

26 May 2020

ELA 20F

Mrs. Clark

Hello Grade 10s!

We are in the final stretch now with just a couple of weeks left. I hope that you have been healthy and productive in these days of “work at home”.

I have not received very much work back from this group and several of you are not currently passing ELA 20F; this is a core course so if you do not get this credit now, you will have to repeat it. Please dig into your ***Forbidden City*** and ***April Raintree*** and get it done! Hand in what you have, even if it isn't finished- every bit counts toward your final mark.

Your final deadline for handing in anything (for any course) is **Friday, June 19**. I know that seems to be a long way off but do not leave it until the last minute! Buses will not be running past June 5 so do your best to get your work done as soon as you can.

A portion of ELA 20F includes “movie studies”, as ELA is about viewing and listening as well as reading and writing. Unfortunately with this COVID-19 crisis, we did not have the opportunity to view and enjoy the movies on my list: ***Field of Dreams***, ***To Kill a Mockingbird***, and ***Of Mice and Men***. It is a shame that we missed these, as all are great movies in their own rights and add a great deal to our course. If you have access to any of these films, take the time to watch them- you will not be sorry. (Just be sure to watch the 1992 version of ***Of Mice and Men*** with Gary Sinise and John Malcovich- there are other older versions that are not nearly as well done.)

Because ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** and ***Of Mice and Men*** are both set the southern USA during the Great Depression, we also do a mini-unit on the Depression in order to fully understand the era. One of the themes of both selections deals with racism, prejudice and discrimination, and especially how segregation was the law in the USA at the time. Like the experiences we read about in ***April Raintree***, it is difficult to imagine how any society actually functions like this! I also include an article on Colin Kaepernick and the continuing struggle against racism in America. Although we are not doing the movie studies, I am including these readings in this last package.

The three sections each have a choice of assignments so you can choose....

- 1) The article “The Great Depression in the United States” includes questions that ask you for the “supporting narrative from the article”- this just means to copy the sentence that tells you the answer (easy, right?). Even if you don’t do the questions, at least read the articles to get an understanding of life at that time.
- 2) “The Scottsboro Boys” (set in 1930s) has just a couple of fairly easy questions, and “Taking a Knee” (modern era- 2016) has a selection of little assignments (questions, crossword puzzle etc).
- 3) Finally, something that will appeal to some of you but not others: a creative writing choice. The “Mini-Assignment” includes an array of six black and white photos taken during the Depression (the “Dirty Thirties”). Each of these photos shows the harsh realities of the time: drought and dust storms, abject poverty, helplessness and hopelessness. Choose one of the pictures and tell the story. That is, do not simply describe what you see in the picture, but write a story or poem about what is going on... Who are these poor people? What has happened to them? What are they doing? What are they thinking? What will become of them? Let your imagination go! Tell me their story!

All of these assignments have a lot of corresponding information on the Internet and YouTube so if you have Internet access, feel free to look them up to find out more about them.

And that is it.

Please get to work to finish up anything you can for ELA- it will all count. Even if you had a mark below 50% on your mid-term, you can still pass this course if you turn in your work (even unfinished work from ***Romeo and Juliet!***)

Hand it in as soon as you can; the final day for any school work is **Friday, June 19.**

If you have any questions, you can call, email, text or “Team” me. You’ve got this.

Good luck and take care.

Mrs. Clark 😊

