

# Creative Work

Interpretation of Literature: “Literary Classics Adapted”

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08G:001:050

Due Date: Tuesday, April 29 (by class time)

Turn-in Location: ICON DropBox

Grade Weight: 10% of final grade

This assignment provides students with the opportunity to creatively engage with one of the texts we are reading by planning—not filming or performing—their own cinematic adaptations. Students will be assigned groups and will collaboratively plan an adaptation of *Hamlet*, *Frankenstein*, or *Wuthering Heights* (depending upon your assignment). During the penultimate week of class, students will present their film ideas to their peers and to myself. As a class, we will vote on which adaptation should be (hypothetically) produced, and the group whose film idea is selected will be rewarded with candy.

## Assignment Details

This is a three-part written assignment with a presentation component, though only one document containing the three written parts should be uploaded to ICON.

- **Part 1**

In coherent paragraphs, you are to summarize the plans for your film adaptation. The only information that you may choose to deliver in list-form is the cast list (the names of *all* characters *and* who’s playing them). In writing your summary, you should address all the following questions:

- What is the title of your adaptation?
- Who is your target audience?
- If you had to pick one overarching theme or message you are communicating in your film, what would it be? Is this theme present in the originary text? Is it a main theme in the originary text or is it a more minor theme?
- Will you modernize the originary text or will you have the film’s setting stay true to the originary work? In what time period *and* in what location will you set your film?
- Will you use modern language (and perhaps slang) or will you keep the language of the originary text?
- What is the genre of your adaptation? Comedy? Tragedy? Satire? Parody? Sci-fi? Etc. What is its general tone? Is it somber? Is it jovial? Etc.
- Will you add scenes? Delete scenes? Be specific here.
- What elements, themes, symbols, and/or motifs present in the originary text do you want to emphasize and/or downplay in your adaptation? Be specific here.
- How are you interpreting the characters in the originary text? Are you aiming to stay true to the author’s characterization or are you deliberately presenting

alternate renderings of the characters?

In addition to the above-listed questions, you may choose to address the following questions:

- What sort of soundtrack will you use?
- What sort of costumes and/or props will your actors use?
- Will you incorporate any sort of technology into the film? Is this technology present in the originary text or are you adding it?
- What kind of camera tricks will you employ? For example, will you do a close-up of a certain facial expression or emphasize a certain scene? Use match cuts to link disparate scenes and/or underscore the relationships between two elements? Special effects?

- **Part 2**

After responding to the above questions in a well-organized series of paragraphs, you should devote at least three full paragraphs to reflecting on your creative choices.

- Explain the significance of your title.
- Explain how you think your creative choices cater to your target audience.
- Explain how you are interpreting the originary work. If you chose to be true to the originary text, explain why you value fidelity. If you chose to deliberately alter textual elements, explain why you made those alterations—i.e., how those changes affect *meaning*.
- If it does, explain how your film adaptation engages feminist criticism, critical race theory, psychological criticism, Marxist (class) criticism, etc.

The key is to connect your creative choices to interpretive decisions: How are you interpreting the originary text and what elements you are emphasizing, deleting, adding, **and why**? Think about what you want your audience to take away from your film adaptation. Think about whether you want them to see a message or theme already present in the originary text (but perhaps only subtly implied) or whether you want to challenge a message in the originary text in some way?

- **Part 3**

Explain in one paragraph what every member of the group contributed to the project.