**Realism/Naturalism**

Essay (50 points)

Due: Sunday December 8th

In the 2nd quarter, you have read and studied works that reflected the Realist/Naturalist Literary Movements. Now you are going to show that you can understand and write about how the movements are reflected in the works that you read.

Here are some of the main tenets of the Realism movement that you can discuss in your essay:

1. Focus on the harsh reality of the world
2. Emphasis placed on small details, middle class lives, and realistic descriptions of everyday life
3. Characters are more important than the plot/actions
4. Narrator/author lets the reader come to their own conclusions about the events of the story
5. Regionalism- style of writing focuses on the realistic depiction of the setting, language, and attitudes of people around the U.S.A.

Here are some of the main tenets of the Naturalism movement that you can discuss in your essay:

1. Determinism- the belief that humans are controlled by fate, genetics/heredity, good/bad luck
2. Free will is an illusion
3. Man’s struggle against nature will always end in failure
4. Main themes/ideas include survival and the idea that the universe is unpredictable
5. 1 dominant protagonist vs. nature as the antagonist

Here are the pieces of literature you can choose from:

* *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
* “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin
* “War is Kind” by Stephen Crane
* “Richard Cory” by Edwin Arlington Robinson
* “A White Heron” by Sarah Orne Jewett
* “To Build a Fire” by Jack London

**Prompt:** How do the short stories, poems, and the novel read in this unituse the tenets of Realism/Naturalism similarly/differently? Pick 2 of the pieces you read to compare & contrast their use of Realist/Naturalist elements.

**Requirements:**

* Thesis Statement
* 3 body paragraphs (5 paragraph essay)
* Examples from the texts to support your ideas (parenthetical citations)
* Use proper language and grammar
* Use MLA format
* You must submit a digital and a paper copy of this essay

**DUE on TURNITIN.com on Sunday, December 8th at 10 pm**

**Bring a printed paper version to class on Monday, December 9th.**