

Literary Essay/Fall 2018

Important Dates

- Outline due *in class* on Nov. 8
- Draft of introduction and topic sentences due *in class* Nov. 15
- Draft of conclusion due in class Nov. 29
- Rough draft of full paper due *by email* no later than Sunday, Dec. 3.
- Final essay due *by email* on Tuesday, Dec. 12.
- [email to jennie@jennicreates.com](mailto:jennie@jennicreates.com)

Essays are used to show your understanding of a concept or idea, as well as to defend a particular point of view you have on a topic.

An **expository** essay explains a topic in a straightforward manner. It offers a balanced *objective* perspective on a topic with examples to support various positions. It's **educational and factual** in nature. The reader of an expository essay should walk away having learned something.

A **persuasive** essay reflects the writer's *personal* position on a topic that has more than one side. A good persuasive essay **convinces the reader that his/her position is correct and the opposing positions are potentially incorrect**. A good understanding of the subject matter is essential.

All essays should have a clear, concise thesis statement that lets the reader know what to expect for the rest of the essay. The general rule is to have **at least three points to support your thesis** followed by **a conclusion to sum up your thoughts and ideas**.

For example--

Good thesis statement: *Beauty and the Beast* is a film that exhibits themes of sacrificial love and the unbreakable bonds of true friendship, and shows that one's true nature is internal rather than external.

Bad thesis statement: I think *Beauty and the Beast* is a good movie because it's funny, cute, and has a good ending.

Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font, 12 pt. PLEASE be mindful of margins, misspellings, spacing, punctuation, etc. If you need help with the physical structure of an essay, please contact me outside of class and I'll help you.

Choose One:

1. Author Edmund Wilson said, “No two persons ever read the same book.” Write an essay explaining what he meant. Do you agree or disagree, and why? Support your ideas with examples from *The Giver*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and *Black Beauty*.
2. Choose one of the books we read this fall and map out the plot according to Freytag’s Pyramid. Explain the exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution with scene examples from the text. Then, go beyond the minimum to show a reversal, foreshadowing, backstory, or other literary elements to exhibit your understanding of the work. (*You should have notes about these things.*)
3. What is conflict, and why is it essential in writing fiction? Support your ideas with examples from *The Giver*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and *Black Beauty*.
4. Compare and contrast the impact of an unreliable narrator as it pertains to Jonas in *The Giver* and Bruno in *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Though both characters began their journey in a similar way, their journeys did not end the same. Support your ideas with examples from the books.
5. Examine the literary elements in *Black Beauty* (anthropomorphism, verisimilitude, first person POV, etc.) and provide examples from the text to show effectiveness.
6. Examine the pros and cons of writing in first person point of view and third person point of view. Use examples from books you’ve read to support your ideas.
7. Examine why Knowledge versus Ignorance, Individuality versus Society, and Coming of Age are appropriate themes for *The Giver*.
8. Fables are an important part of literature for all ages. Examine the various ways *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* functions as a fable and provide examples to support your claims.
9. Explore how an author’s personal experiences and beliefs impacted his/her work. Draw parallels from the text to support your argument. This option will require you to do a little independent research on John Boyne, Lois Lowry, or Anna Sewell.

Essays should be a minimum of 750 words and include cited passages/scenes from the books.