

July 2010

ENGLISH 3UI Independent Novel Study (ISU)

Fiction Reading and responding And Non-Fiction Writing

Your Culminating Activity is worth a total of 15% of your final mark. It is divided into two parts:

Part One: Fiction Reading and Responding (7.5%)

Part Two: Non-Fiction Writing (7.5%)

Expectations

- To become more familiar with literature and see the connections between literary pieces
- To read widely in various literary genres
- To write in a variety of forms following standard conventions
- To follow directions in completing an extended project
- To become familiar with the conventions of producing a publication
- To listen for understanding and to speak with clarity
- To become more aware and sensitive to the lives of others.

TASK #1: Fiction Reading and Responding



Fictions can often be great mirrors of the time and place in which they are written. They are often reactions to popular problems within the current society. These types of fictions are usually pegged as social commentaries. For example, Charles Dickens with his novel *Oliver Twist* made an influential comment concerning the problems with poverty in Victorian society.

With this in mind, we can make the inference that fiction writers in some ways do have a responsibility to call attention to injustices within their society thus creating change. Fiction is not just for fun!

Your challenge is to select a novel from the list attached and write a 750-1000 word literary essay on the type of comment the author was making about society at the time. Considering one or all of the following: themes, characters, symbols, and form, prove to your reader that the author of your book was sending a message with his/her fiction; making a difference!

Your essay needs to:

Be 750-1000 words

Be in 12 point font

Be in Times New Roman font

Be double spaced

Be formatted with MLA rules

Be a work of process (include all rough work, brainstorming, drafts, outlines)

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Social commentary Book List

(Choose from Below or make your own choice to be approved by the teacher)

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Fight Club by Chuck Palahniuk
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut
Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
Emma by Jane Austen
Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut
A Man Without a Country by Kurt Vonnegut
The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
Player Piano by Kurt Vonnegut
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Hard Times by Charles Dickens
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter S. Thompson
Hocus Pocus by Kurt Vonnegut
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
Persuasion by Jane Austen
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Blindness by José Saramago

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TASK #2: Non-Fiction writing

Your challenge here is to find a Canadian, preferably a local individual who is or has worked in your specialist high skills major program sector. Once you have discovered who that individual is, conduct an interview over phone, e-mail or in person in order to gather information to compose a magazine feature article about that individual.

The article you compose will be a combination of narrative writing (story on the background of where the interview takes place), informational writing and an excerpt from your interview. Your questions within your interview should eventually move toward asking the individual about their take on society right now. What do they think is right or wrong with society currently?

To make it to level four with your interview/feature article, aim to try and debunk the opinion that only academic individuals read and appreciate influential works of fiction.

To make things clear: A feature article is a piece of journalistic writing that covers a selected issue/person in-depth. As such, a feature need not address an immediately topical subject as would be expected of a news story, is usually considerably longer, and may well present an opinionated view. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feature_story July 2010

The following magazines have feature articles whose style you can mimic to create your own feature article:

Time, Outside, MacLean's, People, Men's Health, Sports Illustrated, Runner's World, National Geographic and many more.

Your article needs to:

Be 500-750 Words in length

Be in 12 point font

Be in Times New Roman font

Have informational writing (words that provide information on the subject)

Have narrative writing (words that convey a story about the subject)

Include an excerpt of your interview (written in question and answer form)

After completing both tasks, write a one page reflection that considers the following questions:

What was the easiest part of this assignment?

What was the most difficult part of this assignment?

What did you learn from the interview process?

Did this assignment change your opinion concerning your future career aspirations?