Writing Exercise 2: Heteroglossia | Due: October 23

Goal:
The goal of this assignment is to practice analyzing the subtle ways an author's meaning (intentional or otherwise) is presented through a character's speech and/or action in a literary text.

Assignment:
Your assignment is to select a passage from one of the texts we've read (prior to the due date of the paper) that you feel is an example of *heteroglossia* and perform a *close reading* of that passage. You will write a 350-word statement making an argument regarding what the author is communicating through that passage and present supporting evidence from the text.

The final product should do the following, in a **350-word** (12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, no extra space between paragraphs, no superfluous spacing)**:**

- Include a brief introduction that frames and defines the scope of your essay;
- Articulate a clear and compelling thesis that argues the meaning communicated through the words/actions of a character in your selected passage;
- Develop your argument in interesting and persuasive body paragraphs, which are logically arranged to help your reader follow your argument;
- Persuade your audience to accept your claim by grounding your arguments (and response to possible counterarguments) in evidence from the text, through quotation, and compelling analysis of that evidence that ties it to your claims;
- Include a conclusion that culminates your argument and leaves your reader with a greater understanding of the text;
- Properly and accurately cite the text within the essay <u>and</u> a works cited page using MLA style.

Invention and Inquiry:
In preparing this assignment, select a passage from one of the texts we've read so far that you feel is an example of heteroglossia. Perform a close reading on the passage—read the passage and carefully annotate it. Analyze the passage's technical and narrative elements—such as diction, sentence patterns, tone, figurative language, structure, plot, character, setting, etc. What observations about the passage and its meaning/significance do you have? What makes you consider this an example of heteroglossia?

You may wish to consider questions such as: Is the author using the character to express their meaning directly or indirectly? Are we supposed to agree with the character (i.e., as a mouthpiece for the author) or are we supposed to disagree with the character (i.e., the character represents what the author doesn't want us to accept)? How do the technical and narrative elements establish the meaning of the passage/text? How does the scene or passage illuminate a crucial element of the work as a whole? What in the passage adds light to our understanding of the themes developed in the text? What does the passage tell us about identity, power, class, race, gender, etc.? Is the passage especially indicative of the values of the era/location in which it was written?

When you have a firm grasp of the specific elements of the passage and its meaning, develop an outline for your statement in which you develop a (hypo)thesis about how these elements help us understand the meaning of the passage or the meaning of the text as an example of heteroglossia. Locate the evidence in the text that led you to this claim. Put these together in an order that seems to make sense and helps develop your argument. Develop your argument to persuade your reader to accept your analysis. Draft topic sentences that represent the reasons for accepting your claim and include quoted evidence from the text that support those reasons.

Once you have a sense of your evidence and arguments, write a rough draft in which you develop your point fully. Be sure to provide analysis of your textual evidence and explain to your reader how that piece of evidence supports your topic sentence and your thesis statement. Seek out feedback on your draft and revise!

In creating an argumentative essay with an "arguable" thesis (i.e., someone could have a different interpretation), it is important to know the difference between observation and argument. Move beyond observations and description/summary toward a unique, interesting assertion about meaning. Make your keen observations, then explain to your readers why those observations are meaningful. What evidence from the text supports your interpretation?

Audience and Tone:
This is an academic paper so it should be written using professional and authoritative language to present your findings. Your tone should be formal and informative. Your audience is your academic peers.

Specifications for Satisfactory:
To be considered Satisfactory, the exercise must do the following:

- ☐ Be submitted on Canvas by the due date specified
- ☐ Consist of at least 350 words
- ☐ Be properly formatted according to the assignment instructions
- ☐ Fully answer the prompt
- ☐ Include a clear and compelling thesis that argues the meaning communicated through the words/actions of a character in your selected passage
- ☐ Display a clear understanding of heteroglossia and how it operates in a text through the careful analysis of the passage and/or the thesis statement
- ☐ Present at least 3 relevant and persuasive pieces of evidence from the text, through quotation
- ☐ Provide persuasive analysis for each piece of evidence that also explains how/why it supports the topic sentence and/or thesis
- ☐ Demonstrate a clear and logical progression of ideas
- ☐ Include the basics of an academic essay, including an introduction that sets up the paper, a conclusion that brings the argument(s) to a culminating point, and at least one interesting and persuasive body paragraph
- ☐ Accurately cite each quotation using parenthetical notation within the essay
- ☐ Include a works cited page with full citation of the text using MLA style
- ☐ Be written in a clear manner with appropriate academic tone with few or no mechanical issues

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If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, I encourage you to e-mail me or come see me during my office hours. Also consider visiting the Miller Writing Center for help.