

ENGL 120 Blog Prompts, Second Half

For each of these seven prompts, please write a blog entry comprised of at least two substantial paragraphs. Be sure to proofread what you've written.

1. Consider a poem that blends historical and personal reference to help make its point; the one that comes to mind most memorably to me is Sylvia Plath's "Daddy." Choose a poem other than "Daddy" that you think employs this method. Describe how the historical and the personal combine with the poem's "poetics" (how it is written, its rhyme scheme, its line length, its use of stanzas) to make it memorable, powerful, emotional, successful, etc.
2. Think a bit more about the poem you recited in class. Tell me how you went about memorizing it. Second, was it a poem that had a clear "message," as far as you could tell? I encourage you to look up online "explanations" of your poem. Do you think those explanations are far-fetched? Do other readers get out of the poem what you got out of it?
3. How do women function in the play *Hamlet*? Tell me about the roles women play in the play and how they figure as dynamic or static characters, and how women impact the play's central figure: Hamlet himself.
4. Find a place in the play *Hamlet* where you think the poetics are particularly interesting relative to the plot. Transcribe the lines and analyze them. Tell me what Shakespeare is "doing" in the lines you have chosen, as a writer, as a playwright, as a poet.
5. Consider all of the information August Wilson gives you before the play *Fences* even begins. What do you make of the "Setting" and "The Play" information?
6. From the beginning of the play *Fences*, Wilson makes it clear that this is a play that concerns race. How do racial dynamics and family dynamics combine to make this play a success, such a well regarded and continually powerful play?
7. Of all the texts we've read this semester, which one will stay with you (I obviously hope more than one will, but just pick one)? Please choose one that was new to you this term. What about it made it so memorable to you? How does it exemplify "literary excellence" and figure as a stellar example out of a class called "Introduction to Literature"?