**Multi-Genre Project**

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**The Human Condition: Loss and Artificial Emotions**

**Dear Viewer,   
  
This Project is for my Midterm Multi-Genre Project assignment. For this Project I have chosen to showcase "The Human Condition: Loss and Artificial Emotions". At the top-middle of the page you will find a QR code. This QR code just links back to this homepage if you disired to view this on a mobile device rather than on desktop. Above this "Dear Viewer" section you will find 3 buttons that go to sub-pages that house different artifacts/genres of the Project.   
  
I chose the topic of "Loss and Artificial Emotions" because I think that these two ideas tie well together when describing particular aspects of the human condition. The three genre formats that I have decided to use are, "Essay", "Poem", and "Artwork".  
The Essay is an analysis of various different texts that we have read for this class, picking out examples in the readings that relate to this Project's focus, and explaining the context behind the *"whys"* and *"hows"* they relate to the human feeling of Loss and Artificial Emotions.  
The Poem is a short poem in haiku format, inspired by Robert Frost's *"Birches"*, that emulates the feelings of loss.  
The Artwork is a mock marriage certificate/contract from the setting of Shakespeare's play *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"*. This is to represent how *"love"* that you believe to be real in the moment isn't actually what it seems.**

**Essay.html**

***Literary Analysis Essay***

**Introduction:**

I chose the topic of "Loss and Artificial Emotions" for this assignment on exploring "The Human Condition" mainly because I thought it would be interesting and I believe that these feelings are somewhat connected together. In this essay I will explain my thoughts behind what "Loss and Artificial Emotions" means and analyze sections from the different readings that we have read so far in the semester and take quotes/examples from some of those texts and explain how I think that it relates to "Loss and Artificial Emotions".

**Explaining my view on the meaning of "Loss and Artificial Emotions":**

"Loss" is not just the meaning of, "Oh, I've lost my car keys.", or something similar to that. It's a certain kind of feeling/emotion/thought that you experience when you realize that something that you once had you no longer possess, either consciencely or subconsciously. Some ways that people can feel a sense of "loss" is through things like having a death in the family, a sufficient other that you are now parted from, or a change in social status.

"Artificial Emotions" is a term I use to describe when either you are "faking your emotions that you display to others" (ex: Crocodile Tears), or when you are not sure if how you feel is actually genuine or not. (Ask yourself, "Why am I [blank]?", instead of just stating, "I am [blank].".)

I believe that these two ideas are connected to each other, which is why I decided to include both of them together for this Project. They are connected because of that similar feeling of "hollow emotion", the absence or perceived absence of feeling anything.

**Texts that I believe connect to the ideas of "Loss and Artificial Emotions":**

"A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry, the Younger family's struggle to attain a better life highlights the loss of their dreams that they had and the persistent hope despite the setbacks that occurred. (Hansberry, Act 1).

"A Perfect Day for Bananafish" by J.D. Salinger, explores the loss of innocence and mental the degradation of the character Seymour Glass. (Salinger, 1948).

"Bartleby the Scrivener" by Herman Melville, introduces us to Bartleby, whose repeated statement "I would prefer not to" can be seen as not just disengagement from work but also disengagement from an emotional connection. (Melville, 1856).

"The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" by Ursula LeGuin, presents the reader with a utopia maintained through the suffering of a single child. The people who choose to stay in Omelas that know of the child's suffering are choosing to ignore the real emotions they experience from the suffering child and suppress those emotions, while externally they are presenting those "Artificial Emotions" publicly to express that they are not bothered by the situation. (LeGuin, 1973).

"Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats, holds the idea that joy is a fleeting feeling that isn't meant to last forever. This connects with the idea of loss as through the definition I defined earlier, "loss" doesn't have to mean losing something physical. It could mean the absence of an emotion you once felt before. (Keats, 1819).

"Birches" by Robert Frost, emphasizes the feeling of nostalgia when he writes about how he wishes that the birch tree branches were bent due to a boy swinging on them, rather than being bent by the wrath of nature. I felt that the nostalgia expressed here about wishing when times weren't as harsh was a great connection of the experience of "loss" that is relatable to almost any audience. (Frost, 1916).

"Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver, encourages her readers to, "Let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.". I wanted to highlight this as I felt it is a good contrast to the term "artificial emotions". Oliver wants the reader to accept who they are and how they feel and to not fool themselves to believing that they are or feel a way that which they are not. (Oliver, 1986).

**Conclusion:**

In this Essay I have explained the concepts of "Loss and Artificial Emotions" and shared my viewpoints on them. I have also analyzed many of the texts we have read this semester and connected my thoughts on how they each relate to "Loss and Artificial Emotions". Full citations list of the sources used in this Essay shall be found below.

**Citations:**

Frost, Robert. *"Birches."* 1916.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *"A Raisin in the Sun."* 1959.

Keats, John. *"Ode to a Nightingale."* 1819.

LeGuin, Ursula K. *"The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas."* 1973.

Melville, Herman. *"Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street."* 1856.

Oliver, Mary. *"Wild Geese."* 1986.

Salinger, J.D. *"A Perfect Day for Bananafish."* *The New Yorker*, 1948.

**Poem.html**

**Poem**

*Winter’s heavy hand,  
Bent branches will not return,  
Spring feels far away.*

I felt that Robert Frost's "Birches" emulates the feelings of loss because of the ways that he uses nostalgia and imagery, depicting bent branches weighed down by ice as symbols of adulthood's burdens (Frost, lines 5-6). The speaker here longs for a time when the birch tree branches bent under a boy's playful swinging rather than the harshness of nature, reflecting a desire to reclaim lost innocence (Frost, lines 23-24). His yearning to "get away from earth awhile" (Frost, line 48) reveals an escapist wish, yet the "awhile" part here highlights the permanence of loss. Through "Birches" Frost captures the sorrow of time's passage and the fading of carefree youth. This is why I felt "Birches" showed the feeling of the human condition of loss so well.

**Artwork.html**

**Artwork**

Certificate of Marriage

This is to certify that ***Demetrius and Helena*** were united in marriage at Athens on ***May 1, 1596***

“True Love” is void upon influence of magic or any other unnatural force.

In Shakespeare's *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"* there is the idea of "Artificial Love".   
In the play this is expressed through the manipulation of emotions by magic, but "Fake Love" exists in the real world too, without the use of any magic.   
Demetrius, originally in love with Hermia, is enchanted and suddenly adores Helena:   
"O Helen, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!" (Act II, Scene II).   
Similarly, Lysander, under the same spell, abandons Hermia, declaring:   
"Not Hermia but Helena I love" (Act II, Scene II).   
The love potion in the play distorts the true emotions by replacing them with false ideas of love for another.   
This isn't really too different from situations that happen in the real world. For example, where a couple in a closed relationship have one person who becomes intrigued by another. *(Often through carnal desire.)*   
Which person that they loved was the "True Love"? Did they really ever even love anyone in the first place?   
The clause on the bottom-right of this marriage certificate reflects this idea of an "Artificial Love".   
The idea is that True Love becomes voided upon the corruption of external forces, rather than remaining pure as a genuine emotional connection.