

Tips for Surviving C & I 435 (Children's Literature) and earning a passing grade:

1. Come to class **ON TIME**
2. Do not tell the instructor (or even say out loud), "I've already had this class at a junior college and I know all there is to know about children's literature so I don't understand why I have to retake it." (**HINT**: This class is an elementary education methods course – we go beyond the level of information covered at a junior college – **AND** the instructor has been teaching this course for many years and **SHE** still doesn't know all there is to know about children's literature. Also, please remember that it is not the instructor's decision that you have to take this course - it is a requirement of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction).
3. Turn in all assignments **ON TIME**
4. Show a **POSITIVE** attitude about books, reading, and this course.
5. **DO NOT** call books **CUTE** (**CUTE** is referred to as the "C" word and is taboo in this class).
6. **TIME MANAGEMENT** is the key to surviving this course – You must discipline yourself to read all the time – read from a children's book every day, listen to books on tape as you drive, watch PBS shows, such as *Reading Rainbow*, which will expose you to more children's books, have your roommate, children, spouse, mother, everyone you know share children's books with you. In other words, **READ, READ, READ!**

Former Students' Comments about CI 435

- This class is a lot of work and very time consuming, but now I'm in the habit of reading every day! Forget TV, give me a book!
- Looking back on the course, I realize how much I've learned. I certainly realize how little I knew about children's literature before this course. I could complain about the workload that goes with the knowledge I've gained, but part of becoming a good teacher is understanding that "It's not about me" anymore.

- I feel this class will be one of the most useful in my teaching career. It is great sitting in a class that you know you will use later.
- At the beginning of the semester, I was so nervous about this class. I later realized that this class will be very helpful as I grow into a teaching professional.
- Make it very clear at the beginning of the course that the projects are something that we will keep and will refer back to. They are not just grades and stuff to keep us busy. I did not realize until near the end of the semester how handy the projects will be for future use.
- This course taught me a lot about children's literature. I have never been a big reader but this class opened my eyes to how enjoyable and important reading is in childhood as well as adulthood.
- I loved it when you (the instructor) read to the class. It gave me the chance to listen from a student's standpoint, and hear more books to be able to read to the class.
- This class increased my appreciation for reading.
- I know so much more now, than I did when the semester started. I know now how important it is to use children's books in the classroom.

