

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Second Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream), Semester 1, 2017/2018

English Studies: Theory and Practice

ENG 2135 - Children's Literature

Two Hours

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

1.

Either

- (a) Identify **three** (03) attributes of the adventure story genre in Enid Blyton's *Five on a Treasure Island*. Critically analyse how these attributes are linked to ideas of childhood in Blyton's text.

Or

- (b) "The absence of parents is a necessary requirement for the children's adventure story." Discuss this statement with close reference to Enid Blyton's *Five on a Treasure Island*.

2.

Either

- (a) Systems of education and the institution of the school play a crucial role in the narratives of childhood in R.K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* and T.B. Ilangaratne's *Amba Yahaluwo*. Engage in a comparative analysis of the two texts' approach to 'school'.

Or

- (b) R.K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* is set in a recognisably pre-Independence India, while the context of T.B. Ilangaratne's *Amba Yahaluwo* is the immediate aftermath of Sri Lankan Independence. Making close reference to both texts, discuss how the children in these narratives are implicated in the experiences of colonialism.

3.

**Either**

(a) While Harry Potter is presented as the archetypal hero in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the text also offers complex engagements with the idea of heroism. Critically evaluate Rowling's text in the light of the above statement.

**Or**

(b) In J.K. Rowling's approach to fantasy in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, it is evident that the primary and the secondary worlds occupy the same space and time. Discuss the significance of the relationship between the two (the primary and the secondary) worlds to your reading of the text.

4.

**Either**

(a) Nonsense and wordplay function as sites of "criticality, innovation and disruption" in the works of Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein. Discuss the validity of the above statement with close 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) Would you agree with the statement that the playful narratives of Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein often serve to destabilise established social norms and binaries? Discuss with close reference to at least **one (01)** story by Dr. Seuss and any **two (02)** poems of your choice from Silverstein's *Falling Up*.

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