



ECE 234: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



Anne has been teaching at Cuesta since 1998, and teaching online since 2005. She also worked as an Assistant Supervisor at the campus Children's Center for 9 years, and as a Head Teacher and Education/Behavior Specialist for Early/Head Start. While living in SLO County, she provided numerous trainings including Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ECERS, ITERS, and FCERS). Anne currently works for Sierra Nevada Children's Services as an Education Specialist providing support to child care providers.

Anne Wolf

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Greetings!

Welcome to ECE 234, Children's Literature online. I'm excited to share my love of beautifully written and illustrated books with you!

In this class you will develop an appreciation for the value of children's literature in the growth and development of children ages three through eight years. You'll learn to select quality books from a variety of genres; delve into cultural sensitivity; and discover numerous ways to make literature come alive in the classroom!

This class is completely online and may be challenging at times. It requires self-direction and motivation, patience, and a sense of humor. To assist students in managing the challenges, there are built in opportunities to network with fellow students. Building community with your classmates and staying "connected," has proven to help with motivation and increase the probability of success in class.

If you have any questions or concerns along the way, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will respond within 36 hours M-F.

Enjoy the journey!

Anne

RECOMMENDED SKILLS & TIME COMMITMENT:

This class is completely online. It is not a “correspondence course,” requiring little interaction. It does in fact require considerable time online, reading material, interacting with fellow students, and writing. You will need to **log in several times/week so a reliable computer with easy access is mandatory**.

This class begins on January 17 and ends May 18. It is 18 weeks in duration. There is a minimum time requirement of 9 hrs per week, as required by state standards. Your personal time commitment will vary depending on your experience with web/online technology, and your reading/writing skills. You will need:

- Solid computer skills (word processing, email, file management, use of different browsers, uploading files/photos)
- Digital camera or cell phone with built in camera
- Ability to be self-directed and motivated
- Ability to seek technical assistance in a timely manner
- Read, write, and think critically
- Time management skills

Check out the following link to see if you have what it takes:

<http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/survey.htm>

DO YOU HAVE THE MINIMUM COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS?

Windows 2000 or newer

Internet Connection: 56K Dial-up or faster (**Broadband highly recommended**);

Internet Browser: Explorer 6.0 or Mozilla/Firefox 1.5 or 2.0 preferred (newer versions have compatibility issues)

Up-to-date software patches and add-ins, including : Sun Java 1.5.0_06 or 1.6.0_15_603 (newer causes problems) [Java download](#)

Processor: Pentium class or higher

RAM: 64 MB or higher recommended

Access to a digital camera or scanner

PDF Creator: http://download.cnet.com/PDFCreator/3000-2064_4-10558866.html?tag=mnco

OR

MAC OS X and Above

Internet Connection: 56K Dial-up or faster (**Broadband highly recommended**)

****Contact tech support for more Apple info.**

DO THIS FIRST:

- Save this page as a Favorite/Bookmark so that you can easily find it again.
- Print out this page so that you will have the detailed course requirements and login instructions.
- Prior to the start of the semester, I will email all of my students using your MyCuesta account. If you do not use this account, it is your responsibility to forward your emails. It is **not necessary to email me** before the semester unless there is an emergency which prevents your participation the first week. However, any emails should always have “ECE 234” on the subject line. Once the semester has begun, please use Blackboard email.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Joy of Children’s Literature by Denise Jonson, 2nd Ed.

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, illustrations by Timothy Basil Ering (be sure you have the correct version with this illustrator (Fall and Spring only)

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan

These are available at the Cuesta College Bookstore, SLO campus. If you would like to purchase these items from the Cuesta Bookstore at the North County campus, please call the Cuesta bookstore in SLO (546-3206) and request that they send a set of materials to the North County Campus with your name on it.

BLACKBOARD & LOGGING IN:

Blackboard is the online software that we’ll be using to manage this online course.

Access to the course:

You will **not** be able to log in **until the start of the semester**. Be prepared to do so the first week, otherwise you will be dropped from class, just as you would in a face-to-face class.

To Log In:

Go to <http://blackboard.cuesta.edu>

- This page will say “Cuesta College Entry Page/Blackboard Learning System/Welcome.” Click on the “login” button.
- Now you are on the login page. Before actually logging in, **thoroughly read the info about browser check, pop-ups, and java security on the right of the page.**
- Your user name (ID) is your first and last name separated by an underscore in lowercase letters. For example Joan Smith is joan_smith. **IMPORTANT:** Blackboard is very case sensitive. Be sure that you enter your user name in lowercase.

- Your default password is STUDENT (in CAPS). You **must** change this once you are logged in.
- If you are unsuccessful in your first attempt, try again, making sure you have followed instructions. See technical support numbers below for Login problems.
- Once logged in, you will see our course listed. Also, Blackboard will ask you to do a check of several features (mentioned earlier). These might include **a browser tune-up, enabling pop-ups and a java applet. Be sure to follow the steps and enable ALL of these**, and any others it asks you to. Using the course site will be less frustrating if you **follow these directions!!**

NAVIGATING AROUND THE COURSE:

Once you are in the ECE 234 course site, you will be on the “Homepage.” Below the publishers banner and my welcome are some icons labeled “Start Here” and “Learning Modules.” Click on “Start Here” to begin. Print out the syllabus, navigation, and calendar documents you’ll find here as these are your main tools for determining what is due and when. On the left of the screen are some sideways arrows, clicking on these will reveal the course menu which will help you navigate other areas of the course. Explore the areas of the course and get comfortable navigating. **Read the announcements regularly**, as important instructions will be posted there.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES:

1. For login problems: Lee McCrea in Library/Hi Tech lab at Cuesta (SLO campus), M-F 7:30-4:00, 546-3100 x2802, or lmccrea@cuesta.edu.
2. Many problems which occur are related to the operating system, browser, security settings and versions of plug-ins. They all have to be compatible. This link had great resources: <http://www.webct.com/tuneup>.
3. For help throughout semester: support@my.cuesta.edu Include your name, class, section number, instructors name. Describe the problem you are experiencing.

ACCOMODATIONS:

If you have a verified disability, please contact me, and disabled Student Programs and services at 805-546-3148 or <http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/dsps> so that we can accommodate your needs.

<u>ANNE WOLF WEB PAGE</u> (ECE 234 syllabus)	<u>CUESTA HOME PAGE</u>	<u>BLACKBOARD LOGIN</u>
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