The HENG4 Scholarly Seminar

Notes on the Major Works read this Academic Year

Mr. Williams’ Honors English IV Classes

Miami Jackson* DASH * Miami Northwestern

[The following items are questions that offer insights and epiphanies on the literature discussed, viewed, and read in class. The student is required to complete any 50 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.]
Dramas:

___ A Raisin in the Sun
___ Everyman (Unknown)
___ Macbeth
___ That's All

Poetry:

___ A Mother’s Little Boy by Melani Rodriguez
___ 5 Ways to Kill a Man by Eric Brock
___ A Ravel Among Doves by Rachel Dorvil
___ After making love we hear footsteps by Galway Kinnell
___ A Tragic Story by William M. Thackeray
___ The Wife’s Lament (translated) by Ann Stanford
___ Canterbury Tales (Prologue) by Geoffrey Chaucer
___ The Unknown Citizen by W.H. Auden
___ The Passionate Shepherd to His Love by Christopher Marlowe
___ The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd by Sir Walter Raleigh
___ Sonnet 30 by Edmund Spencer
___ I Know an Old Lady (Unknown)
___ Digging by Seamus Heaney
___ Barbie Doll by Marge Percy
___ Safe
___ Senior Year by Michael Duarte
___ Sonnet 169 by Francesco Petrarca
___ Sonnet 130
___ Sonnet 116
___ All the World’s a Stage by Shakespeare
___ Ecclesiastes (taken from King James Bible)
___ To An Athlete Dying Young
___ When I Was One and Twenty by A.E.
___ Housman
___ The Graves of a Household by Felicia Hemans
___ The Fly
___ The Sick Rose (Songs of Experience)
___ The Little Boy Lost
___ The Little Boy Found (Songs of Innocence) by William
___ Blake
___ Invictus by William Henley
___ What I Expected by Stephen Spender
___ Model Minorities by Shin Yu Pai
___ I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud
___ My Heart Leaps Up
___ Strange Fits of Passion by William
___ Wordsworth
___ When I have Fears... by John Keats
___ The Soldier by Rupert Brooke
___ Harlem (A Dream Deferred) by Langston Hughes
___ Barbara Allan (Unknown)
___ Mexicans Begin Jogging by Gary Soto
___ Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Browning
___ My Lute, Awake by Sir Thomas Wyatt
___ Road Not Taken
___ Stopping by woods by Robert Frost
___ On Monsieur’s Departure by Elizabeth I
___ The Moment by Margaret Atwood
___ Crossing the Bar by Lord Alfred Tennyson

Novels:

___ Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Essays and Speeches:

___ Female Orations by Margaret Cavendish
___ The Allegory of the Cave by Plato
___ On Idleness by Samuel Johnson
___ A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift
___ The Perception of Weather by Calvin B. Edwards
___ Selections by Niccolo Machiavelli
___ Selections by Sir Frances Bacon
___ from Letters to His Son (parts I&II) by Lord Chesterfield
___ Letter to Her Daughter by Lady Montagu
___ Book of Margery Kempe by Margery Kempe
___ The New Negro by Alain Locke
___ from the Spectator by Joseph Addison

References:

___ Mythology by Edith Hamilton
___ The King James Bible
Parables, Fables, and Fairy Tales:
- Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke, chap. 15: 11-32)
- The Fox and the Grapes
- The Stag at the pool
- The Ass & His Purchaser (from Aesop’s Fables)

The underlined poets indicate that we’ll be doing more than one of their works. And, as stated before, this list is tentative.

Movies and Music Videos:
- Student Choices

Musical Performances:
- Sunday Breeze by Ben Tankard
- Lover’s Thing by Ciara
- The Climb by Miley Cyrus
- It’s Still Rock&Roll to Me by Billy Joel
- Crushing Day by Joe Satriani

Art Analyses:

SHORT STORIES
Chinua Achebe’s “Civil Peace”

1. Comment on Jonathon Iwegbu.
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 in “Civil Peace.”
7. Comment on “Nothing Puzzles God”.
8. Elaborate on the symbols of the work.
9. Discuss 2 motifs in Achebe’s short story.
10. Discuss the significance of the title.

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.”
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.

Mark Strand’s “Space”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature exhibited in this work.
2. What is the social significance of understanding this work?
3. Discuss the symbols of the work.
4. Elaborate on Space’s tone.
5. In her jump, what does Strand hope to do by saying:

   *When he opened them, he saw that between her feet and the ledge was a space, a space that would always exist between herself and the world. In the long moment when she existed before him for the last time, he thought. Then she was gone.*

6. Comment on the woman.
7. Comment on the male.
8. Discuss 2 motifs.
9. Is there a dynamic character in the short story?
10. Discuss “Space’s” 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?
William
Faulkner’s “Barn Burning”

1. What are the sources of tension / conflict in this story?
2. How would you account for the actions of the father -- having burned the first barn, the rug incident, and going to burn the second barn? What is motivating the father to do these things?
3. How would you account for the actions of the boy, especially as he seems ready to tell the truth about his father?
4. Examine the boy’s “interior monologues,” the italicized parts of the story. What do these tell us about the boy, about others, about Faulkner’s style(s) of narration?
5. Examine the references to the boy’s sisters in the story. How and why does Faulkner describe the sisters the way he does?
6. Examine the places in the story where the boy’s mother and aunt appear. How and why does Faulkner describe these women the way he does?
7. What are we “to take” from this story? What is the central theme or message? Are there other themes or messages as well?
8. How would you describe Faulkner’s “style”? How does his compare to the styles of Porter, Fitzgerald, and Hemingway (all four were/are known for their unique styles)? Which style(s) do you prefer, and why?

RW’s
“The Corner of 16th and 47th”

1. Elaborate on the human condition found in the work.
2. At one point in the short story, adversities arise. What do they prove of the characters? How so?
3. Discuss the symbols represented in the work.
4. Expound on the use of repetition in “The Corner of 16th and 47th.”
5. Discuss the title of the work. Why is it significant?
6. Deliberate on a character - His motivation, his movements, etc.
7. Discuss gender roles in “The Corner of 16th and 47th.”
8. Explicate a theme found in the work.
9. Discuss how the denouement of the play is significant or not.
10. Extrapolate on the author’s use of the seated customers in the coffee shop. Do they accomplish this goal well?
Fables, Biblical Scripture, & Articles

“I Samuel: 15 – Saul’s Demise” (BS)

1. What seems to be the tone of the work? Explain.
2. Elaborate on the symbolism of “I Samuel 15.”
3. Discuss the theme of this poem?
4. Discuss the conflict Samuel faces in “I Samuel 15.”
5. What type of hero does Saul typify? Explain.

Aesop’s “The Stag at the Pool” (F)

1. Defend the characteristics that make this work a fable.
2. Discuss the theme represented in this work.
3. Explain 2 symbols of the work.
4. Identify how this work reflects the social commentary.
Aesop’s “The Ass and His Purchaser” (F)

1. Defend the characteristics that make this work a fable.
2. Discuss the theme represented in this work.
3. Explain 2 symbols of the work.
4. Identify how this work reflects the social commentary.

“St. Luke, 15: 11-32” (BS)

1. What seems to be the tone of the work? Explain.
2. Elaborate on the symbolism of “The Prodigal Son.”
3. Discuss the theme of this work?
4. Discuss the conflict in the work.
5. Comment on the younger son.
6. Comment on the father.
7. Are the older son’s feelings justified? Why or why not?
8. Elaborate on the purpose of literature that this work reflects.

Aesop’s “The Fox and the Grapes” (F)

1. Defend the characteristics that make this work a fable.
2. Discuss the theme represented in this work.
3. Explain 2 symbols of the work.
4. Identify how this work reflects the social commentary.

“Colossians 3” (BS)

1. Discuss the need for individual reflection, as it pertains to this work.
2. What is the social significance of understanding this work?
3. Discuss the symbols in the work.
“Ecclesiastes, Chap. 3” (BS)

1. Discuss the theme of the work.
2. What character from another work would have done well to have read this piece?
3. Discuss the literary aspects of the piece.

Paul’s “1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 33” (BS)

1. Discuss the purpose of literature exhibited in this work.
2. What is the social significance of understanding this work?
3. Discuss three symbols in the scripture.

“Matthew 10” (BS)

1. Discuss three aphorisms found in the work.
2. Discuss the theme of the work.
3. Discuss the literary aspects of the piece.
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.
Jonathon Swift’s “A Modest Proposal”

1. Does man need to be reminded of his civic duty? Is there a place for Swift’s type of discourse in today’s society? Explain.
2. Discuss the satiric elements of the work.
3. Identify and elaborate on the type of satire being used in Swift’s essay.
4. Identify and discuss symbols in Swift’s work.
5. What relevance would your modest proposal serve? How so?

Margaret Cavendish’s “Female Orations”

1. Discuss the theme of the work.
2. Explain a common thread (motif) that seems to echo in each oration.
3. Identify and discuss three ideals that reflect today’s sentiments. (They may be from different speakers).
4. Discuss the tone of one of the speakers.
5. Which speaker blatantly opposes your views on gender? How so?
6. Why does Cavendish compile this work? What could have been her motivation? Explain.
7. Cavendish believes in… How so?
8. What purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
9. Break down one of the speaker’s arguments into our class’s mantra.
10. Rewrite one of the speaker’s ideas with male sentiments.
Niccolo Machiavelli’s “The Prince, Chap. XXI”

1. Does a leader need to be loved by his people, according to Machiavelli? How so?
2. Which characteristic of a Machiavelli’s type of leader do you possess? How so?
3. Contradict Machiavelli’s view of leadership.

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.

Samuel Johnson’s “On Idleness”

1. Speak on one vital aphorism in the work.
3. Discuss symbols in Johnson’s work.
4. Debate the Idlers Johnson defines.
Sir Frances Bacon’s “Of Marriage and Single Life” and “Of Studies”

“Of Marriage and Single Life”
1. Discuss a motif of the work.
2. Is today’s society in need of Bacon’s chastisements? How so?
3. Undoubtedly, Rihanna claims “Single life is so overrated.” What parts of Bacon’s essay would seem that he agrees with her? Explain.

“Of Studies”
1. Discuss the three traits that “studies” panders to.
2. Discuss Bacon’s book metaphor.
3. Expound on the latin phrase Bacon uses: *Abeunt studia in mores.*

Margery Kempe’s “Book of Margery Kempe”

1. What seems to be the tone of the work? Explain.
2. How does Kempe’s life seem to reflect the ideas found in the work? Explain.
3. What resounding message does Kempe send with this work?
4. What purpose of literature does this work seem to reflect? Expound.
5. What is Kempe’s conflict? How so?
6. Discuss a symbol in the work.
7. Is this work something we can live by? How so?
8. Comment on Margery Kempe.
10. If you were to create a logo for a t-shirt, which lines would you use? Why?
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.”

Lady Montagu’s from “Letter to her Daughter”

1. Does Montagu make sense in this letter?
3. Discuss symbols in Montagu’s work.
4. Debate Montagu’s tone.
5. Comment on Lady Montagu.

Lord Chesterfield’s “Letters to his sons” [Parts I and II]

1. Do you agree with Chesterfield’s letter [Part I]?
3. Discuss symbols in Chesterfield’s work.
4. Debate Chesterfield’s tone.
5. Comment on the literary devices used in the letter [Part II].
Joseph Addison’s from “the Spectator”

1. What seems to be the tone of the work? Explain.
2. What does Addison say about wit and morality? Explain.
3. What resounding tone does Addison send with this work?
4. What purpose of literature does his work seem to reflect? Expound.

Calvin Edward’s “The Perception of Weather”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. What is Edward’s tone in the work? How so?
3. This work may be construed as didactic. Explain how.
4. Does Edwards’ prove his thesis well? Why or why not?
**Everyman: A Morality Play**

1. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
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 Everyman’s development as a character? Elaborate.
7. Discuss a theme Everyman delivers.
8. Discuss the role of the denouement of the play.
9. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
10. Discuss the allegorical nature of the play.

**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 
Macbeth

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 themes in the tragedy.
4. Do women play an important role in the work? Discuss.
5. Explain a symbol in the work.
6. Explain a motif in the play.
7. How does Macbeth show the duality of man’s nature? Explain.
8. Elaborate on a scene from the work. What is its purpose?
9. What quote is deemed vital in this work? How so?
10. What does Shakespeare attempt to do with this work? Does he successfully do that? Explain.
11. 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?
James Pineda and Felix Rios’
Life After Jackson

1. Which purpose of literature does this work reflect? Explain.
2. Discuss the tone of the work.
3. Is there any character that propels the play more than others? How so?
5. Discuss a theme the work delivers.
6. Identify the significance of one the symbols in the work.
7. Comment on Felix.
8. Comment on Jimmy.
9. How does this work reflect the Contemporary time period? Explain.

Harold Pinter’s That’s All

1. Discuss the purpose of literature in the work?
2. What does the setting do for the play? Explain.
3. How does this work reflect the human condition? Explain.
4. Pinter seemingly believes in man’s individuality. Which character reflects this? How so?
5. Comment on Mrs. B.
6. Elaborate on 2 symbols of the play.
7. Comment on Mrs. A.
8. What does ‘That’s All’ mean in reference to this work? Explain.
9. Comment on ‘Mrs. C.’
10. What do the stage directions do for the play? How so?
Mary Shelley’s
Frankenstein

1. What role does weather play in the novel?
2. What arguments does this work support or decry?
3. Are Victor and the Creature foils of each other or reflections of each other? Explain.
4. Discuss the symbols used in the work.
5. What is the role of setting in the work? Discuss.
6. Discuss the similarities between Robert Walton and Victor Frankenstein, the man he rescues. Why does Walton feel such compassion for Victor, a total stranger?
7. Does the Creature reflect the human condition? Explain.
8. Defend your idea: Who is the real monster?
9. What is the role of women in the work? Explain.
10. Discuss the role of sickness in the novel. Victor often seems to fall ill after traumatic events. Is this a means of escape, and, if so, is it effective? Is there another explanation for his recurring illness?
11. Select a poignant quote that defines a theme from the novel. How does it frame the major ideas that make the novel a strong literary piece?
12. What does Shelley seem to say about humanity by making her work a gothic novel?
13. Discuss the significance of a character from the novel.
Geoffrey Chaucer’s “The Canterbury Tales: The Prologue”

1. How does Chaucer amply depict the journey of life?
2. Which character best delves into the human condition?
3. Discuss the symbolism in your group’s character’s story.
4. What is the role of the Church in the work? How does it fashion the ideals and characters of the poem?
5. Explicate a theme of the work.
6. Does Chaucer believe in humanity? How so?
7. Discuss the symbolism of parts of the journey.
8. Reproduce “The Canterbury Tales” to mimic your life @ Miami Northwestern.
9. What is Chaucer saying about each of us on our collective journey? How so?

Beowulf

1. Look at your description of a hero. How does Beowulf compare/contrast to your description?
2. How does the poem fit into the literary category of an epic?
3. Discuss the literary aspects of the poem.
4. What type of hero is Beowulf? (Use your archetype handbook)
5. Comment on Grendel’s mother.
6. Discuss the hero’s journey.
7. Discuss a section of the epic poem.
8. Identify and elaborate on the symbols in Beowulf.
9. Comment on Beowulf.
10. Is there a need to read tis work in modern day society? Why or why not?
Edith 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.

Robert Louis Stevenson’s “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”

1. Elaborate on the human condition/social commentary of the work.
2. At one point in the novel, Hyde is described as a “troglodyte.” To what does this term refer? What was its significance in Victorian England? How does it relate to the themes of the novel?
3. Discuss the symbols (one must be the potion) represented in the work.
4. What quote propels the work.
5. How is Jekyll's house and laboratory physically situated so as to suggest a symbolic significance to the arrangement?
6. How does the work reflect the duality of man? Explicate.
7. How does Stevenson build up sympathy for Jekyll and, to a lesser extent, Hyde?
8. Discuss 2 symbols in the short story.
9. Discuss the ending of the text. What does Stevenson do?
10. Could Dr. Jekyll’s entire confession be written by Hyde? Explain.
Poetry

William Henley’s “Invictus”

1. Discuss the seemingly contradictory views of Emerson and today’s concerning success.
2. Argue the flaw in Emerson’s view of success, if any.
3. Discuss the central message Emerson sends with this work.
4. Discuss the literary aspects of the work.

James Zoller’s “Soccer Match”

1. What is the social significance of understanding this work?
2. Discuss the allegorical aspect of the “soccer match.”
3. Evaluate the motifs used in this poem.
Galway Kinnell’s “After Hearing Footsteps We Hear Footsteps”

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

“The Wife’s Lament”

1. What are the features of “The Wife’s Lament” that make it stand out as a notable Anglo-Saxon/Medieval work?
2. What political or social points does this work bring out that may be recognizable in today’s society?
3. Discuss the literary aspects of the poem.

Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “What is Success?”

1. Discuss the seemingly contradictory views of Emerson and today’s concerning success.
2. Argue the flaw in Emerson’s view of success, if any.
3. Discuss the central message Emerson sends with this work.
4. Discuss the literary aspects of the work.

William Shakespeare’s “All the World’s a Stage”

1. Discuss Shakespeare’s ultimate goal with this piece.
2. Does this poem have a positive or negative tone? Explain.
James Patrick Kinney’s “The Cold Within”

1. Which character best delves into the human condition? How so?
2. Is “The Cold Within’s” tone - admonitory or apathetic? Explain.
3. What stanza illuminates the poem? How so?
4. If there is to be a theme from this work, what would it be and why? Explicate.

Paul Laurence Dunbar’s “We Wear the Mask”

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?

Sir Thomas Wyatt’s “My Lute, Awake!”

1. What seems to be the speaker’s conflict? How so?
2. How does the speaker view Love? How so?
3. Comment on the literary techniques used in “My Lute, Awake.”

“I Know an Old Lady”

1. What seems to be the tone of the work? Explain.
2. Elaborate on the symbolism of “I know an old lady.”
3. Discuss the literary elements of this poem.
4. Discuss the theme of this poem.
A.E. Housman’s “To An Athlete Dying Young”

1. How does the speaker view success? How so?
2. Discuss the literary aspects of the work.
3. Comment on the symbolism in the work.
4. What is the poet’s tone? Explain.
5. Critique Housman’s look at fame and fortune.

Robert Frost’s “The Road Less Taken”

1. Defend your explanation of the last line.
2. Elaborate on the tone of the work.
3. Discuss the symbols found in the work.
4. Frost’s overlaying message is...? How so?

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.

Queen Elizabeth, I’s “On Monsieur’s Departure”

1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. Analyze the work.
3. What is the speaker’s conflict? Does she resolve it? Explain.
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 “Stopping By Woods”

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?
5. Discuss Frost’s symbolism and its significance.

Lucille Clifton’s “Homage to My Hips”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. Comment on Clifton’s tone.
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. Discuss Clifton’s use of metaphors and synecdoche.

Edmund Spenser’s “Sonnet 30”

1. Elaborate on a theme depicted in the work.
2. Discuss the reason the speaker’s ambivalent feelings about love.
3. How does this work reflect the Renaissance literary era? (Use your BOD)
William Blake's “The Fly”

1. Discuss the fly in the poem.
2. What is Blake’s tone in the work? How so?
3. Identify the theme of the work. Explain.
4. How does this work fit into the Songs of Experience collection?
5. Discuss the symbolism in the work.

Francesco Petrarch's “Sonnet 169”

1. Discuss the purpose of literature of the work?
2. Comment on the Speaker’s conflict.
3. How does this work reflect the Renaissance literary era? (Use your BOD)

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.

William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 130”

1. Explain Shakespeare’s choice of diction.
2. Does love trump all according to the speaker? How so?
3. How does this work reflect the Renaissance literary era? (Use your BOD)
Sterling Brown’s “Strong Men”

1. Discuss the importance of Brown’s use of sing/chanting.
2. To what purpose of literature does this work lend itself? Explain.
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.
5. Discuss the structure of “Strong Men.”
6. Is there a message being sent with the subtext of the poem? How so?

Stevie Smith’s “Not Waving But Drowning”

1. To what purpose of literature does this work lend itself? Explain.
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.
6. What is Smith saying about humanity? How so?

Michael Duarte’s “Safe”

1. Discuss the literary aspects of the work.
2. Explain one of the themes depicted in the work.
3. This poem is an ode, but it can also be considered an allegory. How so?

Letitia Elizabeth Landon’s “Secrets”

1. According to Landon, we need secrets. Defend.
2. Discuss the symbols in this piece.
Rupert Brooke’s “The Soldier”

1. What motifs are depicted in this work? Explicate.
2. Does the speaker believe in what he’s saying? How so?
3. What theme rings loudly in this work? Explain.
4. Discuss Brooke’s diction.

William Wordsworth’s “Strange Fits of Passion”

1. Elaborate on the human condition found in the work.
2. Explicate a theme found in the work.
3. Discuss Stanza 6.

Melani Rodriguez’s “A MOTHER’S Little Boy”

1. What purpose of literature does this work lend itself to? Elaborate.
2. Discuss the refrain in the work. How does it give clarity to the situation in the poem?
3. Discuss the theme of the work.
4. Does Rodriguez believe in “love conquers all”? Explain.
5. Discuss the literary aspects of the piece.

Robert Browning’s “My Last Duchess”

1. How does the Duchess seemingly triumph over the Duke?
2. Discuss how this work reflects the Victorian era.
3. Discuss the symbolism in the work.
William Blake’s “The Little Boy Lost”

1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. How does this work fit into the Songs of Experience collection?
3. Why does this poem rhyme? What is Blake’s purpose in this style? Explain.

Michael Duarte’s “Senior Year”

1. Defend the characteristics that make this work an allegory.
2. Identify and discuss Duarte’s use of motifs.
3. Discuss a theme represented in this work.

Felicia Hemans’ “Graves of a Household”

1. Speak on regret as it is reflected the work.
2. Can this work be viewed as a description of society? Explain.
3. Discuss the motifs in the work.
4. Is the tone of the work: remorseful, disdainful, or celebratory? Explain.

John Keats’ “When I Have Fears”

1. Discuss the symbols in this piece.
Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s “Crossing the Bar”
1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.

Letitia Elizabeth Landon’s “Experience Too Late”
1. Speak on the face as it is reflected in the work.
2. Is the past a vile teacher, seductive lover, or lucid friend? Explain.

William Blake’s “The Sick Rose”
1. What element (item) in the work is poignant to the poem? How so?
2. Talk about Blake’s use of color.

Michelle Quintana’s “Masquerade”
1. Identify the purpose of repetition in the work. How so?
2. To what purpose of literature does this work lend itself? Explain.
3. Many have argued that the tone of the work is negative. Is it? Argue either for or against.
4. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.
Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s “Crossing the Bar”
1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.

William Wordsworth’s “My Heart Leaps”
1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.

A.E. Housman’s “When I was One and Twenty”
1. Discuss the motifs of the work.
2. Talk about sage wisdom as it reflects the work.
3. Is the past a necessary teacher, seductive lover, or lucid friend? Explain.

William Blake’s “The Little Boy Found”
1. Discuss the symbols in this piece.
2. Elaborate on a prevalent theme Blake’s poem.
3. Talk about the ironies in this work.
William Wordsworth’s “I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud”

1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. Analyze the work.
3. Discuss the symbolism in the work.

Ivan Alberti’s “One Touch”

1. Discuss a motif of the work.
2. Identify the theme of the work. How so?
3. What is the speaker’s idea of love? Explain.

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.

Rudyard Kipling’s “If”

1. Defend the poem’s structure and style.
2. Defend “If”’s tone.
Thomas Hardy’s “Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?”
1. Discuss the importance of Hardy’s placing the second speaker in the fourth stanza.
2. To what purpose of literature does this work lend itself? Explain.
3. Discuss the tone of the work.
4. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.

John Milton’s “When I Consider How My Light Is Spent”
1. Discuss Milton’s tone.
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.
3. Explicate on the speaker’s issue. What does he question?

Sonia Sanchez’s “Letter to MLK”
1. Elaborate on the social commentary of the work.
2. Extrapolate on the poet’s use of songs and chants. Do they accomplish this goal?
3. Discuss the tone of “Letter to MLK”

Thomas Hardy’s “The Man He Killed”
1. Discuss the need for individual reflection, as it pertains to this work.
2. What is the social significance of understanding this work?
3. Discuss the symbols in the work.
Ezra Pound’s “A girl”
1. Discuss the theme represented in this work.
2. How does the allusion define the work? Explain.
3. Discuss the symbols in this piece.

W.H. Auden’s “The Unknown Citizen”
1. Discuss the role of irony in this poem.
2. Describe the poem’s theme. How so?

Wole Soyinka’s “Telephone Conversation”
1. Discuss the importance of Soyinka’s use of 4 tones.
2. To what purpose of literature does this work lend itself? Explain.
3. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.
4. Talk about the main speaker’s conflict.

Dylan Thomas’ “Do not go Gentle into that Good Night”
1. Discuss the symbols found in the work.
2. Explain Thomas’ style.
3. Discuss the irony of the work.
4. Discuss what ‘death’ is to the speaker. How so?
Adrienne Rich’s “Rape”
1. Identify the purpose of repetition in the work. How so?
2. Argue the symbols in “Rape.”
3. Many have argued that the tone of the work is negative. Is it? Argue either for or against.
4. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.
5. Discuss the ambiguity in the work.

John Milton’s “How Soon Hath Time”
1. Analyze the work.
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.

Christopher Marlowe’s “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
1. Discuss the theme represented in this work.
2. Explain the type of love being depicted in this poem.
3. What aspects of the poem have been adapted today?
4. Discuss the literary aspects of the poem.

Seamus Haney’s “Digging”
1. Elaborate on the symbolism used in the poem.
2. Discuss the social commentary of “Digging.”
3. Identify and discuss “Digging’s” tone.
William Thackeray’s “A Tragic Story”
1. Discuss a theme prevalent in this work.
2. Why does this work’s reflection of the human condition seem to show us a flaw in ourselves?

Robert Browning’s “Porphyria’s Lover”
1. Discuss love through the Lover’s eyes.
2. Elaborate on the symbolism used in the poem.
3. Identify and elaborate on Browning’s use of irony in this work.
4. Defend this work as a dramatic monologue.

Edwin Brock’s “5 Ways to Kill a Man”
1. Discuss the satiric element of the work.
2. Elaborate on the symbolism used in the poem.
3. Identify and elaborate on Brock’s use of irony in this work.

Aphra Behn’s “On Her Loving Two Equally”
1. Discuss the symbolism of the work.
2. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
Sir Walter Raleigh’s “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”
1. Discuss the theme represented in this work.
2. Explain the type of love being depicted in this poem.

William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 116”
1. How does Shakespeare use contrasts in the poem? Why?
2. What does the turn/volta reveal about the speaker? How so?
3. Discuss the type of love being depicted in this work.
4. Explicate on what 3 things make this work a typical Shakespearean sonnet?*

Keajah Breen’s “He”
1. Discuss a motif of the work.
2. Elaborate on the speaker’s tone. Is there consternation in her voice?
3. What does this poem prove about the speaker? Explain (include the title)

Siegfried Sassoon’s “Dreamers”
1. Discuss the symbols in this piece.
3. Is this poem negative or positive in ideas? Explain.
4. Who exactly are the dreamers? How so?
5. What purpose of literature does this work lend itself to? Explain.
“Barbara Allan”
1. What is a theme that of this work?
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.
3. Comment on Barbara Allan.
4. How does the speaker view Barbara Allan?

Stephen Spender’s “What I Expected”
1. What does the speaker expect? Is he naive? How so?
2. Discuss the work’s symbolism.
3. What you expected: Write a poem with the same sentiments of Spender’s. This must discuss something from the past 12 years. (4 stanzas).

Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s “Sonnet 43”
1. How does the speaker view Love? How so?
2. Discuss the literary aspects of the work.

Christian Arias’ “Hallways”
1. Elaborate on the tone of the work.
2. What seems to be the speaker’s conflict? How so?
3. Discuss the symbols found in the work.
Rachel Dorvil’s “A Raven Among Doves”
1. Discuss the symbols in the work.
2. What does Dorvil seemingly warn us against?
3. Discuss a prevalent theme in the poem.

Ivan Alberti’s “Phoenix’s Love”
1. Discuss the use of time in this work.
2. Elaborate on the symbolism used in the poem.
3. Comment on the speaker.

Jericho Brown’s “Dear Dr. Frankenstein”
1. Discuss the social commentary this work leans towards.
2. Discuss the literary aspects of the work.

A.K. Ramanujan’s “Self Portrait”
1. Elaborate on the tone of the work.
2. What seems to be the speaker’s conflict? How so?
3. Discuss the symbols found in the work.
R.W.'s “Night: Mistress of the Shadows [A Sonnet]”

1. Discuss the poem's imagery.
2. Talk about the literary devices/techniques the poet uses.
3. How does this work reflect the Renaissance literary era? (Use your BOD)
4. Analyze the poem.
5. Elaborate on the social context of the poem. How does it reflect our society?

Margaret Atwood’s “The Moment”

1. Discuss the need for a work like this in today’s society.
2. To what purpose of literature does this work lend itself? Explain.
3. Many have argued that the tone of the work is negative. Is it? Argue either for or against.
4. Discuss the theme that this work depicts.
5. Explicate on Atwood’s tone.

Marge Piercy’s “Barbie Doll”

1. What is a theme that is depicted in this work?
2. Discuss the symbolism in the work.
3. Who is Piercy’s audience? How so?
4. Comment on society through the speaker’s eyes.
Music, Visual Rhetoric and Facebook Rhetoric [FBRs]
“Dreamers and MAGA”

“Teacher, we can’t see!”

“Discussion on Race”

“Pick”

“America has Jock Itch!”
Music Theory:

Ciara’s “Lover’s Thing”
1. Do the speakers truly want to move on? Explain.
2. Discuss the discussion and how it coincides with the work’s tone and theme?
3. Discuss the social commentary of the work.

Miley Cyrus’s “The Climb”
1. What seems to be ironic in this song? Explain.
2. Discuss the tone of “The Climb”?
3. Elaborate on the symbols of the song.
4. Discuss the social commentary of the work.

Billy Joel’s “It’s Still Rock & Roll”
1. Discuss the metaphoric climb.
2. Elaborate on the Speaker’s epiphany.
3. Discuss the symbols in the song.
4. Talk about the social commentary of the piece.

Tamia’s “Me”
1. Discuss the symbols in the song.
2. Discuss the tone of this work.
3. Who is “Me”? Why is “Me” significant? Explain.
4. Talk on the social commentary of the piece.
Joe Satriani’s “Crushing Day”
1. Discuss the ambiguity of the title.
2. Discuss the tone of this work.
3. Talk on the social commentary of the piece.

Ben Tankard’s “Sunday Breeze”
1. Discuss the title.
2. Discuss the tempo and tone of the music.
3. Talk on the social commentary of the piece.

Your Choice [x2]
1. Discuss the symbols in the song (s).
2. Discuss the tone of this (these) works.
3. What is metaphoric in these works? How so?
4. Talk on the social commentary of these pieces.

Your Choice [x2]
1. Discuss the symbols in the video (s).
2. Comment on the connection of the video to the song.
3. Talk on the social commentary of these pieces.
Your Choice [x2]
1. Discuss the symbols in the movie(s).
2. Comment on the theme.
3. Talk on the social commentary of these pieces.
4. Elaborate on the denouement.
5. Comment on a stock character and his/her purpose.
6. Discuss the foils of the work.
7. [See Movie Extra Credit Slides]
Your Responses:

_ The responses need to be at least 1/2 pagers. An in-depth analyses 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 (x2) ~ 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 early in the year.