English 1102: Textual Analysis  
Instructor: Dr. Beth Howells

Over this term in class discussions, we tried to identify some important themes in literary texts and what elements of literature or moments in the text supported these themes. We offered different interpretations of the theme and how it was furthered by particular moments in the works. You will continue this work in your essay.

Your assignment is to write a textual analysis. You must choose any text in a different genre from the one you wrote on previously and try to make meaning of it by illustrating what specific moments of the text are significant in furthering the story’s theme. You will have to compose three of these papers this term on each genre (and one research project on one of three texts).

REQUIREMENTS:

• Choose a work you are interested in—choose something you might enjoy looking at more closely.

• This means that you might first identify the theme of the work you choose. It should be a statement, an assertion, something that needs proving to be true. It should offer a unique take on the literary work that can be proven by the text.

• Next, you will want to try to identify what some key moments in the text are in your mind and try to figure out why those moments are essential in terms of the theme’s development.

• Try to avoid focusing on superficial or obvious moments—ie. the character makes the theme and without this character we would have no story. Well, obviously! But what if you focused on the final words of this character? Their last speech and how that contributes to the rounding out of the character and the story’s argument? Examine repetitions or patterns. In other words, you must attempt to be specific.

• Following up on that point, you will want to try to be creative. Try to find significant a smaller moment or a moment others might have skipped over. Try to be a groundbreaker.

• You will want to look at the elements we discussed in the book and see which are uniquely significant in your mind for the story you have chosen. Do close reading of the text to back up your argument.

• Structure your key points. Use transitions to indicate the topic of each paragraph and each section. Select quotations you will want to use in each section.
• Cite quotations and punctuate them properly.

• Be certain the connection to your thesis is always clear.

• Try to draw your reader in through an enticing lead, an interesting statement of topic, and a focused thesis.

• Take time to make your language precise, specific, and crafted.

• Proofread and attend to all grammar issues, particularly those you have had trouble with in the past—particularly those issues of concern in your first essay.

• An A paper will satisfy the above requirements.

• Your essay must be 4-5 double-spaced pages. It should have 1 inch margins. It should be in a reasonable professional font like Times New Roman 11 or 12 point or Garamond 11 point (which you see here). If you are tempted to achieve length via a technicality, DON'T. See me instead.

COMPLETE TYPED ROUGH DRAFT DUE:
FINAL DRAFT DUE:
You are not to consult any outside sources for this assignment. If you have writer's block and need some ideas, see me. If you choose to do so, you must see me and have those approved by me. Any failure to do so will constitute a failure to accomplish the assignment. Remember you are subject to the AASU honor code as well.