

## **ENG 181: Writing about Science Fiction Literature and Film**

*Assignment 1: Literary Response Letter, Due Tuesday, September 15, 2015*

Our first assignment is a low-stakes way to introduce you to college-level literary analysis. Your letter will require imagination but also close reading and analysis of the text. (This paper will be worth 5% of your grade.)

### **Instructions:**

As discussed in class, the plot of *Super Sad True Love Story* is told through the perspectives of multiple characters, conveyed through email correspondences, letters, online journals, and diary entries. Each character writes in a different format, for a different audience. In this assignment, you will consider how genre, technology, and intended audience shape the way a character tells his or her story. Imagine how Eunice's tone might change if she wrote in a private diary. What might Lenny hold back or say differently if his writings were addressed to Eunice?

Choose one character and moment in the book, and imagine the character speaking to a different character in a different medium. For example, if you choose a section of an online diary entry, imagine the section through an email or letter addressed to a specific character. Is there an event or memory that you think he or she would share (which doesn't appear in the novel)? What information might he or she hold back?

While this is a creative assignment, it's also good chance for you to put some of our learning outcomes into practice: responding to different types of audiences, summarizing and evaluating the ideas of others, developing written work with a clearly defined focus, and using writing for inquiry and communication.

Purpose: To understand how genre and intended audience shape the meaning of a text

Audience: The fictional character to whom the letter is addressed (or possibly to no one if you choose to write a "Dear Diary" letter)

Length: 2–3 pages

Format: Double-space the paper and use margins of one inch all around. Put a heading in the upper left-hand corner with your name, the date, and the type of assignment (Literary Response Letter).

Process Reflection/Rationale: Include a 200-word reflection. Describe the purpose of your writing, what effect(s) you want it to have on your readers, and the steps you went through to develop your letter. Additionally, what do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of your letter?

**Please submit by email (before class begins on Tuesday) and hardcopy (in class). Email with subject line: 181.yourlastname.letter (e.g. 181.Starr.letter).**