Psychology in Literature

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*

Assessment Options

**Traditional Test**

-True/False to show the big ideas of the novel

-Matching to show the same

-Short Answer (choose 2 of 4)

-Extended Response relating the themes of the novel to the Essential Questions of Psych in Lit

(1 to 2 pages written)

**Extended Essay – 4-5 pages**

***(School-wide Rubric for Written and Oral Communication)***

**Option One: Novel to Film Comparison**

Compare and contrast Kesey’s novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* with the 1975 film adaptation. This response should be an in-depth analysis of the similarities and differences between the two works. Rather than simply pointing out what the differences are, be sure to support *how these differences affect the viewer/reader* and the *overall success* of the novel or movie *in sending its message to the audience*. You should discuss concepts from this semester, including but not limited toperception, symbolism, perspective, etc.

**Option Two: Novel to Poem Comparison**

“Much madness is divinest sense…”

–Emily Dickenson

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MUCH madness is divinest sense |  |
| To a discerning eye; |  |
| Much sense the starkest madness. |  |
| ’Tis the majority |  |
| In this, as all, prevails. |  |
| Assent, and you are sane; |  |
| Demur,—you ’re straightway dangerous, |  |
| And handled with a chain. |  |

A century ago in Amherst, Massachusetts, Emily Dickinson wrote the words above, the sentiment of which Ken Kesey would echo decades later. Though *Cuckoo’s Nest* is much lengthier, one can easily draw several parallels between the poem and the novel.

Discuss the theme of **madness** using these two pieces of literature(meaning, use specific examples from each to support your claims). In your response, answer the following questions: Who is considered ‘mad?’ Who determines whether someone is ‘mad?’ What does society do with or feel about these people? What relationship does madness have to wisdom or insight? Do you agree with Kesey and Dickinson? Your essay should be about 4 pages in length and lead with a strong thesis that addresses the connection between the poem and novel. The “exploration” at the end of your essay could address whether or not you agree with the literary artists, but you may structure your response however you feel is most effective.

**Project Choices**

***(School-wide Rubric for Quality Work)***

**Symbolism**

Track a symbol throughout the novel and form a **thesis** to represent your conclusion about the symbol’s significance. You need to find at least 10 examples of the symbol from the novel, providing quotations/passages for each example.

You may produce these findings in essay form, Power Point, iMovie, comic, etc. Be mindful that your product must meet the expectations and requirements identified above.

Ideas: machinery, fog, size/perception, madness

**Soundtrack**

Choose at least **seven** scenes from the novel, and find a song that captures the mood, tone, or events of the scene (one song per scene). You will provide a written analysis for each, illustrating the connection using specific quotations from the scene and lyrics from the song. These analyses should be well-constructed paragraphs that **identify** your connection with strong topic sentences, **explain** your reasoning using examples and **explore** the bigger picture of the passage.

**Art Depicting Theme**

You will symbolically express a meaning, theme or important idea about human nature or experience based on the novel. The illustration may not have a resemblance to a picture or event on which it is commenting; rather, the artwork should **rely on symbol and metaphor to make its point**.

**Art Component**

You may use any medium you wish to depict your visual representation. Your choices may include (but are not limited to) markers, colored pencils, magazine cut-outs, computer graphics, charcoal cartoons, newspaper clippings, tracings, etc. Remember, you will be evaluated on your concept and effort—not on the caliber of the artwork itself, which I am obviously not qualified to judge! ☺

**Written Component**

You must include an explanation of the meaning, theme, important idea about human nature, etc. that is addressed by your artwork. This can be a well-constructed, Identify-Explain-Explore paragraph but **must have enough depth to fully convey your understanding of the novel and the significance of whatever you address in your artwork**.