

The goal of this paper is for the student to identify a story – some real story or some book, movie, etc. - outside the classroom that is better understood given what was done in class, and in turn further illuminates what was done in class. You are to show how a class topic shows up and plays out in the details (events, conversations, actions, etc.) of the (real or fictional) story. It is to be 4-5 pages long. Be sure to footnote at least two references from class readings to ground your paper, but by no means are you to summarize class reading materials or lectures.

***Your topic for this paper is a choice of ONE of the following two topics:***

- A.** Use an experience from your own life to further illuminate a concept we learned in our course. For example, after discussing the sin of envy in class, you could write a paper on a story or situation from your life that not only provides an example of the class concept in “real life,” but provides more insight into how people exhibit and are shaped by this sinful disposition. Note that your paper can confirm and extend what was discussed in class, or challenge a claim made by the professor or a class author by showing how your example disproves the claim.
- B.** Choose a piece of culture, be it fine art or popular culture, that not only exemplifies but further illuminates a topic from class. For example, analyze the vision of the afterlife presupposed in the movie *Flatliners*, and identify what connection the movie makes between actions in this life and one’s life after death. Note that you may argue how this piece of culture confirms and extends what was said in class, or how it challenges or disproves what was said in a class reading or by the professor.