**May the Force Be With You**



**American Studies**

**presents**

***Overarching Question*: How do the motifs of the Romantic era reflect a transformation in the American consciousness?**

**Due Date: 11/16 paper to Turnitin.com by midnight**

**Hard copy and project portion due Friday Nov. 17 in Ms. Cooper’s room**

Explore the two sides of Romanticism: Gothic and Transcendental, and how these literary movements reflect and impact/are impacted by their historical context. The American writers of the early to mid-19th century were deeply affected by the tumult in the American Psyche. For this project, it will be your job to create a **digital or non-digital artifact** and compose a **four to six page paper** that explores one of these literary movement’s motif’s, shows how it is developed in several works of literature, makes a connection between this motif and a specific cultural movement or event in Antebellum Era History, and explains how your artifact connects all of these things.

**General Criteria**

English Connection:

* Choose a specific genre: Transcendentalism or Gothic Romance
* Show the connection between at least TWO texts of your selected genre to a single motif of that genre (same motif for both texts not different motifs)

History Connection:

* Show the connection between your genre’s motif to ONE aspect of United States history between 1800 and 1850

**Specific Criteria**

Written Explanation Specifics (70pts)

* Explain the connection between your Romantic Movement motif to an Antebellum Era historical event/development (explain how/why connected)
* Must explain the elements of your creative piece (explain how/why represents motif and historical developments)
* Must include reference to TWO quotations, one from each selected literary text
* Include TWO Historical resources (non-text book sources of information) which are quoted/paraphrased/summarized and analyzed in connection to your concept.
* Length: 4-6 pages (1,000-1,500 words).
* MLA formatting and Works Cited Page required; must include literary sources as well as historical research sources used
* Must submit electronic copy to turnitin.com in addition to a hard copy turned in with the artifact

Artifact Specifics (30 pts)

* Artifact may be digital or non-digital in nature.
* Requires you to connect-the-dots for the audience by combining BOTH literary and historical elements to demonstrate your argument about the motif of the Romantic era as a reflection of the American consciousness.
* The project will show care and thorough work. It should be both orderly and creative.
* Examples might include
  + Non-digital: mobiles, a book jacket, posters or paintings, collage, ceramic figure, wall hanging, T-shirt, diorama/shadow box, movie poster, board game or other game, mural, etc.
  + Digital: infomercial, satire of show/movie, mock trial, reenactment, game show, parody, music video, voice-over video/slideshow (not lecture-based, must be creative), puppet show, etc.

**Grading**

* Grade represents both the creative piece (30pts) AND the paper (70pts). If you are missing a portion however, the project does not meet the criteria and is therefore incomplete. To be on time and graded, you must have the complete project turned in.
* 25% of semester grade- Research paper

**Overview of Topic**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **May the Force Be With You** | | | | |
|  | **Gothic Romance** | | **Transcendentalism** | |
| **Motifs** | * Irrational vs. rational * Signs & omens * Guilt | | * Goodness of man * Interconnectedness of World * Beauty and Peace of Nature | |
| **History** | * Slavery * Role of women/Cult of Domesticity * Native Americans * Immigration | * Nationalism * Industrialization * Market Economy * Rise of Democracy * War of 1812 | | * Manifest Destiny/Mexican War Second Great Awakening * Reform Movements * Utopian Societies * Role of American in World |
| **Questions** | * What cultural fears and anxieties are expressed by this literary movement? * How do the texts address the social and political trends of the time period? * How do these genres both shape and reflect the American culture? | | | |

**Rubric**

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| **Level** | **Description** | **Score** |
| **Superior** | **Artifact and paper** meet the expectations described below AND go “above and beyond” by showing a sophisticated mastery of language with an effective voice, and/or an originality and innovation clearly above expectations, and/or a depth of understanding that might include new insights and advanced critical analysis | 30 |
| 69/70 |
| **Strong** | Artifact is constructed with masterful use of detail and attention; reflects unique or inventive thinking, tying visual elements of project to underlying motif; distinctly demonstrates connections between motif, literature, and history. | 27/28/29 |
| Paper employs sophisticatedmethods to identify/describe the literary motifs in the artifact, using specific examples, significant details, and quotations to show complex connectionsbetween the motif, literature, and history; the main ideas are consistently clear and the paper is effectively structured to demonstrate a smooth flow of ideas; neatly typed using appropriate font, length is between 400-800 words, includes Works Cited page with parenthetical documentation (MLA formatted paper), and has few errors in grammar or spelling to detract from the quality of the writing. | 63/65/67 |
| **Adequate** | Artifact is constructed with strong use of detail and attention; reflects distinctive thinking, tying visual elements of project to underlying motif; clearly demonstrates connections between motif, literature, and history. | 24/25/26 |
| Paper clearly identifies/describes the literary motifs in the artifact, using specific examples, relevant details, and quotations to show the connections between the motif, literature, and history; the main ideas are clear and the paper is appropriately structured to demonstrate a smooth flow of ideas; neatly typed using appropriate font, length is between 400-800 words, includes Works Cited page with parenthetical documentation (MLA formatted paper), and has limited errors in grammar or spelling but they do not detract from the quality of the writing. | 56/59/62 |
| **Developing** | Artifact is constructed with clear use of detail and attention; reflects conventional thinking, tying visual elements of project to underlying motif; clearly demonstrates connections between motif, literature, and history. | 21/22/23 |
| Paper clearly identifies/describes the literary motifs in the artifact, using specific examples, a few details, and quotations to show the connections between the motif, literature, and history; the main ideas are clear and the paper is appropriately structured to demonstrate a smooth flow of ideas; neatly typed using appropriate font, length is between 400-800 words, includes Works Cited page with parenthetical documentation (MLA formatted paper), and has several errors in grammar or spelling but they do not detract from the quality of the writing. May be weak on one or two areas and/or may fail to go beyond class lectures and textbooks. | 49/52/55 |
| **Emerging** | Artifact meets the expectations described above to connect the cultural trends of the antebellum period to the Romantic Movement in literature, but may **lack:**  clarity, connection to an underlying motif, literature, or historical element. May fall short in a number of areas that significantly detract from overall project. | 18/19/20 |
| Paper may lack sufficient support for main idea or not focus on a central idea, key concepts may not be addressed or are inadequately explained, responses may be too simplistic, and the may contain factual errors that impacts understanding of the concepts. | 42/45/48 |
| **Unacceptable** | Artifact made an attempt to connect the cultural trends of the antebellum period to the Romantic Movement in literature, but was incomplete. May not address the artifact’s significance to the overall project. Artifact may appear sloppy and fail to connect to motifs, literatures, and/or history. | 15 |
| Paper may be less than 500 words and fail to include two quotes, may misuse or misunderstand the selected texts or motifs, may fail to use MLA format correctly and may fail to justify or explain the connection between literature and history; other areas may be significantly weak. | 35 |
| **Notes:**  -10 points for each DAY late (maximum -50)  -5 points for any incorrect MLA formatting. Projects without citations will not be accepted and will accrue late points.  -50 point for projects lacking either the artifact or paper (half a project). | | |