

Special Topics in Children's and YA Lit:
Victorian Fairy Tales (4364/5364)
Fall 2011
T Th 12:15-1:30
Irby 316

Dr. Fowler
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Texts: **The Victorian Fairy Tale Book** (Pantheon)
Alice in Wonderland (Norton)

Course Description: The Victorian Period was, among other things, a golden age for children's literature, the literary fairy tale in particular. Many prominent male and female authors for adults and children tried their hands at this genre of fantasy literature. Their fairy tales were generally meant to charm and instruct, imaginatively transport and morally edify. This course will survey the period's most notable achievements in the genre, giving students a new, delightful angle on Victorian culture.

Course Objectives: By semester's end students should have a broader appreciation for Victorian creativity, which resorted to fantasy as well as realism in order to explore contemporary and universal concerns. Further, they will be able to identify and discuss major texts in the Victorian fairy-tale genre in both thematic and stylistic terms. That knowledge will be historical as well as formal. In particular, students will

- come to understand why the Victorian period marks a high point in the history of the literary fairy tale;
- come to appreciate the significant role played by women authors in the genre;
- see the intellectual and aesthetic arc of the period reflected in its fairy-tale literature;
- become conversant in the genre's treatment of such major topics as industrialism, the rise of consumer culture, child rearing, the woman question, Darwinian impact, spirituality, aestheticism, and technological acceleration;
- become acquainted with some of the scholarship on the genre in the process of writing a research paper.

Readings:

8/30	Hearn Grimm Ruskin	“Introduction” to VFTB “The Water of Life” “Fairy Stories” (1868)
9/1	Ruskin	<i>The King of the Golden River</i> (1851)
9/6	Thackeray	<i>The Rose and the Ring</i> (1855) (chs. I-X)
9/8		<i>The Rose and the Ring</i> (chs. XI-XIX)
9/13	Browning Allingham Yeats	<i>The Pied Piper of Hamelin</i> (1842) “The Fairies” (1850) “The Stolen Child” (1889)
9/15	Dickens	“Frauds on the Fairies” (1853)* “The Magic Fish-Bone” (1868)
9/20	Morley	“Adventures in Skitzland,”* “Melilot” (1861)
9/22	Carroll	<i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> (1865) (chs. I-IV)
9/27		<i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> (chs. V-VIII)
9/29		<i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i> (chs. IX-XII)
10/4	Carroll	<i>Through the Looking-Glass</i> (1871) (chs. I-IV)
10/6		<i>Through the Looking-Glass</i> (chs. V-VII)
10/11		<i>Through the Looking-Glass</i> (chs, VIII-XII)
10/13	Carroll	<i>The Hunting of the Snark</i> (1876)
10/18		[Midterm Exam]
10/25	MacDonald	<i>The Golden Key</i> (1867)

10/27		<i>The Golden Key</i>
11/1	Rossetti	<i>Goblin Market</i> (1862)
11/3	Ewing	“Amelia and the Dwarfs” (1870)*
11/8	Craik	<i>The Little Lame Prince and his Travelling-Cloak</i> (1875) (chs. I-V)
11/10		<i>The Little Lame Prince and his Travelling-Cloak</i> (chs. VI-X)
11/15	De Morgan	“Siegfrid and Handa” (1877)* “The Necklace of Princess Fiorimonde” (1880)
11/17	Clifford	“The New Mother” (1882)*
11/22	Wilde Housman	“The Selfish Giant” (1888) “Rocking-Horse Land” (1894) “KcNoonie in the Sleeping Palace” (1894)*
11/29	Grahame	“The Reluctant Dragon” (1898)
12/1	Nesbit [Passage Exam]	“The Deliverers of Their Country” (1899)
12/6	Wells Barrie	“The Magic Shop” (1903)* <i>Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens</i> [excerpt] (1906) (“Peter Pan”)
12/8		<i>Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens</i> (“The Thrush’s Nest,” “Lock-out Time”)

*Note: indicates item available on hard-copy and electronic reserve.

Graded Assignments (Undergrads): As noted above, you will take a midterm exam, most likely passage-based, worth 100 points. Toward semester’s end there will be a comprehensive, passage-identification exam worth 100 points. You will also be writing a research paper of 7-8 pages worth 100 points. Half the class will turn in this paper on Thursday, Oct. 27, the other half on Tuesday, Nov. 29. I will try to divide the class on a voluntary basis, but will assign to groups if necessary. The Final Exam, probably a mix of passages and an essay topic, will be worth 100 points. Thus, the total raw score for the course will be 400 points. I will convert your accumulated points to a number on a 100-point scale, then assign a letter grade in accordance with the following breakdown: A=90-

100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. I will round up average scores within a half-point of the next higher letter grade (e.g., an average of 79.5 would earn you a B).

Graded Assignments (Grads): Graduate students will take the same exams as undergrads, although I will hold them to even higher standards of knowledge, analysis, and articulation. Further, grad students will write a research paper that is 10-12 pages in length. They will also write an 8-10 page annotated bibliography (100 pts.) due Tuesday, Dec. 6. Thus, their total raw score for the course will be 500 points, to be converted to a final letter grade by the method discussed in the paragraph above.

Missed/Late Assignments: If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to the next class session and arrange to take it. If for some very good reason you miss the Final Exam (Thursday, Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m.), you must contact me and arrange to take it by Friday of Finals Week (emergencies excepted). I reserve the right to assign a score of zero on an exam if you fail to meet these rescheduling requirements. My paper deadlines are basically firm, though I will give you a one-day extension if you notify me of a particular problem in advance. Beyond that extension, a penalty of one letter grade per day will apply.

Attendance: You may miss up to three class sessions, whatever your reasons. If you exceed that limit, you will have to drop the class or be dropped by me. You may not leave class early. Please do not bring children to class with you. Turn off all beeping gadgets at the door, as they upset the fairies.

Academic Integrity Statement: “The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.”

University Policies: As a student member of the university community, you should be familiar with your rights and responsibilities. You can find university policies regarding such matters as academic and personal conduct (including sexual harassment) in the *Student Handbook*.

Disabilities Statement: “The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3613.”

Further Reading:

Auerbach, Nina, and U. C. Knoepfelmacher, eds. *Forbidden Journeys: Fairy Tales and*

Fantasies by Victorian Women Writers. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1992. Print.

Cott, Jonathan, ed. *Beyond the Looking-Glass: Extraordinary Works of Fairy Tale and*

Fantasy. New York: Overlook, 1985. Print.

Lurie, Alison, ed. *The Oxford Book of Modern Fairy Tales*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2002.

Print.

Wolff, Robert Lee, ed. *The Victorian Age: 1837-1900*. New York: Stonehill and

Chelsea, 1985. Print. Vol. 6 of *Masterworks of Children's Literature*. Jonathan

Cott, gen. ed. 8 vols. 1983-86.

Zipes, Jack, ed. *Victorian Fairy Tales: The Revolt of the Fairies and Elves*. New York:

Methuen, 1987. Print.