

ENG 2001 (D530)– Paper #2: Fantastic Snapshots from *The Island of Dr. Moreau*

Basic Information:

10/20: Paper assigned today

11/2: Last day to show me optional drafts of the paper.

11/7: Paper due by the beginning of class, on OpenLab and in physical form. Points will be deducted for careless formatting or submitting to the wrong dropbox. 20 points will be deducted for each day an essay is late. After 3 days, assignment will be recorded as a “zero.”

Motivating Question:

The Island of Dr. Moreau features an ongoing hesitation about what is “real,” and what might be supernatural, surreal, or a hallucination. In other words, it exemplifies the genre known as “the fantastic.” Equipped with our interpretive tools, we’re going to take snapshots from this strange novel to see why, exactly, Wells is so interested in creating this kind of experience.

Focusing on **one snapshot** from the novel, write a **700-800 word paper** in which you...

a) analyze how Wells uses seemingly inexplicable or impossible details to create hesitation, for either the reader or characters, about what is “real”;

b) discuss the role that one of the below elements play in creating this sense of the fantastic;

c) “zoom out,” and explain how your analysis helps the reader understand one of the broader guiding questions you have about the novel.

Possible elements to discuss: Point of View, Setting, Character, Style, Symbolism, Plotting

When picking a snapshot for analysis, refer to our notes in class, your classmates’ blog entries, and your own notes. You should pick a scene or passage that seems to offer insight into one of your own guiding questions. On that note, you should regularly refer to your guiding questions as you read the novel, and feel free to come up with new ones if they occur to you.

Your essay will be graded in terms of **Three** major areas:

1. **Content.**

-directly address ALL aspects of the prompt

-assert a **clear argument (thesis)** early, and then work logically to **develop and support** that argument

-use at least 3 **quotations**.

-show fluency in the **elements of fiction**, recognizing that they are not interchangeable (i.e., “plot,” “character” and “setting” all mean different things!)

-build on classroom discussion about the novel, but make **original interpretive claims**

-privilege interpretation over simply giving information

2. **Organization.**

-closely follow the 3-part structure of **introducing the thesis, close reading your Snapshot**, and then **explaining how that passage sheds light on the story as a whole**

-guide the reader, from presenting information about your passage, to *interpreting* the significance of that information, to explaining how your interpretation sheds light on the novel's broader themes.

3. **Formatting/Mechanics.** Proofreading, editing, and proper formatting (see below).

The best papers will **avoid...**

-too much summary

-too much direct quoting (expecting quotes to “speak for themselves”)

-too much personal experience (e.g. “This story made me sad/excited/confused”)

-too much reliance **ONLY** on what we talked about in class (re-stating class discussion)

-tangents that ignore the motivating question

Remember to seek out any assistance you need: use the resources on campus or visit my office hours if you have questions about your progress or goals for this assignment. I'm happy to read the first 2 pages of your draft by email, if you a) email me from your City Tech account, b) ask a *specific* question (not “Can you read this?”), and c) ask me by 11/2.

I'm also happy to discuss your draft during office hours - again, if you come to me by 11/2, and if you have a specific question you want me to answer.

Academic Integrity:

Please remember the College's policy on academic integrity (refer to the course syllabus or your student handbook). **Acts of plagiarism will result in a zero (0) for this assignment, and may result in further penalty.** I can and will use plagiarism checking software.

Format. Your essay must...

1) be submitted online **in a Word .doc format**,

2) include an italicized title (NOT “Fiction Essay”!)

3) have a header with your surname and page number on the top right corner of each page,

4) have your *name, assignment name* (i.e. Introduction to Fiction Paper 1), *course number, instructor name*, and *due date* on the top left corner of the first page.