



Children's Literature

A program produced and directed by the students of the course *FRAN 394—Children's and Young Adult Literature in French* at the University of Victoria

Broadcasted by [Radio Victoria](#) CILS 107.9 FM

About

This program was conceived, directed, and produced as part of a course offered by Professor [Pierre-Luc Landry](#) at the University of Victoria. The course, *Children's and Young Adult Literature in French*, is dedicated to the discovery, study, and analysis of literary works for young people published around the world in French. From fairy tales to science fiction, from comic books to poetry, from documentaries to novels, students researched and analyzed different manifestations of literature aimed at a young audience, as well as the uses of children's literature in teaching, cultural mediation, and care relationships. The course included a strong experiential and community learning component, with students carrying out pedagogical intervention projects in collaboration with the Conseil scolaire francophone's Victor-Brodeur and Beausoleil schools, and with the final task of producing vignettes, capsules, and reportages to be broadcasted on Radio Victoria's airwaves and online.

This program focuses on literature and its potential and hopes to contribute to the cohesion of British Columbia's Francophone and Francophile community by presenting local cultural and media content, produced specifically for the only French-language community radio in the province. "Belonging has been shown to have a significant impact on a range of factors associated with wellbeing," write researchers Kelly A. Allen and Terence Bowles: this program also aims to invite adult and youth audiences to discover works that may not have circulated sufficiently, or to think differently about the popular works they already know. As literature is an effective tool for civic education, this program aims to reflect on the circulation of a more diversified, inclusive, and respectful body of literary works that will contribute to the evolution and development of British Columbia's Francophone community, as well as to the various conversations concerning children's literature in the global Francophonie.

The vignettes that make up this program were produced during the Fall 2020 and the Fall 2022 semesters by UVic students, who were responsible for researching, writing, recording, editing, and delivering the final product. There may be a few glitches at times, or the technique may not always be perfect—this is a student project, a learning process in which they share high-quality content. Radio Victoria's mission is to manage and administer innovative, quality programs that meet the needs of the entire local community of Francophones and Francophiles, through information, entertainment, and education; they offered UVic's students to share the results of this project, thus creating a space for experimentation and broadcasting accessible to all members of the community, whatever their origins, mother tongue or accent.

Episode 1

In the first episode of this program devoted to children's literature, Pierre-Luc Landry presents two vignettes produced by his students in the fall of 2020. Daniella Roehling, Rachelle Bait and Kevin Gordon star in a short drama in which they play a radio host, a teacher and a parent who discuss French immersion in elementary school from three angles: the challenges of everyday life with children, the literary resources available to do so, and the potential language barriers when a parent doesn't speak French. The next vignette, by Jasmine MacGregor, Ava Ouellette, Zoe Garrett, Linda Donn, and Curtis Rurka, looks at queer issues and LGBTQIA2S+ youth literature. This vignette discusses the SOGI 123 program, implemented in schools in British Columbia and Alberta, and recommends several queer readings for young people.

Episode 2

The second episode of this program on children's literature once again features two vignettes produced by students in Pierre-Luc Landry's course at the University of Victoria. The first vignette was produced in the fall of 2020 by Galadriel Watson, Alicia Dawson, Kat Hodgson and Emma Elrick. The students focused on mental health issues and bibliotherapy and featured an interview with a professional bibliotherapist. The following vignette was also produced in the fall 2020 by a team made up of Lauren Montgomery-Stinson, Jacqueline Rutherford, Hailey Walsh, and Riley Milroy. The team discusses Miguel Picker's 2002 documentary *Mickey Mouse Monopoly* and the impact that the content of children's literature can have on the children who consume it.

Episode 3

In the third episode of this program devoted to children's literature, Pierre-Luc Landry presents two vignettes produced by his students in the fall of 2022. The first, by Bronwyn Currey, Tasmin Millard, Madeleine Montero and Jeremy Read, examines the success of the *Harry Potter* series to understand how it has changed the field of children's literature; the team distances itself from the series' author's words and instead tries to understand the franchise's impact on children's literature. The second segment looks at the representation of refugees and migrants, and how literature mediates their experience. This discussion was produced by Yasmine Elkholy, Mekenzie Krulic and Felix Clarke.

Episode 4

The fourth episode of this program on children's literature once again features two vignettes produced by students in Pierre-Luc Landry's course at the University of Victoria. The first vignette was produced in the fall of 2022 by a team made up of Mina Guan, Marcus McDermand, Hannah Seaton, Alena Pulhug and Shannon Ewan. The team is interested in the use of social networks by young and not-so-young people, and the links between children's literature and social networks. Jennifer Ma, Jocelyne Parent, Sage Benet and Cyrille Santos indulge in nostalgia in the second vignette, also recorded in the fall of 2022. The students discuss the *Geronimo Stilton* series of children's novels, first published in Italian by Elisabetta Dami and translated into many languages around the world, including French.

Episode 5

In the fifth episode of this program devoted to children's literature, Pierre-Luc Landry presents two vignettes produced by his students in the fall of 2022. Kieran Hall Locklin, Claudine Labelle, Sebastian Warkentin-Scott and Mikaela Seelke produced the first vignette, which deals with learning and reading disabilities and ADHD. The team looks at how to encourage interest in reading among young people with dyslexia and attention deficit disorder with or without hyperactivity and recommends some reading material suitable for this young audience. The second vignette, also produced in the fall of 2022, was produced by a group made up of Dev Gough, Daniel Greer, Ashanti Whythe and Samuel De Vries. The young adults on the team offer their reflections on the literature they consumed in their youth.

Episode 6

The sixth episode of this program on children's literature once again features two vignettes produced by students in Pierre-Luc Landry's course at the University of Victoria. The first vignette, produced in the fall of 2022, reproduces the concept of the popular morning radio shows, this time in a fairy-tale context. It was produced by Romy Drapeau, Mayabelle Goers-Duquette, Ben Mosig and Jessica Zaza, who speak to us from the gingerbread studios of Far Far Lointain to discuss the morality of fairy tales and children's literature. The second vignette, also produced in the fall of

2022, is a work of fiction. The students play different roles to present the concept of slow looking adapted to children's literature. The team consists of Jess Arnold, Callie Ritter, and Helena Wahl.

Episode 7

In the seventh episode of this program devoted to children's literature, Pierre-Luc Landry presents a vignette produced by his students in the fall of 2022. The team, made up of Jennaca Bainwohl, Ella Clark, Chantale Couch, Pascale Grenier and Sarah Johnston, looks at the impact on young and older readers of children's literature that reinforces gender stereotypes.

Episode 8

For the final episode of this program devoted to children's literature, Pierre-Luc Landry meets trans comic artist, author, and activist Sophie Labelle, who visited UVic students enrolled in the *Children's and Young Adult Literature* course on October 17, 2022. In this exclusive, lengthy interview, Sophie Labelle talks to Pierre-Luc Landry about writing transness and gender creativity, censorship and cyberbullying, and trans joy.