**Major Assignment 1: FanFiction, *Kindred*—**

**Final Draft due Tuesday, February 25 on ICON by 12:30PM**

In Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, we never enter the minds of any character other than Dana. Because she narrates the story, we are left with gaps in time where we know nothing of Kevin, Rufus, Alice, or any other characters. Your first job is to fill in those gaps of events that we have thus far only accessed through Dana's perspective, language, and internal monologue. What don't we know about the supporting characters? How could hearing from them change our perceptions? Do they deserve more sympathy? Less?

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| **Step 1 (500-1000 words):**  Write a piece of FanFiction in the world of *Kindred.* You may write a missing scene or rewrite an already existing scene from a different character's perspective. In any case, this should be an invented short story 1) in the world of *Kindred*, 2) about a character or characters featured in the text and that 3) enriches your reader’s understanding of the original text and its characters. |

You should attempt to mimic the author's style and language, in order to be as true to the character as possible. For example, if you select someone from the past, you will want to use conversational dialect that matches the dialect Butler has already provided. If you choose someone in the present, the dialect will be closer to the way we currently speak, although I can think of some cases in which this may not be true. Offer a new viewpoint that broadens our perception of the character you choose.

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| **Step 2 (500-750 words) MORE IMPORTANT SECTION:**  Your FanFiction should also be accompanied by an explanation of what you chose to write about—why you chose to write it, and how it impacts the world of the original text. **Make an argument about your choices and support it with evidence from your fan fiction.** This explanation should be concise, grammatically correct, well-organized, and structured with strong and direct claims. It needs a thesis, minor claims, supporting examples that you pull from your created story, and strong analysis that supports your thesis. **The majority of your grade will be based on this explanation and how well you justify yourself**, so pay careful attention to this part. I will provide an example of this part for you, but it will be based on a different text. Consider its structure as an effective model. |

Here is where you highlight the value of your choices and argue in support of their effectiveness. You may want to consider the following questions, though there are undoubtedly other interesting considerations: Why did you write in this dialect and what does that reveal about the character? Why did you think it was important to highlight that specific thought? How did your changes potentially alter the reading of the text, as a whole? What does this potentially tell us about all of the other characters? What new character traits come to the surface with your re-writing? How might this change explain other choices the character made? *Pull examples from the creative portion as evidence to support your assertions in this section.*

The first part of this assignment should be no less than 500 words and no more than 1000 (2-4 pages). The second part of this paper should be no less than 500 words and no more than 750 (2-3 pages). It should be MLA formatted (Times New Roman size 12, appropriate header, double spaced, 1 inch margins, page numbers). **A works cited page is not required for this assignment**. This assignment should be submitted by **Tuesday, February 25 on ICON by 12:30PM**.

For your creative content, you will be graded predominantly on your:

1. Ability to remain true to the character (based on analysis done in class)
2. Ability to remain true to the setting and time period
3. Distinction from the original plot (what did you add to our understanding of character/theme?)
4. Coherence with the original story (does it fit logically in the text?)

For your critical content, you will be graded predominantly on your:

1. Logical organization with an introduction **that makes a claim** about the effect your change has on the character or plot
2. Analysis of how your addition changes the character or plot
3. Use of creative section as support for your claims
4. Understanding of the original characters and the intervention you're making
5. Complexity of intervention selected

And your mechanics, which includes:

1. Organization
2. Clarity
3. Grammar/editing
4. MLA formatting

**Important Dates:**

**Rough Draft/Workshop: Thursday, February 13**

**Final Draft: Tuesday, February 25 on ICON by 12:30PM**