

CHILDREN'S BOOKS, ADULT VIEWPOINTS

Revisiting the world of children's literature

Course #:	22S-CBAV
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Christine Heckman
Date and Time:	Wed, 9:30 - 11:30 AM 10 weeks, Starting 2/21/2022
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	18
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this seminar is to bring a fresh, adult perspective to the enduring works of children's fiction. Do we love them today as much as we loved them as children? Let's read together and find out!

DESCRIPTION:

In this seminar we will read and discuss books that were popular children's fiction when we were growing up, specifically those that were published prior to World War II, and excluding picture books, folk tales, and nonfiction. Why did we love those books so much at that time of our lives? How do these books stand up to our adult sensibilities? Do we find them to be darker and more violent than we remember? Or, at the other end of the spectrum, are they too saccharine? How do we feel about instances of sexism, racism, classism, or religious bias? We might also discuss the role of these books in shaping, for better or worse, the adults we are today.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

As a participant, you will select and read a book from the list provided by the moderator. Because it is important to bring a fresh, adult perspective to the literature, the book should either be one that you loved as a child but have not reread since then, or a childhood classic that you somehow missed. You will then give a 30-minute presentation on the book, followed by a discussion period of up to 30 minutes. In order to facilitate these discussions, participants are encouraged to read as many of these books as possible.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will provide a list of suggested books, or the participant may select a book or books that meet the guidelines. All the books on the list are available as inexpensive paperbacks, or they may be borrowed from local libraries.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Chris is a relative newcomer to 5CLR, and this is her first try at leading a seminar. She is a retired elementary school librarian with a lifelong love of children's literature.