# Varieur

**Final Project/Essay: “A Summary of Learning”**

We have read and discussed many poems, short stories, plays and a novel or two. List them all and write the themes and ideas next to each work. Are there any symbols, motifs, or important quotes from the work? Explain the meaning of each. How will they connect to the MEANING OF **YOUR** WORK AS A WHOLE? You may create a sequel, a prequel, and adaptation, a parody, or an original screenplay. After each reference, explain the meaning and function in your work. In the end, you will be explaining the screenplay and film in the same manner you have explained works in this class all year.

Some works have touched on the thematic ideas of Innocence and Experience, Initiation, Death and Age, and War. Others have focused on the Individual and Society, Gender Roles, Relationships, and Religion and Spirituality. To come up with some connections, choose some of your favorite works read in class or the most thought provoking and ask yourself the following questions:

1. What was the piece about? Don’t answer with plot summary-answer with ideas.
2. What was the overall feeling, tone, or mood of the piece? Why?
3. What do the characters represent? How do you feel about them? Why?
4. Any other symbolism, metaphor, allusions, archetypes to help us understand the work?
5. Use the list below to help you make connections.

**Theme Seeds (SEE THE THINKING ON PAPER ABOUT THEME, SETTING, CHARACTER, PLOT, ETC QUESTIONS):**

Money, ambition, destructive love, appearance vs. reality, refusal to accept reality or fate, the emptiness and artificiality of modern life, vanity, barriers of social class, loneliness and isolation, loss of innocence, death or decline of the American dream or American culture, original sin and the corruption in the world, the relationship between money and love, family, regret and nostalgia, the tragic consequences of chasing after false idols and golden calves, death and rebirth, disappointment, running away from the past, hypocrisy in all its forms, grace and redemption, salvation, heroism-minor and major, feminism, fighting for justice and equality, self-discovery, self- reliance, self-esteem, death and dying, epiphany, a quest or search, the power of love and forgiveness, alienation, archetypal questions, and many others.

Many historical, cultural and political events have influenced the author and the work as well We have also analyzed the various elements of prose/fiction including point of view, symbolism, structure, imagery and tone. Some stories contain similar character types, thematic ideas and social commentary. Others stories share similar settings, time periods, conflicts (man vs. self, vs. society, vs. others. vs. nature) and relationships (husband and wife, parent and child, authority figure and follower(s), members of a larger community, etc.). We’ve discussed the function of comedy and humor in a work as well as the importance of trials, tragedy and catastrophe.

Don’t forget all of the philosophical ideas covered in class and in the literature!

**FINAL GROUP PROJECT (EACH MEMBER MUST WRITE A SCENE OR SECTION TO BE IN THE GROUP-EDITORS AND CATERING DOESN’T COUNT)**:

Create an original or adapted screenplay using a minimum of 20 allusions from the works we’ve studied this year. You may create a sequel or a prequel, if you choose. You must justify the use of the allusions by explaining their meaning and how they function to create the meaning of the work as a whole. You must reference at least 10 pieces of literature assigned in class. Archetypes and biblical allusions count as 2 regardless of how many you use. 18 more references will be needed to reach 20 min. (4 quotes or symbols from *Death of a Salesman* count as 4 allusions. 5 from Beloved count as 5-but those are only 2 works, you will need to reference 8 more.)Films should not to exceed 25 minutes. Your film will be eligible for the all of the categories represented in the Academy Awards such as Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Editing, Best Screenplay adapted and original, and many more.

Some alternatives for **INVIDUALS ONLY:**

* Skits, reader’s theatre, tableau, talk show, or dinner party
* Musical presentation with original words or music, a parody of popular songs, a rap, a music video with images, a montage
* A painting, poster, drawing, graphic, collage
* A modern version of the one of more of the works-to show that its relevance to today or its antiquated views of life and human nature
* a commercial, infomercial, or advertisement for next year’s class
* a game show- ONLY IF IT’S VERY INFORMATIVE AND ORIGINAL-game shows tend to be long and boring and the questions are usually too simple with little new insight into the works

\*\*\*Remember this is your final exam. This is a summary of learning. Your purpose is to show me all that you’ve learned this year. You can start by listing all of the works you’ve read this year. You may include extra credit assignments and films.