

General Overview of the Short Paper Assignments: The 3 short papers you'll complete this semester help you learn and hone skills in literary analysis. Each asks you to perform some type of close reading or interpretive exercise with different texts: close reading of a quotation, character; tracing an interpretive question or theme. Short papers are also an exercise in writing concisely and clearly: each paper can only be one-page, single-spaced, with a minimum of .07 spaced margins. No research is necessary for these.

Associated Course Objectives: "1. Construct thoughtful and persuasive responses using critical thinking and close reading skills" and "2. Recognize how literary devices, conventions, forms, and genres influence meaning."

Assignment for Short Paper #3: Generate an interpretive analysis from a question about a text we've read or will read in the second half of the semester

(In other words, you're answering a question and developing that answer through analysis of connected evidence in the text).

Text Choices: *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, excerpt from *A Small Place*, *Lucy*, "The Roofwalker," "Native Memory," "Goodbye to All That"

Invention / Brainstorming Process:

1. Choose one of your note card questions to answer, create a new question to answer, or respond to the following: "How are spaces or places significant in the text?"
2. Trace possible "answers" to this question through literary devices, characters, or themes in the novel. Note areas, passages, particular chapters or scenes, where you see this device, character, or theme at work. Choose one or two key moments that you can use to analyze as evidence that answers the question.
3. Use any of our analysis resources to help you dig into and analyze / discuss your evidence: the [Questions for Close Reading](#) handout, the Elements of Fiction guide, and the ["How to Analyze Poetry" handout](#). You can also use the questions below (in #4, about creating your thesis), to help you get started.
4. Create a thesis that serves as an answer to the question you're posing. Use the following questions to construct your thesis: What is your answer to your question? How do certain devices, characters, or themes develop your answer in the text (in other words, what's the evidence)? Why is this important for readers to notice in order to better understand the text?
5. Write a one-page, single-spaced paper that provides your thesis and works through the analysis of your device, character, or theme to illustrate the thesis.

Technical Requirements:

- Short paper should be no longer than one single-spaced page.
- USE 12-POINT FONT in Times New Roman (If you include a copy of the quotation or passage, you can use something smaller for that, but the text of your paper should be in 12-point). Margins can be no smaller than 0.7.
- Only put your name as a heading in the top lefthand corner of the paper.
- Quote elements of or words and phrases from key moments where necessary for your analysis.
- Note page numbers or Chapter numbers when citing key moments / evidence used from the text.
- Submit to the appropriate dropbox on Blackboard as a PDF or Word document (docx, doc) file.

Grading

This project will be evaluated using the [Short Paper 3 Rubric](#). Criteria include: Approach, Focus / Development, Organization, and Language / Style.

Need Additional Help?

- Make an appointment to see me during office hours (Wilson 318-B, MW 2-3pm; TTH 9:30-11am; Friday by appointment only).
- [Make an appointment with a Writing Center consultant for writing help](#): they'll be happy to work with you at any stage of this assignment (from generating ideas to drafting those ideas in the paper).
- If you need an example:** [Sample Paper Linked Here](#)