

Summer Reading 2019

Contemporary Lit

Welcome to Contemporary Literature! We will be studying various genres of literature, all published after World War II. To begin, this summer you will read:

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Tattoos on the Heart* by Fr. Gregory Boyle

Assignment #1 - 1984 Project

After reading *1984*, choose **one** of the following projects:

- Write a letter from one of the characters in the book to another character in the book or another person. What thoughts, wisdom, or insight could one character provide to the other?
- Re-write the climax from the point of view of a different character--not the protagonist. It can be the antagonist, another major character, or even a minor character.
- Write the epilogue of the story 1 year, 10 years, or 20 years after the end. Describe what the main character is doing, what he has done since the end of the novel, what he or she is like, and what his or her interests are.
- As a reporter, write an interview between the protagonist and another prominent character. Ask at least 10 thought-provoking questions and write their answers. Thought-provoking questions should be open-ended (not "yes or no") questions.
- Personify an object from the story, and have it summarize (or tell) the story from its own point of view.

*Adapted from an assignment created by That Rocks! Math, Science, and ELA
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/That-Rocks-Math-Science-And-ElA>

Your project, worth 50 points, will be graded on creativity, accuracy, completeness, effort, and English conventions. All projects should be **between 250-500 words**, typed (double-spaced) in a Google Document. I will provide instructions for how to submit them on Google Classroom on the first day of school. You **must** submit a digital copy. See rubric on next page.

1984 Project Rubric
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Concerns (Needs Improvement)	Criteria	Meets (or exceeds) Expectations
	Presentation/Creativity: Project showcases creativity and original thinking. Score: _____/15	
	Accuracy: All information from the text is correct and accurately represents the characters/plot/themes. Score: _____/15	
	Completeness: Project fulfills all requirements of the assignment. Score: _____/10	
	Effort/Conventions: Strong evidence of effort to complete project. Grammar, spelling, and conventions are correct. Score: _____/10	

Assignment #2: *Tattoos on the Heart* Discussion Questions

All high school students will read *Tattoos on the Heart* by Father Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest who works with gang members in Los Angeles. After reading, answer the following questions. Your answers should be written in complete sentences and typed in a Google Doc. Be sure to fully explain your thinking. Each answer should be *at least* a couple of sentences. Submit as an attachment on Google Classroom assignment on the first day of school. 50 points.

1. Begin with a discussion of the book's title: "Tattoos on the Heart." What does it mean...or refer to? And what is the purpose of tattoo removal?
2. How would you define, or describe, the central lesson that Father Boyle passes on—both to the young men in gangs...and to us, his readers?
3. How do inadequacy and shame function as barriers to giving and receiving love?
3. Does Father Boyle's approach to gang violence offer a realistic solution to a nationwide epidemic of poverty-violence-despair? Can it be (has it been) replicated in other areas, other cities? Or is his project too idealistic to work on a national scale? What do you think?
4. Talk about the book's individual stories: which are your favorites...which ones made you want to weep? Which made you laugh? Do you have a favorite?
5. What has made Boyle so successful in reaching the gang members? Is it his message...or is it his personal charisma...or what?
6. Discuss the role of faith in the men's transformation? Talk also about Boyle's inclusive philosophy—drawing on the wisdom of diverse faiths, as well as on history, philosophy, poetry.
7. How does Boyle interpret the Biblical parable about the paralyzed man being lowered through the roof of the house? Boyle agrees that the story is about the healing power of Jesus. But he also sees "something more significant happening. They're ripping the roof off the place, and those outside are being let in." In what way does the parable apply to the work of Homeboys?
8. What does this sentence mean—"We are all trying to learn how to bear the beams of love"?
9. In what way were you changed by this book? What surprised you most...moved you...angered you? What did you learn by reading *Tattoos on the Heart*?
10. Boyle challenges readers to "stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it." Is he successful in challenging you?

Tattoos on the Heart Discussion Questions Rubric
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Concerns (Needs Improvement)	Criteria	Meets (or exceeds) Expectations
	<p>Content: Your responses are substantial, thoughtful, and demonstrate your interaction with the text. Your ideas are original</p> <p>Score: _____/20</p>	
	<p>Accuracy: All information from the text is correct and accurately represents the book.</p> <p>Score: _____/15</p>	
	<p>Conventions: Strong evidence of effort to complete project. Grammar, spelling, and conventions are correct (including complete sentences).</p> <p>Score: _____/10</p>	
	<p>Completeness: Project fulfills all requirements of the assignment.</p> <p>Score: _____/5</p>	

In addition, be prepared to discuss and take a test on both texts when you return to school. I encourage you to take notes (either in your book or in a notebook) as you read so you can refer to them in preparation for the test.

Have a great summer, and happy reading!