ENG 3010-002: Literary Masterworks

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Texts:

Catcher in the Rye, Salinger
The Death of Ivan Ilyitch, Tolstoy
Hamlet, Shakespeare
The Odyssey, Homer (Fagles trans.)
To Kill a Mockingbird, Lee

Movie:

Tom Jones, based on the novel by Henry Fielding

General Comments:

One of the great themes of literature is the theme of growing up, or as English professors put it, "initiation." This fancy term is one you're probably familiar with if you joined a sorority or fraternity, and in a way, it means the same: a changing of identity. But whether we wear Greek letters or not, we all experience change and growth by choice or by chance. Consider the trauma of being born: what does the universal first expression of crying suggest anyway except that you were in a warm place and then were not?

The stories we are going to read this semester all have to do with with a character going through a symbolic birth process that is as painful as the first and more memorable. 'Tis so for young and old alike, you'll be surprised to discover, for growing up has little to do with age if we keep wandering and wondering.

Requirements:

1. class participation (25%)
2. daily quizzes (25%)
3. two papers on assigned topics, 4-5 pages each, typed and double-spaced (25%)
4. a comprehensive final exam (25%)