

Appendix F- Example Student “talking to the text” classroom exercise

In Cold Blood
Truman Capote

Tuesday and Thursday
at 9:10-12

Good
questioning
& analysis
Swain
2/2

College Community with Criminal Justice: “Crime and Passion”
Name ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ February 12, 2009.

The following excerpt is from Truman Capote’s novel *In Cold Blood* (30). Read the paragraphs carefully and “talk to the text,” or annotate as you read, noting visuals, connections, predictions, questions, summaries, or confusions. You will need to slow down your reading process to do this well, so it will seem like it is taking a long time to read, but in the long run you will have a deeper understanding both of what you read and how you read.

Two young men had little in common, but they did not realize it, for they shared a number of surface traits. Both, for example, were fastidious, very attentive to hygiene and the condition of their fingernails. After their grease-monkey morning, they spent the better part of an hour sprucing up in the lavatory of the garage. Dick stripped to his briefs was not quite the same as Dick fully clothed. In the latter state, he seemed a flimsy dingy-blond youth of medium height, fleshless and perhaps sunken-chested; disrobing revealed that he was nothing of the sort, but, rather an athlete constructed on a welterweight scale. The tattooed face of a cat, blue and grinning, covered his right hand; on one shoulder a blue rose blossomed. More

pretty boys
overly hygienic
to clean.

tooth-pick. skin
rubs showing
w/ clothes little
red holed bag
w/ lacrosse

Prison

* w/ kids.
Married slept
around had
baby w/ affair
and married
her.

markings, self-designed and self-executed, ornamented his arms and torso: the head of a dragon with a human skull between its open jaws; bosomy nudes; a gremlin brandishing a pitchfork; the word PEACE accompanied by a cross radiating, in the form of crude strokes, rays of holy light; and two sentimental concoctions—one a bouquet of flowers dedicated to MOTHER-DAD, the other a heart that celebrated the romance of DICK and CAROL, the girl whom he had married when he was nineteen, and from whom he had separated six years later in order to "do the right thing" by another young lady, the mother of his youngest child. ("I have three boys who I will definitely take care of," he had written in applying for parole. "My wife is remarried. I have been married twice, only I don't want anything to do with my second wife.")

-Scary

-ish.

does he have
brain damage
which could
lead to his
killing

But neither Dick's physique nor the inky gallery adorning it made as remarkable an impression as his face, which seemed composed of mismatching parts. It was as though his head had been halved like an apple, then put together a fraction off center. Something of the kind had happened; the imperfectly aligned features were the outcome of a car collision in 1950—an accident that left his long-jawed and narrow face tilted, the left side rather aslant, the nose askew, and his eyes not only situated at uneven levels but of uneven size, the left eye being

how bad
was the
car collision?

Anyone killed
in accident?

truly serpentine, with a venomous, sickly-blue spin that although it was involuntarily acquired, seemed nevertheless to warn of bitter sediment at the bottom of his nature. But Perry had told him, "The eye doesn't matter. Because you have a wonderful smile. One of those smiles that really work." It was true that the tightening action of a smile contracted his face into its correct proportions, and made it ^{possible} to discern a less unnerving personality—an American-style "good kid" with an outgrown crew cut, sane enough but not too bright. (Actually, he was very intelligent. An I.Q. test taken in prison gave him a rating of 130; the average subject, in prison or out, scores between 90 and 110.)

why did he
choose this
path if he
were smart.

Pain
Aspirin
Best
Killers

lean crush
bright white
and perfectly
straight

Perry, too, had been maimed, and his injuries, received in a motorcycle wreck, were severer than Dick's; he had spent half a year in a State of Washington hospital and another six months on crutches, and though the accident had occurred in 1952, his chunky, dwarfish legs, broken in five places and pitifully scarred, still pained him so severely that he had become an aspirin addict. While he had fewer tattoos than his companion, they were more elaborate—not the self-inflicted work of an amateur but epics of the art contrived by Honolulu

dad's knee
Surgery—Major
Scar

and Yokohama masters. COOKIE, the name of a nurse who had been friendly to him when he was hospitalized, was tattooed on his right biceps. Blue-furred, orange-eyed, red-fanged, a tiger snarled upon his left biceps; a spitting snake, coiled around a dagger, slithered down his arm; and elsewhere skulls gleamed, a tombstone loomed, a chrysanthemum flourished.

Cookie?
He ~~is~~ women
Hanging



how he wears them

"O.K., beauty. Put away the comb," said Dick, dressed now and ready to go. Having discarded his work uniform, he wore gray khakis, a matching shirt, and like Perry, ankle-high black boots. Perry, who could never find trousers to fit his truncated lower half, wore blue jeans rolled up at the bottom and a leather windbreaker. Scrubbed, as tidy as two dudes setting off on a double date, they went out to the car.

Mechanics / washing machine

Together?

Where are you going? Are these actually women



Name: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Title: In Cold Blood
Date: February 22, 2021

2/2

Metalog Responses

1. In your own words, write a short (one or two sentences) summary of this piece.

This is A description of the men in In Cold Blood
how they look and think.

2. What kinds of things were happening in your mind as you read this?

That these people are complicated and
might need a lot of help.

3. What did you do that helped you to understand the reading?

writing as I read helped me get a better view
of what was going on.

4. What questions or problems do you still have with this piece?

Some of the words is hard and I'm not really sure what they mean.

5. How easy or difficult was this piece for you? (circle one)

Easy

Not too hard

Too hard

6. How well would you say you understood this piece?

I understand it very well it was very descriptive and that helped.

7. What question would you like to ask about the reading or like to ask the author?

You guys were so fun in class but there's more :)

are we dead or about time characters or is there more going on? telling us? Is this all we get or is there more? are we getting more info later on?