December 2017

Hamline University MFAC
REQUIRED READING LIST

For this list, first assigned in January 2016 and updated with minor changes for the January 2017 residency, the faculty chose titles we felt were the strongest books from which to learn the contemporary craft of writing for children as it is practiced and published in the USA, within various age categories and genres.

The books represent a wide range of writers and an even wider range of subjects. They are shared texts for our residencies, examples of excellence in craft. Most of them are by major creators in the field of children’s literature, but there are a few new writers included.

The literary canon is always expanding and shifting. Our needs as a program will evolve. This list is a living document. It will be revised every couple years.

Read, reflect, and examine these works. We’ll talk about them as they come up in workshops, lectures and intensives, but we also encourage you to discuss them among yourselves and in your critical essays. Since this list will be used for your bibliographic annotations, the faculty encourages you to read these books as writers, focusing on craft choices. As you do, you will learn how to turn books into teachers. Once you graduate from the program, our hope is that you will always be able to acquire new lessons from masters of the craft.

We recommend you read the Craft books and the History and Criticism books near the start of your time at Hamline. They’ll help give us a shared vocabulary and we believe they will deepen your work.

A note on content: Writers write about what haunts them. They write about their wounds. Fiction writers, in particular, depend on tension and conflict as the drivers of plot. Some of the books we have chosen may cause distress for some readers, especially if the reader is a trauma survivor. If this description applies to you, please do what you can to take care of yourself so that you can engage effectively with the required reading and participate in class. If you need specific expertise to help you deal with your response to the reading, you can contact Hamline Counseling and Health Services (651-523-2204). If you would like to know in advance about the content of any books on the list, contact Emily Jenkins, Swati Avasthi or Laura Ruby (the book list committee members) and one of us will orient you.

CRAFT BOOKS
2003 In the Palm of Your Hand: The Poet’s Portable Workshop (Steve Kowit)
2004 Self-Editing for Fiction-Writers, 2nd edition (Renni Browne and Dave King)
2005 Writing the Other (Nisi Shawl and Cynthia Ward)
2006 Making Comics (Scott McCloud)
2009 Writing Picture Books (Ann Whitford Paul)
2011 Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction (Jack Hart)
2012 Show Me a Story! (edited by Leonard Marcus)
2014 Writing Fiction, 9th Edition (Janet Burroway)

HISTORY AND CRITICISM OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH
2010 Young Adult Literature: From Romance to Realism (Michael Cart)
2011 Children’s Literature: A Very Short Introduction (Kimberley Reynolds)
CONTEMPORARY PICTURE BOOKS

Picture Books -- Realistic Contemporary Fiction
1994 So Much (Trish Cooke, illus. by Helen Oxenbury)
1995 Officer Buckle and Gloria (Peggy Rathmann)
1999 When Sophie Gets Angry…Really, Really Angry (Molly Bang)
2002 Sometimes I’m Bombaloo (Rachel Vail, illus. by Yumi Heo)
2003 Ella Sarah Gets Dressed (Margaret Chodos-Irvine)
2004 Knuffle Bunny (Mo Willems)
2005 The Hello-Goodbye Window (Norton Juster, illus. by Chris Rashka)
2010 Big Red Lollipop (Rukhsana Kahn, illus. Sophie Blackall)

Picture Books -- Historical Fiction
1997 The Gardener (Sarah Stewart, illus. by David Small)
2010 The Great Migration (Eloise Greenfield, illus. by Jan Spivey Gilchrist)
2013 This is Our House (Hyewon Yum)
2015 Hiawatha and the Peacemaker (Robbie Robertson, illus. by David Shannon)

Picture Books -- Folk Tales, Fairy Tales and Animal Stories
1989 Lon Po Po (Ed Young)
1992 Owl Babies (Martin Wadell, illus. by Patrick Benson)
1997 The Dragon Prince (Laurence Yep, illus. by Kam Mak)
2003 Beautiful Blackbird (Ashley Bryan)
2005 Dona Flor (Pat Mora, illus by Raul Colón)
2012 This is Not My Hat (John Klassen)
2012 Never Forgotten (Patricia McKissack, illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon)
2013 The Girl of the Wish Garden (Uma Krishnaswami, illus. by Nasrin Khosravi)
2013 Mr. Tiger Goes Wild (Peter Brown)
2013 Niño Wrestles the World (Yuyi Morales)
2014 The Adventures of Beekle (Dan Santat)
2015 In a Village by the Sea (Muon Van, illus. by April Chu)

Picture Books - Nonfiction and Family History
1993 Grandfather’s Journey (Allen Say)
2003 Bad News for Outlaws (Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illus. by R. Gregory Christie)
2005 Show Way (Jacqueline Woodson, illus. by Hudson Talbott)
2008 What Do you Do With a Tail Like This? (Steve Jenkins and Robin Page)
2010 Sit-In (Andrea Davis Pinkney, illus. by Brian Pinkney)
2012 Island (Jason Chin)
2012 Buffalo Bird Girl (S.D. Nelson)
2015 The Blue Whale (Jenni Desmond)

Picture Book Poetry:
1997 Charlie Parker Played Be Bop (Chris Rashka)
2009 All the World (Liz Garton Scanlon, illus. Marla Frazee)
2010 Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night (Joyce Sidman, illus. by Rick Allen)
2015 My Pen (Christopher Myers)

CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE GRADE
Younger Middle Grade Fiction
2005 Babymouse: Our Hero (Jennifer Holm, illus. by Matt Holm)
2008 Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things (Lenore Look, illus. by LeUyen Pham)
2008 Clementine (Sara Pennypacker, illus. by Marla Frazee)
2011 Zita the Spacegirl (Ben Hatke)

Middle Grade Contemporary Realistic
1998 Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (Jack Gantos)
1998 Holes (Louis Sachar)
2003 Millicent Min, Girl Genius (Lisa Yee)
2006 The Schwa Was Here (Neal Schusterman)
2010 Out of My Mind (Sharon Draper)
2013 The Thing About Luck (Cynthia Kadohata)

Middle Grade Historical
1999 Bud, Not Buddy (Christopher Paul Curtis)
1999 The Birchbark House (Louise Erdrich)
2004 Al Capone Does My Shirts (Gennifer Choldenko)
2009 When You Reach Me (Rebecca Stead)
2010 One Crazy Summer (Rita Williams-Garcia)
2010 The Dreamer (Pamela Munoz Ryan)
2012 The One and Only Ivan (Katherine Applegate)

Middle Grade Fantasy, Folk Tale, Science Fiction and Dystopian
1996 The Golden Compass (Philip Pullman)
1996 The Thief (Megan Whelan Turner)
1999 The Folk Keeper (Franny Billingsly)
2001 Skeleton Man (Joseph Bruchac)
2003 The Tale of Despereaux (Kate DiCamillo)
2003 The Amulet of Samarkand (Jonathan Stroud)
2008 The Stonekeeper (Amulet #1) (Kazu Kibuishi)
2009 Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (Grace Lin)
2015 The Jumbies (Tracy Baptiste)

Middle Grade Nonfiction: Informational, Narrative and Memoir
2003 An American Plague (Jim Murphy)
2008 We are the Ship (Kadir Nelson)
2010 Bomb (Steve Sheinkin)
2012 One Dead Spy (Nathan Hale)
2014 El Deafo (Cece Bell)
2015 Funny Bones (Duncan Tonatiuh)

Middle-Grade Poetry
1996 A Pizza the Size of the Sun (Jack Prelutsky, illus. by James Stevenson)
1996 A Suitcase of Seaweed (Janet S. Wong)
2011 Inside Out and Back Again (Thanhha Lai)
2014 Josephine (Patricia Hruby Powell, illus. by Christian Robinson)
2014 The Crossover (Kwame Alexander)

CONTEMPORARY YOUNG ADULT

Young Adult: Realistic Contemporary
1996 Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida (Victor Martinez)
1999 Speak (Laurie Halse Anderson)
2001 A Step from Heaven (An Na)
2001 Bronx Masquerade (Nikki Grimes)
2003 The First Part Last (Angela Johnson)
2006 The Murder of Bindy Mackenzie (Jaclyn Moriarty)
2007 The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian (Sherman Alexie)
2009 Marcelo in the Real World (Francisco X. Stork)
2010 Lockdown (Walter Dean Myers)
2012 Two Boys Kissing (David Levithan)
2013 Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass (Meg Medina)
2014 This One Summer (Jillian and Mariko Tamaki)
2014 Pointe (Brandy Colbert)
2014 How It Went Down (Kekla Magoon)
2016 The Sun is Also a Star (Nicola Yoon)

Young Adult: Fantasy, Science Fiction and Dystopian
2003 The Goose Girl (Shannon Hale)
2004 Feed (M.T. Anderson)
2008 The Knife of Never Letting Go (Patrick Ness)
2009 Ash (Malinda Lo)
2011 Akata Witch (Nnedi Orokafor)
2012 Ask the Passengers (A.S. King)
2012 Seraphina (Rachel Hartman)
2014 Ms. Marvel (G. Willow Wilson, illus. by Adrian Alphona)
2015 Nimona (Noelle Stevenson)

Young Adult: Historical Fiction
2005 Day of Tears (Julius Lester)
2006 The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)
2012 Code Name: Verity (Elizabeth Wein)
2012 Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (Benjamin Alire Saenz)

Young Adult: Nonfiction and Memoir
2003 Persepolis (Marjane Satrapi)
2003 Blankets (Craig Thompson)
2004 The Race to Save the Lord God Bird (Philip Hoose)
2005 Hitler Youth (Susan Campbell Bartoletti)
2010 Sugar Changed the World (Marc Aaronson and Marina Budhos)
2015 Stonewall (Ann Bausum)

Young Adult - Poetry
2002 19 Varieties of Gazelle (Naomi Shabib Nye)
2005 A Wreath for Emmett Till (Marilyn Nelson, illus. by Phillipe Lardy)
2013 The Lightning Dreamer (Margarita Engle)