**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 January 23, 2023**

**Today’s Agenda (Day 93)**

1. Homework Check:

🡪 JOURNAL PROMPT #9 and 10

🡪 JOURNAL PROMPT #11

1. Class Activity:

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🡪TUESDAY: (American Lit) Uni1 1 – Early America – Historical, Social and Cultural Forces

\*See p. 2 of doc, Parts B

🡪TODAY: **The Bell Jar – In-class Essay**

HOMEWORK:

* BEGIN:In Cold Blood – Truman Capote – Part 1 [by Fri, Jan. 26]; Part 2 [by Tues, Jan. 31]; Part 3 [by Tues, Feb. 7]; Part 4 [by Fri, Feb. 10]
* STUDY: Novel Quiz (In Cold Blood) – Parts 1 & 2; Parts 3 & 4
* **TERM ESSAY #3: TBA**

REMINDERS:

* NOVEL QUIZ [Capote – Parts 1 & 2] 🡪 **Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023**
* VOCABULARY QUIZ 🡪 **Thursday, Feb. 11, 2023**
* NOVEL QUIZ [Capote – Parts 3 & 4] 🡪 **Monday, Feb. 13, 2023**

**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 Novel Analysis**

**The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath**

## Essay Topic 1

The Bell Jar is often considered a "coming of age" story. In your essay:

1) describe Esther's journey from adolescence into adulthood

2) describe and comment on the events in her life that help her transition between adolescence and adulthood

3) discuss how successful her transition was. Is she an adult at the end of the novel? Why or why not?

Be sure to cite specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 2

In The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath provides a commentary on American women. Choose three major scenes or characters from the novel and:

1) describe them as they relate to women

2) explain what you think Plath was trying to say about women through this scene/character.

3) discuss the difference and similarities between the American women of the novel’s time frame and the contemporary American women of today.

Be sure to cite specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 3

In The Bell Jar, a few minor characters have a major impact on the story line. Select two of the following minor characters to analyze: Doreen, Joan, Buddy Willard, Mrs. Greenwood and Jay Cee. Discuss:

1) the personality (character traits) of this character

2) the relationship between this minor character and the major characters in the story

3) the impact of this character on the story line--How does s/he influence the overall story line? How would the story be different if this character was removed?

## Essay Topic 4

There are several characters who influence the person that the narrator becomes. Select the two characters who you believe have the greatest impact on her development and:

1) describe each character's actions or beliefs as they relate to Esther

2) discuss the impact of this character on Esther's life and personality

3) discuss why you selected each particular character. What about each character made him/her more of an influence on Esther than others?

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 5

In The Bell Jar there the author uses recurrent symbolism to represent aspects of Esther's story. Select two of the following symbols ( mirrors, water, babies, the bell jar) and:

1) describe how the author uses this symbol at at least two points in the story

2) discuss what the symbol represents about Esther at that point in the story

3) discuss what the overall message the author is trying to send about Esther using this symbol.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 6

This novel deals with the relationship between talent and mental stability. In your essay:

1) discuss how this relationship plays out in Esther and the other characters

2) state what you think Plath is saying about this relationship

3) comment on Plath's ideas. Is she right? Why or why not?

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 7

At the end of The Bell Jar, Esther is about to be released from the asylum. Write an essay discussing:

1) whether or not she is ready to leave the hospital

2) what the future holds for her

3) how you think she'll do in the "real world".

Use specific examples from the novel to come up with and support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 8

The Bell Jar is a commentary on the mental health system in the US. In your essay:

1) describe how the mental health system appears in the novel

2) discuss what Plath is saying about the system.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 9

Romantic relationships have a major impact on Esther's development throughout the novel. Choose two of the men who Esther has relationships with (even short relationships) and:

1) describe the relationship

2) discuss the impact that this relationship had on Esther

3) analyze what the author is saying about romantic relationships and their impact on women in general.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 10

Friendships have a major impact on Esther's development throughout the novel. Choose two of the women who Esther is friends with and:

1) describe the friendship

2) discuss the impact that this friendship had on Esther

3) analyze what the author is saying about friendships and their importance for women in general.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 11

Esther's family live has a subtle but important effect on the changes that she undergoes throughout the novel. Discuss:

1) Esther's family dynamics

2) the impact of Esther's family life on her personal life

3) how Esther's life would have been different if both of her parents had been alive.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 12

Discuss the significance of the novel's title. Be sure to include:

1) a definition of "bell jar"

2) the relationship between the bell jar and Esther

3) what the bell jar represents about Esther's character.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 13

Throughout The Bell Jar, Esther moves between the present and the past. Select three of the flashback scenes and:

1) describe what happens in each of these scenes

2) discuss the significance of each scene in Esther's life

3) discuss how the flashback scene relates to the "present" time scene it is embedded in.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 14

The Bell Jar takes place in several different settings. Compare and contrast three of the settings focusing on:

1) describing the setting and Esther's role within it

2) the significance of the setting in Esther's development.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 15

The narrator talks about Joan being Esther's double. Compare and contrast these two characters focusing on:

1) their personality traits

2) their progression towards mental illness

3) their progression towards recovery from mental illness.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

## Essay Topic 17

As The Bell Jar develops, so does the main character's mental illness. In your essay:

1) describe the progression of her illness

2) describe and explain the "red flags" that showed she was getting increasingly worse

3) comment on the role that the other characters played in her deterioration.

Cite several specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**UNIT 1: Early America: Beginnings – 1800**

**Historical, Social and Cultural Forces**

INSTRUCTIONS: Refer to p. 10 – 11 of the American Literature textbook. Review the following questions below and respond accordingly.

~~A. Analyze Cause and Effect [p. 10]~~

~~1) Why did European exploration have an enormous effect on world history?~~

~~2) In a table format, compare and contrast the following religious beliefs: Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers. Aside from their ideologies, indicate the lasting influence of each of these beliefs on the “American” culture.~~

B. Big Idea 1: The Sacred Earth and the Power of Storytelling [p.12]

1) What is YOUR view of the Native American belief system that held the natural world to be sacred?

2) Explain what is meant by each of the following quotes:

a) “*Sell a country! Why not sell the air, the great sea, as well as the earth? Did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children?” -Tecumseh, Shawnee leader*

b) *“American literature begins with the first human perception of the American landscape expressed and*

*preserved in language.” – N. Scott Momaday*

C. I Have Killed the Deer [p. 13]

1) After reading the Taos Pueblo song, discuss how the Native American’s religious views led to conflict(s) with Europeans.

2) What are the differences between a song and a poem? How are they similar?

D. Big Idea 2: Life in the New World [p. 14]

1) With such distinct cultures, the Europeans, the Native Americans, and the enslaved Africans, consider and discuss how each of these distinct groups “subdued a wilderness”. Use elements from the text to support your inferences and assertions.

2) After reading the excerpt from “Of Plymouth Plantation” by William Bradford (p. 15), how would you describe the Puritan style of writing. What factors do you think contributed to this style?

E. Big Idea 3: The Road to Independence [p. 16]

3) Construct a word web that captures the main concepts and how they relate to one another for each of the sections: **“Natural Aristocracy”, Political Rights, Women’s Lives**.