

Interpretation of Fiction (online) Creative Reading Journal Project

Course: LIT2010
Instructor: Nico Cassanetti

Total Points Possible: **100 Points (10% of final grade)**

Assignment Objective

Throughout the semester, you will be reading a variety of fictive texts—short stories, flash fiction, parables, novels, graphic narrative, etc.—and discussing them via our online discussion boards and your analytical papers. These more formal responses will require profession and academic tone, language and formatting, as well as a closing reading/unpacking of the texts in an analytical way.

This assignment, however, asks to you document your reactions to the texts you read in an emotive and creative fashion. The Creative Reading Journal project is not meant for writing summaries or reviews of the texts, it is about YOUR *creative interpretations*! Your individual entries/responses can take on a variety of forms, and not all of them are ‘writing focused’—past students have created original illustrations and paintings, sculptures, musical compositions and playlists, even VR renderings of story settings.

Regardless of which mediums you choose, each entry must make clear how they relate/connect to one of the original texts in some way. Moreover, since this is an online course, you will be able to use different digital platforms, programs or tools to build your ‘reading journal’...more on all this in the next section!

Directions:

General Guidelines

- **You must complete at least 9 entries:** You will have the entire 16-week semester to work on your journal, but you only need to nine (9) entries to receive [passing] credit.
- **Each entry must be on a different text** (or section of the novel). Multiple entries on a single short stories or novel chapters will not be counted toward the 9 required entries.
- **You can only use the same approach 3 times (preferably less)** one of main requirement for this assignment is that you vary your entries and find new ways to engage with the stories we are reading. If you make 9 different playlists you are in danger of failing the assignment.
- **Some approaches/mediums will require an “artist statement”:** As noted above, I encourage students to get creative with their approaches, but some of these mediums may require some context to understand the connection. For example: if you felt inspired to write a poem after reading “Virgins” by Danielle Evans, make sure you write a short paragraph explaining the connection/what inspired you. Check out some of the creative entries I’ve provided in the “Assignment Corner” module on Canvas
- **It’s a marathon, not a sprint:** Work on this journal throughout the semester, preferably within a week or two of reading the text your entry is on. Trust me...It is *painfully* obvious when students try to make the entire journal during the last week of class because the work feels rushed and uninspired and they often do not receive high marks.

- **Format/Presentation:** I am very flexible with this as everyone has different levels of technological aptitude. Historically, most students prefer to compile all their entries into a PowerPoint or Google Slide presentation, but I have also had students create a [Wordpress Site](#) for their journals, used a blogging platform like Blogspot, or even just a shared Google Drive folder. You are also more than welcome to create a tangible journal and scan/photograph them to create a digital PDF version at the end of the semester—just make sure the writing is legible.

Here are some ideas to get you started, however note that some of these options will require a written component—kind of like an artist statement—explaining your idea/choices/approach to the entry. Those approaches will be marked with an * below:

1. Write a poem inspired by text *
2. Design a book cover inspired by the text *
3. Create a playlist that “scores” the story *
4. Translate one of the stories into a comic or graphic narrative
5. Write a mini-sequel or alternative ending
6. Create an erasure/blackout poem inspired by the text *
7. Write a [short] personal essay explaining your connection to the story/character
8. Create a social media account or dating profile for one or more of the characters *
9. Create a diorama, illustration or rendering of a pivotal scene or setting *

Again, other ideas are welcome here—draw/paint/sculpt/photograph something, write a song, make a video, whatever—just run it by me if you’re worried is too weird (or not weird enough).

I will create an optional discussion board for everyone to use to share ideas, entries, ask questions, etc. throughout the semester. I encourage you to check in every once in a while

If you have an idea not mentioned here for how to present your journal, just ask! I’m open to your ideas too.

FINALLY!! Because this assignment encourages you to use alternative mediums outside of just writing, there is not a minimum word or page requirement. However, please keep in mind that is a GRADED Assignment, meaning that you will not get full credit points just for turning something in, you have to turn in something good!

**Your Completed Reading Journal will be due in the final weeks of class
(exact due date will be on Canvas)**