Exploring Literature: Past and Present

Unit 1: Coming of Age

Throughout this unit, we’re going to look at the themes, archetypes, and storylines that make something “coming of age”. There are millions of examples of these texts—both in terms of books and screen—so I really want you to look at the different types of writing around you and see what can fall into the coming-of-age category. \*\*Note: if you write a story for this assignment, you will be required to analyze a work next time and vice versa\*\*

For this assignment, you have two options. Either way, you’ll turn in a **5-page (minimum) paper or 5-minute video with a script/explanation**(choose whichever you feel will work better):

1. Write a coming-of-age story.

For this, you can let all of your creativity out. The story doesn’t have to be perfect, but as a creative writer myself, I would have loved to be able to utilize my creativity in literature classes. Take what we have talked about in class and put it into your own story using your own imagination. Anything we talked about throughout our reading of Pride and Prejudice, or discussions of TV shows and movies is fair game. Look at how the characters evolve and use that as a guideline for your own characters.

1. Analyze a coming-of-age story.

This can be most shows/movies, but make sure to get my approval first, just in case. You can use this to analyze anything from an episode of a tv show to a season (think: Stranger Things season 1), or a story/novella. Make sure to pay attention to things like language, symbolism, foreshadowing, themes, etc. because that’s where all of your “proof” or “argument” will come from. Again, you can use anything we talked about in this unit to pick apart whatever it is you’re analyzing. Feel free to do this in multimodal form like a video (think: podcast recording).

**Final draft due Friday 9/30** (but I will look at a rough draft if you submit it by 9/23 and we can talk about it at our conference—if you don’t finish in enough time to do that, I encourage you to go to the writing center).