**BOOK CLUB**

Throughout the first half of this semester, you will be assigned four readings. You will be responsible for reading the selection and reporting back to other members of the class who did not read it. Why do this? It is good to practice for the Oral Presentation which is part of your grade, but it is also a good way to review the literary terms which you need to know about for this class.

The stories the class will be assigned include:

“Gorilla my Love” & “Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara

“Love” & “Fairy Tale” & “Jealous Husband Returns in the Form of a Parrot” by Robert Olen Butler

“Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant

“On Rainy River” & “Man I Killed” by Tm O’Brien (both from *The Things They Carried*)

“The Sniper” by O’Flaherty

“Two Kinds” & “Young Girl’s Wish” & “Heart” by Amy Tan

**For Homework for Each Assignment:**

For the first Reader Response, due Jan 11th, you will be able to choose a story by Bambara. You can print out the story and write annotations on the sides of the story or write out a list on a separate sheet of paper. This one does NOT have to be in paragraph format. Remember annotations focus on looking for words that repeat because they probably have meaning, for words that are confusing and you might need to look up later, and for words that might reveal some clues about the setting, theme, characters, plot, style, tone, or symbolism. You can circle words, underline, highlight, or write out little notes to the side. **BRING THIS TO CLASS.**

**Story: You choose either** “[Gorilla my Love](https://peopleandstories.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/gorilla-my-love.pdf)” by Toni Cade Bambara or “Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara (p994 of Literature & Ourselves and on Story Link Webpage)

For the second Reader Response, due Jan 27th, you will be assigned one of the three Butler stories the class period before it is due. It is a minimum of half page to a maximum of 1.5 pages. You will write in complete paragraphs, following MEAL, including topic sentences and examples from the story. You are looking for what makes the story tick. What parts are interesting to you and what parts could be better/more interesting? Remember I like to know why, how, and because. You don’t need to summarize the plot—this is not a book report. You don’t need to have deep insight or some epiphany because the story changed your life. This is simply your response, your feelings, your thoughts. There is no right or wrong response so long as you can support your opinions using examples from the story itself. I am looking for good grammar, good sentences, and reasons why you think/feel something. You can email it to me but you should know it enough to be able to share it with other students in the class, so maybe it is just easier to print it and bring it to class…

**Story: I will assign you one of the 3 Butler Stories.**

1. “[Love](http://www.webdelsol.com/butler/rob-2.htm)” by Robert Olen Butler
2. “[Fairy Tale](http://www.webdelsol.com/butler/rob-1.htm)” by Robert Olen Butler
3. “[Jealous Husband Returns in the Form of a Parrot](http://www.webdelsol.com/butler/rob-5.htm)” by Robert Olen Butler

For the third Reader Response, due Feb 03rd, you read “On a Rainy River” by O’Brien. It is a minimum of 1.25 pages to a maximum of 2.25 pages. You will write in complete paragraphs, following MEAL, including topic sentences and examples from the story. You are looking to kick it up a notch. One paragraph should be similar to the last Reader Response and focus on your opinion of the story. Remember to provide examples and focus on how, why, and because. Another paragraph will focus on one of the literary elements and how it is being used in the story to show the reader something. For example, the symbolism of water in Lawrence’s “The Horse Dealer’s Daughter” shows the reader how the very sad and suicidal daughter will be changed and reborn by the doctor’s love and through the act of saving her. That would be a good Main Idea sentence from MEAL. One could follow it by an example form the story and then analyze why that example is important to showing the thesis. This would be the “E” and the “A” from the MEAL. Include MLA in-text citations and work cited too (even though you only have one story).**This is the first assignment you have to submit to Turnitin.com.** However, you may also want to bring a copy to class for the sharing book club part.

**Story:** “On a Rainy River” by Tim O’Brien (p776 of *Literature & Ourselves* and it is in *The Things They Carried*)

For the fourth Reader Response, due Feb 18th, you will be assigned one of the three Amy Tan stories.**This one is longer than the last two:** It is a minimum of 2 pages to a maximum of 3.25 pages. You will write in complete paragraphs, following MEAL, including topic sentences and examples from the story. You are looking to kick it up a notch. **This response will need a more formal INTRODUCTION & CONCLUSION.** One body paragraph should be similar to the last Reader Response and focus on your opinion of the story. Remember to provide examples and focus on how, why, and because. Another body paragraph will focus on one of the literary elements and how it is being used in the story to show the reader something. For example, the symbolism of water in Lawrence’s “The Horse Dealer’s Daughter” shows the reader how the very sad and suicidal daughter will be changed and reborn by the doctor’s love and through the act of saving her. That would be a good Main Idea sentence from MEAL. One could follow it by an example form the story and then analyze why that example is important to showing the thesis. This would be the “E” and the “A” from the MEAL. **This is the second assignment you have to submit to Turnitin.com.** However, you may also want to bring a copy to class for the book club sharing part.

**Story: You will be assigned one of the 3 Amy Tan stories.**

1. “[Two Kinds](http://olsen-classpage.wikispaces.com/file/view/TwoKindsfulltext.pdf)” by Amy Tan
2. “Young Girl’s Wish” by Amy Tan (p637)
3. “Heart” by Amy Tan (p651)

**For the Class on the day it is Due:**

You will get into groups and discuss what you read. You will take turns summarizing what the story is about, what you liked about it (there should be something, at least one little something!) and what you liked least about it (even if the story was so good you cried real tears, there is still something that may not have been so great). How will I know if you are doing this or not? I am going to ask someone else in your group to tell me about your assigned story. Or I may be cruel and give each person a short quiz on someone else’s story in your group. Or I may just see you are doing this and consider that enough assessment.