Enchanted: The Power of Stories in Children's Literature (and Beyond into College)

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Did you have in your childhood a favorite book whose story cast a spell in your heart, giving you an initial--and enduring--sense of the joy of reading and the power of words? If so, this micro-seminar will give you a fun chance to share this story and explore its hold on you, then and now. The reading for this course will be plentiful (maybe 15-20 books) but light: it will be "quick reads" drawn from our favorite kid books (e.g., "Good Night Moon") plus a contemporary revision or two (e.g., "Good Night iPad" and a feminist fairy tale by Angela Carter or the musical, "Into the Woods"). The seminar will also consider the place of stories and the power of storytelling in various academic disciplines at USC including not just literature and film studies but history, political science, and the natural sciences.