

EWRT1A-61 Essay 3- *Fun Home* in comparison

For the last out-of-class essay, you will be writing about *Fun Home* and at least one other work. I am looking for an essay with a well-developed thesis statement that states a clear connection between the works you discuss. The thesis should be backed up by concrete details from both *Fun Home* and the other work(s). As with essay 2, the focus here is on synthesis. So find common points that the texts you discuss *have in common*.

1. Both *Fun Home* and "No Name Woman" are stories told by women about their families. What purposes for doing this do both narrators share? What are they trying to accomplish by analyzing the past? Look only at common reasons in the two texts.
2. In the excerpt of *Understanding Comics* we have, Scott McCloud classifies different ways that words and images can work together in comics. Use these categories to analyze *Fun Home*. How do words and images work together to create meaning in this book? Develop a specific answer to this question.
3. Both *Fun Home* and "A Clack of Tiny Sparks" deal with the experiences of homosexuals in the U.S. Bechdel's father, Bruce, was born in 1936 (30), so was a teenager in the 1950s. Bernard Cooper was a teen in the 1960s. And Bechdel herself was a teen in the 1970s. Putting these two texts together, what conclusions can you draw about how being a homosexual has or has not changed over the decades. Feel free to mention other characters in *Fun Home*, if you'd like.
4. Both Alison Bechdel and Alice Walker write about their families and the particular hardships they endured. But in the end, both works are about what the authors learned from their families and from the past in general. What similar lessons do the two authors draw from their parents? You may also wish to include similar lessons they learned from history and art.
5. Part of Alison Bechdel's self discovery comes through reading books. Connect this to Malcolm X and/or Gloria Anzaldúa. What in the authors processes is similar? What related discoveries do the authors find?
6. If you have another idea that you'd like to write about concerning how one of previous texts in the class and *Fun Home* connect, then please talk with me about it.

Requirements

The essay needs to be in the MLA style. So make sure that you include page numbers when you quote or paraphrase specific scenes and provide a works cited list. I expect the paper to be about 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced, and in a font no bigger than twelve point Times New Roman. Two drafts are required.

First draft due December 1st
Final draft due December 8th

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Fun Home – Reading Questions.

Use these questions to help focus your reading.

1. In what ways are Bechdel and her father different? In what ways are they alike?
2. Bechdel believes that her father committed suicide. Why? What does she think the motivation for him was? Why is this significant for her?
3. What role do books play in Bechdel's relationship with her father? What role do they play in her own self discovery?
4. Can you find an image in the text that sums up Bechdel's relationship with her father? Is its placement in the story significant?
5. In what ways is Bechdel's father able to support her? How does he do so?
6. Why does Bechdel allude to so many literary texts? How do they relate to her parents? To herself?
7. At times Bechdel seems to judge her father, but at other times she seems to resist judging him. Find instances of both in the text. Does this show a limitation in her understanding?
8. What do you think the purpose of creating *Fun Home* was for Bechdel?
9. In what ways are the telling (the narration) different from what is in the showing (the monstration)? Think of McCloud's categories. Also consider that the narration is an adult Bechdel looking back and the monstration is often a young Alison experiencing things for the first time.
10. Is Alison Bechdel a reliable narrator? What does she believe that others in the book may not believe? What biases might she have?

