

AP Bonus Assignment

A Eulogy, With Love

epigraph – n. 1. a quotation at the beginning of a chapter, book, etc. 2. an inscription on a statue, building, tomb, coin, etc. [Greek from epigrapho (as EPI-, grapho write)]

epitaph – n. words written in memory of a person who has died, esp. as a tomb inscription

[Middle English from Old French epitaphe from Latin epitaphium from Greek epitaphion funeral oration (as EPI-taphos tomb)]

eulogy – n. 1. a. speech or writing in praise of a person, esp. a person who has recently died. b. N. Amer. a funeral oration in praise of a person. 2. an expression of praise [medieval Latin eulogium from (apparently by confusion with Latin elegium epitaph) Late Latin eulogia praise from Greek]

The English Department of Bishop Allen Academy has unjustly been accused of being morose and depressing by forcing students to endure tragedies, year after year.

Let's end the semester on a lighter note by celebrating the lives of the tragic heroes that continue to inspire, perplex and amaze us...that would be Oedipus, Hamlet and Gatsby.

Tomorrow, we will be having a roaring 20s style funeral...the one that Nick had hoped to provide for Gatsby...and while we're at it, we should also honour the other late and great fallen characters of ENG 3UP. You are invited to prepare a brief eulogy honouring any of our fallen tragic heroes. If you feel like mixing it up, you may also focus on any literary character which is no longer standing by the end of tragedy (ie. Ophelia, Gertrude, Laertes, Myrtle, Wilson etc.).

Because you seem to like dressing up, please feel free to come decked out like a flapper, dressed in a toga, or adorned in the robes of Danish royalty. Bring some nibbles...what's a good funeral without snacks?

I'd also like a volunteer to bring in some background music to set the tone.

Note that this is an optional assignment, but those who decide to deliver a eulogy will qualify for another mark towards their AP Bonus portfolio. Let's have fun with this.