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Personal Literary Reflection
Final Essay Due: Saturday, May 16th by 5pm

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Prompt: What novel or play has personally impacted you <u>and</u> what did this cause you to learn about yourself?

This impact can come in a variety of ways from causing you to question the world around you, allowing you to better understand yourself and others, or simply allowing you to realize that you actually <u>enjoy</u> reading!! By reflecting on this text you should discover the inner workings of your personality. Your essay should explore several moments of realization and include textual support from your text that helped to spark these moments.

Your essay must contain an original analysis. By original I mean that this essay must be comprised wholly of your own individual words and ideas, not someone else's. I want to know what ***you*** think about and what connected with you in the work that sparked your personal literary growth.

Advice: Think carefully about which text you are going to use as your catalyst. For some, the answer might be blatantly obvious, but for others it might involve reviewing everything that you have read since the 5th grade. Your essay should not be about a book that you read for school "that actually wasn't that bad". This should be personal!

In an essay of between 900 and 1100 words, (roughly 3 pages double-spaced NOT including the works cited) write an original analysis on a novel or play from your personal reading that has caused you to have an "awakening". You will need to include a quote from your text, so make sure it is something that you either have a copy of or can find textual examples from online.

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Format:
• Include the following in the upper left-hand side of the first page: your name; a title for your paper; the number of words in your paper; the class name; the date
• Length: 900 words minimum; 1100 words maximum.
• Number each page with your last name in the upper right hand corner.
• Cite your quotes using MLA parenthetical citation style: i.e. (Austen 120).
• Type your essay with double spacing and 1" margins; use 12 pt. Times New Roman font.
• You must include a works cited page with this assignment.

You will be graded on…
1.) Introduction/ Conclusion
2.) Thesis
3.) Topic Sentence & Transitions
4.) Reflection & Evidence
5.) Commentary
6.) Style, Vocabulary & Sentence Structure
7.) Mechanics and MLA

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Assignment Timeline:

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Brainstorm - Similar to our essay brainstorms in the fall, I am asking everyone to brainstorm 2-3 book ideas that they could potentially write about. I would suggest writing roughly a paragraph for each book about what impacted you and why it is something noteworthy from your literary journey.	**Saturday May 2nd** Must be shared via google docs so that I can reply with comments and suggestions. - Effort Grade/ Credit
First paragraph with thesis underlined and correct header	**Saturday May 9th** Must be shared via google docs so that I can reply with comments and suggestions. - Effort Grade/ Credit
Final Essay due	**Saturday May 16th**

Critical Analysis Rubric

	Outstanding	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Unacceptable
Introduction/ Conclusion	o Introduction grabs attention and provides meaningful context to a persuasive argument o Conclusion effectively restates the argument, but fresh language and meaningful insight leaves reader wanting more **5**	o Introduction sparks some interest and effectively introduces reasonable argument o Conclusion restates arguments, but uses new language and shows understanding of the big picture **4**	o Introduction provides context for the argument but is obvious and/or basic o Conclusion restates arguments, but recycles previous statements verbatim **3**	o Introduction or conclusion does not flow with the argument of the paper o Introduction or conclusion contains blanket or vague statements; needs development to be effective **2**	o No introduction and/or conclusion **1 0**
Thesis	Argument is clearly articulated and persuasive, contains an original opinion **5**	Thesis presents a reasonable opinion, argument is clear and focused **4**	Thesis is a plausible argument; contains a legitimate opinion, but somewhat broad and basic **3**	Thesis demonstrates misunderstanding of the prompt or text **2**	Thesis not evident; thesis is a fact or plot summary; thesis not in correct position **1 0**
Topic Sentences and Transitions	Topic sentences contribute to the highly persuasive nature of the argument **5**	Topic sentences articulate precise argument; logically linked to thesis **4**	Topic sentences are present and make an argument connected to the thesis; however, ideas are obvious and basic **3**	Topic sentences are not linked to the thesis Topic sentences show misunderstanding or prompt or text **2**	Topic sentences not evident o Topic sentences are facts or summaries **1 0**
Reflection/ Evidence	You have chosen, for the most part, the best evidence to support your point. Reflection is clear. o Evidence is highly persuasive and effective in supporting your argument **10 9**	Your evidence is believable and convincing and supports your argument You have clearly reflected on this work. **8 7 6**	Evidence is present, but superficial Reflection could be stronger. **5**	Evidence chosen does not support thesis/topic sentences o Textual evidence is irrelevant **4 3 2**	Little or no evidence; **1 0**
Commentary	Creative/original ideas and insights; extensive commentary, refreshing; goes beyond obvious and basic commentary **10 9**	Analysis is believable and convincing, a few assertions may lack specific examples, but assertions are clearly connected to the argument **8 7 6**	Analysis supports your argument, but ideas are obvious and basic **5**	Ideas lack development; misunderstanding of prompt or text; illogical argument; **4 3 2**	Analysis not present simply plot summary o Analysis does not address the prompt **1 0**
Style, Vocabulary, Sentence Structure	Sophisticated vocabulary; sentence variety; quotations are smoothly blended **5**	Effectively blends direct quotation with explanatory words and phrases to introduce the quotation and facilitate narrative flow; still attempting advanced vocabulary **4**	Blends quoted material smoothly; but sentence structure lack variety-basic and obvious; attempts to incorporate more advanced vocabulary **3**	Problems with sentence clarity, redundancy; some quotes stand alone; some vague sentences; little use of class vocabulary or sentence variety **2**	Serious problems with coherence and sentence clarity; most sentences need revision; most quotes stand alone and lack introduction/ connection to the paper **1**
Mechanics and MLA	Perfect! (or 1 or 2 **minor** errors) **10 9**	Effective punctuation and MLA; close to perfect **8 7 6**	Minor problems with coherence, grammar, spelling, punctuation, but does not interfere with the understanding of paper **5**	Several distracting problems with spelling, grammar, punctuation, coherence; citations incorrect **4 3 2**	Major spelling, grammar, punctuation errors; distracts from understanding; citations non existent **1 0**

Total: _____ / 50