

Source:

1 | This is fun!(?)

1.1 | Prompt

Heart of Darkness Analytical Essay

English 10: Landscapes of the Self and Other

For your first literary analysis paper, you will be coming up with your own interpretive argument about

OPTION 1: Choose a recurring word, motif, pattern, or character

Choose a word, motif, pattern, or character that you've noticed throughout the book, and construct an a

OPTION 2: Choose a moment in the text

Pick an excerpt of no more than 1/3-1/2 a page from the book, and construct an analytical, argumentative

You will likely make connections to other parts of the text, particularly as you engage broader implica

OPTION 3: Propose your own analytical adventure

1.2 | Wait, thesis is due Thursday?

- Topics
 - Futility?
 - Imagery of
 - Uselessness and contradiction
 - Examples
 - Blindfolded woman with torch
 - Bucket with hole in it
 - Doctor
 - Brickmaker
 - Giving biscuits to the dying black man
 - Whats the larger concept?

shoes...?

Thesis: Conrad uses ironic imagery in the Heart of Darkness to convey the dangers of placing independent and dissociated value in ideas.

our dangerous attachment to ideas.

the danger of false inherent value in ideas.

the dangers of placing inherent value in ideas

the dangers of placing independent / disassociated value in ideas

the unreliability of ideas.

“The ideas outrun the actual”

Can be applied to the European culture / colonialist movement at large.

1.3 | Evidence bin

- ship
 - “Now and then a boat from the shore gave one a momentary contact with reality ... For a time I would feel I belonged still to a world of straightforward facts;”
 - “Once, I remember, we came upon a man-of-war anchored off the coast. There wasn’t even a shed there, and she was shelling the bush. It appears the French had one of their wars going on thereabouts. Her ensign dropped limp like a rag; the muzzles of the long six-inch guns stuck out all over the low hull; the greasy, slimy swell swung her up lazily and let her down, swaying her thin masts. In the empty immensity of earth, sky, and water, there she was, incomprehensible, firing into a continent. Pop, would go one of the six-inch guns; a small flame would dart and vanish, a little white smoke would disappear, a tiny projectile would give a feeble screech—and nothing happened. Nothing could happen. There was a touch of insanity in the proceeding, a sense of lugubrious drollery in the sight; and it was not dissipated by somebody on board assuring me earnestly there was a camp of natives—he called them enemies!—hidden out of sight somewhere.”

1.4 | Let’s outline, shall we?

- Intro: Conrad uses ironic imagery in the Heart of Darkness to convey the dangers of placing independent and dissociated value in ideas.
- p1
- examples:
 - Blindfolded woman
 - Bucket with hole
 - Ship
- meta:
 - colonialism