**Introduction**

Throughout the course, we have been walking the blurred line between reality and fiction. In our first unit, “Selling Fiction,” we looked at those who create fiction in real life, where we focused on con artists and the art of advertising. In our second unit, “Embracing Fiction,” we looked at those who survived their reality by embracing fiction, creating false identities for themselves in the fiction television series *The Riches* and the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr. The final unit, “Truth in Fiction,” explores how fictional stories provide us with important messages about reality, whether they speak to us about our world or ourselves as individuals.

**Part One: Story Analysis**

You will be expected to read two short stories. For each story, there will be questions assigned to explore the “truth” of that story – how that story relates to other stories that we have heard, seen, or read, what that story tells us about the world that we live in, and how that story speaks to us as individuals.

**Part Two: Story Writing/Story Analysis**

You can choose **one** of the two options below:

**Option One: Creative Work**

To write your own piece of fiction that provides some comment or message (i) on the world around us, (ii) for us as individuals, and (iii) that links, makes reference to, or resembles a different work of fiction or non-fiction in print, video, or other art form.

**Format** (choosing **one**):

* A three page piece of **prose**, if typed, then it should be double-spaced with a size 12 font
* A series of five **poems** or song, each roughly a half-page to page in length
* A **sequential art piece** (comic) that is about three pages long with at least an average of four panels per page

There should also be a one-page explanation accompanying the piece on how the story makes connections to the world, the individual, and other texts.

**Option Two: Story Analysis**

Choosing a short story, novel, graphic novel, or play, your assignment is to discuss the piece of fiction and present your findings through print, video, slides, comic book, or other medium, how the story provides “truth” about (i) the world around us, (ii) us as individuals, and (iii) that links, makes reference to, or resembles a different work of fiction or non-fiction in print, video, or other art form. Your presentation on the story should also include information about the **author**, a **summary** of the story, at least one **symbol** found in the story, and **why you selected that story** for your analysis.

**Format** (choosing **one**):

* A **slideshow** of at least ten slides
* A **bulletin board** with at least one double-spaced typed page per category (a total of three) and additional information about the story, the chosen symbol,
* **Podcast**, structured, that presents the information on the story and the background information that is also required.
* **An essay**, roughly 2 to 3 pages handwritten, or typed, double-spaced with a size 12 font

***Due Date****: Presentations of your completed projects will be on* ***Monday, June 20th*** *and the completed assignment will also be due on that date.*

Assignment Organizer

***What does the story say to us, as individuals?*** *That we have great potential? That we should love ourselves? That we have the potential to be good or bad? That we should not look back with regret?*

***What does the story say about the world around us?*** *Is the world a good place? Are people naturally good? Is life hard? How important is love and/or friendship? Does dishonesty or crime ever pay?*

*What* ***symbols*** *are used in the story? Which one sticks out for you? What does that symbol represent?*

*What other story or stories does this story remind you of? Why?*

*Summarize the story in a paragraph. How and where does it begin? What is the main thing that happens? How does it end?*

*Who is the author of the story? What else has that author written? What kind of books or stories does the author write? When was the author alive? Where is the author from? What is the author famous for?*

*Why did you choose this story for your analysis?*

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| **Criteria** | **Level 1 (50-59%)** | **Level 2 (60-69%)** | **Level 3 (70-79%)** | **Level 4 (80-100%)** | **%** |
| **Knowledge/ Understanding**  Student demonstrates understanding of the short story’s **content**, its **relation to other texts**, and the used of **a symbol used** | demonstrates a limited knowledge and understanding of the short story | demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the short story | demonstrates considerable knowledge and understanding of the short story | demonstrates a thorough knowledge and understanding of the short story | /15 |
| **Thinking**  Student is **able to find a message** – or messages - in the story that relate to (i) the **individual** and (ii) the **world** | able to find a message – or messages - in the story with limited effectiveness | able to find a message – or messages - in the story with some effectiveness | able to find a message – or messages - in the story with considerable effectiveness | able to find a message – or messages - in the story with a high degree of effectiveness | /15 |
| **Communication**  Student communicates ideas and findings **clearly** | Communicates ideas and findings with limited effectiveness | Communicates ideas and findings with some effectiveness | Communicates ideas and findings with considerable effectiveness | Communicates ideas and findings with a high degree of effectiveness | /10 |
| **Application**  Student **applies the theme** “truth in fiction” to the chosen text successfully and **used chosen media effectively** | applies the theme “truth in fiction” to the chosen text successfully and used chosen media with limited effectiveness | applies the theme “truth in fiction” to the chosen text successfully and used chosen media with some effectiveness | applies the theme “truth in fiction” to the chosen text successfully and used chosen media s with considerable effectiveness | applies the theme “truth in fiction” to the chosen text successfully and used chosen media with a high degree of effectiveness | /10 |