

Graphic Essay on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Overview

A graphic essay is defined as a visual that uses color, symbol, and words to make a unified statement. Make sure that the pieces of your graphic essay all work towards proving the thesis you choose.

The goal of this graphic essay is to help you synthesize and organize details and ideas from this novel study. The primary purpose of the graphic essay is to help you analyze the “how” and the “why” of the text, not to produce an art product. Although neatness and creativity count, artistic ability does not.

Requirements

1. Graphic includes an effective thesis statement concerning a thematic question or motif you studied in the text; it links the motif to a universal theme in the text. Match your interest to the task.
2. Graphic uses color in a rational way; remember that color can be used symbolically and/or as an organizational device.
3. Graphic uses a unifying symbol or symbols. Symbol(s) arise(s) naturally from the literature and connects it to the thesis. Symbols can be a 2-D or 3-D object.
4. You must include relevant quotations (clearly cited in MLA format) and/or specific references from the text on your graphic. Include quotes from the range of the text (Think Bartell’s beginning, middle, and end. You should have a balance from all three.)
5. Your quotations must come from *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. For a higher score, you may incorporate a nonfiction source (film, news, novel, etc.). If you are going this route, consider connecting your symbol and its elements to a nonfiction representation and justifying it with the nonfiction source.
6. You must also include interpretative commentary for each quotation and/or event that you choose to use. Commentary in this graphic essay must analyze and explain both how your quote connects to (1) your thesis and (2) the symbol that represents it.
7. You will need to prepare a presentation of your graphic essay’s main ideas to the class. Therefore, your graphic essay needs to be large enough to be visible from a distance. *You will not have time to explain everything to the class. Do make sure that your written work clearly explains all the connections and symbolism you intend.*
8. You will create a works cited page in MLA format to accompany your graphic. Include the nonfiction source, if used.
9. You may work solo, with a partner, or with a group of three. Your work should reflect the quantity and quality of the numbers on your team:

Solo – 7 quotes

Partner – 10 quotes

Triads – 13 quotes

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Ignores Expectations
Thesis 10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is unique and creative Thesis is sharp and concise Thesis provides a new perspective, is thought-provoking Thesis is a universal thematic statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is clear and concise Thesis is thoughtful Thesis is relevant Thesis is one sentence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is vague and general Thesis is one sentence Thesis is not thoughtful/relevant Thesis is not a universal theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No thesis Unclear thesis Thesis is longer than one sentence
Symbol 10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbol is unique and creative Symbol is neat and accurate Symbol uses color in a creative, meaningful way Symbol uniquely ties the ideas together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbol is creative Symbol is accurate Symbol is neat Symbol uses color in a meaningful way Symbol ties ideas together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbol serves purpose Symbol is flawed or poorly constructed Symbol has no relevant color connection Symbol is more literal or copies a symbol from the book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbol is weak Symbol has no color Symbol shows no real effort Symbol is not relevant
Quotes 20 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses more than 6 relevant quotes Quotes other life sources Quotes are uniquely relevant and show careful reading for not only main passages Quotes uniquely and clearly connect the ideas and the text Quotes are cited in correct MLA format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses at least 6 relevant quotes Quotes one other life source Quotes are clearly relevant, but may be more obvious connections in text Quotes clearly connect the ideas and the texts Quotes are cited in minor or infrequent mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses at least 5 quotes Quotes only text. Quotes are vaguely relevant. Quotes are cited with frequent or significant mistakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses less than 5 quotes. Mostly paraphrases. No citations included.
Analysis 20 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis is unique, could not be developed better. Analysis is relevant and interesting. Analysis clearly makes the desired connections between books, thesis, and symbol. Analysis proves thesis entirely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis is well developed. Analysis is relevant Analysis makes the desired connections from texts to thesis. Analysis proves thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis is not well developed. Analysis is relevant. Analysis makes some connections. Analysis tries to prove thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis poorly developed. Analysis has little relevance Analysis makes no connection to thesis
Works Cited Page 10 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Correct MLA format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Minor errors in MLA format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Frequent mistakes in MLA format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completed