***The Ocean at the End of the Lane***

**Neil Gaiman**

Personal Interpretation of the Story—**Look Book**

**Objective:**

Show that you have developed skills to read a text for interpretation. Look at details of the text (diction, events, characterization, etc.) to prove your interpretation of the topic you choose through analysis.

**Step 1:**

Pick a Topic—Ideas include:

Home Reality Death Childhood

Greed/Money Parenting Sacrifice Loss

Magic Reading Friendship Women

Innocence Fear Hunger/Food Memory

Isolation Mortality Identity Family

Monsters Trauma Wisdom/Experience Time

Truth/Perception Mysticism/Deity Money Boundaries

Happiness/Desires Loneliness Children vs. Adults Courage

Knowledge Manipulation Fabric Restraint

**Step 2:**

Create a significant artistic representation of your chosen topic within the story—something that you feel reflects your interpretation of the topic. Emphasize meaning through your artistic piece. Guidelines for your artwork are the expectation that you will take the time to think it through and then put some time and effort into the creative process, as it will be the first thing the audience sees. Be as creative as you like—consider any of the following:

\*Painting/watercolor \*Chalk art \*Photography \*Poster \*Sculpture/ceramics \* Graphic design \*3D Art \*Sketch/drawing \* Collage \*Other (Ask me)

**Step 3:**

Formulate a theme statement based on your topic. This is like a thesis statement—a claim about the topic. Theme statements are claims about a topic that apply universally, meaning to any time and place. Type it in Large Letters.

**Step 4:**

Interpretation details—deliberate choices you made in choosing the theme of the novel. Analyze this theme according to the RULES OF NOTICE. You will use these details to prove your theme. **You need to cite evidence from the text for each of your main points, including page numbers.** Some questions to consider might be:

* Why did the topic appeal to you—enough that you wanted to explore it as a theme.
* Why did you choose your theme statement (what you believe about the topic)?
* What does the book mean to you—or our world at large? What value does it hold?
* What ideas, events, details revolve around/have reference to your theme statement?
* What passages, dialog, or quotes in the novel support or reflect your theme statement? (They are evidence reflecting your belief statement.)
* Why are the passages meaningful—important; what value are they to the reader?
* What three claims could I make that fall under the banner of my theme statement?
* Which characters reflect aspects of my theme statement?
* What do the Goddesses bring to the boy? Why are they there? What is their purpose? (Individually? Collectively?)
* Why does the narrator revisit the farm in his adult life?
* Why do we, like the narrator, reflect often on things from the past, even when some of those things caused us significant distress, guilt, unhappiness, or grief?
* How is the story magical? Is there anything magical about your choice of theme?
* When could you have used a little magic in your own life—helping you understand more fully the experience/s you went through?

**Step 5:**

Putting the Look Book together:

You will need 9 plastic sheet protectors. You will present your look-book to an audience through an in-class evaluation activity. The evaluation will be based on depth of ideas, organization, supporting textual detail, effort, and thoughtful response. Your Look-Book must be organized in a specific order inclusive of the following pages:

**Checklist for the final Product—in this order**

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| --- |
| 1. Title Page: Your topic in big letters. 2. A picture of your artwork so that when I’m grading later, I remember your art. |
| 1. Explanation of artwork—one page double space |
| 1. One page “Theme Statement” – Typed in big letters |
| 1. Three pages of text evidence—one for each detail of the novel that you’ve interpreted to support your theme (see questions above or refer to your own), with solid analysis of that detail. Include a graphic relating to each detail. Then write an analysis of your interpretation of that detail, **including evidence from the text**. Double space everything. Make sure to tie it back to the theme. (This is like a body paragraph with a picture.) |
| 1. One page reflecting **four** interview questions you would want to ask Gaiman. |
| 1. One page of personal reflection—reflect on the story (Go any direction you want) Address how the theme can help in life today—a text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world connection? (One page double-spaced). |

**Step 6:**

**Dates and Discussion Activities**

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| Wednesday, May 8 | Look Book Assigned |
| Friday, May 10 | Work Day |
| Tuesday, May 14 | Work Day (Book completely read by now) |
| Thursday, May 16 | Work Day |
| Monday, May 20 | **Look Book Presented (MUST be in class)** |
| Wednesday, May 22nd | **Review for Final Exam (Thurs. 5/24)** |