**Theme Synthesis Presentation**

**CSI English 10**

**The Big Idea:**

The classic plays, novels, documents, poems, movies, etc. that you have read and seen this year have endured, and they will continue to live on due to their great literary merit. They are some of the foundations of becoming a well-read person. Like readers of generations before, you will find they speak truths of enduring application. Now that you’ve turned the last page, what remains of these works? Only the way that they have resonated and meant something to you.

Classic works can resonate through us via universal messages about life implied by the author or gleaned by the reader (theme). Stories can give us experience and wisdom; this is why they’ve been employed in every human culture since the dawn of language.

**The Challenge:**

*In a presentation to your class, make a thematic connection (a crucial message about life) between a piece of literature from this school year and another piece (or pieces) of your choice. Conclude by connecting the theme to your life.*

**The Steps:**

1. Identify a crucial message about life (theme) from one of the pieces we have read this school year.
2. Discover a piece that shares a crucial message about life (theme). A song? A novel? A movie?
3. Create a presentation that synthesizes these pieces.
4. Make a connection to the theme **in your life** (tell us a **story** about you).

**The Minimums and the Maximums:**

* Visual component (i.e. PowerPoint, etc.)
* Five minutes Maximum
* Do NOT read from your slides – use the visual component to AID (help) your presentation
* Maximum one sentence per slide (ideally no more than five words)
* Original work
* Unique Ideas/connections
* Establish theme from this year’s literature
* Synthesize with theme from a piece (or pieces) of your choice
* Synthesize, in the form of a story, the theme to an experience in your life.

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| Excellent/Exceptional/  Extraordinary thought, preparedness, and authenticity | Good/Decent/  Worthy thought, preparedness, and authenticity | Middle-of-the-road/Ordinary/  Just okay thought, preparedness, and authenticity | Sub-mediocre/  Little effort/ Didn’t “get it”/  Not worthy/ Last minute thought, preparedness, and authenticity | “Giving up is the only sure way to fail.” - Gena Showalter |
| A | A/B | B/C | D | F |

**CSI English 10 readings 2018-2019**

"How it Feels to be Colored Me" by Zora Neale Hurston

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

"The Great Fear" essay by J. Ronald Oakley

"How to Spot a Witch" essay by Adam Goodheart

"The Declaration of Independence" by Thomas Jefferson

*from* "The Autobiography" by Benjamin Franklin

*from* “Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*from* “Nature” by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*from* “Walden” by Henry David Thoreau

"The Devil and Tom Walker" by Washington Irving

"To a Mouse" by Robert Burns

"Harlem" by Langston Hughes

“Dreams” by Langston Hughes

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

"A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner

"The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin

"The Life You Save May be Your Own" by Flannery O'Connor

"The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

One of the following:

*Beggars in Spain*by Nancy Kress *Cat’s Cradle*by Kurt Vonnegut *The Old Man and the Sea*by Ernest Hemingway *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer *The Catcher in the Rye*by J.D. Salinger *The Book of Lost Things*by John Connolly *Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore*by Robin Sloan *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*by Michael Scott