

Masters in Critical Approaches to Children's Literature

Admissions Written Task

Please note: If you are applying for the MPhil please complete the task below and upload it with your other application documents. If you have done or are currently doing the PGCE at the Faculty, it is not necessary to upload this task with your application.

Please write an essay or a piece of original critical research around 2,000 words. Choose a children's or young adult text (picturebook, poetry collection, fairy tale, novel, film, comic) that would allow an interesting discussion. (Do not choose texts which may portray young people, but are not explicitly addressed to young readers, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*). Please avoid obvious choices, for instance, Roald Dahl or J K Rowling, unless you are confident that you have something original to say about them. You are expected to use a reasonable number of critical sources to support your argument.

Focus on one or two aspects of the text and explore them in depth rather than trying to cover many different aspects. Some features that you may want to examine, include, but are not limited to:

- the socio-historical and literary context
- the genre-specific features of the text (fantasy, adventure, boarding-school story, dystopia)
- ideology and intention (for instance, gender, race, class)
- narrative structure, characterisation and narrative perspective
- the use of language
- the implied audience
- for a picturebook or graphic novel, the interaction of word and image

You are welcome to draw on your childhood memories of the text or your experience of using it with children; however, this should not be the primary focus of your essay.