

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
ENGL 112A, Crossing Borders: Contemporary Children's Literature from the
Periphery, Section 80/81, FALL 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Tanja Nathanael
Office Location:	Canvas/Online
Telephone:	Contact via email, Canvas messaging, and Zoom will be utilized.
Email:	Tanja.Nathanael@sjsu.edu (Please use Canvas messaging when available).
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Canvas/Online
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	A2 Written Communication I

Course Format

Online Course

This course adopts an online delivery format. Video lectures will be posted weekly on Canvas. To keep pace with the course, students are required to view the lectures online in a timely manner in order to gain mastery of the material. While viewing the recorded lectures, students are strongly recommended to listen carefully, pay attention, and take notes just as you would in class. To best view and access the online content, students must have consistent, reliable, high-speed internet access, using a PC or MAC or other compatible device. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to check for compatibility. Technical issues will not be considered a valid excuse for failure to view lectures or submit assignments on time. That being said, students who diligently seek help from technical support and communicate clearly with me will be allowed a certain amount of grace. See [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) for more details.

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://one.sjsu.edu) on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

English 112A is an upper division course designed to introduce the literature of childhood experience to adult readers. Although children are the central characters and the targeted readers, writers of this genre still structure their works using the same complex literary devices and themes found in adult literature. We will therefore apply standard literary techniques in analyzing the readings for this class.

Course Theme

Crossing Borders: Contemporary Children's Literature from the Periphery

"Touch the sea and at once you are joined to its farthest shore." – Salmon Rushdie

During this course students acquire an understanding of how children's literature functions in an international context and how cultural diversity may be reflected in children's books. This course will focus on a range of contemporary transnational literatures, either originating from or set in various locales around the world. In the study of these texts, students will gain insight into diverse human experiences, helping to broaden their perspectives by offering windows into other cultures. Thematically, we will focus on borders and how by crossing borders or through the journey itself protagonists strengthen or redefine individual, cultural, and national identities. Furthermore, students will be introduced to concepts and contexts that define borders as physical spaces (such as mountains, seas, outer space), ideological spaces (such as national borders), conceptual spaces (such as the past, the future), and imaginary spaces (such as myth, fantasy). With these concepts in mind, texts will be evaluated as literature with the goal of building greater cross-cultural understanding.

The course is designed to meet the subject matter requirement for those considering a teaching credential. The information and curriculum approaches we will explore should be helpful for elementary, middle, and/or secondary levels of instruction. Nevertheless, this is a literature, not an educational methodology course.

English Department Program Learning Objectives (PLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of children's literature*
- 2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to children's literature*
- 3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, context, and the nature of the subject*
- 4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively*
- 5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.*

Required Texts/Readings

Eight novels plus selected short stories and picture books. Other Non-fiction essays and video TED Talks as assigned. See individual modules for details. All novels listed below are available in online editions.

Novels

Bredsdorff, Bodil. *The Crow-girl: The Children of Crow Cove* (Denmark; 1993)
ISBN-13: 978-0374400033

Fleischman, Paul. *Seedfolks* (U.S.A.; 1997)
ISBN-13: 978-0064472074

Ihimaera, Witi. *Whale Rider* (New Zealand; 1987)
ISBN-13: 978-0435131081

Iwaoka, Hisae. *Saturn Apartments, Vol. 1* (Japan; 2005)
ISBN-13: 978-1421533643

Lake, Nick. *In Darkness* (Haiti; 2012)
ISBN-13: 978-1619631229

Magnason, Andri Snær. *The Story of the Blue Planet* (Iceland; 2000)
ISBN-13: 978-1609805067

Okorafor, Nnedi. [Selected stories](#) (online). (Nigeria; 2016)
Selected short stories will be available on the author's website.

Pausewang, Gudrun. *Traitor* (Germany; 1995)
ISBN-13: 978-0761365716
E-copies of this text will be available through the university library.

Rushdie, Salman. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (India; 1990)
ISBN-13: 978-0140157376

Picture Books

*A selection from the following picture books will be provided in .PDF format.
No purchase required. Translations will be provided when needed.*

Baasansuren, Bolormaa. *My Little Round House*. Illustrated by Bolormaa Baasansuren. (Mongolia; 2009)
Croza, Laurel. *I Know Here*. Illustrated by Matt James. (Canada; 2010)
Lofthouse, Liz. *Ziba Came on a Boat*. Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. (Afghanistan; 2007)
Müller, Birte. *Herr Meier und Herr Müller*. Illustrated by Birte Müller. (Germany; 2001)
Robinson, Anthony. *A Refugee Diary* (series). Illustrated by June Allan. *Mohammed's Journey* (Iraq; 2009)

Other technology requirements

*You will be required to create a [Zoom](#) account to participate in one-on-one conferences and group discussions.
Creation of a Zoom account is free of charge.*

Course Grading Requirements and Assignments

NOTE: Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities; that is, expect to dedicate **about 10 hours per week** to this course. See breakdown of grading and assignment descriptions below.

Determination of Grades

Grades are determined on a 100-point scale, as follows:
40 points = Module 0-3 Quizzes (5-10 questions; completed per module or sub-module)
10 points = Short Essay (to be completed after Module 1)

10 points = Team Project (to be completed during Module 2)
10 points = Book Talk (to be completed after Module 3)
10 points = Side Trips (Participation Badges; 10 minimum required)
20 points = Final
100 points total

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Grading Information

Student progress will be assessed by means of reading logs, quizzes, presentations, essays, and exams. Students will receive assignment sheets and rubrics—posted to Canvas and discussed in lectures—that will outline the specific expectations of the assignments. Students will receive written and verbal feedback on assignments along with a letter grade based on the point scale outlined above. As this is an online class, students are encouraged to stay in regular contact with the instructor with regard to any questions about assignments or class expectations.

Specific grading criteria for assignments are indicated in the descriptions. Late papers and make-up exams must be arranged with the instructor. By department policy, in all English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure. For further details on essay grading, please check the [grading criteria page](#) of the English 22 website.

Description of Assignments

Module Quizzes (40 points; 6 quizzes at 5-10 points each)

Module quizzes will be taken online in Canvas and will be available during a seven day window at the conclusion of each module or within the module (see schedule for details). Once the window is closed, no one may take the exam except with a university approved excuse (illness, etc.) Module quizzes will consist of 5-10 questions at one point each. Module quizzes will contain a selection of matching, multiple choice, short answer questions. Study guides and practice quizzes will be available. (GELO 1, 4)

Short Essay (10 points total; 3-4 pages, or 750-1000 words required)

Students will demonstrate their ability to critically evaluate literature and defend a position in a three to four page critical essay. Some additional research will be required and essays must quote from credible academic sources with citations. Successful essays will have a clear thesis, present ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form, and use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage. Formal assignment sheets

and grading rubrics will be distributed at the time the essays are assigned. The essay will be due at the conclusion of Module 1. Calendar lists due date.

*Note: Library Liaison for the Department of English is Toby Matoush.
(GELO 2, 3)*

Team Project: A Lesson Plan (10 points total)

Students will complete a Lesson Plan as part of a collaboration with a team of two or three other students. Students will meet together with their team in Canvas or Zoom to discuss their project ideas and settle on a plan. Students will confirm their project plan with the instructor. The Lesson Plan assignment will be due at the conclusion of Module 2.

These assignments will be expected to adhere to the same caliber of college writing as listed above, as well as demonstrate the student's knowledge of the literary and creative contributions of these texts to world cultures as emphasized in the theme of this course. Written assignments will be submitted in Word .doc, .docx, or Adobe .pdf format in Canvas. As with the quizzes, late papers will not be accepted after the submission window has closed unless provided with a university accepted excuse (illness, etc.). Assignments will typically be scored within two to three weeks of the due date. (PLO 3-5)

Book Talks (10 points total)

*Students are required to research one international picture book or children's book **not assigned in class** and present a 10-minute Book Talk to their peers. In their Book Talks, students will provide brief biographical information about the author and/or artist, some cultural background about the country/culture in which the book is published, any interesting textual history about the publication of the book, a summary of the book's contents and plot, an evaluation of the text, and a recommendation about pairing that text with others we have read for use in teaching or study. Every student will present one Book Talk in a recorded video format on Canvas. A sample Book Talk and a rubric will be distributed on Canvas upon assignment. Book Talk books do not need to be purchased, but may be ordered from the library. Book Talk books must be approved by the instructor. Book Talks will be due at the conclusion of Module 3. (PLO 1, 2, 5)*

Side Trips (Participation Badges; 10 minimum required)

Each week students will be given the opportunity to complete "Side Trips" to earn participation credit, as well as other rewards. Side Trips will consist of a selection small activities in which the student may demonstrate additional knowledge or skills based on the current week's assignments. The completion of one Side Trip = one badge. Over the 16 week semester, students are only required to achieve 10 badges to earn participation credit. However, students may earn more badges to gain additional privileges, such as raising a quiz or essay grade. Activities include: illustrating a text, watching a TED Talk, reading an article, attending a Zoom meeting, and more. See Side Trips in Canvas for more details. (PLO 1-5)

Final Examination (20 points)

The Final Exam will be taken online in Canvas and will be available during a seven day window during Finals Week. Once the window is closed, no one may take the exam except with a university approved excuse (illness, etc.) The Final will consist of 20 questions at one point each. The Final will contain a selection of matching, multiple choice, short answer questions. A Study Guide will be provided. (PLO 2 & 3)

Online Protocol

Instructor Office Hours and Email Contact

For this online class, I will keep weekly online office hours where I will be available in Canvas Chat to answer your questions. Please note that the Canvas Chat feature is public, allowing many students to join at once. While this is a convenient way to answer questions common to many of you, it is not the place to have a private conversation. Should you have need for a private conversation, say to discuss your grade, please email me and make an appointment where we can discuss other arrangements (for example, Zoom).

Email and Electronic Communication Etiquette

For this online course, we will do all of our writing in digital spaces—some formal, some informal. An important part of learning to be a successful student and writer is knowing what is appropriate in a given situation. An email to me, to any other faculty or staff member on campus, or to anyone in any position of authority must be respectful and professional in tone, should come from your official SJSU email account or Canvas message board, and should follow this format:

Subject: Request to schedule an appointment

**A subject line is always required and should clearly and briefly represent your purpose for emailing. Emails with no subject line may not be read.*

Dear Professor Nathanael,

**Always use a formal address, such as Professor, Dr., Ms., Mr. Never use the person's first name unless you have been given explicit permission to do so.*

I am a student in your ENGL 112A class, and I would like to schedule an appointment with you to discuss my essay draft. I am having trouble with my thesis statement and hope to get your help in clarifying it. Are you available to meet this Wednesday afternoon?

**State your question, concern, or request briefly and clearly, using standardized English. Maintain a polite, respectful tone and avoid using exclamation points, emoticons, texting abbreviations, or coarse language. Avoid asking questions that are answered on the syllabus or assignment sheet, such as "When is our paper due?" or "What is our homework for tomorrow?" Emails that are not professional in style or tone, or that ask questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or assignment sheets, may be ignored.*

Thank you,

**Use a formal closing, such as "Sincerely," "Respectfully," "Thank you," or "Best regards."*

Martha Jones

Student ID: 321654

ENGL 112A Sec 80

**Always sign your full name at the end of your email.*

**It is also polite to include your Student ID and course.*

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available [here](#). Information about late drop is available [here](#). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well. Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic Integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) is available on the university website. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#). Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Accommodations for Disabled Employees & Students

Reasonable accommodations are made for students and employees who are accepted or work at San José State University.

The [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) counsels and serves students with disabilities.

The [Employment Accommodations Resource Center \(EARC\)](#) facilitates the provision of accommodations and services to employees with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA Compliance is the on-campus office for ADA Compliance issues for students and employees.

For more information, see [ADA Compliance](#) or [Unlawful Discrimination](#).

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center

[The SJSU Writing Center](#) is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers.

Peer Connections

[Peer Connections](#) offers free mentoring, tutoring, and supplemental instruction services for students at SJSU. Peer Educators are students just like you; they understand the triumphs and challenges of being a student at San José State University.

1. The Peer Connections locations on campus are currently closed due to the pandemic, and we know that it may be challenging for you to get the resources/support that you may need. Therefore, Peer Connections has pushed forward our plans for online/virtual tutoring and mentoring, so you can now meet with your tutor and/or mentor online.
2. If you'd like to schedule an appointment to meet with your tutor/mentor online, you can do that from Spartan Connect. [Learn more about appointment scheduling options here.](#)
3. If you need to contact Peer Connections, please e-mail us at peerconnections@sjsu.edu. We will be checking voicemail, but e-mail is currently the fastest way to reach us. We will be answering e-mails as quickly as possible during business hours (Monday-Friday 9-5pm).

ENGL 112A Children's Literature FALL 2020 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion. Schedule adjustments will be announced via email and will be updated on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date W-T	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
MODULE 0: GETTING STARTED		
1 GETTING STARTED & INTRO TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE & COURSE THEME	AUG 19-25	WATCH/READ: Getting Started Materials READ: Fall 2020 Syllabus READ: Genre: A Short Introduction (handout; .PDF provided) WATCH: Lecture: Intro to Children's Literature WATCH: Lecture: Course Theme: Crossing Borders DUE AUG 25: MODULE 0 QUIZ (multiple attempts)
MODULE 1: INTERNATIONAL PICTURE BOOKS		
2 PICTURE BOOKS PART I	AUG 26- SEPT 1	WATCH: Lecture: The Power of Picture Books READ: Philip Nel's "Migration, Refugees, and Diaspora in Children's Literature" (.PDF provided) READ: Picture Book: Lofthouse, Liz. <i>Ziba Came on a Boat</i> . Illustrated by Robert Ingpen. (Afghanistan) (.PDF provided) READ: Picture Book: Robinson, Anthony. <i>A Refugee Diary</i> (series). Illustrated by June Allan. <i>Mohammed's Journey</i> (Iraq) (.PDF provided) BEGIN: Short Essay Assignment (Read Assignment page)
3 PICTURE BOOKS PART II	SEPT 2-8	WATCH: Video: "A History of Children's Books" READ: Sonia Landes' "Picture Books as Literature" READ: Picture Book: Baasansuren, Bolormaa. <i>My Little Round House</i> . Illustrated by Bolormaa Baasansuren. (Mongolia) (.PDF provided) READ: Picture Book: Croza, Laurel. <i>I Know Here</i> . Illustrated by Matt James. (Canada) (.PDF provided)
4	SEPT 9-15	DUE: SHORT ESSAY DUE: MODULE 1 QUIZ (7-day submission window)
MODULE 2: READING DEMOCRACY		
5 SCANDINAVIA & WESTERN EUROPE	SEPT 16-22	READ: Essay: Steven Wolk's " Reading Democracy " WATCH: Lecture: Andri Snær Magnússon's <i>The Story of the Blue Planet</i> WATCH: Video: Iceland on Google Earth View READ: Novel: Andri Snær Magnússon's <i>The Story of the Blue Planet</i> (full book) HEADS UP: BOOK TALKS (Read Assignment page)

Week	Date W-T	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6 SCANDINAVIA & WESTERN EUROPE	SEPT 23-29	WATCH: Video: Denmark Time-Lapse Map WATCH: Lecture: Bodil Bredsdorff's <i>The Crow-Girl</i> READ: Novel: Bredsdorff, Bodil. <i>The Crow-girl: The Children of Crow Cove</i> (full book)
7 SCANDINAVIA & WESTERN EUROPE	SEPT 30- OCT 6	WATCH: Video: History of Germany WATCH: Lecture: Gudrun Pausewang's <i>Traitor</i> READ: Novel: Pausewang, Gudrun. <i>Traitor</i> (Ch 1-11) (begin) BEGIN: TEAM PROJECT: LESSON PLAN (Read Assignment page)
8 SCANDINAVIA & WESTERN EUROPE	OCT 7-13	READ: Novel: Pausewang, Gudrun. <i>Traitor</i> (Ch 12-22) (finish) WATCH: Eastern Front of WWII animated:1944/45 If you are interested in military history, you may want to watch the whole 17:05 minutes, but you may start watching at the 11:00 minute mark if you just want to see what occurs during the novel. DUE: SUB-MODULE QUIZ: SCANDINAVIA & WESTERN EUROPE (5 questions, 7-day submission window)
9 CARIBBEAN & AFRICA & INDIA	OCT 14-20	READ: Novel: Lake, Nick. <i>In Darkness</i> (Ch 1-12) (begin) WATCH: Lecture: Nick Lake's <i>In Darkness</i>
10 CARIBBEAN & AFRICA & INDIA	OCT 21-27	READ: Novel: Lake, Nick. <i>In Darkness</i> (Ch 13-24) (finish) WATCH: Video: A Brief History of Haiti
11 CARIBBEAN & AFRICA & INDIA	OCT 28- NOV 3	WATCH: Lecture: Nnedi Okorafor & Africanfuturism WATCH: Video: Where is Nigeria located? WATCH: Video: The history of Nigeria explained in six minutes (3000 years of Nigerian history) READ: Blog post: What is Africanfuturism? READ: Okorafor, Nnedi. Selected stories (online): 1. Short story: " The Key " 2. Short story: " The Palm Tree Bandit "
12 CARIBBEAN & AFRICA & INDIA	NOV 4-10	WATCH: Lecture: Salmon Rushdie's <i>Haroun & the Sea of Stories</i> WATCH: Video: India: Location READ: Novel: Rushdie, Salmon. <i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> (Ch 1-6) (begin)
13 CARIBBEAN & AFRICA & INDIA	NOV 11-17	WATCH: Video: 5000 Years History of India READ: Novel: Rushdie, Salmon. <i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> (finish) DUE: SUB-MODULE QUIZ: CARIBBEAN & AFRICA & INDIA (5 questions, 7-day submission window)

Week	Date W-T	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14 PACIFIC RIM	NOV 18-24	WATCH: Lecture: Witi Ihimaera's <i>Whale Rider</i> WATCH: Video: Location: New Zealand Google Earth WATCH: Video: Entire History of New Zealand READ: Novel: Ihimaera, Witi. <i>Whale Rider</i> (full book) DUE: TEAM PROJECT: LESSON PLAN
	NOV 25-27	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
15 PACIFIC RIM	NOV 28- DEC 1	WATCH: Lecture: Japan, Manga & Saturn Apartments WATCH: Video: Helen McCarthy's "A History of Manga" WATCH: Video: "History of Japan: Every Year" - This is a timeline of geographic territory and emperors. WATCH: "History of Japan" - This one has more culture and history. READ: Graphic Novel: Iwaoka, Hisae. <i>Saturn Apartments, Vol. 1</i> (full book) DUE: SUB-MODULE QUIZ: PACIFIC RIM (5 questions, 7-day submission window)
MODULE 3: THE DANGER OF THE SINGLE STORY		
16 U.S.A.	DEC 2-7	WATCH: Chimamanda Adichie's "The Danger of the Single Story" WATCH: Lecture: Paul Fleischman's <i>Seedfolks</i> WATCH: Video: An excerpt from Sonja Parks' one-woman show READ: Novel: Fleischman, Paul. <i>Seedfolks</i> (full book) DUE: BOOK TALKS DUE: MODULE 3 QUIZ (5 questions, 7-day submission window)
FINAL EXAM	DEC 9-15	DUE: Final Exam (20 questions, 7-day submission window)