunate Events: A Bad Beginning (1999), Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler)
The Tale of Despereaux (2003), Kate DiCamillo
Watership Down (1972), Richard Adams
Winnie-the-Pooh (1926), A. A. Milne
***A Wrinkle in Time* (1963), Madeleine L'Engle**

Poetry/Verse Novels

Be Glad Your Nose Is On Your Face (2008), Jack Prelutsky
***Brown Girl Dreaming* (2014), Jacqueline Woodson**
Crank (2004), Ellen Hopkins
Crossover (2015), Kwame Alexander
Love That Dog (2001), Sharon Creech
Neighborhood Odes (1992), Gary Soto
***Out of the Dust* (1997), Karen Hesse**
This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World (2002), Naomi Shihab Nye
***Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1974), Shel Silverstein**

Non-Fiction

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 (2003), Jim Murphy
***The Diary of a Young Girl* (1952), Anne Frank**
Farewell to Manzanar (1973), Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston
The Invisible Thread (1987), Yoshiko Uchida
It's Perfectly Normal: Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health (2009), Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley
The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq (2005), Jeanette Winter
Locomotive (2013), Brian Floca
A Long Walk to Water (2011), Linda Sue Park
Richard Wright and the Library Card (1997), William Miller and R. Gregory Christie
***Through My Eyes* (1999), Ruby Bridges**
A Token for Children (1671), James Janeway
The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain (2007), Peter Sis
We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March (2012), Cynthia Levinson.
When Marian Sang (2002) Pam Munoz Ryan and Brian Selznick

Young Adult Literature

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007), Sherman Alexie**
All American Boys (2015), Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely
***American Born Chinese* (2006), Gene Luen Yang**
***Boy Meets Boy* (2003) or *Every Day* (2013), David Levithan**
The Catcher in the Rye (1951), J.D. Salinger
***The Chocolate War* (1974), Robert Cormier**
Eleanor & Park (2012), Rainbow Rowell
The Fault in Our Stars (2012), John Green
***Feed* (2002), M.T. Anderson**
***Forever* (1975), Judy Blume**
The House on Mango Street (1984), Sandra Cisneros

how i live now (2004), Meg Rosoff
***The Hunger Games* (2008), Suzanne Collins**
The Kite Runner (2003), Khaled Hosseini
Locomotion (2003), Jacqueline Woodson
***Monster* (1999), Walter Dean Myers**
***The Outsiders* (1967), S.E. Hinton**
Seventeenth Summer (1942), Maureen Daly
***Speak* (1999), Laurie Halse Anderson**
A Step From Heaven (2001), An Na
The First Part Last (2003), Angela Johnson
Twilight (2005), Stephanie Meyer
Weetzie Bat (1989), Francesca Lia Block

Critical Texts

- Abate, Michelle Ann, and Kenneth Kidd, eds. *Over the Rainbow: Queer Children's and Young Adult Literature* (2011)
- Bang, Molly. *Picture This: How Pictures Work* (1991)
- Bell, Elizabeth, and Lynda Haas. *From Mouse to Mermaid: The Politics of Film, Gender, and Culture* (2008)
- Bernstein, Robin. *Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights* (2011)**
- Capshaw, Katharine. *Civil Rights Childhood: Picturing Liberation in African American Photobooks* (2014)
- Clark, Beverly Lyon. *Kiddie Lit: The Cultural Construction of Children's Literature in America* (2003)**
- Cadden, Michael, ed. *Telling Children's Stories: Narrative Theory and Children's Literature* (2011)**
- Coats, Karen. *Looking Glasses and Neverlands: Lacan, Desire, and Subjectivity in Children's Literature* (2004)
- Coats, Karen, Shelby A. Wolf, Patricia Enciso, and Christine A. Jenkins. *Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature* (2011)**
- Coats, Karen, Anna Jackson, and Roderick Gillis, eds. *The Gothic in Children's Literature: Haunting the Borders* (2007)
- Gubar, Marah. *Artful Dodgers: Reconceiving the Golden Age of Children's Literature* (2010)
- Kidd, Kenneth. *Freud in Oz: At the Intersections of Psychoanalysis and Children's Literature* (2011)
- Lukens, Rebecca J., Jacquelin J. Smith, and Cynthia Miller Coffel. *A Critical Handbook of Children's Literature*, 9th edition (2012)
- Lurie, Alison. *Don't Tell the Grown-ups: The Subversive Power of Children's Literature* (1998)
- Martin, Michelle. *Brown Gold: Milestones of African American Children's Picture Books, 1845-2002* (2006)**
- Nel, Philip, and Lissa Paul, eds. *Keywords for Children's Literature* (2011)**
- Nikolajeva, Maria, and Carole Scott. *How Picturebooks Work* (2001)**
- Nikolajeva, Maria. *Power, Voice and Subjectivity in Literature for Young Readers* (2009)**
- Nodelman, Perry. *The Hidden Adult: Defining Children's Literature* (2008)**

- Nodelman, Perry, and Mavis Reimer. *The Pleasures of Children's Literature*, 3rd edition (2003)
- Nodelman, Perry. *Words About Pictures* (1988)
- Reynolds, Kimberley. *Radical Children's Literature: Future Visions and Aesthetic Transformations in Juvenile Fiction* (2010)
- Rose, Jacqueline. *The Case of Peter Pan, or the Impossibility of Children's Fiction* (1992)
- Sanders, Joe Sutliff. *Disciplining Girls: Understanding the Origins of the Classic Orphan Girl Story* (2011)
- Tribunella, Eric. *Melancholia and Maturation: The Use of Trauma in American Children's Literature* (2010)
- Tribunella, Eric, and Carrie Hintz. *Reading Children's Literature: A Critical Introduction* (2013)**
- Trites, Roberta Seelinger. *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent Literature* (2000)**
- Wannamaker, Annette. *Boys in Children's Literature and Popular Culture: Masculinity, Abjection, and the Fictional Child* (2012)
- Warner, Marina. *From the Beast to the Blonde: On Fairy Tales and Their Tellers* (1996)
- Zipes, Jack. *Breaking the Magic Spell: Radical Theories of Folk and Fairytales* (1979)

Core Primary Texts

1. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007), Sherman Alexie
2. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), Lewis Carroll
3. *American Born Chinese* (2006), Gene Luen Yang
4. *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970), Judy Blume
5. *The Arrival* (2006), Shaun Tan
6. *The Birchbark House* (1999), Louise Erdrich
7. *Black and White* (1990), David Macaulay
8. *The Book Thief* (2005), Markus Zusak
9. *Boy Meets Boy* (2003) or *Every Day* (2013), David Levithan
10. *Brown Girl Dreaming* (2014), Jacqueline Woodson
11. *The Cat in the Hat* (1957) or *The Lorax* (1971), Theodor Seuss Geisel
12. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), Roald Dahl
13. *Charlotte's Web* (1952), E.B. White
14. *The Chocolate War* (1974), Robert Cormier
15. *The Classic Fairy Tales* (1999), Maria Tartar
16. *Coraline* (2002), Neil Gaiman
17. *The Diary of a Young Girl* (1952), Anne Frank
18. *Feed* (2002), M.T. Anderson
19. *Forever* (1975), Judy Blume
20. *The Giver* (1993), Lois Lowry
21. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (1997), J.K. Rowling
22. *The Hunger Games* (2008), Suzanne Collins
23. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (2007), Brian Selznick
24. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1950), C.S. Lewis
25. *The Little House* (1942), Virginia Lee Burton
26. *Little House on the Prairie* (1932), Laura Ingalls Wilder

27. *Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1744), John Newbery
28. *Little Women* (1868), Louisa May Alcott
29. *Monster* (1999), Walter Dean Myers
30. *Out of the Dust* (1997), Karen Hesse
31. *The Outsiders* (1967), S.E. Hinton
32. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1975), Mildred Taylor
33. *Snowy Day* (1963), Ezra Jack Keats
34. *Speak* (1999), Laurie Halse Anderson
35. *The Story of Babar: The Little Elephant* (1931), Jean de Brunhoff
36. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902), Beatrix Potter
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38. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963* (1995), Christopher Paul Curtis
39. *Through My Eyes* (1999), Ruby Bridges
40. *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1974), Shel Silverstein
41. *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963), Maurice Sendak
42. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900), Frank L Baum
43. *A Wrinkle in Time* (1963), Madeleine L'Engle

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