

# Allyson Wierenga

Department of English · Texas A&M University  
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## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy, English**, GPA 4.0, graduation anticipated August 2025  
Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)

**Master of Arts, English**, GPA 4.074, May 2021  
Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH)

**Children's Literature Summer School**, July 2020  
University of Antwerp, Belgium (virtual)

**Bachelor of Arts, English Literature and Writing**, GPA 3.868, December 2018  
Calvin University (Grand Rapids, MI)

- Graduated with honors in Literature

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

children's literature, health humanities, disability studies, graphic medicine

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Texas A&M University English Department Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Summer 2024

MAPACA Daniel Walden Prize for Graduate and Undergraduate Papers, Graduate Recipient, 2022

Texas A&M University English Department Graduate Merit Award, Summer 2022

Editor's Choice Award for "Gethsemane" (poem), Vita Brevis Press, Summer 2021

## PUBLICATIONS

"The Edwardian Children's Fairy: 'The Sums That Came Right' (Nesbit, 1901)," forthcoming in *Fairies: A Companion*, edited by Peter Lang, Oxford

"Standing Out, Not Sticking Out: 'Curing' Abnormal Childhood in Rob Harrell's *Wink*," in *New Directions in Childhood Studies: Innocence, Trauma, and Agency in the Twenty-First Century*, Lexington Books

“‘How Were You Cured if None of the Others Were?’: Transcending Bodies in *The Two Princesses of Bamarre* and the COVID-19 Pandemic,” in Volume 8, Issue 2 of *Response | The Journal of Popular and American Culture*

## **Creative Works**

“Conclusion Made at Three PM,” “Things Learned in Geology Class,” (poems), *Eunoia Review*, online, January 2021

“Gethsemane,” (poem), *Vita Brevis Press*, online, December 2020

“Recent Thoughts,” “for all time,” “even you,” “8:02 a.m.,” “planted,” (poems), *Case Reserve Review*, print, Fall 2019

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

“To the Kingdom of the Sick and Back Again: Illness, Journey, and Cure in *The Heir of Mistmantle* and *Salamandastron*,” virtual poster, “Crip Kid Lit: Critical Approaches to Disability in Children’s and Young Adult Literature and Media” conference, University of Cambridge (April 2024)

“Migration ‘Education’: Analyzing Depictions of Black African Immigration in *Schoolhouse Rock!* and *We the People*,” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Annual Conference 2023 (November 2023, Philadelphia, PA)

“[Only Able] Bodies at Play: Examining Play Rhetoric in Children’s Picturebooks About Illness,” Children and Youth Studies Caucus sponsored roundtable “Children’s Play: Fun, Love, and Solidarity among Young People,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting 2023 (November 2023, Montréal, QC)

“Harmless, Hunted, Killers? Orca-Human Interactions in Picture Books & Early Readers,” International Research Society for Children’s Literature Congress on Ecologies of Childhood (August 2023)

“‘How Were You Cured if None of the Others Were?’: Class, Illness and Cure in *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*,” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Annual Conference (November 2022)

“Illustrating Illness: (Im)permanent Childhood in *The Velveteen Rabbit’s* Nursery,” Spaces/Places of Growing Up: Mapping the Geographies of Childhood Conference, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan (September 2022)

“Keiko, Tilikum, and Questions of Captivity: Sea-ing the [Killer Whale] World in Picture Books,” Children’s Literature Association Annual Conference (June 2022, Atlanta, GA)

“Shamu’s Library: Depictions of Shamu in SeaWorld’s Picture Books,” Popular Culture Association Annual Conference (April 2022)

“‘Odd Little Girl’: Reimagining Edwardian Girlhood in *A Little Princess*,” Children’s Literature Association Annual Conference (June 2021)

“Not-So-Wimpy Kids: Using Fictional Diaries to Foster Writing and Identity Development in Elementary Classrooms,” Children’s Literature Summer School (July 2020)

“I pray Dad / won’t get arrested’: Challenging Racial Stereotypes with Middle Grade Verse Novels,” Children’s Literature Society, American Literature Association Annual Conference (May 2020, San Diego, CA) (Accepted, canceled due to COVID-19)

“Not-So-Wimpy Kids: Using Fictional Diaries to Foster Writing and Identity Development in Elementary Classrooms,” Making Space: Literary Constructions of Identity and Community (April 2020, University of Minnesota) (Accepted, canceled due to COVID-19)

“Weaponizing Wellness: Physical and Rhetorical Control of Narcoleptic Bodies in *The Mysterious Benedict Society* Series,” Popular Culture Association Annual Conference (April 2020, Philadelphia, PA) (Accepted, canceled due to COVID-19)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Texas A&M University**

*Instructor of Record* (August 2021 – Present)

- English 220 – Graphic Novel (1 section)
- English 210 – Technical and Professional Writing (4 sections)
- English 203 - Writing About Literature (3 sections)
- English 104 - Composition and Rhetoric (3 sections)

### **Case Western Reserve University**

*Instructor* (January 2020 – May 2021)

- English 180 - Writing Tutorial (2 sections)

*Teaching Assistant for English 302 - “English Literature Since 1800”* (Spring 2021)

- Planned and taught two lessons on children’s literature
- Facilitated weekly small group course discussions

*Co-Instructor*

- English 149 - Emerging Writers Studio (Summer 2020)
  - Taught daily lessons and workshops to Emerging Scholars, rising CWRU freshmen from Cleveland-area high schools
  - Prepared teaching materials, including instructional videos and reading quizzes
- Writing Workshop - “Reimagining Research through Creative Nonfiction” (February 2021)
  - Designed and led a virtual workshop on writing creative nonfiction

*Research Assistant for Topical Writing Seminar - Radical Picture Books* (Spring 2020)

- Planned and taught three lessons
- Provided written feedback on students' research papers
- Assisted instructor with logistical tasks for class, including topical research

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Texas A&M University**

*Team Leader / University Writing Center Consultant* (June 2023 – Present)

- Provide individualized writing instruction to both graduates and undergraduates of all majors
- Selected to be a Team Leader, a position wherein I mentor a group of undergraduate consultants, lead bi-weekly team meetings, and conduct performance reviews
- Deliver personalized writing coaching to graduate students during writing retreats

### **Case Western Reserve University**

*Writing Resource Center Consultant* (September 2019–May 2021)

- Provided individualized writing instruction to a variety of clients, from undergraduates to advanced PhD students

## **DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### **English Department, Texas A&M University**

*Graduate Student Mentor*, Fall 2022

- Mentor one of the incoming English graduate students as they are introduced to campus.

### **SOURCE, Case Western Reserve University**

*Undergraduate Research Presentation Judge*, December 2020

- Reviewed undergraduate research presentations for Virtual Intersections event using an online evaluation form

### **English Graduate Student Association, Case Western Reserve University**

*Graduate Student Representative, English Department Graduate Committee*, September 2020–December 2020

- Provided input to the committee on issues relating to graduate students
- Gave monthly reports on committee proceedings to the English Graduate Student Association

*Member*, September 2019–May 2021

- Attended monthly meetings of the English Graduate Student Association
- Participated in English Department events, including weekly colloquia

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

### **Health Humanities Consortium**

*Job Seekers Initiative Committee Member*, March 2024-Present

- Create digital artifacts about alternative academic jobs for HHC's website

*Curriculum & Assessment Committee Member*, October 2024-Present

### **Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival**

*Graduate Student Ambassador*, April 2024

- Selected among a competitive body of graduate scholars to ensure the smooth running of the conference by performing tasks such as writing keynote introductions, taking head counts, handing out evaluations, and helping with speaker set up

### **Popular Culture Association (PCA) Annual Conference**

*Panel Chair*, April 2022

- Moderated "Children's and YA Literature and Culture V: Children's Media" panel

### **Children's Literature Association (ChLA) Annual Conference**

*Panel Chair*, June 2021

- Moderated "Environmental Wonders, Narrative Possibilities, and the Pursuit of Eco-Justice" panel

### **Multicultural Children's Book Day**

*Children's Book Reviewer*, January 2020, 2021

- Raised awareness about diversity in children's literature by reviewing a gifted children's book on social media

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCL)**

*IRSCL Mentoring Programme*, June 2024-October 2024

- Participated in academic and professional mentoring sessions with an experienced scholar in the field of children's literature