The Scholarly Seminar

Notes on the Major Works read this Academic Year

Mr. Williams’ Honors English THREE Classes
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[The following items are questions that offer insights and epiphanies on the literature discussed and read in class. The student is required to complete any 40 responses by the end of the year. Your format should be a neatly bound book 8 ½ x 11. Creative covers and pages are acceptable. However, entries cannot be shorter than a paragraph in length. Graphics are permissible. Yes, this project needs to be typed, and follows the axioms of writing.]
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__ Langston Hughes’ “When the Negro was in Vogue” (M)  
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____ Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken” (P)
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Sylvia Plath’s “Mirror” (P)

Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* (P/D)

John Steinbeck’s “Why Soldier’s Won’t Talk” (E)

Ivan Alberti & Calvin Edward’s “War/War (What Is It?)” (P)

Bernard Malamud’s “Armistice” (S.S)

Martin Luther King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (L)

Joan Didion’s “Letter from Paradise, 21* 19’ N., 157* 52’ W” (E)

Dwight Okita’s “In Response to Executive Order 9066” (P)

Robert Frost’s “Acquainted With the Night” (P)

Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken” (P)

John Updike’s “A&P” (S.S)

RW’s “60 Minutes” (S.S)

Gary Soto’s “Mexicans Begin Jogging” (P)

Judith Ortiz Cofer’s “The Myth of Latin Women: I met a girl named Maria” (E)

Richard Matheson’s “Button, Button” (S.S.)

Varied Musical Artists (Mu)

Facebook Rhetoric [FBRs]
Leslie Marmon Silko’s “The Man to Send the Rain Clouds”

1. Comment on Leon.
2. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. How does one action in the work give relevance to one’s life? Explain.
5. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
6. Discuss a prevalent theme of “The Man to Send the Rain Clouds.”
7. Comment on what happens in the time of the work? Explain.
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
9. Discuss 2 motifs in Silko’s short story.
10. Discuss the significance of the title.
Ernest Hemingway’s “The End of Something”

1. Discuss Hemingway’s style.
2. Comment on what happens in the **time** of the work? Explain.
3. What does the speaker do that astounds you? Explain.
4. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
5. Comment on Marjorie.
6. Comment on Nick Adams.
7. What is the significance of the **setting** of the work?
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
10. Talk about 2 archetypes in “The End of Something.”

Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour”

1. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
2. Comment on what happens in the **time** of the work? Explain.
3. What does the speaker do that astounds you? Explain.
4. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
5. Discuss the tone of the work.
6. Comment on Louise Mallard.
7. What is the significance of the **setting** of the work?
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
10. Talk about one action that is meaningful to “The Story of an Hour.”
Bernard Malamud’s “Armistice”

1. What prejudice(s) did you have that were not substantiated? Explain.
2. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
3. Discuss the tone of “Armistice”.
5. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
6. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
7. Comment on a vital action taken in the work. What was its significance? Explain.
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
9. The story ends satisfactorily. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
10. Discuss the significance of the title.

Nella Larsen’s “Sanctuary”

11. What does the speaker do that astounds you? Explain.
12. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
13. Discuss the tone of the work.
14. How does the action in the work give relevance to one’s life? Explain.
15. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
16. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
17. Comment on what happens in the time of the work? Explain.
18. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
19. How does the protagonist justify her actions? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
20. Discuss the significance of the title.
John Updike’s “A&P”

1. What theme is prevalent in the work?
2. Comment on Sammy.
3. What do the girls do for Sammy? Explain.
4. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
5. Discuss the tone of Updike’s “A&P”.
6. Comment on the other customers in the store.
7. What is the significance of the setting, an A&P Supermarket?
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
10. Talk about one action that is meaningful to “A&P.”

RW’s “60 Minutes”

1. Discuss the symbolism depicted in the work.
2. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
3. Discuss the type of hero Sean purports to be. (Archetype handbook)
4. Identify and discuss “60 Minutes'” tone.
5. Discuss the literary devices of the work.
6. What is the role of irony in this work? Explain.
7. Is Sean a dynamic character? Why or why not?
8. Discuss the time of the work.
10. Discuss Sean’s actions. What is the relevance of what and how he moves throughout the writing?
1. Comment on Hughes.
2. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
3. Discuss the tone of “When the Negro was in Vogue”?
4. Discuss one action of the work and its significance.
5. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
6. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
7. Comment on the antagonist here.
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
9. How does the protagonist justify his actions? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
10. Discuss the significance of the title.

Richard Matheson’s “Button, Button”

11. Comment on Arthur.
12. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
13. Discuss the tone of the work.
14. Discuss one action of the work and its significance.
15. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
16. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
17. Comment on Nora.
18. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
19. How does the protagonist justify her actions? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
20. Discuss the significance of the title.
Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Masque of the Red Death”

1. Comment on Prince Prospero.
2. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Discuss one action of the work and its significance.
5. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
6. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
7. Discuss how this work is an allegory.
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.

Frederick Douglass’s from “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave”

1. Comment on Frederick Douglass.
2. How does this work reflect the human condition? Elaborate.
3. Discuss the tone of the narrative.
4. Discuss one action of the work and its significance.
5. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
6. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
7. Discuss how this work is an allegory.
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
Willa Cather’s
“A Wagner Matinee”

1. Discuss a prevalent theme of the work.
2. What does the speaker do that astounds you? Explain.
3. How does this work reflect social commentary? Elaborate.
4. Discuss the tone of the work.
5. Comment on Aunt Georgiana.
6. Comment on Clark.
7. What is the significance of the setting of the work?
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
10. Talk about one action that is meaningful to “A Wagner Matinee.”
11. Discuss the archetypes of the work.

Fables, Folk Tales, Interviews, & Articles
William Bradford’s “from Of Plymouth Plantation” (Article)

1. Discuss Bradford’s point of view? How does he feel about his new environs? Explain.
2. What theme seems to be prevalent in this work? Explain.
3. Does Bradford endure conflict? How so?

Iroquois’ “The World on the Turtle’s Back” (F)

1. Summarize this creation myth.
2. What values and ways of life are learned about the Iroquois from this reading? Explain.
3. Comment on the idea of good and evil as discussed in the work? How so?

Malcolm X, interviewed by Les Crane “Necessary to Protect Ourselves” (I)

1. Summarize the historical context of this piece.
2. Comment on the Biblical Allusions X uses?
3. Discuss Malcolm X’s rhetoric?

Anne Moody’s “Coming of Age in Mississippi”

1. Summarize the historical context of this piece.
2. Can we trust the speaker? Why or why not?
3. Discuss Moody’s rhetorical devices.
Black Elk’s “High Horse’s Courting”
1. Identify and discuss the purpose of literature of this story.
2. Does High Horse deserve to marry the girl he loved? Why or why not? Explain.
3. Discuss Black Elk’s rhetorical devices.

Alvar Cabeza de Vaca’s “La Relacion”
1. Discuss Vaca’s point of view? How does he feel about his new environs? Explain.
2. What theme seems to be prevalent in this work? Explain.
3. Does Vaca endure conflict? How so?
4. Do Vaca and his men take advantage of the Karankawas? Explain.
Essays & Speeches

Judith Ortiz Cofer’s “Myth of Latin Women: I met a Girl named Maria”

1. Can Cofer change the world with this piece? Explain.
2. What theme seems to be prevalent in this work? Explain.
3. Is Cofer’s work a diatribe, purple prose, or paraenesis? Elucidate.
4. Who seems to be Cofer’s primary audience? Clarify.
5. Elaborate on any two particular quotes from the work.
6. Is Cofer a radical due to her point of view in the essay? Clarify.
7. What is the tone of the essay? Explain.
Vladimir Nabokov’s from “Good Readers and Good Writers”

2. What is your reaction to the essay? Is it an emotional one or a logical one?
4. What, according to Nabokov, is a good reader? A good writer?

Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crevecoeur’s “What is an American?”

1. Comment on this essay’s theme.
2. Discuss Crevecoeur’s rhetoric.
3. How would you define an American? How so?
4. In light of America’s social climate, is Crevecoeur’s idea of an American different? Elaborate.

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Stride toward Freedom”

1. Summarize the historical context of “Stride toward Freedom.”
2. Discuss Martin Luther King, Jr.’s rhetoric.
3. Discuss the contrast between King and Malcolm X’s approach to racial justice. Are they diametrically different? How so?

Henry David Thoreau’s from “Civil Disobedience”

1. Comment on this essay’s theme.
2. Do you like Thoreau’s ideas? Are there flaws? How so?
3. Elucidate the type of resistance Thoreau encourages.
4. What modern day issue does Thoreau’s ideas mirror in resolving it? Elaborate.
Plato’s “The Allegory of the Cave”

1. Discuss how this work is an allegory.
2. What seems to be the prevalent theme of the work? Explain.
3. What are the prevalent symbols of the work? Elaborate.
4. Share which quotes (at least 2) that echo the sentiments of the work.
5. What If: What could possibly happen if all prisoners were to escape the cave? Explain.

Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Self-Reliance”

1. Comment on 2 aphorisms in Emerson’s work.
2. How does this work reflect Transcendentalism? Explain.
3. Does Emerson’s ideas of Self Reliance mirror yours? Why or why not?

Brent Staples’ “Black Men and Public Spaces”

1. Staples explains how he perceives himself altering public space. What does he mean?
2. Comment on 2 literary devices in Staples’ work.
3. Discuss Staples’ style.
4. Does Staples’ ideas/experience mirror yours? How so?

Eugene Robinson’s “You Have the Right to Remain a Target of Racial Profiling” (p.188)[A&B]

1. Discuss Robinson’s style.
2. Elaborate on the rhetorical devices Robinson uses. Do they do a good job of relaying his message?
Alain

Locke’s “The New Negro”

1. Does Locke profess to want to change the world? Explain.
2. What theme seems to be prevalent in this work? Explain.
3. Is Locke’s work a diatribe, purple prose, or paranesis? Elucidate.
4. Who seems to be Locke’s primary audience? Clarify.
5. Elaborate on any two particular quotes from the work.
6. Is Locke a radical due to his point of view in the essay? Clarify.
8. Discuss the purpose of literature that this work lends itself to. How so?
9. Which methods of appeal does Locke use in his work.
10. Discuss the tone reflected in “The New Negro.”

Chief

Joseph’s “I Will Fight No More Forever”

1. Comment on Chief Joseph’s tone.
2. Write your own “I Will Fight No More Forever” Speech.

John

Steinbeck’s “Why Soldier’s Won’t Talk”

1. Why does Steinbeck use second person “You”? What effect does it have on the readers?
2. What is Steinbeck’s tone and attitude. Prove it!
Joan Didion’s “Letter from Paradise, 21° 19’ N., 157° 52’ W”

1. Comment on the literary devices in the letter.
2. Discuss the ironies in her letter.

Red Jacket’s “Lecture to a Missionary”

1. Comment on what prompted Red Jacket’s letter. What is the context?
2. Comment on Red Jacket.

Abraham Lincoln’s “The Gettysberg Address”

1. Comment on what prompted Lincoln’s speech. What is the context?
2. Comment on Abraham Lincoln.
3. Discuss Lincoln’s style.
Plays/Dramas

August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson

1. What exactly is the piano lesson’? Explicate.
2. What does the play imply about one’s heritage? Explain.
3. What exactly is the piano lesson’? Explicate.
4. What does the play imply about one’s heritage? Explain.
5. Discuss a theme the work delivers.
6. Discuss the role of the work in this drama.
7. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
8. What is the role of women in the work?
9. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
10. Discuss the archetypes in this drama.
Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*

1. How is this work a ‘realist drama’? Explain.
2. What does the $10,000 Insurance Check represent? Explain.
3. How does one’s heritage play into this work?
4. “Eat your Eggs” is stated early in the play to Walter. What is its significance?
5. Explain which character represents the most tormented, hypocritical, or immoral member of the family?
6. Discuss the importance of the Love Triangle that Beneatha faces.
7. Assess a symbol in the work.
8. What theme is prevalent in the work? Explain.
10. What is/are the true antagonist(s) of the play? Explain.

William Shakespeare’s *Othello*

1. As in all Shakespearian plays, there are major and minor plots. Discuss the significance of the major and minor plots in this work.
2. Shakespeare uses some colorful adjectives in this work. What do they do for this work? Explain.
3. Discuss one of the following themes:
   (a) Tales & Stories
   (b) Authority
   (c) Mysticism
4. Do women play an important role in the work? Discuss.
5. Explain the significance of a symbol in the work.
6. Explain a motif in the play.
7. How does Othello show a negative aspect of man’s nature? Explain.
8. How does Othello show a positive aspect of man’s nature? Explain.
9. Elaborate on a scene from the work. What is its purpose?
10. What quote is deemed vital in this work? How so?
11. What does Shakespeare attempt to do with this work? Does he successfully do that? Explain.
12. Is the violence warranted in the work? Why or why not?
Youth: A Morality Play

1. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
2. How does one’s youth ironically pose tumultuous yet vital? Elaborate
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Is there any character that propels the play more than others? How so?
5. Is there a need for reading this morality play anymore in society? Explain.
6. Which character seems to be most important to Youth’s development as a character? Elaborate.
7. Discuss a theme the work delivers.
8. Discuss the role of the church in Youth’s life.
9. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
10. What is the role of women in the work?

Arthur Miller’s The Crucible

1. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
2. How does one’s youth ironically pose tumultuous yet vital? Elaborate
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Is there any character that propels the play more than others? How so?
5. Is there a need for reading this morality play anymore in society? Explain.
6. Which character seems to be most important to Abigail’s development as a character? Elaborate.
7. Discuss a theme the work delivers.
8. Discuss the role of the church in this drama.
9. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
10. What is the role of women in the work?
11. Discuss the role of self and how it affects John Proctor.
August Wilson’s *Fences*

1. What exactly is the piano lesson’? Explicate.
2. What does the play imply about one’s heritage? Explain.
3. Discuss a theme the work delivers.
4. Discuss the role of the work in this drama.
5. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
6. What is the role of women in the work?
7. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
8. Discuss the archetypes in this drama.

**Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman***

1. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
2. How does one’s youth ironically pose tumultuous yet vital? Elaborate
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Is there any character that propels the play more than others? How so?
5. Is there a need for reading this morality play anymore in society? Explain.
6. Discuss a theme the work delivers.
7. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
8. What is the role of women in the work?
Letters

Phyllis Wheatley’s “Letter to Rev. Samson Occom”
1. Comment on the literary devices in the letter.
2. What is Wheatley’s tone and attitude? Prove it!

Abigail Adams’s “Letter to John Adams”
1. Comment on the literary devices in the letter.
2. What does Adams think about public and social issues? Prove it!

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
1. Comment on the literary devices in the letter.
2. What is King’s style? Prove it!
1. Comment on Santiago.
3. How important is Pride? Explain.
4. What role does the sea play in the work? Explain.
5. Discuss a symbol in the work.
6. Discuss the significance of the setting.
7. Time is important to the novel. What is its importance?
8. Does Santiago believe in himself or is he just proud? Explain.
9. Is Santiago’s social status different, how would the novel be different? Explain.
Amy Tan’s *The Joy Luck Club*

1. Although the women in *The Joy Luck Club* are Chinese or Chinese American, and their heritage plays an important part in their lives, they also have experiences that all of us face, regardless of culture, even today. They struggle with raising their children, contend with unhappy marriages, cope with difficult financial circumstances, and are disheartened by bad luck. Which of the eight main characters did you identify with the most? Why?

2. Comment on one of the narrators.

3. Which family is more cohesive in your opinion? Prove it!

4. Discuss 2 symbols in the work.

5. Discuss the significance of time in the work.

6. Identify and elaborate on a theme in *The Joy Luck Club*.

7. Analyze the conflicts between any two of these pairs of characters:
   a. Suyuan Woo and Jing-mei Woo
   b. An-mei Hsu and Rose Hsu Jordan
   c. Lindo Jong and Waverly Jong
   d. Ying-ying St. Clair and Lena St. Clair
   e. Clifford St. Clair and Ying-ying StClair
   f. Waverly Jong and Jing-mei Woo

8. The novel has been called "rich in the bittersweet ambiguities of real life." Explain what the critic meant by this quote.

Wharton’s *Ethan Frome*

1. Are Zeena and Mattie foils or reflects of each other? Explain.

2. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?

3. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.


5. Does love conquer all? Explain.

6. What is a prevalent theme from the work? Explain.

7. Is there a true antagonist in this work? Explain.

8. Discuss a symbol in the work.

9. How is this work a tragic romance? Elaborate.

10. What does Wharton attempt to do by having the story told by an outsider? Explain.

11. Discuss the ironic and bleak tone of the novel.
John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*

1. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
2. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
3. Discuss the purpose of the journey in this work.
5. Discuss a theme prominently identified in this novel.
6. Comment on Tom Joad.
7. Discuss another Joad.
8. What are the Grapes of Wrath? Explain.

Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*

1. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
2. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
3. How is this work Dystopian in nature? Explain.
4. Comment on Guy Montag.
5. What does Clarisse do for Guy? How so?
6. Discuss 2 symbols.
7. Deliberate on 2 vital parts/quotes in the novel.
8. What is Bradbury saying about society? Elaborate.
9. Determine how society is the antagonist in this work.
10. Religion is seen as a positive role in this novel. Explain this.
Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter

1. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
2. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
3. Comment on Hester Prynne.
5. Elaborate on 2 symbols.
6. What modern day issue would warrant society to label others negatively? Explain.
7. What action defines Hester? Why is she a heroine?
8. Is Dimmesdale innocent in this novel? Why or why not?

Angie Thomas’ The Hate You Give

1. As Starr & Khalil listen to Tupac, Khalil explains what Tupac said “Thug Life” meant. Discuss the meaning of the term “Thug Life” and why author Angie Thomas used the first part as the title of her book. In what ways do you see this manifested in society?
2. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
3. Thomas frequently uses motifs of silence and voice throughout the book. Find instances in the book where silence or voice and speech are noted and talk about the author’s possible intentions for emphasizing these motifs.
4. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
5. How do you think Starr would define family? What about Seven? How do you define it?
6. Discuss the social commentary of the work.
7. Elaborate on the symbols in the work.
8. Comment on Starr.
9. Comment on Khalil.
10. Does Thomas believe in Humanity? How so?
**George Orwell’s 1984**

1. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
2. What is the significance of the time in the work? Explain.
3. *1984*’s tone is viewed as dark, frustrated, and pessimistic. Prove it!
4. Comment on Winston Smith.
5. Comment on Big Brother, The Party.
6. Discuss Orwell’s Dystopian warning.
7. Identify and elaborate on a theme in *1984*.
8. Discuss the social commentary of the work.

**Wes Moore’s The Other Wes Moore**

1. In writing about the Wes Moore who is in prison, Wes Moore the author says, "The chilling truth is that his life could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his." What do you make of that statement? Do you think Moore is correct?
2. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
3. Comment on Wes Moore (the writer)
4. Comment on the other Wes Moore.
5. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
7. Discuss 2 symbols in the book.
8. What motifs drive the theme? Explain.
9. What’s ironic in this novel? How so?
10. Do you think the “other” Wes’s brother, Tony, is a good role model? Why or why not?
Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaiden’s Tale*

1. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
2. Comment on Offred.
4. Discuss Atwood’s Dystopian warning.
5. Identify and elaborate on a theme in *The Handmaiden’s Tale*.
6. Discuss the social commentary of the novel.
7. What is the significance of the roles in the work? Explain.
8. Discuss a eye-opening moment for you in the novel. How so?
10. What kind of hero is Offred? [see your Archetype handbook]

George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*

1. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
2. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
3. What is allegorical about this work? How so?
4. *Animal Farm’s* tone is viewed as objective and ironic. Explain.
5. Comment on any one of the characters (animals).
6. Discuss Orwell’s satiric style.
7. Discuss Orwell’s use of foils and contrasts.
8. Identify and elaborate on a theme in *Animal Farm*.
9. Discuss the social commentary of the work.
Herman Melville’s Moby Dick

1. How is this work allegorical? Elaborate.
2. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
3. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
4. Discuss the role of women in the novel. What does their conspicuous absence mean in the overall context of the novel?
5. Comment on Captain Ahab.
6. Comment on Moby Dick.
7. Which action is significant for the progression of the novel? How so?
8. Melville explores the divide between evil and virtue, justice and vengeance throughout the novel. What, ultimately, is his conclusion? What is Ahab’s?

Mitch Albom’s Tuesdays with Morrie

1. What is the significance of the title? Explain.
2. Discuss any 2 Aphorisms Morrie says in the novel.
3. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
5. Discuss a theme prominently identified in this novel.
6. Comment on Morrie.
7. Comment on Mitch.
Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

1. Comment on Janie.
2. Comment on Tea Cake.
4. Discuss the title of the novel.
5. How does the image of the black woman as “the mule of the world” become a symbol for the roles Janie chooses or refuses to play during her quest?
6. What action in the text changes Janie?
7. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
8. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
9. How do the imagery and tone of the last few pages of the novel connect with other moments in the novel? Does Janie’s story end in triumph, despair, or a mixture of both?
10. Comment on the significance of the Hurricane.

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*

1. Comment on Gatsby.
2. Comment on Daisy.
3. What statement might Fitzgerald be making about the mores or ethos of American culture—particularly the American Dream?
4. How does the setting play a role into the development or progression of the work?
5. This book is infused with symbolism, particularly the green light at which Jay Gatsby gazes so intently, and the eyes of Dr. Eckleburg on the billboard. What do these symbols suggest?
6. Discuss a theme in Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*.
7. What is the significance of the setting in the work? Explain.
8. Is Jay Gatsby great? In other words, is Fitzgerald’s title sincere...or ironic?
9. Who really was driving when Myrtle was struck and killed? Can Nick be sure? Can we? If Nick insists that a person shouldn’t criticize others, then why does it matter who killed her?
Poetry and Music

Anne Bradstreet’s “To My Dear and Loving Husband”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Bradstreet’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Luis Rodriguez’s “Tia ChuCha”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Rodriguez’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?
Calvin

Edward’s “War (What is It?)”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Edward’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Walt Whitman’s “I hear America Singing”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Whitman’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

William

Carlos Williams’ “Dance Russe”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Williams’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Walt Whitman’s “I Sit and Look Out”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Whitman’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?
Emily Dickinson’s “Hope is the thing with feathers”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Dickinson’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Emily Dickinson’s “Much Madness is divinest sense”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Dickinson’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

William Henley’s “Invictus”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Henley’s tone in the work? How so?
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Edwin Arlington Robinson’s “Richard Cory”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Robinson’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?
1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Dunbar’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Sylvia Plath’s “Mirror”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Plath’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Edwin Arlington Robinson’s “Dear Friends”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Robinson’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?
Langston Hughes’ “I, Too”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Hughes’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Compare Hughes’ work with Whitman’s “I hear America Signing.”

Ivan Alberti’s “War”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Alberti’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?
5. Compare/contrast Alberti’s work to Edward’s ideas of war.
6. Who has more credibility: Alberti or Edwards?

Shin Yu Pai’s “Model Minorities”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Pai’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?
5. How does this work reflect your life? Explain.
6. Discuss the verisimilitude of the work.

Langston Hughes’ “Harlem”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Hughes’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Discuss the glaring metaphor of the work.
Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Frost’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Nancy Woods’ “Two Worlds”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Hughes’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Compare Hughes’ work with Whitman’s “I hear America Signing.”

Paul Laurence Dunbar’s “Sympathy”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Dunbar’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Dwight Okita’s “In Response to Executive Order 9066”

1. Discuss the characters in the poem.
2. What is Hughes’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. What rhetorical device does Okita employ? How so?
5. Why does Okita use the words: Executive order?
Langston Hughes’ “The Weary Blues”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Hughes’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Why does Hughes choose this genre of music? How so?

Gary Soto’s “Mexicans Begin Jogging”

1. Discuss the title of this poem in terms of the content.
2. What is Soto’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Explain Soto’s choice of diction.

Zacchaeus Wright’s “A Double Edged Love”

1. Speak on the volta of the work.
2. Comment on the social commentary.
3. What does Wright’s exposing the speaker’s love at the end of the poem do for the work? How so?
4. Is the tone of the work: remorseful, confused, or celebratory? Explain.

Terrance Hayes’ “The Lost World: Derrick Poem”

1. Discuss the title of this poem in terms of the content.
2. What is Hayes’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Explain Hayes’ choice of diction.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “A Psalm of Life”

1. Comment on the literary devices used.
2. How does this work reflect the human condition? Explain.
3. Create your own 5-stanza “___’s Psalm of Life”
4. What literary device highlights the work? How so?

Music, Visual Rhetoric and Facebook Rhetoric [FBRs]
"Are We There Yet?"

"Meal"

"The Aisle"

"The Staircase"

"Dreamers and MAGA"

"Teacher, we can't see!"
“Face Mask”

“Discussion on Race”

“Pick”

“America has Jock Itch!”

“Lady Liberty”
Music:

1. Discuss the symbols in the song.
2. Discuss a theme reflected in the work.

Lil Nas X “Old Town Road”

1. Discuss the symbols in the song.
2. Discuss a theme reflected in the work.

Halsey “Nightmare”

1. Discuss the symbols in the song.
2. Discuss a theme reflected in the work.

J Cole “Middle Child”

1. Discuss the symbols in the song.
2. Discuss a theme reflected in the work.

Your Choice

Facebook Rhetoric [FBRs]

You may choose any 4 Facebook topics we’ve discussed for this section.
Your Responses:

_ The responses need to be at least one pagers. An in-depth analysis for each answer is required.

_ In total, you need 40 typed responses.

_ A cover page is required.

_ Use size font 12. A simple font; however, titles may be lavish. Double-spaced.

_ Remember the MANTRA: Claim ~ Support ~ Elaborate ~ Reclaim

__ Since this is your response to literature, you must pay close attention to classroom discussions, your readings, and other vital insights.

__ You may choose four topics per literary piece or just one or two from a specific work. It is up to you.

__ Answers need to be scholastic and erudite. This is supposed to be some of your best work. Please take pride in your work, as I intend to take pride in reading them.

__ At the end of this project, please include a page of insight. What have you learned about yourself, this process, the purpose. This needs to be typed as well.

__ For any further questions, please see me.