

St. Joseph's College
Department of English
CBCS Course
Making It Up: Writing Fiction and Non-Fiction for Children

This 2-credit 30-hour course offers the taker an engagement with texts that are overtly aimed at children while also offering a practical understanding of writing both fiction and non-fiction for children. Three books will be taken up for discussion as part of the coursework.

The idea of the child

Perspectives from different fields.

The child in different cultures.

The child as reader

Fiction

The Book of Dust—Philip Pullman

Un Lun Dun—China Mieville

Non-Fiction

Bulging Brains—Nick Arnold

(can be replaced by other titles in the Horrible Science series)

A Children's History of India—Subhadra Sen Gupta

Testing & Assessment

The course is intended to work by portfolio-based assessment rather than by an examination. Each student must produce a 6000-word portfolio of five pieces that include a response to any one of the texts studied (1500 words), two stories for children, and two essays that are written to explain ideas from the sciences or the social sciences to children (4500 words)