Reading Culture Scholarship

The Reading Culture program provides a scholarship to six students each academic year – three in the Fall and three in the Spring. This Fall, participating students will read the novel *Black Sugar* by Miguel Bonnefoy, present at the open mic on November 7 from 12:30 – 4:00 in the Spring Branch Eagle Room, and submit a reflective essay about their experiences reading this novel. Also, participating students should attend any two of the Reading Culture series events and submit a written response on Canvas at https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/courses/61378. For a complete list of events, see the calendar at https://library.hccs.edu/reading_culture.

Scholarship winners are selected based on an equal combination of their proposal and presentation scores.

**The Presentation**

Presentations should be 5 – 10 minutes. Good presentations will provide interesting insights and connections about *Black Sugar* and integrate audio and / or visual portions effectively. Past winners have presented original artwork / music / poetry, created videos using Adobe Spark / Prezi / other platforms, built a diorama, and produced performance art. You can choose any of these, or you might think about sculpture, cyber art, graphic art, whatever—the idea is to have fun and to show us how the novel impacted you!

Whatever you choose to create for your presentation should be unique and creative. Your goal is to interest your audience. Participants could interact with the audience, be comfortable speaking in front of others, and rely on notes only when necessary. What you create for your presentation is up to you, but it needs to be inspired by and demonstrate connections to the novel.

**The Written Reflection**

Students will also submit a written reflection. Reflections will be at least 500-750 words, typed, in correct MLA or APA format. All written work should contain the author’s name, student ID number, and contact information.

You can submit your reflection to Canvas any time before your presentation.

Your reflection should be a cohesive essay and should not merely repeat portions of your presentation. Your reflection should effectively develop and support points with evidence from multiple sections of the book and/or Reading Culture events—this evidence consists of specific details, quotations, and/or paraphrases that you explain/interpret/analyze adequately. It should conform to the standards of edited American English and adhere to MLA or APA guidelines for documentation.

You can use some (but not all) of the following questions to guide your writing, or you could focus on and develop one answer:
• In what ways have your sense of yourself, your values, or your sense of “community” been impacted or altered by the experience of reading this novel?
• How has the experience of reading this novel challenged any stereotypes or prejudices you might have?
• Have you had realizations, lessons, or insights that you have learned?
• Will the experience of reading this novel change the way you act or think?
• Which particular parts of the novel stood out to you? What was your favorite aspect and why? What surprised you the most?
• Which characters did you find fascinating? What would you say if you had a chance to speak to any of the characters?
• What is something major that you have discovered about yourself through reading the novel?
• Now that you have read the novel, what would you like to learn more about? What one question still stands out in your mind?
• What connections can you make between the novel and things happening in the world?

**Academic Integrity:**

*All work you submit must be your own.* If you consult any sources, whether oral or written, copyrighted or not, you must clearly distinguish between your words and ideas (or line of thought) and theirs at all times. The point of this is not to present a research paper on the novel, so do not use secondary sources.

Length: 500-750 words
Format: MLA or APA

Note: All proposals submitted for an award will be submitted to turnitin.com through the Canvas shell. Any proposal demonstrating evidence of plagiarism or misuse of sources will be disqualified

Resources: Campus Writing Center
Upswing: [https://hccs.upswing.io/](https://hccs.upswing.io/)
Faculty listed on Reading Culture website
(any of these folks are happy to help you think through your proposal, so feel free to email them and set up a conference time)