

Global Elements added to ENG2254 *Children's Literature in the ESL Classroom* in 2015-16:

Course lecturer: Dr Ma, Anne

- 1) Topic: fairytales (introducing cultural elements)
Students were shown variants of fairytales. One of the examples is the different versions of "Cinderella" which reflect the gender role, the custom and lifestyle, the social etiquette etc of the European culture, the Persian culture and the Chinese culture.
- 2) Topic: Picturebooks (new perspectives of looking at issues of children's concern that are common or different across contexts)
Students were introduced to a number of renowned picturebook writers/illustrators from different countries (e.g. U.K., U.S.A., Australia, Taiwan, Italy). In groups, they studied the works of one Picturebook authors/illustrators in detail and reported on the appeal of the picturebook they like best. The group reporting helped to broaden students' perspective of the range of picturebook themes and the different aesthetic expression of them. This also raised students' awareness of the similarities/differences of the issues of concern as reflected in the books.
- 3) Topic: Realistic story (global interconnectedness)
Students read the story "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry (a new book replacing the previous one to widen the global perspective of the course) and shared their readers' response in literature circles. The book is set against the background of the 1943 'relocation' of the Jews in Denmark by the Nazis. It tells a story of how a girl is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save the life of her best friend who is a Jew. The story was chosen as it would enable students to connect the problem faced by political refugees in the past with the recent European refugee crisis, and hopefully would also make them reflect on the interconnectedness between people of different origins. During the class discussion, some students also related the conflict between people/nations to what they experienced in Hong Kong.