

# The Best New Books for Elementary Students

Longwood University

Professional Studies *Non-Credit* Class

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## ***Class Description:***

Participants will learn all about the best picture books (and even some chapter books) published in the past year. Keep your classroom library current and your students engaged in reading and listening through this refresher class in children's literature!

## ***Class Overview:***

This class is all about new books. We're going to be looking at picture books, informational books, and chapter books appropriate for PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade. During the four weeks, we'll look at trends in children's literature, ways to share children's literature, diversity in children's literature, and how to keep up with children's literature. Together we will build a database of books that will give you a whole list of options for the next school year.

This class is designed to be self-paced and does not require participants complete the work at the same time or participate in activities or discussions at the same time. However, reviewing what your fellow participants post and initiating discussions with them will greatly enhance your learning and overall experience.

## ***Text:***

No text is required for this class. Readings will be posted online. Students are encouraged to spend book funds on copies of children's books for their classroom instruction.

## ***Goals & Objectives:***

Identify and work together to build a database of the best in children's literature published in 2017-2019.

Investigate the current diversity of children's literature.

Explore the current trends in children's literature.

Discover ways to share new children's literature with students.

Design activities to support a chapter book published in 2017-2019.

Participate in course activities to get a deeper understanding of children's literature today.

SCHEDULE		
Dates	Topics	Assignments
<b>Module 1</b> <b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> <b>Finding New Books!</b> How do you keep up with what is published and how do you find great new books to share?	Readings & activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm
<b>Module 2</b> <b>Week 2</b>	<b>Trending</b> What are the hot topics in children’s literature?	Readings and activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm
<b>Module 3</b> <b>Week 3</b>	<b>Diversity in Children’s Literature</b> Our students need books where they can see themselves and gain empathy for others. We’ll talk about the current status of diversity in literature and look at some examples.	Readings and activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm
<b>Module 4</b> <b>Week 4</b>	<b>Let’s Share!</b> We’ve had a great time sharing books, but what are some ways to share them with our students?	Readings and activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm Expand a Title due!

**Class Assignments:** Instructions are provided for all assignments within the online class modules. These are general descriptions of the expectations.

**Module Activities:**

Each module will have at least one activity that you will be asked to complete, post your results, and reflect upon. These activities are assigned so you will have hands-on experience with children’s literature.

**Collaborative Children’s Database:**

Each week you will need to add at least 3 titles (but can be more) that you read and enjoyed for a minimum of 12 titles by the end of class. These will mostly be picture books, but feel free to include chapter books and informational books. Each book must be appropriate for Grades PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade and must have been published in 2017, 2018, or 2019. There will be a GoogleForm link in Canvas. The form will ask you the basics about the book (title, author, illustrator, publisher, etc.) and some ideas about how you might use it with children. (Just reading it aloud for the pleasure of reading is an acceptable answer to that question!). You’ll fill out the form for each title. This will create a database that we’ll all share, so at the end of the four week all students will leave with a database of 100+ new titles to use in your classroom.

**Expand a Title:**

Pick a chapter book appropriate for elementary age students published in 2017, 2018, or 2019. Design a way to incorporate using that book with students. Use the template provided in Canvas to guide your planning. Make sure to include connections to the Virginia SOLs, include ways to incorporate technology, and consider people in the school you might be able to collaborate with as

well. We will post these in a discussion so that everyone can share ideas. We will have a sign up sheet so there are no duplicates for this assignment.

***Class Grading:***

Module Activities	40 points (10 pts for each week)
Collaborative Children’s Database	30 points
Expand a Title	30 points

**Grading Scale**

Non-credit classes are Pass/Fail. If you earn 80% (or 80 points), you receive a Pass for the class.

***Class Policies:***

**Student Responsibility:**

It is your responsibility to inform yourself of all relevant policies and procedures posted in this syllabus and in the Start Here section of your Canvas class. It is also your responsibility to contact your instructor or our office if you have questions or issues.

**Communication Policy:**

The instructor will respond to student messages within 24-48 hours, generally through email. For all assignments, feedback will be delivered within one week of the due date.

**Attendance & Participation Policy:**

Attendance for online courses is determined by how many times and for how long you access the Canvas course (this information is available for each student to the instructor), your participation in the assignments, and your timeliness in submitting requested work or response. Online courses can get away from you if not carefully scheduled. Take the time to review your online commitments, schedule regular and consistent time to be online, and stick to the schedule. You are expected to participate in all Canvas activities. Failure to participate in Canvas activities may impair academic performance and result in a lower grade. You must assume full responsibility for an online presence.

**Technical Assistance:**

Please contact your instructor for assistance with Canvas.

**Class Evaluation:**

At the conclusion of the course, each student will have the opportunity to evaluate the class and instructor. Your feedback is important to us. Please take the time to complete the online evaluation.