

A Book Is Just a Beginning: The Joy of Children's Books

Study Leader: Jane Walsh
Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
5 weeks beginning Sept. 26
AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College
Maximum number of participants: 20

We will begin with a discussion about why some books we read as children have such a lasting effect on us and how children's literature can still be relevant to us today. We will look at the history of children's literature as separate from adult literature and how children's books reflect the culture, values and social mores of the time.

What makes a classic children's book? What determines an award winner? With the help of a local children's book author, we'll get a sense of what it takes to write a children's book today. Finally, we will ask the question, in the age of technology, what is the future of children's literature?

Participants will spend time reading and discussing children's books they have chosen during class. There will be focused assignments where participants will be asked to read with a question or purpose in mind. Children's books will be provided to explore and critique. Participants will also be encouraged to share books from their own collections. There will be presentations given by the study leader and a visiting children's author.



Jane Walsh

Jane Walsh was a longtime elementary school teacher in Newton, Massachusetts. There, she developed curriculum units using children's literature as a springboard for lessons. Her graduate studies focused on how children develop as readers and writers. She has taught classes in language development at Wheelock College and on language and culture at Lesley University in Boston. Jane has a BA in English from Framingham State University and an MS in child development from Wheelock College.