

## Reading Blogs

You will be divided into two groups: Group A (Last name begins with letters A-D) and Group B (Last name begins with letters H-Z). Approximately every other week, you will complete a reading journal (as an online blog post). On the weeks you do not write a blog post, you will read your classmates' posts. For example, Group A will write a blog post for week 2, while Group B will read those posts. The next week, Group B will write a blog post, and Group A will read the posts.

The blog post will focus on at least one of the week's upcoming readings. The "author" post is due by midnight the day before the readings are to be discussed. For example, if you want to write about Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy," you need to post by midnight on Wednesday, February 1st. The "reader" post will be due by the start of class on the day the readings are to be discussed. For example, if you read posts about Plath's "Daddy," you need to leave a comment by the start of class on Thursday, February 2nd.

You will write a total of 5 blog posts throughout the semester, each of which will be worth up to 20 points. In addition, you will read blog posts 5 times, which will be worth 10 points each.

### **Instructions for creating your blog:**

- Go to [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)
- If you have a Google account already, sign in. Start creating your blog (including choosing a title and layout).
- If you do not have a Google account, click on tab "Create a blog". Create a Google account then start choosing details about your blog (including the title and layout).
- It is incredibly easy to set up the blog, but if you are having trouble with the details (design, gadgets, etc) let me know and I will help.
- Send your blog title and domain name to Dr. Kikendall so she can link your blog to the class one she created.
- Choose a layout, background, colors, text, etc.
- I would like these blogs to be public so that we can all read one another's posts, but if you are worried about privacy/security, then simply do not put your name on the blog or in the web address. I am happy to help with this – just come see me.

\*\*See the blog Dr. Kikendall created: <http://en201spring17.blogspot.com/>

### **Instructions for writing your bi-weekly post:**

- Length: It should be at least 300 words, but don't hesitate to write more if you have more to say.

- Type: It can be analytical, creative, or a combination of the two.
- Content: You can discuss the plot, the characters, the point of view, the style, the diction, the genre, the author, historical or cultural context, or any other aspect of the reading. You should refer to the Active Reading Handout for some ideas about what to pay attention to when you read. Likewise, you may use the questions posted on the class calendar as your blog topic, but I encourage you to write about something that stood out to you. Don't feel confined by the calendar questions. Try not to discuss the same element every time, though, and do NOT simply summarize the plot. Whatever you choose to write about, you should always refer to at least one specific example from the text itself and explain why that particular detail/quote is important or interesting. You should also attempt to connect the reading to something else we've read this semester or something you read on your own.
- Medium: This particular medium (a blog) allows you to explore the reading in creative ways. Find ways to add images, videos, and other multimedia components to your blog posts.
- Rubric: Please take a look at the grading rubric to find out how I will evaluate your blog posts. I will consider how well you demonstrate your understanding of the text, whether you have thought independently about the text, whether you can pull out specific details from the text, and that you can follow the rules of Standard Written English. If you choose to write an analytical response, it will sound very much like a traditional essay. If you choose to write a creative response, then you still need to demonstrate the same things, but you can do it through more creative means.

### **Instructions for reading your classmates' posts:**

The reason I have you creating a public reading journal is to encourage conversation. On the weeks you are not writing a post yourself, you will read some of your classmates' posts.

- On your "reading" week, read all your classmates' posts.
- Comment on at least one person's post. Your comment should be at least several sentences long, and it should respond to the ideas shared in the post. What ideas or questions came to your mind when reading it? Try to continue the conversation that the author started. Be respectful of your classmates but don't be afraid to disagree or challenge their ideas - that's part of the fun of discussing literature - different perspectives!