

THE LISTS AN INDEPENDENT READING PROJECT

The "LISTS" will consist of reading two novels from various international literary awards lists. There will be a variety of ongoing activities related to the readings. Each activity will be evaluated and will be entered as a component of the summative component (30%) of the overall ENG4U mark.

1. Sign up for a **GOODREADS** account at www.goodreads.com. Join the "LISTS" discussion forum - devoted to the project at <http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/77560-the-lists>
2. Investigate the following websites to help select the two novels that you will be reading throughout the course. You can pick *any* two novels from *any* of the long or short lists, from *any* year. Do not limit yourself to the award winners.

International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards
www.impacdublinaward.ie

The Man Booker Prize
www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/man-booker-prize

The Commonwealth Writer's Prize
www.commonwealthfoundation.com/Howwedeliver/Prizes/CommonwealthWritersPrize

3. Do some research. Most novels nowadays have excerpts published online. Consult these. The excerpts provide invaluable information on the content and style of the book.
4. Once you have chosen two novels, write a brief rationale (why chosen? what award?) submit to THE LISTS discussion forum. You will be able to change your novels at a later date, although this is not a wise option.
5. Read the novels critically. Use the information provided in the *ACTIVE READING - FICTION* package to take critical notes during your reading. Also, purchasing a personal copy of the novel will help you take effective notes and highlight information more immediately. If you want the books ordered for you, bring in money and they will be ordered in the near future from **chapters.indigo.ca**.
6. Take notes on the following during the reading of EACH novel:

PLOT ELEMENTS

- characters: description with explanation
- conflicts and complications: types of conflict and characters involved
- themes: identify major themes in the novel with examples (quotes) that reflect/illustrate each theme
- reflection on the following quotes as a lens to view the novel:

Literature is the denunciation of the times in which one lives.

Camilo Jose Cela

Out of the fictitious book I get the expression of the life, of the times, of the manners, of the merriment, of the dress, the pleasure, the laughter, the ridicules of society. The old times live again. Can the heaviest historian do more for me?

William Makepeace Thackeray

A novel is never anything but a philosophy put into images.

Albert Camus

Legitimately produced, and truly inspired, fiction interprets humanity, informs the understanding, and quickens the affections. It reflects ourselves, warns us against prevailing social follies, adds rich specimens to our cabinets of character, dramatizes life for the unimaginative, daguerreotypes (photographs) it for the unobservant, multiplies experience for the isolated or inactive, and cheers age, retirement and invalidism with an available and harmless solace.

Henry Theodore Tuckerman

Weak minds may be injured by novel-reading; but sensible people find both amusement and instruction therein.

Henry Ward Beecher

STYLISTIC ELEMENTS

- powerful vocabulary
- words/expressions/Literary Devices: make an ongoing list of interesting words, expressions and literary devices
- literary devices: find a variety of literary devices in the novel

CONNECTIONS

- relation and connection to “real” world
- connections to other media texts (i.e. films, songs, books)

EVALUATION

More specific activity outlines and requirements will be available at a later date. The activities will be designed using the following criteria:

【novel one】 10 %

- conferences (see attached) and notes
- ongoing updates on **GOODREADS** for every 10% of the novel read. For example: if the novel is 300 pages in length, you should write an update every 30 pages (give or take). Your update **MUST** follow the following format:
 - a striking and powerful quote that reflects a major theme or philosophic idea in the novel.
 - a powerful image that captures the tone or theme of the novel.
 - a haiku that captures YOUR impressions of the section you have read.
- critical analysis test and essay

【novel two】 10 %

- conferences (see attached) and notes
- ongoing updates on **GOODREADS** for every 10% of the novel read. For example: if the novel is 300 pages in length, you should write an update every 30 pages (give or take). Your update **MUST** follow the following format:
 - a striking and powerful quote that reflects a major theme or philosophic idea in the novel.
 - a powerful image that captures the tone or theme of the novel.
 - a haiku that captures YOUR impressions of the section you have read.
- sights and sounds: a creative writing and media product

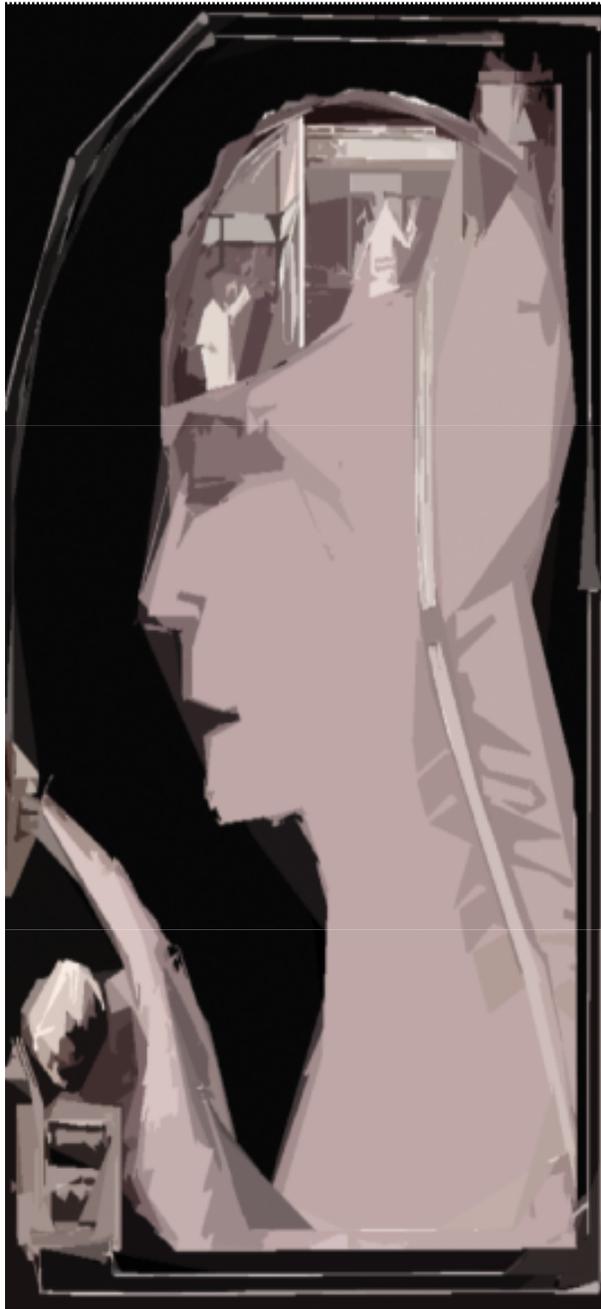
【novels 1 + 2 : conferencing】

Actively read your chosen novel. Relate to it. Connect it. Take notes and be prepared to discuss plot elements, visual symbols, audio symbols, language, themes, connections and questions. There will be class-time devoted to independent reading. Conferences will be conducted during these reading sessions (or with advance notice).

You will be evaluated on the following:

- progress. Are you actively reading the novel?
- evidence. Are your notes sophisticated and useful?
- knowledge. Are you able to discuss the novel insightfully?
- inquiry. Are you tracking the various motifs in the novel? Are you able to relate to the novel on multiple sensory levels (see the images; hear the sounds)? Are you able to connect the novel?

eng4u



INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF NOVELS

MMX / MMXI