

**General Purpose of Oral Presentation:**

The purpose of your oral presentations is to expand the boundaries of our class by discussing books, authors, and topics that we can't fit into the regular schedule. This means you will be "teaching" your topic area to us.

**Format:**

Please have two handouts (one printed out set for instructor) submitted online Canvas for the class: **(1) an outline of your presentation; (2) an annotated bibliography.** This is a bibliography in which you comment briefly about each text—telling us what they are and if they are useful. The purpose of the bibliography is to provide a possible resource to your fellow teachers. The bibliography **MUST** be comprised of **three to five credible scholarly secondary sources as well as any primary texts** you use.

**(3) You MUST INCLUDE RELEVANT accompanying visual or audio materials submitted in Canvas.**

An individual giving a report should take no more than 10 minutes. If you are working in a group, please try to keep your report to no more than 15-20 minutes. Please practice your presentation, including any audio/visuals, to be sure you keep within this time period.

**Content:**

Because each group has its own particular issues, I cannot generalize here about what you "should present." I want each group to meet with me in order to determine what approach and concerns are important and relevant. For example—

1. IF you are presenting an author, you will need to provide a brief biographical sketch, tell us why this person is significant, talk about her/his literary work(s), and consider if these works are relevant to today's classroom.
2. IF you are presenting an area of new realism, like substance abuse, you will want to present many books to the class that can help bring this topic area into the classroom.
3. IF you are looking at adaptations of classic children's texts, you may want to tell us first about the classic story, its motifs and values, and then consider if the adaptation changes these in any significant way.

**Research Topics**

Please select your top three topics- Your one chance to change your mind is THE DAY PRIOR TO NEXT CLASS (via the ungraded survey Quiz in Canvas). If you wish to be in a group with someone(s), please list their name(s) with your choices.

If you wish to pursue a topic not listed, please contact the instructor.

**Group #1: February 11****Popular Culture: Disney and Fairy Tales**

Choose one of the following fairy tales and compare it to the Disney version. What changes does Disney make? In what ways do these changes reflect changes in cultural values and attitudes about children and childhood? Are Disney's versions vulgar and inauthentic as some critics have claimed?

A Report examining the controversy surrounding Disney's re-vision of traditional tales

The Little Mermaid    Beauty & the Beast    Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

Sleeping Beauty    Cinderella

**Group #2 March 3****Toy Stories**

Choose a "toy" and discuss the character and its stories in relation to its historical/cultural period. Point out what values and attitudes about children and family it illustrates.

Winnie the Pooh

Raggedy Ann and Andy

The Velveteen Rabbit

**Group #3 March 10****Classic Novels into Film**

Choose one of the following classic children's stories and compare how it has been translated into film or animation. Consider changes from one medium to the other in terms of cultural values and attitudes about children.

You will need to discuss the original cultural/social context of the story.

The Wizard of Oz

Alice in Wonderland

The Wind in the Willows

Peter Pan

Heidi

**Group #4 March 24****Fantasy and Animal Stories**

J.R.R. Tolkien

Lewis Carroll

Roald Dahl

Science fiction for children

Madeleine L'Engle

Lynn Reid Banks

Beatrix Potter

Rudyard Kipling

Mary Norton (The Borrowers)

E.B. White (Stuart Little)

**Group #5 April 7****Reality Fiction Topics**

Images of Childhood and the Family in Contemporary Sitcoms; e.g., "Roseanne," "Married with Children," "The Simpsons," "South Park" in contrast to earlier family sitcoms (e.g., "Leave it to Beaver").

**ALL OTHER REALITY FICTION TOPICS:**Beverly Cleary-including Disney film (*Ramona and Beezus*)<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128689937>

Death

Step families/divorce/alternative families (gay parents)

Substance abuse

Sexual abuse

Sibling relationships

The new baby

Child abuse

Environmental themes

\*Sex roles in children's literature

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid**Children's Series*

Examine and present the changes in children's series books that have transpired over the past several decades. For example, how are Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys books different from The Babysitter Club series? What changes in values and attitudes do these new book series reflect?

**Group #6: April 14****Multicultural Topics**

\*Use Disney's *Pocahontas* OR *The Princess and the Frog* OR *Aladdin* OR the newly released *Mulan* OR two out of three as a base for reviewing key multicultural issues and perspectives. Also consider whether the film is successful in its clear intention to provide a new points of view on Indigenous, African Americans, and Asian. Further, consider in what ways the film reflects changes in how "children's literature" (here used loosely) may be changing.

\*Choose one ethnic group and discuss how characters from that culture are depicted in contemporary children's literature; consider negative as well as positive portrayals created by multicultural literature\*Intercultural understanding

**Group #7 April 21****Historical Fiction and Poetry**

\*Biographies of women

Laura Ingalls Wilder

\*Poets

Edward Lear

Robert Lewis Stevenson

Jack Prelutsky

Shel Silverstein

Langston Hughes

Margaret Wise Brown

**Group #8: April 28****New Children's Literature "Texts"**

\*Survey of current children's television. Choose a couple of shows or assess more in determining what they suggest about the "idea of the child" and "childhood" today. Consider similarities with and differences from traditional children's literature.

\*Are computer and video games a form of a children's literature text? If so, what do they suggest about the "idea of the child" today and about narrative?

\*Are "apps" children's literature? Again—if so, what do they suggest about the "idea of the child" today and about narrative?

\*Consider current or contemporary children's films (You can go as far back as *Home Alone*). Who is the child represented in these films? Does this image of childhood or the child differ in any significant way from traditional (i.e. classic) children's literature?

***If you wish to pursue a topic not listed, please contact the instructor.***