

American Literature Creative Final Project due by 1/9

This semester we have read and analyzed *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Choose your favorite piece from this semester and complete one of the following projects: write an alternate ending, create a one-pager by analyzing a theme and how it has changed over time, or create a picture out of "beautiful sentences" from your chosen piece of literature.

Alternate ending

- ★ How did you feel at the end of the book? Did you cry? Were you shocked? Did you feel angry at any character, or sympathetic? Did you feel bad for any character? Did it all feel very depressing, or did you appreciate his realism? Well, this is your chance to let the author have it.
- ★ In this assignment, you will write an alternate ending to your chosen work from this semester. To be fair though, here are a few guidelines you must follow:
 - You must write at least one full scene OR chapter, a minimum of 2 full pages.
 - You must use standard formatting.
 - Your writing must stay somewhat in the author's style, so that a reader could smoothly transition from his writing to yours without noticing a huge difference.
- ★ The only tricky part is that your alternate ending is going to have an impact on not just the plot, but the entire theme of the novel.
 - For example, Steinbeck was intentionally trying to portray the futility of the American dream, AND he had heavily foreshadowed Lennie's death. Therefore, if you go in a completely different direction from Steinbeck and make the ending happier, you MIGHT want to consider...
 - Having a different character die (to show the circle of life or conclude the foreshadowing of Candy's dog's death), or having a different character experience failure (to show that the American Dream doesn't ALWAYS work out)
 - An ending in which George and Lennie perhaps live, but they may not get EVERYTHING they want (for some of the same reasons as above). Feel free to show them learning a lesson or discussing what they are taking away from their time on the ranch.
- ★ Here are your two prompt options:
 - 1. Write an alternate ending, starting where the characters left off. You may make the ending happy or sad, and you CAN change who lives and dies, as long as it is somewhat realistic to the book. Make sure to show a combination of description, action, and dialogue – don't write too much summary or make it feel like an epilogue.
 - 2. Write an additional scene/chapter after the current ending. For example, you could show the continuation of a character's life, showing whether or not their lives improved, what they learned from the experience, what they now believe, or whether or not they still have certain dreams. Your scene can occur shortly after the current plot ends, or
 - you can make it occur much later in time.
- ★ One last hint...

2. In this narrative, make sure you actually put us "in the moment" so that it's truly a narrative and does not feel like a summary. Even if you find it hard to imitate the writing style, make sure you follow good narrative fundamentals, such as including action and dialogue instead of just all "telling".

"100 Years" one-pager

- ★ Create a one-pager with the following requirements:
 - Your Name
 - Thematic topic - Choose ONE
 - The American Dream - Green
 - Class & Social Status - Gray
 - Love & Relationships - Pink
 - Identity & Self-Perception - Gold
 - Isolation & Loneliness - Blue
 - The Illusion of the Past - Black
 - The Corruption of Wealth - Yellow
 - Gender Roles - Purple
 - Reputation - White
 - Hysteria & Danger - Red
 - Title of text & author
 - 2 quotes with analysis tying them back to the importance of a character, event, or theme
 - An illustrated symbol with analysis of symbol ✓
 - Image related to thematic topic with analysis of importance of image
 - Color analysis paragraph ✓
 - 100 years analysis: analyze how your thematic topic has changed over the last 100(ish) years using evidence to support your thoughts
- ★ Your drawings must be illustrated and you need to come up with some kind of organization to separate the different sections of this assignment.

"Beautiful Sentences" picture

- ★ Create a picture by artfully presenting examples of "beautiful sentences" that you have found in your reading of one of our texts. Examples of "beautiful sentences":
 - Sentences with vivid, poetic, snappy language
 - Sentences that make you wonder, mad, sad
 - "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"... or reader 🤔. That means you get to decide what's beautiful and what's not. It's your reading experience.
- ★ The following should be a part of your spread:
 - A symbol from the book or from your own imagination that best represents a theme that seems to come up in many or most of your chosen sentences. This symbol should somehow be drawn in a way that "pulls your quotes together". Thus, it could be in the middle, at the edges of the page, or both. The image itself could also be made up of the quotes themselves.
 - Thirty beautiful sentences carefully written, in your best penmanship.

A different teacher-approved project