

Assignment Sheet for Poetry Project

Directions: Find a poem that you consider to be a post-apocalyptic poem. This could be a very explicit post-apocalyptic poem, like Byron's "The Last Man," or something more subtle. The poem can be written by anybody from any nation or time period—no restrictions. Once you select your poem, you will write a 750-word close reading paper where you will analyze the poem in detail and make your case that this is a post-apocalyptic poem. You need not have a formal thesis or anything like that; what I'm looking for is a detailed close reading and analysis of the language of the poem in the context of post-apocalyptic literature. No outside research is required for this paper—it's your analysis, your ideas, and your selected poem. Once you've completed your paper, post a link to the poem on Blackboard (see the discussion board directions) along with your essay for everyone to check out.

You may have done a close reading essay in a previous upper-level English class or one of your surveys. If not, here a few good explanations/examples of close reading. You can also come talk to me about close reading strategies and writing.

<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/how-do-close-reading>

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/writing_in_literature/poetry_close_reading.html

<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/closereading/>