

As we discussed in class, your assignment for Northern Lights is to look at a motif – a repeated element – and discuss what the motif does, as you travel through the book: does it help us understand a character in some way? Does it create a problem? Solve a problem?

As always, you will need to make your intentions clear in the Thesis Statement – the final sentence in your introductory paragraph – and make sure you STICK TO YOUR THESIS through the course of your paper. If you end up adding a section, because you were worried about length, what else do you need to do?

Just like when you wrote about poetry, you need to work to make sure you aren't summarizing the novel. (You already know how to summarize, so it comes easily to you, and you can probably fill quite a bit of space with that summary, which makes it feel like you don't have to do much more – but, in the end, you really haven't done anything at all, right?).

Instead, make sure your Topic Sentences lead your reader into each paragraph's discussion and make sure you are thorough and thoughtful in how you teach your reader your theories. Be clear, but not redundant, and quote the points that made you believe what you believe using proper MLA set up and documentation. (Everything is the same as when you quoted poetry, but you don't have to worry about line breaks or line numbers: a block quote is just moved over two tabs without a particular set up – the way you quote and where you punctuate the sentence is the same. All that goes in the parentheses are the author's name and page number.

Keep working on handing in a final draft – not a rough draft: that is, print out a copy of your paper and read it aloud. Listen for any awkwardness or repetition; look at your quotes and make sure they are set up and cited correctly; look at each body paragraph and make sure each whole paragraph discusses what the Topic Sentence promises; when you read the entire paper, does the Thesis Statement touch on all of your discussion?

This is due in one week: Monday, 29 March.

Please hand your paper in on TEAMS, so I know they are all together and can find them easily.