**Themes in Romeo & Juliet**

We learn many lessons in life. For example, if we fail a test, we learn that we must work harder to receive a good grade. Similarly, you could take this “lesson” and apply it to other situations in your life. For example, if you play basketball and want to make varsity, you might realize that you need to work hard and train if you want to move up. Additionally, if you start out in an entry level position at a company, you realize you need to stay late and put in 110% effort to get promoted.

When we read, we often encounter these “lessons” which present themselves through the development of plot, characters, setting, etc. In a text, this “lesson” is called a THEME. A theme is a message/ moral/ lesson about people, life, and the world we live in that the author wants the reader to understand. Most of the events in the text center on the theme and are there to serve the purpose of sending a message (or lesson) to the reader. See examples of theme in various texts below.

Theme examples:

* *Charlotte’s Web*
  + Theme: Never give up
* *The Wizard of Oz*
  + Theme: Appreciate what you already have
* *King Midas* (Myth)
  + Theme: Greed doesn’t lead to happiness

**Let’s Practice…**

To help you better understand “theme,” consider the events in *The Odyssey*. Based on the plot, characters, setting, etc. that happen in the story, what might be some THEMES we might encounter in this text? Support your ideas with examples below.

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| **Possible Theme** | **Reasoning (evidence from text)** |
| * Temptation leads to destruction | * Odysseus’ men kill the cattle of the Sun God (Helios) while Odysseus sleeps. They do this because they are stranded on an island and have been starving for days. Although Odysseus tells them not to, the men slaughter the cattle and eat them. |
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Your Assignment (Part 1):

Using your knowledge of the plot, characters, setting, etc., write a 2-3 page essay (double spaced, default font & size) that **describes** a theme found in Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet*. Your essay should **explain** and **analyze** your chosen theme using direct examples from the text. For example, if you decide to discuss “temptation” as a theme for your essay on *The Odyssey*, you should:

Do This: **Explain** how Odysseus’ men kill the cattle of the Sun God (Helios) while Odysseus sleeps. **Describe** that they do this **because** they are stranded on an island and have been starving for days. Although Odysseus tells them not to, the men slaughter the cattle and eat them.

Don’t do this: Describe how Odysseus’ men kill the cattle of the Sun God (Helios) while Odysseus sleeps.

* (Instead, you need to **explain** WHY and HOW it represents the theme of temptation!!!)

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| **Rubric: “Themes in *Romeo & Juliet*” Essay** | **Name:** |
| Content- Does your essay…   * Include a catchy and relevant title? * Explain, describe, and analyze a theme in *Romeo & Juliet*? * Use direct quotes & examples from *Romeo & Juliet* to support and explain your chosen theme (1+ direct quote per body paragraph is a good idea)? * Include 2-3 pages of writing? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 pts. |
| Organization- Does your essay…   * Have clear paragraphs, including an introduction, body, and conclusion? * Include a thesis statement that can be found at the END of the first paragraph? * Use topic sentences that “sum up” what will be discussed in each paragraph? * Use transition words such as “however,” “therefore,” “although,” or “also”? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 20 pts. |
| Overall Quality of Writing:   * Spelling, grammar, mechanics, etc. * Avoided pronouns like “I” and “you” * Didn’t “talk to” the reader, avoiding things like, “This essay will show you…” and “I hope you enjoyed reading this essay” * Formal tone of writing * Cite direct quotes from the story using act, scene, and line numbers within body paragraphs, as well as a “Works Cited” page | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts. |
| **TOTAL POINTS:** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 65 points** |

Your Assignment (Part 2):

Public Service Announcement (PSA)

Based on you work in Part 1 of this assignment, research your chosen theme on a grand scale. Instead of simply looking at your theme and how it develops in *Romeo & Juliet*, research how your theme “translates” into our lives. Your goal for this assignment is to create a public service announcement in the form of a video (use video creator of your choice) to promote social awareness of your topic (“spread the word” for the greater good). Then, as your “final” for this semester, we will present your projects to the class. See the grading rubric below for more information. **Due to present in class FRIDAY, 11/30.**

* Example: If you were working with a theme related to “sacrifice” from *Romeo & Juliet*, you might research local news articles, police reports, and other documents to find information about suicide rates. This connects to the play because Romeo & Juliet sacrifice their lives for each other and, unfortunately, suicide is a very relevant topic in our society today. After collecting relevant research, you would compile your information into an appealing public service announcement to teach others about suicide in hopes of preventing it from happening close to home.

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| **Rubric: How R&J Themes Translate into Our World** | **Name:** |
| Content- Does your presentation…   * Include a topic that clearly relates to your chosen theme in *Romeo & Juliet*? * Give an IN-DEPTH explanation of your topic and why it matters in our lives? * Include SPECIFIC, real-world examples to explain your theme/topic (including facts and cited sources)? * Promote social awareness to “spread the word” about your topic? * Present information in a logical, “easy to follow” format? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 25 pts. (5 pts. each) |
| Video Format:   * Video is easy to read and “appealing to the eye” (think font, colors, size, etc.) * Video uses a wealth of pictures and/or video, as well as sound and text appropriately * Last at least 1 minute and include a title and citations? * Include title slide, 10+ images, 5+ captions/ statistics/quotes/examples/etc. of text | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 12 pts. |
| Citations:   * Works cited “slide” was included at end of presentation * Information was cited PROPERLY, in alphabetical order | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts. |
| Overall Quality of Writing:   * Presentation is free of errors and mistakes (spelling, grammar, mechanics, etc.) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 5 pts. |
| **TOTAL POINTS:** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 52 points** |

Public Service Announcement: Research Organizer

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| Website Name & Citation Information (include at least 3) | Information Collected:  5+ different ideas per website  (facts, statistics, examples, etc.) |
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**Movie Maker Cheat Sheet**

\*Before doing anything: Click on “home” tab and insert (drag) “title” to project\*

To Record Audio

1. Plug in and turn on microphone
2. Click “record narration” button under “home” tab
3. Click on red “record” button & speak into microphone
4. Do the hokey pokey and turn yourself around

To Insert Songs

1. Click on “add music” button under “home” tab
2. In dropdown menu, choose one of free online options OR click “add music” from PC if uploading own songs
3. Click around website and download music
4. Insert to MovieMaker via “downloads” file in documents

To Insert Images or Video

1. Find images via internet or upload own images to your documents/Onedrive folder
2. Click on “add videos and photos” button under “home” tab
3. Find saved image & click “open”

TO FINALIZE PROJECT (BEFORE HANDING IN!)

* Take the following steps to finish your project so that your project transfers correctly:

1. Click on “file” 🡪 “save MOVIE” 🡪 “For computer”
2. MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON YOUR PROJECT
3. Drag to dropbox: NESSWHI when finished