

English 12

Learning Guides 12 & 13

What you will hand in:

- Prose analysis assignment on a work of fiction
- Prose analysis assignment on a work of non-fiction
- Prose analysis assignment on a work of a “free-choice” text

Activity 1: Choosing your prose selections

The next section of your Inquiry Project is where you choose three prose selections. (Prose is the opposite of poetry, so prose includes anything that isn't a poem.)

Your prose selections must be

- Published
- At grade level and intended for senior students or adults
- Appropriate for school
- Related to your big question.

In the classroom we have quite a few anthologies. Anything selected from these anthologies is acceptable for this Inquiry project.

- One of your texts must be **fiction**. (People often get this one backwards. Fiction means that it is made up, or a creation of the imagination – a short story or novel.)
- One of your texts must be **non-fiction**. A good source for this is the Internet. I have often had success typing a student's “Big Question” into the search bar. Make sure that your source is reputable and that the information is valid.
- Your third text is **free choice**. As long as it is prose, and related to your “Big Question” it is acceptable. You might choose another short story, another essay, a graphic novel, a web page blog or entry, a documentary, another drama, or almost anything else. Many students in the past have chosen the movie that goes with their novel.

Activities 2, 3 and 4: Analyze your prose texts

Complete an investigation on each of your texts. Each of your texts needs to be handed in on a separate piece of paper, or as a separate file if you email them to me. **Your bibliographic entry needs to be written, so that I know that you can do it, but you may choose, if you prefer, to make notes and either record your answer verbally and email it to me, or come in and talk to me about it.**

- 1) Create a bibliographic entry for each text. This should be the first thing on the page. We will go over the rules for creating an MLA7 style entry, but there is an example below. **This must be written.**
- 2) Write a "Connection" paragraph (or a few sentences) explaining how your text relates to your big question.
- 3) Write a question that you would like to answer in a literary response. This should be a question with depth, requiring more than a simple answer, and should give you room for discussion. This is the question you will answer in your "Stand-Alone" style response. Many short story anthologies already have good questions, but you should practice writing your own, as this is a skill you will need in higher education.
- 4) Write a Stand-Alone style literary response of 150 – 300 words to answer your question. As a literary response, your paragraph should incorporate the title of the text, the author's name, and the format in the first sentences or two. Remember to use specific examples or quotes from the story to support your points. Remember to use the objective voice.

I will be marking:

- Your bibliographic entry
- Your connection to your Inquiry question
- Your question itself (feel free to check this with me before you begin)
- The answer to the question you ask.

Most of the marks for each of these three assignments will come from the quality of your paragraph answer.

Your finished assignment will look something like this:

My Name

Inquiry Project: "Text 1", Fiction

Lastname, Firstname M. "Name of Short Story". *Title of Book it is Published In*. Editor: First. M Last. City: Publisher, Year Published. Page(s). Method of Publication.

Arnason, David. "A Girl's Story". *Echoes 12: Fiction, Media and Non-Fiction*. Editors: Francine Artichuk et al; Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2002. Pages 227-234. Text.

Inquiry Question Connection:

My Inquiry Question is "How does art imitate life?" and this story connects to it because in "A Girl's story" the narrator is trying to explain how . . .

Question(s):

How does the author use visual imagery to make a connection?

My Literary Response:

"A Girl's Story" by David Arnason uses visual imagery to make a direct connection with the reader and to further the theme that life is important and should be valued. According to Smith, "If you want your character to be really beautiful there has to be some minor defect," and this clearly shows that the author . . .