Children's and YA Literature
Comprehensive Examination Reading List

Primary Texts

"Classic"/Historical Before 2000

***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), Lewis Carroll** (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson)
***Anne of Green Gables* (1908), Lucy Maud Montgomery**
A Bear Called Paddington (1958)
***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), Roald Dahl**
***Charlotte's Web* (1952), E.B. White**
A Child's Garden of Verses (1885), Robert Louis Stevenson
***The Classic Fairy Tales* (1999), Maria Tartar**
The Hobbit (1937), J.R.R. Tolkien
Peter Pan (1903), JM Barrie
***Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1744), John Newbery**
***Little Women* (1868), Louisa May Alcott**
Ramona Quimby, Age 8 (1981), Beverly Cleary
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**
Little House on the Prairie (1932), Laura Ingalls Wilder
Harriet the Spy (1964), Louise Fitzhugh
***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1975), Mildred Taylor**
The Secret of the Old Clock (1930), Carolyn Keene
Winnie-the-Pooh (1926), A. A. Milne

Picture Books

***Ada Twist, Scientist* (2016), Andrea Beaty and David Roberts**
***The Arrival* (2006), Shaun Tan**
***Black and White* (1990), David Macaulay**
***The Cat in the Hat* (1957) or *The Lorax* (1971), Theodor Seuss Geisel**
***Crown: Ode to a Fresh Cut,* illustrated Gordon C. James, written, Derrick Barnes**
A Different Pond (2018), Thi Bui and Bao Phi
***Dreamers,* Yuyi Morales**
Goodnight Moon (1947), Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd
Harold and the Purple Crayon (1955), Crockett Johnson
Heart and Soul (2011), Kadir Nelson or *Undefeated* (2019), Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson
***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (2007), Brian Selznick**
Jumanji (1981) or *The Polar Express* (1985), Chris Van Allsburg
Last Stop on Market Street (2016), illustrated, Christian Robinson, written, Matt de la Peña
***The Little House* (1942), Virginia Lee Burton**
Madeline (1939), Ludwig Bemelmans
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
***The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902), Beatrix Potter**
***The Three Pigs* (2001), David Wiesner**
The Very Hungry Caterpiller (1969), Eric Carle
The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain (2007), Peter Sis
***Where the Wild Things Are* (1963), Maurice Sendak**

Realistic/Historical Children's Literature
***Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970), Judy Blume**
The Best at It (2019), Maulik Pancholy
***The Birchbark House* (1999), Louise Edrich**
The Book Thief (2005), Markus Zusak
El Deafo (2014), CeCe Bell
Esperanza Rising (2000), Pam Muñoz Ryan
***George,* Alex Gino**
***Ghost Boys,* Jewell Parker Rhodes**
Look Both Ways (2019), Jason Reynolds
***New Kid* (2019), Jerry Craft**
The Night Diary (2018), Veera Hiranandani
Prairie Lotus (2020), Linda Sue Park
***Smile (2010),* Raina Telgemeier**
The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 (1995), Christopher Paul Curtis

Fantasy/Science Fiction
Akata Witch, Nnedi Okorafor
Bridge to Terabithia (1977), Katherine Paterson
Camp Midnight (2016), Steven T. Seagle and Jason Adam Katzenstein
***Coraline* (2002), Neil Gaiman**
Feed (2002), M.T. Anderson
***The Giver* (1993), Lois Lowry**
The Golden Compass (1995), Philip Pullman
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (1997), J.K. Rowling
Holes (1998), Louis Sacher
***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1950), C.S. Lewis**
Séance Tea Party (2020), Reimena Yee
The Tale of Despereaux (2003), Kate DiCamillo
The One and Only Ivan (2012), Katherine Applegate
A Series of Unfortunate Events: A Bad Beginning (1999), Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler)
***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
***Inside Out & Back Again* (2011), Thanhha Lai**
Love That Dog (2001), Sharon Creech
Neighborhood Odes (1992), Gary Soto

***Other Words for Home* (2019), Jasmine Warga**
Out of the Dust (1997), Karen Hesse
The Poet X (2018), Elizabeth Acevedo
This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World (2002), Naomi Shihab Nye
The Surrender Tree, Margarita Engle (or another of Engle's verse texts)
***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
Human Body Theater (2015), Maris Wicks
A Long Walk to Water (2011), Linda Sue Park
***Nathan Hale's Treacherous Tales: Treaties, Trenches, Mud and Blood* Park (2014), Nathan Hale**
Richard Wright and the Library Card (1997), William Miller and R. Gregory Christie
Through My Eyes (1999), Ruby Bridges
***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You,* Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi**

Young Adult Literature

***American Born Chinese* (2006), Gene Luen Yang**
***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (2012), Benjamin Alire Sáenz**
Boy Meets Boy (2003), David Levithan
The Chocolate War (1974), Robert Cormier
Children of Blood and Bone, Tomi Adeyemi
The Fault in Our Stars (2012), John Green
***Forever* (1975), Judy Blume**
***The Hate U Give* (2017), Angie Thomas**
The House on Mango Street (1984), Sandra Cisneros
The Hunger Games (2008), Suzanne Collins
King and the Dragon Flies (2020), Kacen Callender
Marrow Thieves, Cheri Dimaline
Monster (1999), Walter Dean Myers
***The Outsiders* (1967), S.E. Hinton**
***The Prince and the Dressmaker* (2018), Jen Wang**
***Speak* (1999), Laurie Halse Anderson + 2019 Comic Adaptation, Emily Carroll**
This One Summer (2014), Jillian Tamaki
Twilight (2005), Stephanie Meyer

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)
Beauvais, Clémentine, *The Mighty Child: Time and Power in Children's Literature* (2015)

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, 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)

Kidd, Kenneth. *Freud in Oz: At the Intersections of Psychoanalysis and Children's Literature* (2011)

Martin, Michelle. *Brown Gold: Milestones of African American Children's Picture Books, 1845-2002* (2006)

Meeusen, Meghann. *Children's Books on the Big Screen* (2020)

Nel, Philip, Lissa Paul, and Nina Christensen eds. *Keywords for Children's Literature*, 2nd edition (2021)

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. *Words About Pictures* (1988)

Rose, Jacqueline. *The Case of Peter Pan, or the Impossibility of Children's Fiction* (1992)

Tarbox, Gwen Athene. *Children's and Young Adult Comics* (2020)

Thomas, Ebony Elizabeth. *The Dark Fantastic: Race and the Imagination from Harry Potter to the Hunger Games* (2019)

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*, 2nd edition (2019)

Trites, Roberta Seelinger. *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent Literature* (2000)

Zipes, Jack. *Breaking the Magic Spell: Radical Theories of Folk and Fairytales* (1979)