

***The Bluest Eye* Final Project**

In this assignment, drawing on one of the following themes from the novel, I want you to creatively express what you've learned and what you've seen as you read Toni Morrison's first novel, *The Bluest Eye*.

Major Themes:

Love

Beauty

Racial Identity

Gender and sexism

1. Create a soundtrack

Using the text as your guide, create a soundtrack that you feel fits with the messages and events in the novel. You may use any genre of music you like (best to choose songs from several different genres!) For each song, you must list the title, artist, a selection of the lyrics (2-3 lines that you think connect to the theme you are discussing), and a brief 1-2 paragraph explanation of how the song fits within your larger theme (love, beauty, racial identity, or gender) in the novel. Your finished soundtrack should include at least 6 songs.

2. Poetry Explication

Choose THREE poems that you think connect thematically to *The Bluest Eye* and explicate them in three separate short 300-400 word essays. Each explication must include an examination of the poem's language and themes as well as its connection to *The Bluest Eye*. You **MUST** include both lines from the poems and the novel to illustrate this connection.

3. Cover Art

Redesign the book cover for *The Bluest Eye*; create a cover that includes symbolic images relating directly to the themes presented in the novel. You may NOT use clip art or cut-and-pasted images from the computer. The cover must be totally original, creative, and thoughtful. Accompanying your cover, you must include a 2-page essay explaining how your cover connects to the themes and symbols in the novel. Use **examples** from the novel to support your ideas. (Ideas for symbols: Dick & Jane, marigolds, blue eyes, etc.)

4. Be the casting director

The Bluest Eye has never been made into a movie. If you were to cast that film, which actors would you cast in these roles? Why? Provide a dream casting list (any actor from any period, living or dead) with the actors' names, a brief 4-5 sentence explanation of why you chose that actor and how he/she would portray that character,. Then create a movie poster with a catchy tagline. Like #3, art must be original. Be creative. Cast at least 6 of the following characters: Pecola, Claudia, Pauline, Cholly, Frieda, Soaphead Church, Louis Jr, Mr. Henry, Maginot Line (Miss Marie), Sammy, Darlene, Maureen Peal.

5. Switch genres

Take a scene from *The Bluest Eye* and rewrite it in a different form (a stage play, video game, poem, ballad, etc.) or genre (horror, romance, science fiction, dystopic fiction, etc.). The options are wide open! Check with Mr. Paradis before starting to ensure that you have proper guidelines, but you should plan to refer to your major theme (love, beauty, racial identity, gender) in your creation, be able to explain your choices and changes to the text, and stay somewhat true to the text (for example, you may rewrite Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove's fight scene in a *Street Fighter*-esque series of dialogue and screen cues, but you can't have Pecola kill every character at the beginning of the novel with no explanation).

Projects are due **March 13, 2020**

You will be graded on:

- Adherence to chosen project guidelines: _____/40
- Creativity and Originality: _____/20
- Discussion of theme: _____/20
- Specific examples from the novel: _____/20