

**Honors English I: Summer Assignment 2020-2021**  
Cross-Genre Thematic Connections  
*Due at the beginning of class on the first day of school.*

**Teachers:**

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**Google Classroom Code: rt6t2v6**

- Please join ASAP; you will need to use your [@stu.elginisd.net](mailto:@stu.elginisd.net) account.
  - If you are new to EISD, or have unreliable access to the internet, email Ms. Miller for copies of what is posted on Google Classroom.
- Download the Google Classroom app to your phone now, if you don't have it already.
- Make sure that your parent/guardian's email is updated on GC.

**Remind App Class Code: @d6heefg**

- download the Remind app to your phone, and join using the class code
  - You can use Remind to contact the teachers any time with questions or concerns.

**Summer Reading Assignment Requirements:**

Before you can begin, you must Choose a Theme\* (\*See the Project Info Sheet, attached)

- Find and read three texts, each from a different genre, that reveal, convey or incorporate your theme\*.
  - Prepare an Answer Document by: 1) creating a Google Doc on which to type all of your assignments 2) generating a Thematic Question\* based on your reading. Use this Thematic Question as the title/header of your Google Doc.
  - Annotate\* each of the texts as you read.
  - Provide a source/citation for each of your three texts (a link is acceptable, for now).
  - Complete each of the following assignments on your answer document.
1. Write a 6-10 sentence summary of each of the three texts
    - **Summary:** The writer *does not* give their opinion, they only provide a complete report of the most significant information.
  2. Write an 4-6 sentence critique of each of your three texts
    - **Critique:** The writer analyzes, evaluates, and offers their *opinion* about a text.
  3. Find 15 **vocabulary** words: Identify 15 words you didn't already know, then give the source (which text it is from) and the definition (appropriate to its context) of each.
  4. Write a 2-3 page **Compare & Contrast analysis** of *two of your three* texts; explain why and how they represent your theme, how they are similar and how they are different. **OR**

Write a 2-3 page *Personal Journal Entry* about your connection with your theme and texts (examples will be available on Google Classroom under the classwork tab).

5. Generate, based on all three texts, a comprehensive **Thematic Statement\***.

### Grading Rubric

Feature	Details	Points/100
Theme	Your original Thematic Topic, insightful Thematic Question, the quality and relevance of your texts, detailed annotations of all texts AND your subsequent conveyance of theme through your development of an intuitive Thematic Statement are the main focus of this project.	50
Summaries	Each text must be summarized to present all vital information. A summary should present the whole story as though you are telling it to someone who has not read it.	10
Critiques	Each text must be critiqued to present your evaluation of the validity, quality, effectiveness... and enjoyment of it.	10
Vocabulary	You must present 15 previously unfamiliar words, each with the source (in which text did you find it?) and a definition that matches the context in which it was found. It is not necessary to find exactly 5 in each text, but you should not find all of them in one text.	10
Compare/Contrast OR Journal Entry	C&C: A fully developed 2-3 page literary analysis that explores relevance to theme, similarities and differences between two of your three chosen texts. OR Journal Entry: A detailed 2-3 page representation of your personal connections with your theme AND the texts you read to explore that theme.	20

## Cross-Genre Thematic Connections Project Info Sheet

### Q&A

Q: What is it?

A: This summer's project is a close study of thematically connected, self-selected texts from different genres.

Q: What do I need?

A: You will need to select three texts, each from a different genre\*, that all have a similar theme\*. You will need to read all three texts and have them all available for use throughout the project.

Q: What do you mean by theme/thematic connection?

A: Each text you select must present a similar theme. For example, if you choose perseverance as your thematic topic, all of the texts you choose must convey a message about perseverance. (some thematic topic ideas are listed below)

Q: What do you mean by different genres?

A: Each of your three selected texts must come from a different literary genre. (categories are listed below)

Q: What do I do with the texts I select?

A: First, you must do a close reading of each of them, annotate\* each of them, and then you will complete assignments based on them.

### \*Key Terms:

**Theme** - the message, or lesson, that an author attempts to convey in his writing

**Genre** - the category of writing based on similar form or style

**Annotate** - in order to accomplish academic study of a text, the reader marks, highlights, writes notes... to make connections, ask questions, clarify... the text. (this can be written physically on a printed text, noted digitally on a .pdf or written on a separate notes page.)

**IMPORTANT!** Before you begin, you **must understand** the differences between THEME, THEMATIC TOPIC, THEMATIC QUESTION, THEMATIC STATEMENT. These are vital because you WILL BE asked to analyze themes, ask thematic questions and develop thematic statements throughout the year in Advanced English 1.

- THEME - a general reference to a literary work's lesson or message.

- THEMATIC TOPIC - a one or two word description of the overall theme (ex: hope, justice, mental illness...)
- THEMATIC QUESTION - a question asked by scholars to narrow or clarify the theme of a text (ex: Can hope exist without suffering? Can justice be achieved in our society?...)
- THEMATIC STATEMENT - a coherent statement of theme that presents the text's author, title, lesson and a qualifying statement (ex: In The Diary of Anne Frank, Frank suggests that hope exists strongest where there is suffering.)

**Thematic Topic Ideas** - The first step is to choose a theme, so you must do this before you choose your texts:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ● Family Legacies                    | ● Perseverance/Overcoming Adversity  |
| ● Heroes Exist                       | ● Sacrifice & Reward   |
| ● Education                          | ● Power & Corruption   |
| ● Prejudice (gender, racial, OR age) | ● Suffering & Compassion   |
| ● Economic Inequality/Poverty        | ● Honesty  |
| ● Addiction                          | ● Good vs Evil/Human Nature  |
| ● Mental Illness                     | ● Popular Culture  |
| ● Concepts of Beauty                 | ● Situational Morality   |
| ● Life & Death                       | ● Choose your own (this MUST be approved by a teacher, please communicate your idea via Google Classroom for approval) |
| ● Friendship                         |  |
| ● Rebellion                          |  |
| ● Individuality                      |  |

**Genre Options** - Each of your texts\*\* must be from a different genre:

- Short Story
- Poem
- Drama/Play
- News Article (from a reliable source)
- Novel Excerpt (should be no more than a chapter)
- Movie
- Documentary
- Blog
- Biography
- TV Show

\*\*We understand that most of your “texts” will likely be online; this is fine, but you must have a plan for annotating them and sharing them with your teacher.

***Example Themes, Thematic Questions and Materials:***

*These examples are for reference/inspiration only; try to develop an original idea (originality of theme is part of the grade - see Grading Rubric). Not all genre choices are represented here, so be creative, choose carefully and have fun with it.*

<b><i>Theme/ Thematic Question</i></b>	<b><i>Article</i></b>	<b><i>Short Story, Graphic Novel or Book</i></b>	<b><i>Podcast</i></b>	<b><i>Poem</i></b>	<b><i>Documentary/ TV Special</i></b>
<p>Family Traditions</p> <p>What role does tradition play in overcoming “generation gaps”?</p>	<p>“Hello My Name Is _____” by Jason Kim</p>	<p><i>The Paper Menagerie</i> by Ken Liu</p>		<p><i>Eating Together</i> by Li-Young Lee</p>	
<p>Education</p> <p>Is the US educating its prison inmates fairly?</p>	<p><a href="#"><i>Education Dept. expands Pell grant...</i></a> by Danielle Douglas-Gabriel from Washington Post</p>		<p><i>Justice in America</i> Ep. 30</p>		
<p>Popular Culture</p> <p>What aspect(s) of our cultural climate has given rise to the popularity of Minimalism?</p>					<p><i>Tidying Up with Marie Kondo</i> on Netflix.</p>
<p>Good v. Evil</p> <p>What role do good and evil play in the origins of myths and/or legends.</p>		<p><i>Norse Mythology</i> by Neil Gaiman</p>			