Stockholm University

English children's literature for primary school teachers, years 4-6 (ENGECL), 7.5 credits

Autumn term 2025. Teacher: Anna Swärdh

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Note: This is a shorter version of the course description for the web. The complete version, which also includes the grading criteria and details of readings for seminars, can be found on Athena. Students will get access to Athena after registration.

Course description

This course looks at literature for young learners from the perspective of literature studies. It deals with text analysis through the use of basic literary concepts in English. Literature for young learners is also elucidated in terms of its aesthetic, historical and social contexts. In addition, children's response to literary text in English is also treated in relation to other media forms.

Intended learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to use mainly idiomatically correct English, orally and in writing, to:

- carry out close readings with the aid of basic literary concepts,
- display their interpretation of—and reflections on—literature in English for young learners,
- reflect on how literary texts affect different readers and how texts both form and are formed by their historical and cultural context.

Grading

The course adopts the 7-grade scale.

To receive a final grade, students must have completed all the examinations and met the attendance requirement [not done all examination assignments = no grade].

To receive a passing grade (A to E), students must pass all examinations (oral and written) and thereby demonstrate that they have achieved all the learning outcomes at least at the minimum level (see below).

Course activities

The course consists of the following activities:
Three (3) two hour seminars and **three (3)** three hour seminars, each seminar contains a discussion part and a close reading/analysis component (in preparation for the oral and written exam and the written assignment).
One (1) three hour seminar with group presentations, which functions as the oral exam (all individual performances will be marked Pass or Fail).
Attendance at a minimum of 80% of the seminars is required in order to complete the course.

Examination

Written exam 100% of the A-F grade.

Written assignment, Pass/Fail: To receive a Pass, the assignment needs to meet the grading criteria for at least an E.

Oral exam needs the grade “Pass” for the student to receive a final course grade.

Course Format

In the seminars, students will learn to discuss and analyse literary works for young learners by means of basic literary concepts and close reading. The course book provides historical context, which is meant to be explicitly related to the literary works. In the seminars students will practice hands on close reading and they will also learn strategies for how to connect textual details to historical and cultural context. All teaching and all discussions are in English. The students are expected to have finished all reading and to have responded to the study questions before class.

Below are the dates for exams and assignment submissions:

Oral Presentation (see Time Edit schedule for details)

- Assignment (detailed in Study Guide) to be presented in Seminar 3 (see TimeEdit).
- Re-sit for Oral Presentation (contact your seminar instructor for assignment at least two weeks in advance): see TimeEdit

Written Assignment

First submission dates:

- Task posted on Athena/Itslearning: Thursday 13 November, 08:00
- Submission Deadline (upload on Athena/Itslearning): Thursday 20 November, 17:00.

Resubmission dates:

- Task posted on Athena/Itslearning: Monday 15 December 2025, 08:00
- Submission Deadline (upload on Athena/Itslearning): Monday 22 December 2025, 17:00.

Sit-down Exam (see TimeEdit schedule for details)

- Sign up via Ladok before the deadline. (Questions: contact the Student Affairs Office at studexp@english.su.se)
- First exam date and date for re-take: see TimeEdit

See Athena for the full course description and the Study Guide for detailed instructions. See TimeEdit for dates and times.