13697

# BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

**Term End Examination 2025-2026**
**Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2021/M.A.(ENG)-2024**
**Course Name – Children`s Literature I**
**Course Code - MELS304C**
**( Semester III )**

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**Full Marks : 60** **Time : 2:30 Hours**

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

## Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question) 1 x 15=15

1. *Choose the correct alternative from the following :*

(i) Label the first book used by a large number of children during the Renaissance

a) Courtesy books
b) Hornbooks
c) Didactic books
d) Encylopediac books

(ii) Which of the following best illustrates the contrast between the narrative of Angela Carter's 'The Bloody Chamber' and Charles Perrault's 'Bluebeard'?

a) The original story is filled with fairies and mages waiting to rescue the protagonist
b) In the original story the monstrosity is hidden and kept away from the majority of the narrative and the reveal is sudden and resounding
c) In the original story the ending is a happy one for the protagonist and her husband and they both reconcile
d) In comparision to the original story Carter's work is more sexually explicit and violent

(iii) Deduce which of the following is not related to what Jack Zipes termed as the literary 'bourgeoisification' of the fairytale genre.

a) They chose to alter the stories about the struggle of the peasant and the working class to make them conform to the values of the ruling class
b) They collected stories from the petit bourgeois or the middle class people who did not raise their voice against the unjust behaviour of the ruling classes in order to maintain their own class interests
c) They preached commodity fetishism and increased conformity among the young children in order to indoctrinate them into following the orders of the ruling class
d) They allowed children to be critical of the value systems being promoted by such stories thereby providing a space for dissent and class struggle

(iv) Observe which of the following is the root of the majority of the folktales we know about.

a) War
b) Oral tradition
c) Paintings
d) Oratory

(v) Select which of the following movements largely inspired Dakhinaranjan Mitra Majumdar's publication of 'Thakumar Jhuli'.

a) Revolt of 1857
b) Swadeshi movement
c) Quit India Movement
d) Home Rule Movement

(vi) Select which of the following function was meant to be served by the narratives in 'Thakumar Jhuli'.

a) Teach illiterate adults to read and write
b) Teach children about nature
c) Support cultural imperialism of the Britishers
d) Provide an indegeneous alternative to the stories produced by the West

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(vii) Choose the reason why the Rakshashi Rani devours her own son in 'Neel Kamal, Lal Kamal'

a) She wants to take revenge on the King
b) She hated her own son's love towards his brother and saw it as a betrayal for which she punishes him
c) She wants to hurt herself by killing her son
d) She wants to clear the path for the eldest son of the king

(viii) Choose which of the following is true of the fairytale of Bluebeard.

a) Bluebeard is one of the "Forbidden Chamber" cycle of tales
b) It was inspred by the life of a feudal lord Gilles de Rais who was excuted for murder, sodomy, witchcraft
c) It received its clearest codification in the tale of Charles Perrault
d) All of the above

(ix) Choose which of the following acts as an analogue to Bluebeard prohibiting his wife from entering a particular chamber.

a) God's creation of the world
b) God in the Garden of Eden
c) The ten plagues of Egypt
d) God appearing before Moses on Mount Sinai

(x) Analyse which of the following is a reason why Angela Carter commends Sade.

a) His fantasies of women as monsters
b) His hatred of the mothering function
c) His pleasure at the suffering of women
d) He claims rights of free sexuality for women and installs women as beings of power in his imaginary world

(xi) Decide with reference to Vladimir Propp which of the following is true of the donor's interaction with the hero.

a) The donor pretends to help the villian defeat the hero
b) The donor tests, interrogates and decides if the hero is worthy of the weapon
c) The donor easily hands over the magical weapon or device to the hero
d) The donor donates his time accompanying the hero on an impossible journey

(xii) Identify who has given the following description: 'Children are blank slates that can be positively or negatively influenced by their surroundings and education'.

a) John Comenius
b) John Locke
c) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
d) Peter Hunt

(xiii) Choose what lesson can be inferred from 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'.

a) To steal from others' garden is punishable
b) Its important to follow mother's advice
c) Adventures are more exciting than staying at home
d) Love your neighbour

(xiv) Evaluate the following and choose the correct combination: I: Parodying several poems at the time such as "How doth the little busy bee" by Isaac Watts, the English theologian and hymn-writer, Carroll pokes fun at the original poem with his "How doth the little crocodile" II: He ridicules the Victorian idea that good children occupy themselves in works of labour or of skill and the notion that idle hands will be blessed by Jesus.

a) I is right but II is wrong
b) II is right but I is wrong
c) Both I and II are right
d) Both I and II are wrong

(xv) Evaluate the following and choose the correct combination: Assertion (A): The Italian theatrical tradition of Commedia dell'arte had a significant impact on the development of nonsense poetry. Reasoning (R): The stock characters, improvised dialogue, and exaggerated physical comedy of Commedia dell'arte performances contributed to the emergence of linguistic nonsense in literature.

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a) Both A and R are true but R is not a proper explanation of A
b) Both A and R are true and R is a proper explanation of A
c) A is true but R is false
d) Both A and R are false

## Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions) 3 x 5=15

2. Prepare a brief note on the way Jack Zipes complicates the source of Brothers Grimm fairytales and ties it with the idea of class (3)

3. Discuss the significance of the ending of Charles Perrault's Bluebeard. (3)
4. Apply your knowledge to write a short note on the significance of the body politic of the King to the wellness of the kingdom in 'Neel Kamal, Lal Kamal'. (3)
5. Examine the use of anthropomorphism in nonsense verse. (3)

6. Argue with reference to Vladimir Propp on the function of the Villian in the hero's development . (3)

**OR**

Distinguish between the function of the Dispatcher and the Donor in the fairytale with reference to any text of your choice. (3)

## Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions) 5 x 6=30

7. Explain how Lewis Carroll's 'How doth the little Crocodile' parodies Watt's 'Against Idleness and Mischief'. (5)

8. Recall the way in which Vladimir Propp characterises the spheres of action of characters in fairytales. (5)

9. Judge the politics of rewriting the fairytale with reference to 'The Bloody Chamber' and 'The Story of Blue Beard' (5)

10. Critique the motif of the quest in 'Princess Kalavati'. (5)
11. Deduce the way in which the Marquis in Angela Carter's 'The Bloody Chamber' bears a striking resemblance to the 'oriental tyrants' portrayed in Western literature and art. What is the politics of such representations? (5)
12. Dissect how Angela Carter complicates the notion of female agency in 'The Bloody Chamber' (5)

**OR**

Analyse whether 'Thakumar Jhuli' retains the folk traditions of Bengal (5)