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| **Bonus Activity: Reading Reflection and Concise Writing** | |
| * I want you to do a summary and a reflection on what you are currently reading. The purpose is to read something new and to show concise writing (brief and to the point)   + The summary is to be around 100 words   + The reflection is to be around 100 words * For those of you currently reading a novel, feel free to write on that novel. * For those of you not reading a novel you may write on an article that I have listed below. * You can do up to three, recommended dates: Friday Jan 15, 22, 29 * It is entirely for bonus marks (if you choose not to do it, it will not affect your grade!) | |
| Choose Either : | |
| 1. Non- Fiction   (One of the articles selected by me) | 1. Fiction   (a book you are currently reading) |
| Part One: Summary 100 words | |
| Precis | Summary |
| * Précis a summary or abstract of a text or speech. * It is like a miniature portrait of the piece * It retains the essential points * One should not add one’s subjective interpretation or comments to the precise | * Write a short summary that considers the plot, characters, conflict, and setting. * Try to make it a concise as possible. |
| Personal Reflection/Reaction 100 words  Use these prompts to write a short and concise opinion on the text | |
| Did you agree or disagree with the central idea or ideas of the text?  Was there anything of particular interest?  Did anything confuse you?  Did you learn anything new?  Was the writing particularly good or bad? | What was your reaction to the text?  Like/dislike? (why)  Any elements of the story (plot, setting, characters, conflict) that are particularly interesting?  Was the writing particularly good or bad? |

Reading Reflection and Concise Writing (Non-Fiction Article Exemplar)

Danny Dunkleblum

Beckett ENG4U

January 15, 2020

Snyder, Timothy. *The* American Abyss. 9 Jan. 2021, [www.nytimes.com/2021/01/09/magazine/trump-coup.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/09/magazine/trump-coup.html).

**Precis**

The riot on Capitol Hill, on 6 January 2021, was a coup attempt by Donald Trump. Further, the Republican party is split into two factions: **breakers—**in essence proto-fascists, and **gamers**—sly operators, who game the system on behalf of the elites. Akin to the Nazi “Big Lie” that the Jews stabbed Germany in the back at the end of World, War I, Trump’s “Big Lie” is that this election was stolen via massive fraud. 2024 is ripe for an actual election theft by the breakers who will use the Big Lie to justify violence, fraud, and outright fascism to achieve victory. (102 words)

**Reflection**

I found this piece to be downright scary in the menace that Snyder presents. He does not pull punches in his claims that January 6th was more than just seditious fools breaking windows and raising hell—he flatly refers to this as a coup attempt. Snyder makes a compelling case to be worried that the large faction of voters who support Trump (breakers as he calls them) have swallowed the lie that the election was stolen so deeply that they themselves see justification is stealing the next election. Snyder predicts violence, intimidation and dirty tricks as a large portion of the US becomes increasingly fascist. (105 words)

Reading Reflection and Concise Writing (Fiction example)

Matilda Murphy

Beckett ENG4U

January 15, 2020

Powers, Richard. *The Overstory*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2018. Parsdfsdfasdfasf

Pp 1-15

*The Overstory* by Richard Powers starts of by interweaving the story of an immigrant family in Brooklyn in the 1850s and the history of the American chestnut tree. A young Norwegian immigrant, Jorgen Hodel, is amazed at the number of chestnuts they can pick roast and eat in the forests east of Brooklyn. After moving to Iowa to become farmers, Hodel and his wife plants chestnuts which become the only trees in thousands of miles. Meanwhile, a terrible fungus kills four billion chestnut trees along the Eastern part of the United States. Thousands of acres of forests die. Several generations pass. The Chestnut forests are ruined but Hodel’s tree, away from the killer spores, survives. (127 words)

In this section of *The Overstory,* Powers’ writing surveys a three-generation era of life in the mid-west. Written in short snippets, the characters are powerfully drawn. We see the brutally harsh life of homesteaders and the constant threat of death. All the this is masterfully intertwined with the story of Hodel’s chestnut trees. The one that reaches maturity—a massive chestnut on the prairie—is a lonely survivor of a near extinct species. For men and trees alike, life on the prairie is tough and transitory. One trifling fungus, like one trifling virus, could spell the end to it all. This is a novel that I am very excited to read. (111 words)

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| **Videogames, culture, and science fiction** | <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/12/mike-pondsmith-cyberpunk-2077/616924/> | How the role-playing game *Cyberpunk 2020* was made into the videogame *Cyberpunk 2077* |
| <https://unwinnable.com/2017/11/10/cuphead-and-the-racist-spectre-of-fleischer-animation/> | Platforming sensation, *Cuphead*, has an art style draws upon an era of animation with a problematic and racist past. |
| **Technology, social media, and democracy** | <https://newrepublic.com/article/160661/facebook-menace-making-platform-safe-democracy> | Making sense of the Facebook menace. How Facebook’s surveillance and targeted ads present a clear and present danger to our democracy |
| **Science, coronavirus, and pandemic** | <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/12/pandemic-year-two/617528/> | **Mr. Beckett says**: Ed Yong’s reporting on the coronavirus pandemic is journalism of the highest order. |
| <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/01/science-covid-19-manhattan-project/617262/> |
| <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/01/04/the-plague-year> | A reporter at large: The Plague Year  **Mr. Beckett says:** THE DEFINITIVE PIECE ON 2020. Laurence Wright should write a book based upon this reporting. Truly excellent. |
| **Gender, pop-culture, feminism, masculinity, and queer issues** | <https://www.thecut.com/article/who-did-j-k-rowling-become.html> | Who did J.K. Rowling become? J.K. Rowling’s brand of feminism seems to have no room for trans people. |
| <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/08/magazine/cousin-kill-me-male-violence.html> | The story of a man’s lifelong struggle with toxic masculinity and his twisted friendship with his cousin. |

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| **Military, American imperialism, politics** | <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/venezuela-operation-gideon-coup-jordan-goudreau-1098590/> | Inside Operation Gideon. How a Canadian ex-pat Green Beret led a failed military coup in Venezuela. Is he a fool, a con-man, or a patsy? |
| https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/10/26/how-to-spot-a-military-impostor | Annals of Justice: Stolen Valor  How to spot a military impostor.  Americans who pretend to be military heroes and the consequences of their stolen valor. |
| **Politics, identity, and pop culture** | <https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2020/10/the-office-tragedy-dwight-schrute-warning/616806/> | Dwight Schrute was a warning. Was Dwight the archetype for the right-wing Trump voter? |
| https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-actual-hollister | The real story of Hollister. The town the clothing brand is named after. |
| **Pop culture, law, business, feuds,** | https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/cellino-and-barnes-breakup.html | Remember the television ads for Celino and Barnes lawfirm?  This is the story of how two Buffalo attorneys made a million-dollar business and grew to hate each other. |
| https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/11/wework-reeves-wiedeman-billion-dollar-loser/616477/ | The WeWork guy’s guide to striking it rich!  WeWork is the one of the biggest losers in tech business history. It grew because it’s charming young CEO Adam Newmann was so charismatic. |

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| **Race, history, identity, politics.** | <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/black-history-american-democracy.html>  ***The 1619 Project*** | The biggest fight in American History classes and faculties around the globe in the past 18 months is a series of articles called the 1619 project. The central thesis of these articles is that America did not start in 1776 but in fact it started in 1619, the year the first African enslaved people arrived in the American Colonies. |
| https://magazine.atavist.com/the-first-responders-paramedics-pittsburgh-civil-rights-ems | In the late 1960s black men in Pittsburgh invent a new kind of job—the paramedic. |
| **Pop culture, kids’ entertainment, cultural criticism** | https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/05/the-secret-of-scooby-doos-enduring-appeal/609091/ | The enduring appeal of Scooby Doo |
| https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2020/07/disney-world-during-pandemic-extremely-weird/614617/ | Gonzo journalist visits Disney World at the height of the pandemic  \*\*Gonzo journalism is a style of journalism that is written without claims of objectivity, often including the reporter as part of the story using a first-person narrative. |
| https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/12/charli-damelio-tiktok-teens/616929/ | Charli Demelo and the hardest working kids in show business. TikTok superstars and something called Clubhouse? What the TikTok industry looks like for young TikTok celebrities. (This is all very confusing for old man Beckett.) |