**Examining Themes Using Multi Genres**

In the past in English Language Arts courses we would have studied various types of literature separately from each other. For example if we studied Poetry we would look at several poems, analyzed them, learn how to write them, etc. Then we would move on to short stories, or essays, etc. But we never (until recently) used to look for any connections between the various genres.

In the following lessons, you will explore the similarities of literature from multiple genres to see how writers use them to look at common themes. This **multi-genre** approach to examining literature for similarities, commonalities and connections seeks the “thread” that runs through the literature and connects it to our own experiences. You will examine literature that relates to a **theme**, or unifying idea:

If you need to review what a **theme** is you can find it here: <https://literarydevices.net/theme/>

**IMPORTANT NOTE: YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY THEME THAT YOU LIKE BUT YOU MUST BE SURE THAT YOUR CHOSEN THEME RUNS THROUGHOUT ALL OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF LITERATURE (GENRES) THAT YOU WILL BE ASKED TO RESPOND TO.**

Each genre section of these lessons will ask you to choose a piece from that genre and write a personal response to your reading*. Each personal response should be done in a different genre. (See link below for genre ideas)* At the end of these lessons, you will create a product that presents your multi-genre analysis of the theme you have chosen for this unit.

**Assignments**

In each genre section of this unit, you will choose a piece of that type (genre) of literature and write a personal response to it.

Your response will include the title of the piece you read, the author and any other identifying information you think would be helpful (context, date, etc.). Your response should include answers to the following questions: **How does the piece relate to the theme that you chose?** Does the piece raise any thoughts or questions in your mind? Are there any quotations or particular diction that resonate with you?

Write your ideas, what resonates with you, what questions it raises, what connections you made, what you thought of the author’s choices, etc. Then consider: what genre does **your** writing want to be? (How do you want to present your analysis?) Trust the writer inside you. Ideas for genres for you to respond with can be found here;

<http://multigenre.colostate.edu/genrelist.html>