

**Common Course Outline**  
**EDTR 115/ENGL 115**  
**Children's Literature**  
**3 semester hours (3 classroom hours per week)**  
**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

This course provides a survey of Children's Literature from its beginning to the present day highlighting the cultural and historical influences and showing the evolution of the particular art form that melds story and picture. Children's Literature provides a comprehensive study of the genres--picture books, poetry, fiction, folklore, etc. for children at the Primary level (preschool and early childhood) through the Advanced level (upper elementary grades) with emphasis on selecting high quality and appropriate literature for children. Various presentation methods are explored with emphasis on child involvement. *NOTE: Same as ENGL 115. Credit earned for one only.*

Prerequisites: Completion of English 101 with a "C" or better or permission from the instructor.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Trace the broad outline of the historical, cultural, and artistic development of the literature
2. Identify major writers, artists, themes, and literary types
3. Identify characteristics of books that are age appropriate
4. Identify characteristics of books which enhance child development, including social, language and literacy development and cognitive growth
5. Select and use books and poetry which are appropriate for early and middle childhood
6. Recognize differences in artistic contributions and writing styles
7. Analyze literary elements, such as plot, story, setting, characterization, style, theme, tone, point of view
8. Analyze the impact of technology on contemporary children's literature
9. Recognize different genres of literature: myth, epic, short story, realistic fantasy, biography, poetry, story book, and picture book and identify times and audiences for sharing them
10. Explain how bibliotherapy can help solve the problems of young children
11. State the value of traditional literature to everyday lessons
12. Select children's books that are developmentally-appropriate, well-written, appropriately illustrated, free of stereotypes, and that promote cultural sensitivity and value diversity
13. Read and present literature to children
14. Apply techniques, individual and collaborative, for introducing books or stories to children and for discussing them

## **Major Topics**

Definition of children's literature  
Choosing books  
Characteristics of literature for each age group  
Elements of fiction  
Visual elements  
Types of poetry  
Use of poetry in the classroom  
Types of picture books  
Types of traditional literature  
Fantasy and folktales  
Realistic fiction  
Historical fiction  
Biography and informational books  
Multicultural literature, including international literature and  
literature from contemporary parallel cultures  
Using literature in curriculum  
Teaching strategies  
Major writers  
Major illustrators

## **Course Requirements**

Requirements will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include some of the following:

Tests and quizzes  
Participation activities  
An annotated bibliography of children's books  
A sample lesson plan  
Critiques of on-line children's literature sources  
Written assignments discussing literary genres  
Oral presentations based on literary genres  
Comprehensive file (electronic or hard copy) of  
selected quality children's books in all genres