

ENGL 2240
British Literature after 1789
Dr. Adam Abraham
Fall 2020

ESSAY

DUE: Monday 2 November by 4:30 pm
Attach a file and email to asa0047@auburn.edu. In the subject line write “ESSAY”

To read is to reread. For the essay, each student will generate a close reading. Choose one poem that we read this semester. DO NOT choose “The Tyger” or “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (they were used for demonstration purposes). You are welcome to choose a poem that you annotated, but this is not obligatory.

Recall “How to Read a Poem.” Reread your selected poem and note the rhyme scheme and meter. However, formal observations are not enough. In this essay, you should make an argument about what the poem is doing. Think about the following:

- Language. What is the word choice—ordinary or antiquated? Are there any repetitions? Similes or metaphors? How does the language impact the meaning?
- Form. How does the poem use rhyme and meter? Do rhymes and rhythm shape the meaning of the poem? What do you notice about line endings and stanza structure?
- Speaker. Who is the speaker? How would you characterize the voice of the poem? Is there irony? What is the relationship between the speaker and the audience?
- Main Idea. Can you summarize the poem? Does it resolve an issue? Is there closure?

Be sure to QUOTE from the poem a few times to provide evidence for your reading. After each quote, include the page number in parentheses, thus: (267). Do not include a list of works cited. Do not conduct research. The task is to read one poem carefully.

STEPS. First, reread your selected poem OUT LOUD. Second, pay attention to what you noticed. Third, think about why these elements might be significant. Fourth, organize your thoughts into a well-written essay with multiple paragraphs. Determine why the poem operates as it does. What is it doing?

REQUIREMENTS

- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.
In Microsoft Word, you should select “2.0.”
- Write in multiple paragraphs. Indent each new paragraph. Do no skip lines.
- Follow the conventions of edited American English. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*. There is no better book on the subject of English language usage.
- Submit the essay as an attachment. Use Microsoft Word or pdf form.
- Approximate length = 1,000 words.
- The first page should be a TITLE PAGE. Create a title for your essay. The title page should be formatted in roughly the following fashion:

Title of Essay (NOTE: Mixed Case, not ALL CAPS)

Your Name

ENGL 2240

Date of Submission

Word Count: Number

- “Essay” or “Close Reading” is NOT a reasonable title. That is the assignment. Create a title that suggests what your essay is about.
- Essays will be graded in two areas: content and expression. *Expression* refers to English grammar, spelling, punctuation, and the specifications on this document.
- Each essay will get a score from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest) in each area. The two scores will then be averaged.
- You may submit late if you send a request by email no later than one or two days BEFORE the deadline. See the syllabus for further details.
- If you want more guidance, write an email to set an appointment.