PAPER #3: CRITICAL ANALYSIS (20%)
(COMPARE/CONTRAST)
Due Friday 7/22

For your 3rd paper, you will write a **1000 word analysis essay comparing and contrasting two literary works written by the same author.**

- The two texts should be either fictional works (i.e. short stories, plays or novels), non-fictional narratives (i.e. biographical stories), poems or speeches. I would recommend avoiding things like editorials or informative essays, but if you have one in mind that you *really* want to do, please run it by me and get my approval first.
- The two texts should both share the same author. (NOTE: I do sometimes allow people to do works that are connected by similar subjects or genres instead of by the author. If you have an idea in mind, again make sure you run it by me and get my approval first.)
- Although it is not required, one or both of your texts can be from the *Norton Reader.* However, you are <u>not</u> allowed to analyze one of the texts from our reading list in the class. You are welcome to analyze works by an author we have read in class, but you may not do the specific texts that we are looking at or have already looked at. (So, for example, you can do two poems by Langston Hughes, but you cannot do "Salvation" or "Let America Be America Again," because we are looking at those in class.)
- The two texts you choose do not have to necessarily be in the same format. For example, one could be a short story and the other could be a poem, a play or a novel, or any combination of the above. Of course, if you want to do two poems or two short stories, then you are welcome to.

Compare and contrast the two texts you chose, analyzing both their similarities and differences in **theme(s), style,** and/or **tone.**

- Focus on *both* similarities and differences between the two texts. What sort of themes do you see recurring in the two works? What sorts of stylistic similarities do you notice? Do the two share a recognizable tone? How does the author's style, tone, or approach to his/her themes change between the two works? What do these similarities and differences tell you about the author?
- You are <u>not</u> required to discuss all three aspects of the texts (theme, style and tone). You may only focus on one or two aspects. Which texts you choose will determine which aspects you should focus the most on. Use your common sense and think about what would be best to write about for your particular texts.

Be thorough -- the more detail you include, the better. Be sure to make note of things such as when the two texts were written, the background of the author, and/or the historical context.

Your essay should be thoughtfully organized and easy to follow.

- Try to keep your focus narrow. <u>Go for depth rather than trying to cover everything</u>. For example, if you're writing about Stephen King and you find you have *a lot* to say about his style, then focus just on that and get as detailed about it as you can; don't bother trying to squeeze in theme and tone. What I like best is when I see that you've really put a lot of thought into your topic. **An "A" paper may not cover *everything*, but what it does cover it covers *well*.**
- Summarize your texts only as much as is necessary. You will likely need to summarize or paraphrase a bit just for clarity's sake (don't assume the reader is familiar with the works), but at the same time, try to make sure your paper doesn't turn into just one big recap of the original work.
- Include some form of **introduction**, with a **thesis statement** that clearly establishes which texts you're discussing and what the main points of your essay will be.
- You are not limited to how many points you include or what order you put them in. All that matters is that your analysis is organized and easy-to-follow, and your points build in a logical progression.

- Include some kind of **conclusion**. There's no strict form you have to follow for this. It may be either long or short. Wrap up your points, but try not to be repetitive.
- Use of the first-person "I" is acceptable for this paper, but don't go overboard.

SOURCES
- For this paper, you are only *required* to have <u>two sources</u>: the two texts you are analyzing. Since these two sources will be the focus of your essay, they are your **primary sources**.
    - Use <u>direct quotes</u> from the two texts to illustrate each of your points in the analysis. There's not a magic number for how many quotes to include, but at least one & no more than three on each page would be a good general guideline.
    - Make sure your quotes are all integrated into your sentences and <u>cited in proper MLA format</u>. Also, please do not use extra long-quotes unless you really have to. If a quote you need is extremely long, use ellipses (...) to omit any unnecessary or irrelevant parts.
        - BLOCK QUOTES: in MLA, if a quote is longer than 4 lines (3 lines for poetry), you must put it in a **block quote**. Start the quote on a new line and indent *the entire quote* once from the left side. Omit the quotation marks. The whole quote should still be double-spaced, and the citation should be in parentheses at the end.
    - If you <u>paraphrase</u> from any of your source(s) rather than directly quoting, then make sure you cite that too. Please remember that any outside information you include in your paper, if it's not common knowledge, must be properly cited.
- Though you are only required to have the 2 primary sources, you are welcome to include additional **secondary sources**, such as biographical info or published criticism of the author's work. I'll allow you to use Wikipedia for this paper as a source for biographical information about the author.
- Include a **Works Cited Page** at the end, with the 2 primary sources you're analyzing plus any additional secondary sources you used.
    - Any outside source you use for this paper absolutely <u>must</u> be listed on the Works Cited page and properly cited in the paper itself. Yes, that includes stuff like Sparknotes or Wikipedia. *If something you wrote in the paper did not come straight out of your own head, then you must give credit to the original source. Otherwise it's plagiarism!*
    - ALSO: The Works Cited page does <u>not</u> count toward the overall word count.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:
- 1000 words minimum (note: I don't mind if you go over the word count, but don't go under it)
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.
- Double-spaced; no extra spaces between paragraphs, please.
- MLA style heading and page numbers

DUE DATES (REQUIRED):
- **Peer Review** = during class on Thurs 7/18. Bring a rough draft that is at least 500-600 words.
- You must submit **both an online and hard copy of your final draft** by the due date.
    - You must submit an early copy of your rough draft to Turnitin.com ahead of time, to receive your originality report. Final papers with an originality score of 20% or higher will receive a very large deduction of points, and any paper with a score over 45% will receive an automatic zero.
    - The hard copy of the final draft is due *in class* on **Monday 7/22**. If you turn in your paper hours late, it will have points deducted. After midnight, I will not accept it and you will receive a zero.

For any questions or concerns, please email me: klotzem@gmail.com or emily.klotz@hccs.edu