

**Text/Prose versus Cinema/Drama**

**Read *Portable Legacies*, pages: 932-941**

*(Supplied on 04/08.)*

In this comparison/contrast assignment, you have three main goals:

1. examine the psychological makeup of central characters based on class discussions
2. examine the developing plot structures between a product of prose and a product of cinema
3. examine the end products of the two art forms—decide which is more effective; explain why
  - use parallel structure when citing evidence based on your observations of the text and movie
  - discuss what elements of plot changes between the two art forms; what elements are constant
  - remember the focus is not on the actors' performance/bio but on events that make up the plot

1,250 words or more / due: April 29, 2014

**Choose from the following list of possibilities:**

1. Edgar Allan Poe “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843) || film *The Tell-Tale Heart*
2. Charlotte Perkins Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892) || *Confinement: A Modern Retelling of the Yellow Wallpaper*
3. William Faulkner “A Rose for Emily” (1930) || *A Rose for Emily*

**Main Objectives:**

1. Follow MLA guidelines (Other requirements will be discussed soon for each film.)
2. Use three (3), or more, critical resources from the Library databases discussing the story: Academic Search Complete, JSTOR, and the Literature Resource Center
3. Isolate a strong thesis statement regarding the two stories.
4. Remember you want to feature your topic throughout the essay. Each paragraph must defend your main focus.  
Be sure to support the thesis with detailed evidence from each story.
5. When writing the first draft, be sure subsequent paragraphs include topic sentences relating to your thesis. When discussing the printed story: use two quotes per body paragraph: one quote from critic, one quote from the story.
6. Create an interesting, intricate introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
7. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase.
8. Use five or more sentences per paragraph.
9. Use the correct MLA essay format outlined in *The Bedford Handbook*.
10. Provide **Works Cited** page.
11. Keep in mind, you do want to avoid clichéd writing: I already know there are “many differences and many similarities” between the two mediums.
12. *Be sure to proof your work.*

**Checklist for Writing about Films** (Based on *Portable Legacies*, chapter 11, “Drama.”)

1. What is the function of the setting and props? (see *PL* pages 939)
2. Who are the main characters? Are they developed? What role do the minor characters play in the film?  
Are they different from the print version of the story? (see *PL* pages 936-937)
3. How does the film handle the plot? Is it different from the print version of the story? (see *PL* pages 938-939)
4. What is the effect of the lighting? Is it dark? Is it soft?
5. How do all the elements of the film develop the theme of the story? (see *PL* pages 940)
6. Evaluate the film against the print version of the story. Which is more effective? Why?

**Introduction Paragraph**

The introduction to your paper will discuss the process of comparing a short story to a film based on a literary work. In this case the **expectation for 04/15/14** is the opening paragraph of your paper: five *or more* strong sentences detailing your observations and preliminary research on one short story and the subsequent film. The last sentence will serve as your thesis point.

- Examine how the analytical process works in a similar fashion when comparing the two art mediums: print versus film.
- Does the audience’s expectations heighten when viewing a story translated to film?
- Is popular fiction easier or more complex once transitioned from print to film?  
Keep in mind recent Hollywood serial projects:  
*Harry Potter, Twilight, Shades of Grey, Hunger Games*

**Thesis Statement**

Your thesis will address your findings between your two subjects.

- What preliminary observations do you have about the presentations of plot?

Remember, all body paragraphs must have one to two quotes. Do not quote nor paraphrase material within your introduction or conclusion paragraphs.

All **body paragraphs** must have at least five sentences.

### Works Cited

- Bergman, Ingmar. *The Seventh Seal*. Per. Gunnar Björnstrand, Bengt Ekerot, and Nils Poppe. AB Syensk Filmindustr, 1958. DVD.
- "Confinement: A Modern Retelling of The Yellow Wallpaper." *Films On Demand*. Films Media Group, 2010. Web. 30 Mar. 2014.<<http://digital.films.com.lscsproxy.lonestar.edu/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1893&xtid=43870>>.
- Faulkner, William. "A Rose for Emily." *Compact Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing*. 8th ed. Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell. Boston: Wadsworth, 2013. 220-226. Print.
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- "A Rose for Emily" *YouTube*. YouTube, 30 January, 2014. Web. 04 April. 2014.
- "The Tell-Tale Heart." *Films On Demand*. Films Media Group, 1988. Web. 30 Mar. 2014. <<http://digital.films.com.lscsproxy.lonestar.edu/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=1893&xtid=1700>>.