

Course details

Course title

Literature: Representations of Childhood

Course code

Q00017743

Course date

Start: 17/09/24

End: 26/11/24

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Tue 17th Sep, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 24th Sep, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 1st Oct, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 8th Oct, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 15th Oct, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 22nd Oct, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 5th Nov, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 12th Nov, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 19th Nov, 13:30 to 15:30

Tue 26th Nov, 13:30 to 15:30

Branch

Reigate Branch

Tutor

Clare Jackson

Fee range

Free to £74.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

From the most idealised to the most troubled narratives, childhood has consistently been a source of inspiration in literature. In this course, we will be considering how a range of authors represent childhood, the themes that connect with this idea, and how different contexts have changed how childhood is portrayed. Through our discussions, we will be analysing texts across different genres, reflecting on the questions and challenges that writers face when representing this profoundly influential stage in life.

Course description

Childhood compels us all; it is essential in forming our sense of self. Small wonder, then, that writers find it so powerful and searching a time to recall, describe and reflect upon. In this course we will be studying extracts from such contemporary novels as Jo Browning Wroe's *A Terrible Kindness* and Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*. We will also be considering extracts from non-fiction such as David Sedaris' *Dress Your Family In Corduroy And Denim*, and earlier autobiography including Molly Hughes' *A London Child of the 1870s* and Gwen Raverat's *Period Piece*. Passages and poems further back in time will be studied from Shakespeare, Dickens and Blake, alongside such with modern writers as Colson Whitehead and Sarah Waters. Poetry, prose and drama, and the very different ways these genres can portray childhood will all be part of our studies; our set text for study in full will be the great classic of autobiography by Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. There will be a wealth of questions to consider. How do authors set about portraying childhood, using what creative choices? What aspects do authors choose to recall and why? What is an author's purpose in writing about childhood? Together, we will be seeking answers.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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