

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Second Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream), Semester 1, 2018/2019

English Studies: Theory and Practice

ENG 2135 - Children's Literature

Two Hours

Answer any **THREE** (03) questions.

1. Either

- (a) The idea of 'adventure' is central to Enid Blyton's *Five on a Treasure Island*. Critically examine the relationship between adventure and ideas of childhood in Blyton's text.

Or

- (b) Would you agree with the view that in *Five on a Treasure Island*, Enid Blyton both affirms and challenges the dominant gender discourses of its time? Support your response through close reference to the text.

2. Either

- (a) How applicable are Musgrave's characteristics of boys' school stories to R.K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* and T.B. Ilangaratne's *Amba Yahaluwo*? You may focus on **any two** (02) characteristics of the school story genre in your analysis.

Or

- (b) While R.K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* and T.B. Ilangaratne's *Amba Yahaluwo* focus on the notions of childhood and friendship, both texts highlight the socio-cultural factors that influence children's relationships. Critically assess the above statement with reference to the two texts.

3. Either

- (a) Identify three elements of 'secondary world fantasy' that can be found in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Analyse the significance of each element through examples from the text.

Or

- (b) Would you agree that the notion of heroism in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* is complex? Discuss, with close reference to the text.

4. Either

- (a) "Nonsense bears the stamp of paradox. The two terms of the paradox are order and disorder." Analyse this statement with reference to at least **one (01)** story by Dr. Seuss and any **two (02)** poems of your choice from Silverstein's *Falling Up*.

Or

- (b) How can "play/ful narratives" enable criticality? Refer to at least **one (01)** story by Dr. Seuss and any **two (02)** poems of your choice from Silverstein's *Falling Up* in your response.
