**Essay 3: Thematic Analysis**

Due Date: November 28

Assignment: Explore the similarities and differences in how two literary works treat one or more common themes.

You may choose from among any of the short stories, poems, plays, or novels we have read this semester. Please write about only two texts, though. Your goal, in discussing how the two texts you select represent the shared theme, is to support an argument about *what the authors’ similar and/or different treatments of the theme help us to understand about the theme*.

Criteria for Evaluation

* A thesis statement which explains how the way in which the two texts treat a shared theme says something about the ways the theme can be represented in fiction.
* A strategic close reading of specific passages—at least one passage per text—which provides key quotations in support of the thesis. Recall how we defined “passage” for Essay 1.
* Clear transitions which explain the relationship (similarities or differences) between how the two works treat the shared theme. How you use transitions depends in part on how you choose to organize your paper. What you **should not** do under any circumstances is to organize your paper into two blocks that deal with the two scenes separately without ever explaining how they may connect with each other.
* Interpretive statements in your own words explaining how the evidence from the texts supports your claims.
* Minimal plot summary (i.e., the writer spends only a few words on telling us what is happening, and devotes most of her/his space to explaining why it matters).

Grading

Essay 3 is worth 250 points.

Format

Essay 3 should be 5-7 pages in length. Please type your papers in 12-point Times New Roman font; use 1-inch margins.