Young Adult Literature

Objectives:

• To become familiar with the history of young adult literature and criticism
• To learn how young adult literature has been classified
• To become familiar with a number of popular texts classified as young adult literature and the secondary discussions surrounding them
• To become better readers and critics of literature
• To develop stronger skills in communicating original literary ideas to others

Required Reading:

O’Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins.*

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies.*

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm.*


Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit.*

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass.*

Requirements:

- Surprise Quizzes 10%
- Reading Exam I 20%
- Reading Exam II 20%
- Paper I 25%
- Paper II 25%

Reading Exams: You will need pencils and Scantron Form 882-ES, and you will not be allowed to confer with your text or your notes. The exams are designed to motivate you to read the required texts, and, if you do, these exams will be relatively easy for you. The first exam will cover the first three novels and the second exam will cover the last three novels. The questions will be in a multiple choice format.

Papers: In your essays, you will be analyzing texts we read for class. It is your responsibility to approach a text from a perspective of your choice, finding something interesting to argue about its theme, tone, symbolism, figurative language, textual strategy, or its historical, political, psychological, moral, or philosophical implications. Try to find reactions, feelings, opinions, values that will give your paper the depth it needs to interest your teacher and classmates. I want you to integrate at least two secondary sources, but I discourage you from simply piecing together what others have said before you. Try to come up with your own ideas and defend them as best as you can. Papers should be typed, 3-5 pages, double spaced, and a Works Cited page should list the relevant texts according to MLA standards. See your student handbook for grading standards. Papers may be emailed by midnight of due date without penalty, but if I don’t receive it due to technical problems, the penalty applies. If you email a paper, bring a hard copy to the next class period.

Policies:

Attendance: You have two free absences without penalty, but 0.5 points will be deducted from your final grade for each absence after two. You may submit a written request for special consideration if you suffer from unusual circumstances or if you must miss more than three times due to university related activities. Keep in mind that if you use your free absences for reasons other than those involving illness and
funerals—such as for sleep, for work, or for travel—a prolonged absence due to a sudden crisis will only be excused after two days. What I mean to say is that you cannot expect to both skip three classes and miss due to a crisis without penalty. The free absences are meant to be saved for such crises. You must sign the attendance sheet in order to receive credit for attending a particular day. Do not allow other students to sign for you. Signatures will be verified.

Late Papers- I accept late papers with a five-point penalty per day they are late.

Academic Dishonesty- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams and class work, plagiarism (either using papers written by someone else or integrating the words or ideas of published authors into your paper without properly documenting them), and collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing college work for credit). Proceedings will be initiated against any student suspected of academic dishonesty (See the Student Handbook).

Tentative Daily Calendar

July
8 F Introductions
11 M History of Young Adult Literature and Literary Terms
12 T Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapter 1-15
13 W Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapters 16-29 and Author’s Note
14 R Lord of the Flies, Chapters 1-4 and Golding Background/Allegory
15 F Lord of the Flies, Chapters 5-8
18 M Lord of the Flies, Chapters 9-12 and Movie-book comparison
19 T Animal Farm, Chapters 1-6 and Orwell Background/Fable
20 W Animal Farm, Chapters 7-12
21 R Present your thesis statement to the class and prepare for Reading Exam I
22 F Reading Exam I
25 M Paper I Due / Go over Reading Exam
26 T The Giver (First Half) and Lowry Background
27 W The Giver (Second Half)
28 R The Hobbit, Chapters 1-8 and Tolkien Background
29 F The Hobbit, Chapters 9-16

Aug
1 M The Hobbit, Chapters 17-25
2 T Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (First half) and Carroll Background
3 W Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (Second Half)
4 R Through the Looking Glass (First Half)
5 F Through the Looking Glass (Second Half)/Present Thesis Statement to Class
8 M Paper II Due/Review for Exam
12 F Reading Exam II 10:30 AM