

Second Short Writing Assignment
Choose A Noun: A Person, Place, or Thing

DUE: Monday 9/16, by 10:30 AM
Submit to ICON

Note: If you want to meet to discuss this assignment, you need to schedule a meeting with me for BEFORE 5 PM on Friday, September 13. I cannot meet on Saturday or Sunday this weekend.

Given the 24-hr. response time for e-mails, please e-mail me by this Thursday, at the latest, in order to set up an appointment. I'll also hold my usual office hours (Monday 11:30-1:30 and Wednesday 4:00-5:00) if you would like to discuss this assignment or your comments/"grade" on The Autobiography of A Reader assignment.

ALL meetings and office hours this week will be held at the Prairie Lights Bookstore café (on Dubuque Street), rather than in my EPB office.

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For this assignment, please write a reading response of 2-3 pages (typed, double-spaced, MLA format) focused on any ONE of the short stories or poems read for this course by Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>. Select ONE of the three questions below to answer in your response:

Option 1) A Person: Select a short story or poem assigned for this course. Pick a character (or the narrator or speaker). Who is this person? What, do you think, is his or her purpose in the story/poem (literally what does he or she do and what do these actions mean in the context of the story/poem)? Why is he or she significant in the story/poem? Convince me with evidence drawn from the text. Remember to include your analysis and interpretation of the quotes or evidence you provide.

Option 2) A Place: Select a short story or poem assigned for this course. Pick a setting or a significant place. Why, do you think, this place was chosen for this story/poem? How does the setting impact the story/poem? Why is this place significant in the story/poem? Convince me with evidence drawn from the text. Remember to include your analysis and interpretation of the quotes or evidence you provide.

Option 3) A Thing: Select a short story or poem assigned for this course. Pick a significant physical object. What, do you think, this object means in the context of the story/poem? Why is it significant in the story/poem? Are there ideas or images associated with this object that are relevant to this story/poem? Convince me with evidence drawn from the text. Remember to include your analysis and interpretation of the quotes or evidence you provide.

Remember...

Make an argument! A thesis statement is great, but, at least, take a stand on why the person/place/thing you chose is significant. Your interpretation shouldn't be painfully obvious! Dare to be unique!

Use evidence from the text! In quotes, please reference sentences or lines from the story/poem. Please list the page number or the line number in parenthesis after using a quote.

When you use a quote, give your interpretation, or "reading," of that quote. Demonstrate why you used this quote and how it supports your argument.