

# Individual Final Project

ENGL 5820

Spring 2017

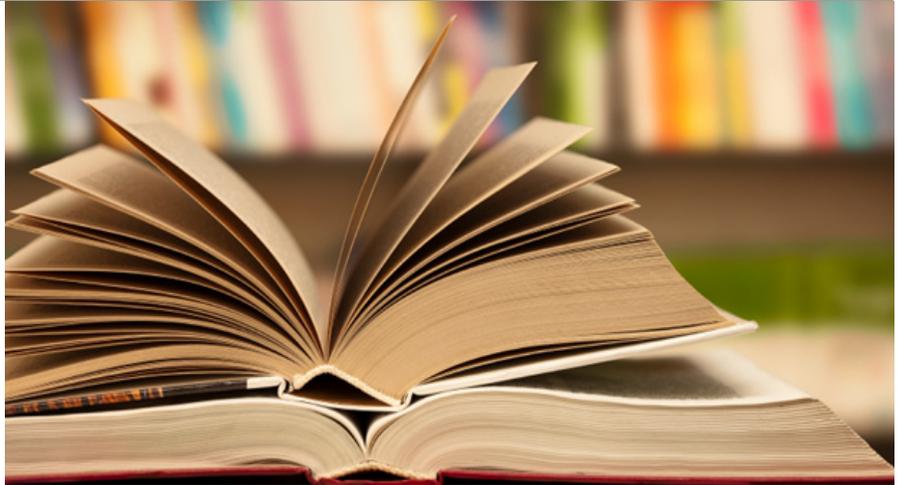
## Children's Literature Focus

While the requirements for this final assignment are limited, it should focus or consider children's literature in some capacity. This could mean studying one or more children's texts, including a book, film, or other artifact, or it might include some element of critical theory related to children's literature. If you are considering a creative option, it could either be a text intended for young readers (including teens) or comment significantly in some way on an element of childhood/adolescence. While I encourage you to consider a visual text or adaptation (or some element of such works), you might also move in a different direction, focusing on some theoretical or critical element we have considered.

## Critical Focus

Whatever direction you choose, your work should have a critical or theoretical element, and in particular, you should be demonstrating your ability to engage with and respond to critical work in a substantial way. *This will be a key element of how you are evaluated.* Such critical engagement should include, in some capacity, both theoretical readings we've studied in class and outside research you've done on your own. If you choose a creative option, this research should influence your creative decisions, explained in the rationale.

Due Date: **Thursday,  
April 27, 12pm EST**



## Overview & Requirements

The final project gives you the freedom to explore some element of the course in a medium of your choosing. This may be a traditional research-based seminar paper (that could be adapted into a critical article, conference presentation, or exam answer), or it can be a creative or pedagogical work in a genre or form you select. Choose a project that will be useful to your future study or goals, and use this opportunity to showcase the your developing knowledge of children's literature and your in-depth research and critical engagement. Final projects are substantial, worth 30% of the overall course grade.

## Rationale Document

The rationale is, in some ways, a greater factor in evaluating your work than the essay/writing itself, especially if you select a creative option. Considered a more detailed/specific "writing memo," the purpose of this document is for you to explain and even defend your choices as a writer/scholar. While you may format this document however you choose, it should offer *specific and in-depth analysis of your work*, including examples (aka, quote your own writing to use as evidence to support your claims about it). Your rationale should answer these questions:

- What is the goal or purpose of your work, and how does it meaningfully and uniquely contribute to critical and/or creative discourse? What are you offering that is innovative, and how have you achieved your objective?
- Describe some of your creative and/or rhetorical choices (including, for example, your close reading and/or critical engagement). What work did you use as a model, and/or what has inspired/influenced your choices?
- How does your work demonstrate what you have learned in the course? Be specific in tying elements of your work to critical discussions from class.