Quote Journals:

This mini assignment will be cut into two parts for a Major Letter grade:

1. Journals will be 20 points – there are 20. If you complete 10 or more, then you are good to go for a pass.
2. Final in class write (Tomorrow) 10 points – any style of writing learned so far in class.

Your question for the final:

**Which of the following themes run through five or more of these quotes? Use reasons and examples to support your answer.** The paper should be 500-750 words and can be any form of writing you’ve used up to this point as an expression of your ideas.

Syles of writing covered so far:

1. Summary of ideas
2. Rhetorical analysis
3. Reflection Paper
4. Close Reading

**Themes to think about:**

Circle of Life: What comes around, goes around. The Circle of Life dwells on life’s transience and impermanence: how death isn’t death, just an evolution.

* *Where the Red Fern Grows*by Wilson Rawls

Coming of Age: Also known as a bildungsroman, Coming of Age involves the intense experiences of growing up, and how these experiences shape the future of the protagonist.

* *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
* *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Faith vs Doubt: Whether it’s faith in God, other people, or the protagonist’s own self, believing isn’t easy—but is it worth doing anyway?

* *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Family: Many families are connected by blood, but to overcome certain obstacles, literary families must strengthen their ties to each other.

* *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy
* *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
* *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee
* *Brother & Sister Enter the Forest* by Richard Mirabella

Fate vs Free Will: How much of our actions are decided by fate, and how much does free will really control?

* *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare
* *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Good vs Evil: One can argue that every story is about good vs evil, assuming the story has a protagonist and antagonist. Still, good and evil are in eternal conflict with each other, so writers must document how this conflict evolves.

* *Doctor Faustus*by Christopher Marlowe
* *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*by Robert Louis Stevenson

Hubris: Hubris refers to excessive self-confidence and the terrible decisions that arise from it. Many works of literature explore hubris as man’s defiance of God/the gods, or else man himself playing God.

* *Frankenstein*by Mary Shelley
* *The Iliad* by Homer
* The story of Adam & Eve in *The Book of Genesis*

Identity: At some point in their life, the protagonist asks the question: who am I?

Additionally, “Identity” refers to the qualities that make one person distinct from another. How much of a difference *exists* between you and I?

* *Kafka on the Shore*by Haruki Murakami
* *The Idiot* by Elif Batuman
* *Encircling*by Carl Frode Tiller

Justice: What makes a society just? What are the proper consequences for people who do the wrong thing? Who is best equipped to dispense justice? Are we collectively responsible for each other’s actions?

* *To Kill a Mockingbird*by Harper Lee
* *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
* *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Loneliness: Loneliness affects the way people think, act, and view the world. The theme of loneliness charts how certain characters contend with their loneliness, and whether man can survive this disconnection from others.

* *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage* by Haruki  Murakami
* “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway

Man vs Nature: Man’s natural inclination is to dominate the land, but nature has its own means of survival.

* *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
* *Into the Forest* by Jean Hegland
* *Power* by Linda Hogan

Man vs Self: Sometimes, the protagonist is their own adversary. In order to overcome certain challenges, the protagonist must first overcome their own internal conflicts.

* *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Man vs Society: When the story’s antagonist is society-at-large, the protagonist must convince the world that it’s sick—or else die trying. Some protagonists also try to escape society altogether.

* *Nineteen Eighty-Four: A Novel* by George Orwell
* *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
* *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Power and Corruption: Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. This theme is often closely related to “Man vs Society.” Additionally, “Power” can refer to a person’s political leadership, personal wealth, physical prowess, etc.

* *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
* *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Pursuit of Love: Love makes the world go round, but it’s not always easy to find. Whether it’s romantic, familial, or platonic love, there’s much to be said about love’s pursuit—and the conflict that comes from pursuing it.

* *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
* *Why be Happy When You Could be Normal?* By Jeanette Winterson
* *Emma* by Jane Austen

Revenge: When someone wrongs you or the people you love, revenge is tempting. But, is revenge worth it? Can revenge beget justice? And how far is too far?

* *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

Sacrificial Love: When you truly love someone, you’re willing to sacrifice everything for them. Sacrifice is a component of all themes concerning love, though this is especially true for stories about motherly love.

* *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
* *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko

Survival: When survival is at stake, people discover the limits of their own power. The literary theme of survival applies to stories about being lost in the wilderness, but it also applies to stories about the survival of ideas, groups, and humanity-at-large.

* *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, author unknown
* *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood
* *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

The Environment: Whether it’s because of technology, climate change, or our increasingly online world, man’s relationship to the environment is ever-evolving. Themes in literature concerning the environment often coincide with “man vs nature.”

* *My Year of Meats* by Ruth Ozeki
* *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver

War: Mankind has been at war with itself since the dawn of civilization. The causes of war, as well as its impacts on society, are topics of frequent musing by writers—especially writers who have been at war themselves.

* *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway
* *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
* *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu