

**Notes on Copying - Lessons by Adrienne Kennedy**  
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4/5/15

T.S Eliot *The Wasteland* Introduction

Ameliorate - To make something better

Nadir - Lowest point in life

Bulwark - A defensive wall

Manqué - Failed expectations

On the national, the breakdown Eliot envisioned was a consequence of the state of Europe during and after the great war. More personally, the poem can be read from the trenches of a poet who, though he didn't actually fight in the war, fought and survived his own metaphorical war.

The *Wasteland* achieves a synthesis between the free-floating observations of prufrock and the anguished, surreal pretensions of *Poems 1920*.

Praxis - Practice, a distinguished from theory

Gratuitous - Uncalled for, lacking good reason

Pragmatic - Dealing with things sensibly and realistically

Tropes - A figurative and metaphorical use of a word

The themes, the tropes, the images, the aesthetic that Eliot created in that poem are still going strong, inescapably etched into our cultural consciousness nearly a century later.

Eliot postulated that the modern landscape...

A first-time reader confronted with *The Wasteland* must determine how to assimilate it and make sense of it.

Aesthetics - a set of principles concerned with the nature and appreciation of beauty, especially in art

Zeitgeist - the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time

Modernists believed that the more complex a text is, the more likely it is to do justice to the complexity of the world outside, a world outside, a world that in the space of one generation is awakening to cinema, telephones, automobiles, airplanes, world war, and so forth.

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*The Wasteland*

*Set a path for yourself. Become an expert in something.*

Talk with Keith Carter

Tiresias - Blind Greek prophet of Apollo in Thebes - famous for clairvoyance

Clairvoyance - the supposed faculty of perceiving things or events in the future or beyond normal sensory contact.

The references to various sources; the writer wants us to get its internal connection phrase: how we might organize and categorize the array of images and themes that the poem presents.

A poem may be read as a kind of quest.

Eclectic - Deriving ideas from diverse sources

Ovid - Roman poet, who wrote epic metamorphoses

Baudelaire - French poet, who wrote *Les Fleurs du Mal*

Goldsmith - Anglo-Irish poet, who wrote the novel *Vicar of Wakefield*

Verlaine - French poet, represent fin/de/siècle (turn of the century)

I think Eliot intended that people not read the poem in isolation, because it makes sense only to the extent the we appreciate it as being in dialogue with the vast tradition that precedes it.

His significance, his appreciation is the appreciation of his relation to dead poets and artists.

You cannot value him alone; you must set him, for contrast and comparison, among the dead.

The existing monuments form an ideal order among themselves, which is modified by the introduction of the new work of art among them.

Chaucer - Father of English Literature, wrote *The Canterbury Tales*

Shakespeare - Greatest writer of the English language

Dante Alighieri - Great Italian poet who wrote *The Divine Comedy*, considered the greatest literary work composed in Italy

Fecund - Capable of producing an abundance of offsprings

Anagnorisis - Moment in a play when a character makes a discovery

Spiritual Quest

The cruelty of Eliot's April as contrasted with the sweetness of Chaucer's, reflects the modernist angst at coming around once to a season that had traditionally been associated with rebirth and resurrection

Amanuensis - Literary assistant who copies manuscripts

Polymorphous - Having occurred in many forms

Degradation - Process of degrading

Exaltation - Feeling of extreme happiness

Shakespeare gives the greatest width of human passion; Dante the greatest altitude and greatest depth.

Scholarly Words

Matriculated - To enroll at a college

Esoteric - To only be understood by a small number of people

Precipitously - Excessive careless speed

August - Respected and impressive

Doleful - Expressing sorrow, mournful

Fetid - smelling unpleasant

Wrenched - To turn suddenly violently

Classicism - Greek Roman principles and style in art and literature associated with harmony restraint and adherence to standards

Neurosis - Excessive and irrational anxiety

Fiduciary - Involving trust with another

Pugilist - A professional boxer

Visceral - Deep inward feelings

Breadth - Wide range extent

Juvenila - Works produced by an author when they were young

Milieu - One's social environment

Piece de Resistance - Most noteworthy aspect of one's life

Ratiocinate - One's process of reasoning

Ambience - Atmosphere of a place  
Banal - Lacking originality, boring  
Zeal - Great energy in pursuit of an objective  
Poignancy - Evoking emotions of sadness

4/6/15

Homework

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a book with a plethora of themes, tropes and images; the plot of the book involves various perspectives of characters that allows the reader to gain an understanding of the author's overall mindset. The book opens with letters from a man named Walton, he is writing his sister Elizabeth, for he has taken his ship and crew into some colossal glaciers in the arctic. Walton searches for glory and power, but is constantly eluded. One day he comes in contact with a man whose name (Victor Frankenstein) we don't know until later.

After reading a few letters the book switches into the perspective of Victor Frankenstein who is living in Vienna, Austria. Victor is a man with the highest of aspirations, he grows up with a girl named Elizabeth who is his one love throughout the book. Victor wants to leave his hometown and become a scientist. He matriculates at Ingolstadt and begins his studies. He labors day and night learning with great zeal and tenacity. However Victor becomes obsessed with this new project - to create life, the greatest, holiest power in the world. He assembles body parts of the dead and construes them together. After months of work he finally finished, he created this monster, a being so hellish and vile that no man could ever love it. Victor, in fear flees his laboratory. He returns the next night to discover that the fiend he had created was no longer in his lab, for it had escaped. After weeks of feeling sorry for himself he finally decides to return to his home in Vienna to see his family.

A series of tragic events occur throughout the book including the entire demise of Victor's family by the hands of the very monster he created. Victor ultimately goes insane searching the arctic for his monster and he eventually meets Captain Walton in the tundra. The monster watches Victor die of frostbite and then proceeds to burn himself so that he can end his wretched life.

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4/7/15

Within the schema of the Wasteland

*The Burial of the Dead*

April is the cruellest month

Binary - Two parts

Facsimile - Exact copy

Ezra Pound - Poet, who wrote *Cantos*, *Ripostes*

We see Pound's extensive and brilliant editing of a messy, uncertain manuscript, a testimony to his crucial role as Eliot's midwife in the poem's birth.

Expatriates - Someone who lives in another country other than their birth country

Economy of Language

Cognizant - Having knowledge or being aware

Relegating large, ineffective passages to the cutting room floor; heightening a sense of sensory immediacy and direct visual intensity; linking and juxtaposing scenes with quick startling cuts.

Prosody - Patterns of rhythm and sound

Volitional - an act of making a choice or decision; also : a choice or decision made

Henry James - Famous American-British writer

Modern Post War World

Lost Generation

*Mea Culpa* - My fault

Ephemeral - lasting a very short time; short-lived

Erudite - having or showing great knowledge or learning.

*Lovesong of Alfred J. Prufrock*

“In the room women come and go talking of Michelangelo”

Homework

Write anything about T.S Eliot using a plethora of phrases

Understand the three levels of *The Lovesong of Prufrock*

Structure was heavily influenced by Dante

1. Surface - Life in London, he is growing old
2. Metaphorically - The dissatisfaction with life
3. Humanistically - Telling everyone to slow down and enjoy life because death comes unexpectedly

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4/8/15

T.S Eliot

One cannot begin to understand T.S Eliot alone; one must set him up for contrast and comparison among the dead. The general milieu of the poems is one of great complexity and perplexity, we see Eliot constantly switching back and forth from scene to scene as he was heightening the reader's sense of immediacy and direct visual intensity; juxtaposing, linking with quick startling cuts. If one is to read *The Wasteland* one must be open to learning an abundance of scholars and philosophers that Eliot references. His significance, his appreciation is the appreciation of his relation to dead poets and artists. Eliot frequently references Dante, Chaucer and Shakespeare, these existing monuments of work form an ideal order among themselves which is modified by Eliot's new work of art.

Journal Entry #1

Life is what you make it, life can be anything you want it to be. We as humans have the ability to try and change our standing in life. That is what I am beginning to understand, if you are unhappy about something, the only one who can change that is yourself.

You must develop your own critical abilities

Lacunae - an unfilled space or interval; a gap

Avatar - a manifestation of a deity or released soul in bodily form on earth; an incarnate divine teacher

Poetry can endure and provide salvation

Again, there is no water, but there is sound of water, the promise of water, the proximity of water, even the feel, damp of water

The poet has traversed the desert and the burden of the poem is absorbing and conveying all the suffering and horror that accompanies the metaphorical journey.

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4/9/15

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is the opposite of an esoteric book, it is an easy read and the milieu of the book has a breadth about it which can evoke visceral feelings. The protagonist, Victor searches for his piece de resistance in life. The cruelty of the monster is contrasted with the

sweetness of Elizabeth, reflects Shelley's doleful childhood and her overall unhappiness with life.

## Journal Entry #2

Well now I am longing for happiness, for I have a girlfriend, Rachel, she is sweet and I enjoy her presence. I wish I could see her more but her parents are terribly strict orthodox Jews. Anyways, what else is going on in my mind? I need to get off my ass and get to work on something. I am losing time to achieve greatness. Time is precious, it shouldn't be wasted. I must take the opportunities given to me and turn them into something glorious. That is what I must - what I will do, for my legacy depends on it.

## Homework

Write two strong paragraphs using many new words and phrases

## T.S Eliot *The Wasteland*

Life has become barren and sterile, that man is withering, impotent and without assurance that the water which made the land fruitful will ever rise again

The *Wasteland* - that the land was fruitful and now is not, that life had been rich, beautiful, assured, organized, lofty, and now is dragging itself out in a poverty-stricken - and is disrupted an ugly tedium, without health, and with no consolation in mortality; there may remain for the poet the labor of poetry but in the poem there remains only these fragments "I have shored against my ruins - the broken glimpses of what was."

Mr. Bertrand Russell has recently said that since the Renaissance the clock of Europe has been running down; without the feeling that it was wound up, without contrasting emotions as one looks at the past and present.

## Poignancy - Evoking emotions

Eliot is a poet - that is, he feels intensely and with distinction and speaks naturally in beautiful verse - so that, no matter within what walls he lives, he belongs to divine company

The very images and the sound of the words - even when we do not know precisely why he has chosen them - are charged with a strange poignancy which seems to bring us into the heart of the singer.

Eliot is speaking not only for personal distress but for the starvation of civilization

Ether - The clear sky; the upper regions of air beyond the clouds

Satirist - Literature with the intent of shaming individuals, corporations, government or society itself, into improvement

Euchre - A card game for two to four players, usually played with the thirty-two highest cards, the aim being to win at least three of the five tricks played

William Yeats - Was an Irish poet and one of the foremost figures of twentieth century literature. A pillar of both the Irish and British literary establishments. Yeats was a driving force behind the Irish Literary Revival and, along with Lady Gregory, Edward Martyn, and others

Ralph Ellison - Ralph Waldo Ellison was an American novelist, literary critic, and scholar. Ellison is best known for his novel *Invisible Man*, which won the National Book Award in 1953.

4/9/15

Homework

In *Julius Caesar*, Caesar is murdered by his “friends” in the senate, a great leader ruled Rome and now he does not, Rome will never see another augustly, powerful, methodical general and tactician, and now Rome is in chaos, disrupted by outrage, an ugly tedium, we see those remaining stricken by greed and lust, but what remains of Caesar is his everlasting legacy as the first emperor of mighty Rome. The story of Gaius Julius Caesar is true, but Shakespeare turned it into his own masterpiece. His writing, the very images and the sounds of the words - even when we do not know precisely why he has chosen them are charged with a strange poignancy which seems to bring us into the heart of a singer. We see Shakespeare’s extensive and brilliant work brought to life on paper and the stage, a testimony to his standing as a member of the English literary canon. Mr. Bertrand Russell once said that since the renaissance the clock of Europe has been running down; without feeling that it was every wound up; however, I partially disagree - yes it is true that we don’t see a large amount of current celebrated European poets and writers as we once did, but we can not denounce or forget the legends of the past.

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4/10/15

*The Wasteland*

- Remember the people and book you like

T.S Eliot writes about Dante

At least, it is better to be spurred to acquire scholarship, because you enjoy poetry, than to suppose that you enjoy the poetry because you have acquired the scholarship.

Elucidation - Explanation that makes something clear; clarification

Racine - occupational name for a grower or seller of root vegetables, or a nickname for a tenacious and stubborn man

- Find time to learn Italian

Virgil - One of Rome's greatest poets, he wrote the *Aeneid*

Malign - Evil in nature or effect; malevolent

- Read Dante Cantos I, Cantos II
- Order Aeneid

Reflection

This week I have learned a great deal about scholarly analytical writing and my writing has improved tenfold, I can't wait to see what it will be like in say a couple months, or a year.

4/10/15

Journal Entry #3

I am constantly thinking of my girlfriend, Rachel Antonina Sergevina Cheruk Iczkovits. She is Russian and beautiful at that. I only get to speak with her every couple days, and it is tearing at my soul because I long to be with her or just speak words to her. I seem lost without her, I need help to get back on the path of righteousness. I need love back in my life because without love I am lost.

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4/11/ 15

Homework

The themes, the tropes, the images, the aesthetic Shakespeare created in *Hamlet* are still going strong inescapably etched into our cultural consciousness nearly four centuries later. Though *Hamlet* has been polymorphed on stage and on paper the play still endures and provides salvation for many. You cannot value Shakespeare alone; you must set Shakespeare, for contrast and comparison, among the dead. Shakespeare is a poet - that is, he feels intensely and with distinction and speaks naturally with beautiful verse - so that no matter where his soul resides, he belongs to divine company. The very images and the sounds of the words - even when we do not know why he has chosen them are charged with a strange poignancy which seems to bring us into the heart of a singer. For Prince Hamlet's life has become barren and sterile, the

trustworthiness of man is withering, impotent and without assurance that the water which made this life meaningful will ever rise again.

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4/13/15

Homework

Why does one like Malcolm X? For one, he speaks with such ferocity and commands such a great presence which is ideal for any great orator. One wishes to command an audience the way he does. This is why he's one of my role models - because he had a great passion for what he believed in and he was willing to die for it.

Journal Entry #4

It is a new day with many new adventures ahead of me. I am overjoyed to be living the life that I do. I have matriculated to Virginia Commonwealth University and they are paying for the entire thing, which is amazing I am so happy with life.

- Strengthen your ability to write dense paragraphs

Journal Entry #5

Well currently I am stressed out about my relationship with my current girlfriend, Rachel. She really is controlled by her parents who are Jewish. They don't allow her to be with me or anyone for that matter. I wish that I could be with her. I never get to see her and I hate it. I can't take not seeing her and I felt like I finally found someone who cares for me and whom I care for, but it seems I still have nobody to count on. I truly feel lost when I am not with her. However this allows me to grow as a person and build more confidence for myself - I guess.

4/13/15

*Aristotle's Poetics*

Tragedy is an imitation of an action that is complete, and whole and of a certain magnitude  
A well constructed plot, therefore must neither begin nor end haphazard

Orderly arrangement of parts

Unity, sensuous presentment, dramatic competition

The sequence of events - bad fortune to good or good fortune to bad

He made the Odyssey, and likewise the Iliad to centre round an action that our sense of word is one.

The true difference between the poet and historian, one relates what happens, other what may happen

Poetry is more philosophical and a higher thing than history: for poetry tends to express universality, history the particular  
Critical insight

Coleridge - Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet, literary critic and philosopher who, with his friend William Wordsworth, was a founder of the Romantic Movement in England and a member of the Lake Poets

Nearer in spirit to Shakespeare's art

Hamlet is a Stratification

Coleridge - Uses narrative techniques such as personification and repetition

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4/14/15

Homework

John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* is a fairly simple read and provides important lessons of life without much analysis. Steinbeck develops characters with such width and depth that all readers can find some type of relation with at least one of the characters. The plot follows the sequence of events; bad fortune to good or good fortune to bad. There is a sense of unity in *East of Eden* because it is broken into various parts which creates a division of different plots. Steinbeck shows his critical insight into the types of people one may encounter in life.

*What do you fear?*

I fear not achieving success, that is what wakes me up in the middle of the night. If I do not obtain a status in this world then I am a failure. I can't be a failure or my life will mean nothing. I fear not being remembered by anyone in this world. If I am not remembered then I will be forever dead and lost, but I want to live forever through the memories and thoughts of people

living. Through my work, my writing, the things I do in this world I hope that they become imprinted into the timeline. I fear death.

### *Hamlet*

In William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the protagonist prince Hamlet becomes aware by his father's ghost that his father has been murdered by his uncle. Hamlet devises a plan to act mad and crazy so that he could buy time to figure out what to do about his uncle, King Claudius. Hamlet decides to put on a play resembling the murder of his father and perform it in front of the king. He figures out that his uncle has truly killed his father because of Claudius's reaction to the play. Hamlet goes on to accidentally kill Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and ultimately he kills Ophelia because of his neglect of her. In the end *Hamlet* is poisoned, and his mother is killed along with Laertes and King Claudius. Overall this knowledge of his father's death, and his inability to act on the situation causes the demise of everyone in Denmark.

Hamlet and Julius Caesar both deal with royalty and their problems in their respective countries, Italy and Denmark. In *Hamlet*, the prince Hamlet finds out that his father, the King, has been murdered. In *Julius Caesar* the main character, Caesar is gaining enormous power politically and economically in ancient Rome. Hamlet is the prince of Denmark and his uncle, King Claudius has taken power of the kingdom. Hamlet slowly plans how to get revenge for his father's death. In *Julius Caesar*, the various Roman senators are jealous and envious of Caesar and are afraid that he was going to take complete power of Rome. In both cases the antagonists are in search of power by force, the senators want to stop a tyrant by killing him to regain their power - the power of a republic, while Claudius wants to take power from his brother by assassinating him and hoping that nobody will realize that it was him. Hamlet relies on his good friend Horatio and his lover Ophelia. Caesar relies on Marc Antony, Calpurnia and unfortunately he relies on Brutus to be his friend.

### *What are the biggest issues in Hamlet and Julius Caesar?*

The biggest problem we see in *Hamlet* is Hamlet's inability to act on his current situation concerning the murder of his father. In *Julius Caesar* the main conflict is between Caesar and his enemies in the senate. Hamlet is faced with a huge dilemma, he must decide to either get revenge for his father's murder or to do nothing and allow for his traitorous uncle to rule the kingdom.

### *What is going on in Rome ?*

Caesar has crossed the Rubicon river in Italy, he has entered the capital with his army and the senators fear that their republic will fall to this potential dictator. In Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* the conspirators plan the assassination of Caesar; however the prior day Caesar had not accepted

the throne offered to him by the people of Rome, for he “thrice refused.” The citizens of Rome are happy and there is peace throughout the empire.

*What is going on in Denmark?*

The kingdom of Denmark has just been in a war and the King of Denmark has just been murdered by his brother Claudius, now Claudius rules all of the kingdom. King Claudius has taken power and they are holding a funeral for the late king. The city is saddened by the death of the king, but King Claudius reassures them that all will be well in the kingdom of Denmark. The throne is not the only thing that Claudius wants to take from the former king, for he also marries his brother's wife, which enrages Hamlet and drives him into madness.

- Compare the ancient mariners loneliness with Coleridge's own feelings of loneliness expressed in his letters and journals

*Write about the Godfather*

Francis Coppola's extensive and brilliant editing of the screenplay *The Godfather*, a testimony to his creative genius and his role as a revolutionary writer.

*The Godfather* conveys various themes and images that build an internal connection between the audience and the characters which make it a great film. There are so many different dynamics within *The Godfather*, such as the relationship between Marlon Brando's character, Don Corleone and Al Pacino's character Michael Corleone - the relationships within the mafia and how the Corleone family operates all come together to create an outstanding piece of film.

4/15/16

*Cezanne A Study of his Development*

*By Roger Fry*

Tribal Deity - God of a tribe

Spiritual Essence - The spiritual essence of the big religions has often been stripped away by financial and political forces to turn the “flock” into blind followers rather than free and independent sources of wisdom and love. This is not to say that people can't or don't experience true spiritual awakening and find great inner peace and strength through the guidance of others, including traditional religious guidance.

Progeny - A descendant or the descendants of a person, animal, or plant; offspring.

Depolarized - Reduce or remove the polarization of

Cezanne is not decorative like so many other contemporaries

Which renders it immediately apparent

Asymptote - a line that continually approaches a given curve but does not meet it at any finite distance.

Plentitude - the condition of being full or complete

Vehemence - the display of strong feeling; passion

Paradoxical - seemingly absurd or self-contradictory.

Posthumous - occurring, awarded, or appearing after the death of the originator.

Half conscious of the immensity of his genius

### *Michael Corleone*

In the movie *The Godfather* we see the character Michael Corleone go through a dynamic change as he progresses as a character he evolves into a person who will lead the Corleone crime family. At the start of the movie Michael is a returning war hero, with no connections to the family business. Everything is going well until the rival family, the Tattaglia family attempts to kill Don Corleone by shooting him in the streets. Michael learns of the attack on his father and decides to visit him in the hospital. At the hospital Michael sees that there are no police officers guarding his father, he cleverly positions himself and another man outside of the hospital with their hands in their pockets as if they were carrying guns. This deters the men coming to finish the job and his father lives. After this event Michael begins to take his position as a key member of the Corleone family. He goes on to get revenge for the attempted assassination of his father by shooting the head of the police and the “prince” of the Tattaglia family

4/17/15

### *Hamlet*

Hamlet in the play *Hamlet* is a person who does not trust anyone, for he has lost faith in humanity. He can not comprehend the fact that his uncle could murder his father, this is something once unfathomable, but his father's ghost tells him otherwise. Hamlet becomes twisted and lost because he feels that he has nobody to turn to. Hamlet begins to act crazy and mad and he puts up this facade to make people think that he is weak.

### *T.S Eliot*

T.S Eliot postulated that Shakespeare, like all great poets, was occupied with struggle, for he wanted to transmute his public and private agonies into something rich and unique, something universal and impersonal. Shakespeare was representative of the 16th century literature and his zeal to create something permanent and holy out of his personal feelings is why we respect his work all these years later. Shakespeare's plays contain well constructed plots, with an orderly arrangement of parts and has a unity about them which is essential for a playwright.

Shakespeare's work expressed the greatest emotional intensity of his time. Every poet writes with

their emotions, and as a great poet, in writing himself, he writes his time. Shakespeare is great because he is not only speaking for personal distress but for the starvation of civilization, and it is said that poetry can endure and provide salvation for many.

4/17/15

T.S Eliot's Essay about Shakespeare

What every poets starts from is his own emotions

Dante's railings, his personal spleen - sometimes thinly disguised under old testament prophetic denunciations - his nostalgia, his bitter regrets for past happiness - or for what seems happiness when it is past - and his brave attempts to fabricate something permanent and holy out of his personal animal feelings - as in the *Vita Nuova* - can all be matched out of Shakespeare.

Shakespeare, too was occupied with the struggle - which alone constitutes life for a poet - to transmute his personal and private agonies into something rich and strange, something universal and impersonal.

Shakespeare's general cynicism and disillusionment are merely gigantic attempts to metamorphose private failure and disappointments.

The great poet, in writing himself, writes his time

Thus Dante, hardly knowing it, became the voice of the 13th century; Shakespeare; hardly knowing it became the representative of the end of the 16th century, of a turning point in history

If Shakespeare had written according to a better philosophy, he would have written worse poetry; it was his business to express the greatest emotional intensity of his time, based on whatever his time happened to think

Shakespeare's trivialities are more valuable than other people's epics

*Describe people or characters using phrases*

T.S Eliot said that shakespeare wrote with the great emotional intensity of his time. His plays have been able to touch people in a remarkable, but the greater achievement is that his play still touch people to this day.

Ophelia was infatuated by Hamlet the prince of Denmark, and when he abandoned her, she lost the will to live, ultimately drowning herself in the river.

Luke Skywalker is the son of Anakin Skywalker who has become Darth Vader - who is the epitome of evil, and Luke is the hero who defeats his father to bring peace to the galaxy; revealing the universal theme where good trumps evil.

Star Wars contains universal themes of good versus evil, but takes place in this world, so rich and strange that the audience becomes immersed in the characters and the plot. The unity in Star Wars and the orderly arrangement of parts appeals to the common man - a testament to the movie's success.

Marc Antony is a majestic and ferocious orator, and the speech he gives to the people of Rome after the murder of Gaius Julius Caesar has the greatest passion and depth I have ever seen.

4/18/15

A poet makes poetry, he is not a philosopher

The end of the 16th century is the epoch when it is particularly difficult to associate poetry with systems of thought or reasoned view of life

His work was filled with broken fragments here and there

Vast jumble of incoherent rendition on which he drew merely for poetic effects

He suggested that the profundity and obscurity of his dark thinking is due to his lifting of other writers' works

Shakespeare was a much finer instrument for transformations than any of his contemporaries, finer perhaps even than Dante

Seneca - Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, dramatist, and in one work humorist, of the Silver Age of Latin literature. He was a tutor and later advisor to emperor Nero

Montaigne - He was one of the most significant philosophers of the French Renaissance, known for popularizing the essays of the literary genre

Shakespeare chiefly that is the unity, that unifies so far as they could be unified, all the tendencies of a time that lacked unity

A Shakespearean hero has a self-consciousness and dramatization, of whom Hamlet is the only one

There is not much difference between identifying oneself with the universe and identifying the universe with oneself

Homework

*Take phrases and write about what T.S Eliot said about Shakespeare, Dante, Montaigne, etc*  
Shakespeare's general cynicism and disillusionment are merely gigantic attempts to metamorphose private failure and disappointment. Shakespeare was a much finer instrument for transformations than any of his contemporaries. Half conscious of the immensity of his genius, Shakespeare's work had a clear unity, that unifies all the tendencies of a time that lacked unity. A poet makes poetry, and Shakespeare is a poet - that is, he feels intensely and with distinction and speaks naturally in beautiful verse. The great poet in writing himself writes his time. In brave attempts to fabricate something permanent and holy of out his personal and private agonies, Shakespeare created work with the greatest emotional intensity of his time. Every poet starts from his own emotions, Shakespeare is no different.

*T.S Eliot's essays on Seneca*

No author exercised a wider or deeper influence upon the Elizabethan mind or upon the Elizabethan form of tragedy than did Seneca

1. The characters, virtues and vices of the Latin tragedies themselves
2. The directions in which these tragedies influenced our Elizabethan drama
3. The history of these translations, the part they played in extending the influence of Seneca, and their actual merit as translation and as poetry

The translations have considerable poetic charm and quite adequate accuracy with occasional flashes of real beauty

In the renaissance, no Latin author was more highly esteemed than Seneca; in modern times, few Latin authors have been more consistently damned

Seneca more than to any other man is due the excessive predominance of declamatory rhetoric which has characterized the drama throughout Western Europe from the renaissance down to the latter half of the nineteenth century

Yet this is a dramatist whom Scalinger preferred to Euripides

Behind the dialogue of Greek drama we are always conscious of a concrete visual actuality, and behind that of a specific emotional actuality.

The phrase, beautiful as it may be, stands for a greater beauty still.

This is a particular case of amazing unity of Greece, the unity of concrete and abstract philosophy, the unity of thought and feeling, action and speculation, in life

I mean that the beauty of phrase in Greek tragedy is the shadow of a greater beauty the beauty of thought and emotion

Homework

*Transpose what Eliot said about Seneca*

It is said that Seneca exercised a wider and deeper influence upon the Elizabethan mind or upon the Elizabethan form of tragedy. In the renaissance no Latin author was more highly esteemed than Seneca; in modern times, few Latin authors have been more consistently damned. Society tends to overlook Seneca but this was a man whom Scalinger preferred to the great Euripides. As a Roman philosopher, Seneca and colleagues took over and controlled the mind of the Roman Emperor Nero, having a great grasp on the empire for many years before being banished. Through the years Seneca influenced all forms of tragedy we see today, and we can not value modern writers alone we must set them for contrast and comparison among the dead. Seneca said the beauty of

phrase in Roman tragedy is the shadow of a greater beauty, the beauty of thought and emotion.

Mary Shelley wanted females all over the world to have the same opportunities as men, she portrays this thought through the monster in her book *Frankenstein* - the monster, internally, is kind, smart and genuine, but externally he is a disgusting beast of a creature and society will not accept him because of his appearance. This correlates with my theory that Mary Shelley wanted desired equality because females writers, no matter how talented they were couldn't be published because of their gender.

In the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain wanted to show people how white society viewed black people in the pre-civil war south.

4/20/15

Journal Entry #6

I fear that I have fallen in love with Rachel Iczkovits. I truly fear being in love, and being happy. Its because I have never felt this way about anyone, and it is tearing me up inside. I can't believe that I have fallen for this girl. I never thought love was possible. See, I don't know what love is therefore I can't comprehend what love feels like. Rachel makes me intensely happy, and I feel lost without her. Why am I afraid of loving you. I don't know. I should just accept the fact that I do love you. You are my shining star, the apple of my eye, my everything. I will love you forever and always, for you are my first love. Rachel I am in love with you and I can't hold back how I feel any longer. I am really confused by these feelings and whenever I think about how I feel about you I become sad and lost partly because I know that it will not last forever. I don't think I will show you this.

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*Hamlet*

*Death with Interruptions*

*East of Eden*

*Frankenstein*

*Dante's Divine Comedy*

*Seneca*

*T.S Eliot*

*Freud*

The breakdown Mark Twain envisioned was a consequence of the state of America before the civil war. Twain is a true poet constructing a novel with an orderly arrangement of parts.

No author exercised a wider and deeper influence upon modern english than did Shakespeare

Jose Saramago in *Death with Interruptions* is not only speaking for personal distress, but for the starvation of civilization.

Mary Shelley always remains master of her materials, and stamps them with the impress of her own genius.

John Steinbeck became the emissary for American Literature.

Dante hardly knowing it became the voice of the 13th century

No author exercised a wider or deeper influence upon modern tragedy than did Seneca

The themes, the tropes, the images, the aesthetic that Eliot created in his poems are still going strong, inescapably etched into our cultural consciousness nearly a half century later

Freud is the father of psychoanalysis

4/23/15

No author exercised a wider or deeper influence upon the American mind or upon American Literature than did Mark Twain. Twain does not speak only for Americans, but for the starvation of the African slaves.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

If Shakespeare had written according to a better philosophy, he would have written worse poetry; in writing Hamlet Shakespeare expressed the greatest emotional intensity of his time.

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

Jose Saramago is a poet - that is, he feels intensely and with distinction and speaks naturally in beautiful verse - so that, no matter what walls he lives, as a Noble Prize winning author, he belongs to divine company

Jose Saramago (1947- 2010)

Mary Shelley, too, was occupied with the struggle - which alone constitutes a life for a poet - to transmute her personal and private agonies into something rich and strange, something universal and impersonal

Mary Shelley (1797 - 1851)

You cannot value Steinbeck alone; you must set him for contrast and comparison among the dead

John Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)

Dante became the voice of the 13th century and as a great poet, in writing himself he writes his time

Dante Alighieri (1265 - 1321 )

Aristotle explains that a tragedy is an imitation of an action that is complete and whole and of a certain magnitude, it has a well constructed plot, an orderly arrangement of parts and sense of unity

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

Freud is the father of modern psychoanalysis

Freud (1856 - 1939)

4/24/15

*Describe an author or their work*

Mark Twain saw the world as a cruel place where the color of your skin determined your quality of life. The spirit which inspires the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is wholly American, and deep faith in the national destiny, and stern sense of duty to change America for the better is what give it the greatest level of expression.

Shakespeare, chiefly that is the unity, that unifies, so far as they could be unified the tendencies of a time that lacked unity. The themes, the tropes, the images, the aesthetic that Shakespeare created in his work has shaped our society, inescapably etched into our cultural conscious nearly five centuries later.

Even in Saramago's most splendid passages his verses thrill us with a strange pathos and his sensitiveness to unseen things - things beautiful and sad - has caused a greater writer, himself a master of english prose to win the Nobel Prize.

Mary Shelley saw the world as a unfair place, as if god had stopped watching from above, *Frankenstein* reveals that Shelley felt that the world was filled with death and despair

John Steinbeck believed in the chinese philosophy of Yin and Yang, the idea that there is good and evil, two parts of a whole, it's a struggle to keep the good and evil at bay, and in *East of Eden* we see characters at all ends of the spectrum, revealing to his sons, whom he dedicated to, all the different types of people the may meet in the world.

Shakespeare: England, Rome, Egypt, France, Denmark

Mark Twain: Mississippi River

Steinbeck: Salinas Valley California

Shelley: Vienna, Italy, Alps, Arctic

4/25/15

Cézanne A Study of his Development  
By Roger Fry

Emile Zola - French writer, the most well known practitioner of the literary school of naturalism and an important contributor to the development of theatrical naturalism

We get reminiscences of a sympathetic vision of these two little southerners who shared in a soaring ambition and a passionate devotion to the life of the spirit

L'Oeuvre - A novel by Emile Zola, *L'œuvre* is a fictional account of Zola's friendship with Paul Cézanne and a fairly accurate portrayal of the Parisian art world in the mid 19th century.

Piquancy - The quality of being pleasantly stimulating or exciting.

Ebullition - A sudden outburst of emotion or violence

His character, vehement and paradoxical, revolutionary intransigence.

It was a year of crucial importance in the history of modern art - the year in which Napoleon III, listening to the well-grounded complaints against the narrowness of official art of the Salon, ordered the establishment of the Salon des Refuses, where those artists who had failed to get placed by the official jury might show their work.

We must imagine him at this stage profoundly convinced of the authenticity of his inspiration and like so many others filled with a confidence founded on ignorance of difficulties

The influence which this picture exercised upon Cézanne lay far more in the treatment of the theme, in the idea of painting a modern lyric, than in the formal qualities or the specific vision shown in Monet's work.

Monet's imagination was purely visual. There was nothing visionary about his invention

Now Cézanne at this point believed himself to be a visionary. His imagination nourished on poetry, aimed at something besides the plastic interpretation of actual appearances

He worked alone, above all, to find expression for the agitations of his inner life, and, without making literary pictures in the bad sense of the word, he sought to express himself as much by the choice and implications of his figures as by the plastic expositions of their forms

HW

*Write a paragraph about Cézanne using phrases*

We must imagine Cézanne, as a young man in Paris, profoundly convinced of the authenticity of his inspiration and like so many others filled with a confidence founded on ignorance of difficulties. Now at this point Cézanne believed himself to be a visionary. His imagination nourished on poetry, aimed at something besides the plastic interpretations of actual appearances. Cézanne worked to transform his personal and private agonies into something rich and strange, unique and impersonal. Above all he worked to find expression for agitations of his inner life.

4/28/15

Cézanne's painting L'Evenement

This portrait is one of the most renowned early works by Cézanne. The rigid composition is dominated by somber hues applied in a thick impasto. The expressive premise for this piece is suggested by the artist's inclusion of his own still life in the background as though to solicit recognition of his talent by his famously disapproving parents. As if to force the issue, Louis-August is portrayed reading a liberal newspaper, a highly unlikely event, as he was widely known for his conservative outlook.

4/30/15

*Trip to New York City*

I went to New York City last weekend. I met Gillian Walker, a British aristocrat born into a family with great wealth - she was kind and genuine. My father and I stayed at her home, which is this glorious three story brownstone located in Harlem. It was strange walking the streets of Harlem, I had never seen so many black people in my life, it was refreshing. New York has an uneasy feeling to me. Some area made me angry and confused, but seeing Times Square at night was utterly amazing. At the Signatures Theatre's Gala there was a man who was sitting apart from everyone and was watching everyone very intensely. He wore a light colored jacket, his hair was gray and slicked back like an Italian mobster in the movies. My father and I wanted to go speak with him, but his location wasn't really accessible to us. The Gala was dedicated to Jim Houghton, the founder of Signature - I got the chance to meet and talk to him for a brief moment, I expressed my gratitude and praised him for his great success. The trip was enjoyable it made me happy to visit the greatest city in the world. I hope that I can live there one day.

*Cézanne A Study of his Development*

“To realize his inner vision”

He although never gave up the ambition to find within himself the point of departure, but, as we shall see, more and more he resigned himself to accepting the thing seen as the nucleus of crystallization in a place of poetical inspiration

He had to admit to himself that he did not possess the special gifts for such a gestation of poetical ideas, and for transmuting them into coherent plastic images

A gift for providing the inner vision right away

Primitive design

Phrases - Illuminates for us a ...

- The struggle within him ...

*Write some lines about struggle and inner vision*

Malcolm X wrote and spoke for his inner vision of the world

Baldwin wrote to find within himself what America and American society meant to him.

Nelson Mandela never gave up after being put in prison, for he became the first black president of South Africa and ultimately freed his country and people and destroyed apartheid in South Africa

In April of 1945 Hitler while in his bunker in Berlin had to admit to himself that he was not strong enough to conquer the world and with the admittance of that fact he committed suicide

*Use five phrases*

Shakespeare wrote to mold the world to resemble his inner vision.

Baldwin resigned himself to accepting the fact that white people simply dislike black people

T.S Eliot wrote for the struggle within himself and the starvation of civilization

The assassination of Caesar illuminates for us a prime example of what lengths people will go when they are jealous and envious of a man in power

Eliot wrote *The Wasteland* out of his anger and confusion towards the condition of the world and society after World War I

5/1/15

Journal Entry #7

I worry about my relationship with Rachel. Everyday is difficult, I long to be with her and now I know that it is not possible. I thought this could work but course I choose the one girl who is unavailable. I tell her how much I care about her. Told her that I love being around her. She rarely tells me how she feels and I am scared because I have nobody else, without her my day really has no meaning, and if I lost her I wouldn't have any motivation to live. A woman in your life motivates you to reach new heights. Rachel is my shining star, without her I am not complete. I have nobody else who cares about me and understands me.

*Cézanne*

He had perforce but the vaguest idea of how the older masters understood the working out those grand constructions in which the plastic movements follow one another in an unbroken and ever varied sequence throughout the whole of the picture space - constructions which stimulate the imagination to the freest movements in depth.

Perforce - uses to express necessity

Maladroit - ineffective or bungling; clumsy

Tintoretto's work is characterized by its muscular figures, dramatic gestures, and bold use of perspective in the mannerist style. Contorted by violent and agitated movements, the contours are rendered in swelling curves with exaggerated emphasis

Delacroix shaped the impressionist movements

He surpasses him altogether in colour. The modulations are rich and exquisitely varied. The blue sky combines luminosity with a surprising intensity

Cézanne's painting Table + Napkin + Fruit

Cézanne depicts a tabletop with pears, peaches and other pictorial elements seem at once to rest on a solid wooden plank, and yet float across an upturned

“The brushstrokes convey a sense of”

“Contrast different colors and perspectives”

The Table, Napkin and Fruit by Paul Cézanne evokes a sense of hope and happiness as the contrasting colors give us a unique perspective into the mind of a creative genius. The painting shows a wooden table with pears, peaches and other fruits which seems to float across the painting - a testament to the rich and exquisite style of Cézanne.

5/2/15

Journal Entry #8

Today I am still pondering my relationship with Rachel. I can't speak with her on the weekends and it is rare if I ever get to speak to her outside of school. This pains me greatly. I have finally found someone who I care for but I can't be with her. Rachel's parents are these racist demons who despise me for the color of my skin. They won't allow us to be together. I have never been hated or put in a bad light by any adult or older person so this is new for me. I have always been well liked by people, even now with my book, people tell me how wonderful my project is and how great they think I am. I will still attempt to be her boyfriend because I have fallen in love with her. I know she doesn't feel this way about me, and I know she never will. In my dreams I picture a world in which Rachel and I can be together, a place in which Rachel and I can be together - a place where we can fall in love and be happy.

Paul Cézanne's *Forest*

The “Forest” by Paul Cézanne produces vivid and evocative visceral sentiments in the viewer. The contrasting colors along with the sunlight beaming through the center of the foliage gives us a sharp perspective which stimulate the imagination. Though it is a primitive design, it illuminates for us some of the most serene and peaceful concepts within the artist's mind. This painting reveals Cézanne's sensitiveness to unseen things - things beautiful and sad which thrill us with a strange pathos as he gives utterance to the voice of nature herself.

The color, too, is intensely personal

“Complex orchestration of infinitely graduated color”

This method the Lazarus suggests, the influence on our artist of some idea of dramatic colour - the attempt to convey by the shock of these masses of unbroken colour - and almost by some direct physiological effect on us - the tragic emotion at which he aimed

“Refused with indignation composition”

“In which the surgeon's art is revealed as belonging to the nightmare visions of Edgar Allen Poe”

5/3/15

Cézanne continued

“A strong imaginative impulse”

Operative phantasmagoria so absurd, so unconvincing, that if the art of Cézanne admitted the possibility of irony, we might imagine it to be a parody of Baroque pretensions

He had indeed much of the sly malice of the Southern peasant; the kind of sophistication with which would lead to ironical compositions

“Lyrical feeling” “Disquieting, unsettling”

In default of irony, what kind of mood inspires the invention

Indubitable accent of sincerity

Powerful inner convictions which the artist is endeavouring to express in all seriousness

“Quality of color” “Capital importance” “Extreme simplicity”

His means of expression

Orchestrated with great complexity

Spreads his special atmosphere

One guesses at the extraordinary originality and acuity of Cézanne's chromatic sensibility

“Dramatic sensibility”

His works were the result of Cézanne's invention rather than his direct observations of nature

He sought to rival his composers

The fundamental characteristics of his genius

*Write an essay about what a great poem is*

The beauty of phrase in poetry is the shadow of a greater, the beauty of thought and emotion. Great poetry is orchestrated with great complexity and the authors means of expression spreads a special atmosphere through the extraordinary originality and dramatic sensibility created in his work. The poet has powerful inner convictions which he is endeavoring to express in all seriousness. Some poetry is written not only for personal distress but for the starvation of civilization and because of this, it is said that poetry can endure and provide salvation for many. A poet's words are supposed to be charged with a strange poignancy. Every poet starts from his own emotions, and it is the poet's nostalgia, his bitter regrets for past happiness - or for what seems happiness when it is past - and the poets brave attempts to fabricate something rich and strange out his personal feelings or experiences. Many poets write to metamorphose private failure and disappointments. The great poet in writing himself writes his time.

5/4/15

I am well, this morning I woke up at 5 a.m and went for a run for about an hour. The moon was full and bright - I felt as if the moon was giving me energy. I didn't sleep well last night, but that is nothing new - most nights I am restless and I rarely get a decent amount of sleep. I am trying to figure out why this is but the answers seems to constantly allude me. I thought that it was because I am so anxious about everything or because I am unhappy, but I really can't pinpoint anything. Most people hate monday, but I love mondays because I get to see Rachel, she brings me so much joy. I don't know what I will do when she breaks my heart, when she tears it out of my chest and throws my fragile heart into the fiery wasteland that is hell. I honestly don't know what I will do. Perhaps if I begin to believe in God then he will show me the way? If there is a God, please give me a sign, reveal yourself to me so that I can have a new perspective in this world. On a totally different note, I raised 1,800 dollars for my book!

5/7/15

*Write about Dante and Shakespeare using phrases*

Dante's railings, his personal spleen - sometimes thinly disguised under Old testament prophetic denunciations - his nostalgia, his bitter regrets for what seems happiness when it is past - and his brave attempts to fabricate something permanent and holy out of his own personal animal feelings - as in the Vita Nuova - can all be matched out of Shakespeare. Shakespeare, too, was occupied with struggle - which alone constitutes life for a poet - to transmute his personal and private agonies into something rich and strange, something universal and impersonal. Shakespeare general cynicism and disillusionment are merely gigantic attempts to metamorphose private failures and disappointments. Dante, hardly knowing it became the voice of the 13th

century; Shakespeare hardly knowing it became the representative of the end of the 16th century, a turning point in history. If Shakespeare had written with better philosophy he would have written worse poetry; it was his business to express the greatest emotional intensity of his time, based on whatever his time happened to think. Shakespeare's trivialities are more valuable than other people's epics. The very images and the sound of the words even when we do not know precisely why he has chosen them are charged with a strange poignancy which seems to bring us into the heart of a singer. The themes, the images, the tropes, the aesthetic that Shakespeare creates in his plays are still going strong, inescapably etched into our cultural consciousness nearly five centuries later. Shakespeare is a poet - that is, he feels intensely and with distinction and speaks naturally in beautiful verse so that no matter what walls he lives, he belongs to divine company. It is said that Shakespeare gives the greatest width of human passion; Dante the greatest altitude and greatest depth.

Virgil

Virgil was a close student of the literature and philosophy of the Greeks

Primitive Epic, *The Iliad*

Literary Epic *The Aeneid*

Though Virgil turned to Greek epics for the general framework and many of the details of his poems, he always remains master of his material, and stamps them with the impress of his own genius

The spirit which inspires the *Aeneid* is wholly Roman, and the deep faith in the National destiny, and stern sense of duty to which it gives expression, its profoundly religious character and stately and melodious verse have always allowed for it to be recognized as the loftiest expression of the dignity and greatness of Rome and her best

5/8/15

Copy more Cézanne

His works record for us the unfolding of this drama. The masterpieces of the later decades of his life already foreshadowed the triumphal dose of his ever growing posthumous fame. But, that these masterpieces should have been what they are, required all the peculiar circumstances which moulded his nature gift. And among these circumstances one should, I think, lay special stress on the part played in his life by the startling failure of his early appearances.

Journal Entry #9

I am content with life, I don't have anything to complain about. There are things going well for me and I am happy, Yesterday I said to myself that "I never thought happiness was possible" but currently I am happy and it is the greatest feeling ever - I smile for no apparent reason, my mood has improved ten-fold and I am loving life. Rahel makes me so happy, that is why I constantly

tell myself that I love her. I am afraid of the future when Rachel is no longer in my life. Once school ends what will I do if I can't see her? The only person who knows who I am and not for who I once was. For this I will always be grateful and I know that I will move on from this first love and it will be hard, but it is something everyone has to go through so I am ready for the challenge.

### *Cézanne*

He gives to the figure already a monumental air which is new in the art of the nineteenth century, something that recalls the great primitives

The extreme clarity and luminosity of these sober colors, the fact that each has the utmost possible intensity for a given luminosity, shows how essentially a painter Cézanne was by nature

For such, the question "madness or genius?" may have pressed itself uneasily

The psychology of this picture is full of interest for our own appreciation of Cézanne's character at this period

These portraits are perhaps of more interest as revelations of Cézanne's state of mind at this period than of value for any decisive achievement

### *T.S Eliot's Essays on Shakespeare*

Stoicism - an ancient Greek school of philosophy founded at Athens by Zeno of Citium. The school taught that virtue, the highest good, is based on knowledge, and that the wise live in harmony with the divine Reason that governs nature, and are indifferent to the vicissitudes of fortune and to pleasure and pain.

Recrudescence - revival of material

Lytton Strachey - Famous English critic/writer

Bloomsbury Square/Group - influential group of English writer and intellectuals including Virginia Woolf, John Keynes, Forster, and Lytton Strachey

Messianic - Of or relating to the Messiah

Middleton Murry - Famous English writer

About anyone so great as Shakespeare it is possible that we can never be right; and if we can never be right, it is better that we should from time to time change our way of being wrong.

Whether truth ultimately prevails is doubtful and has never been proved; but it is certain that nothing is more effective in driving out error than a new error. Whether, Mr. Strachey or Mr. Murry, or Mr. Lewis is any nearer to the truth of Shakespeare than Rymer or Morgann, or

Webster, or Jonson, is uncertain; they were all certainly more sympathetic in the year 1927 than Coleridge, or Swinburne or Dowden. If they do not give us real Shakespeare - if there is one - they are least give us several up to date Shakespeares.

Which make him either a tory journalist a socialist or a liberal journalist

We also have a protestant Shakespeare, skeptical/anglo-catholic and baptist shakespeare

I am used to having cosmic significances which I never expected

I am inclined to believe that people are mistaken about Shakespeare just in proportion to the relative superiority of Shakespeare to myself

I am not under the delusion that Shakespeare in the least resembles myself, either as I am or as I should like to imagine myself. We have had Shakespeare explained by a variety of people

Niccolo Machiavelli - Poet, politician who wrote *The Prince* (1469-1527) Founder of modern political science

Machiavellianism - Negative term to characterize unscrupulous politicians - referred to for deceit and deviousness

5/11/15

Journal Entry #10

It is raining today. I am fairly happy; however I am tired. Nothing consumes my thoughts.

5/13/15

*T.S Eliot's Essays on Shakespeare*

I think that Shakespeare, and other dramatists used the popular Machiavellian idea, for stage purposes; but this idea was no more like Machiavelli who was an Italian and a Roman Christian, than Mr. Shaw's idea of Nietzsche - whatever that is - is like the real Nietzsche

I think it is quite likely that Shakespeare read some of Seneca's tragedies at school

So far as Shakespeare was influenced by Seneca, it was his memories of school and through the influence of the Senecan tragedy of the day through Kyd and Peele, but chiefly Kyd. That Shakespeare deliberately took a "view of life" from Seneca there seems to be no evidence whatsoever

Nevertheless, there is, in some of the great tragedies of Shakespeare, a new attitude. It is not the attitude of Seneca, but it is derived from Seneca; it is slightly different from anything that can be found in French tragedy, in Corneille or in Racine; it is modern, and it culminates, if there is ever any culmination, in the attitude of Nietzsche

5/14/15

Journal Entry #11

“Today is a good day to die,” but that doesn’t mean that I will die today. Yesterday I formulated a plan to meet Rachel at her house whilst her menacing parents were out of the house; however, my father advised against it because of the chance of me getting caught by her mother which could lead to my imprisonment on false charges of rape. He argued that it happens all the time with young black men. With that chance looming in the air I decided that being with Rachel, alone at her house was not worth the risk of facing charges because her parents would do everything in their power to destroy a young mulatto man's life.

*The Birth of a Tragedy* Friedrich Nietzsche  
Nietzsche (1844-1900)

Stands among the most influential thinkers of modern times, having created a body of work that has had an effect extending far beyond the discipline of philosophy

It is ironical to note that Nietzsche, known for his critical attitude toward Christianity, came from a line of Lutheran ministers

His initial interest in theology was replaced by classical philology

Apollonian - rational and reason

Dionysian - irrational and chaos

The Apollonian is based on reason and logical thinking. By contrast, the Dionysian is based on chaos and appeals to the emotions and instincts. The content of all great tragedy is based on the tension created by the interplay between these two

5/18/15

Cézanne

There is always the same defiant handling the same determination to crush the spectator by the vehemence of the imaginative attack and to impose upon him at once the artist's emotional attitude

Cézanne's genius was destined to lead him ever further and further

Like all the work from this period, they are marked by the same extravagances of invention and expression, by the same trane and disquieting mood

Bacchanalian - Roman festivals based on elements of Greek Dionysia (tragedies and comedies)

Monet - 19th century french painter who was a pivotal figure in realism and impressionism

The works of a similar poetical inspiration of this period show him seeking to rival the sweep and amplitude of baroque rhythm and the richness of colour of the great Venetians without following them to closely in their mythological motives

Grandiloquent rhythm - extravagant, pretensioners

There is no deliberate poetical intention, though as in all the works of his time the exuberance of his feeling, the vehemence of his emphasis, and the spirited handling communicate the same disquieting and hallucinatory mood as we derive from his funeral picnics

“Bare simplicity”

Aggressive sonority - loudness of words

Cézanne’s sincerity and, let us add, his naivete, are so great that he prefers to fall into extravagance, and risk the ridiculous rather than to achieve empty success of pastiche -> imitating work to celebrate the artist

Daumier - Honore Daumier (1808-1879) French painter whose work offers commentary on social and political life in France in the 19th century

Poussin - (1594 -1665) Nicolas Poussin he was the leading painter of the classical French baroque style

Such rich, complex and conflicting natures as Cézanne’s require a long period of fermentation

Cézanne could not create masterpieces whilst he persisted in struggling against the current of his genius

5/19/15

Journal Entry #12

Today Rachel was forced to break up with me because someone at the school called her parents.

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5/26/15

James Baldwin *The Harlem Ghetto*

Lena Horne - Famous black actress

Paul Robeson - Famous black singer/actor

Pittsburgh Courier - most popular black newspaper

George Schuyler - (1895 - 1977) African American author, journalist, social commentator and outspoken critic of Martin Luther King Jr.

Axiomatic - self-evident or unquestionable

James Baldwin incorporates psychology, culture and history in his work

*Cabin in the Sky* - influential movie with all black cast

The more devout Negro considers that he is a Jew, in bondage to a hard taskmaster and waiting for Moses to lead him out of Egypt.

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do, but "How can I sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

5/28/15

James Baldwin *Notes of a Native Son*

Richard Wright (1908-1960) Novelist, poet and writer. Most of his work concerns racial themes involving the plight of black Americans during the 19th and 20th centuries. Literary critics believe that his work helped change race relations in the U.S

*The Harlem Ghetto*

I am not one of the people who believe that oppression imbues a people with wisdom or insight or sweet charity, though the survival of the Negro in this country would simply not have been possible if this bitterness had been felt

There is a great difference between being the first white man to be seen by Africans and being the first black man seen by whites. The white man takes astonishment as tribute, for he arrives to

conquer and to convert the natives, whose inferiority in relation to himself is not even to be questioned; whereas I, without a thought of conquest, find myself among a people whose culture controls me, has even, in a sense, created me, people who have cost me more in anguish and rage than they will ever know, who yet do not even know of my existence. The astonishment with which I might have greeted them, should they have stumbled into my African village a few hundred years ago, might have rejoiced their hearts. But the astonishment with which they greet me today can only poison mine.

6/9/15

It's a Tuesday, I graduate from a high school on Saturday. I am in shock because time goes by so quickly, and it can be truly disheartening; each day we grow older, closer to death. What is the point, what is the meaning of it all. That is the question that will never have an answer. I want to be a grand success, I wish to fall in love and find everlasting happiness with the woman of my dreams. It seems that I am ambitious, and Caesar was betrayed and murdered for his ambition. I can't allow those envious of me and my ambition to bring me to my knees Knowledge is the key to success and with a great mind one can achieve grand success. I feel that I possess the latter and in time I will be able to compete with the best the world has to offer. This year I fell in love for the first time. She disappeared from my life and all I have left is a memory that slowly fades away. My first love was taken from me, snatched from my grasp, no matter life goes on - there is no point of dwelling on the past. I will see her for the first time in about a month on Saturday and that will bring me a great joy with the bitter sadness of past happiness.

Go find love, happiness and success. Onward.