



Is human nature the source of religion,
or human culture?

What does it mean to be a hero?

How does literature shape
the human imagination?

Does fantasy play a part in religion?

Can children understand G-d?

How do we know about good and evil?



How can impossible stories affect who we really are?

Why do we search for meaning in the past?

Why must so many children in books ride exotic animals?



Perhaps most importantly, can I really get credit for reading Harry Potter? And where are all these children's parents anyway? A new course with Visiting Professor of Religion Chris Haskett will examine the many interactions between children's literature and religion. Through the *Bible* and *Rāmāyana*, classics like *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and new favorites such as *Harry Potter* and *His Dark Materials*, we explore new territory in a new way to find out how "kid lit" and religion inform one another. The course also reaches out to lesser known authors such as **Kashmira Sheth**, **Gloria Whelan**, and **Isabel Allende** through the lens of theorists like **Foucault** and **Said**.

Prerequisites: An open mind. No prior knowledge of religion or children's books is necessary.