

Notable Senior Theses

Belmont High School

May 2015

Each senior at BHS completes a senior thesis as part of the required twelfth grade English curriculum. A notable senior thesis is an accomplished piece of written work developed over the course of the school year under the direction and supervision of the classroom teacher. Teachers have identified students who have carefully followed the thesis process and written an outstanding paper. The students listed below completed notable theses in a variety of senior English classes.

Winners of the 2015 Lillian F. Blacker Prizes for Excellence in Writing:

Sarita Shera **And Make That Sound Sound Human: The Role of Storytelling in the Novels of Toni Morrison (1st prize)**

Devon Carter **“The Torrent With the Many Hues of Heaven”: The Replacement of Traditional Morality in Works of Lord Byron (2nd prize)**

Eunice Lee **Freedom in Exile: The Development of Intellectual Independence in Vladimir Nabokov’s Novels (3rd prize)**

Student	Title of Paper
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Kate Amrein	The Search for an Authentic Identity amidst War: Hemingway, Androgyny, and the Lost Generation
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Artur Arakelyan	Humans and Machines: Who is in Control?
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Elisa Bello	The Art of “Walking on Water”: Expunging Doubt Through the Emancipating Power of Perception
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Peter Berens	The Not-So-Great American Sports Story
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Olivia Castagno	Hiding in Plain Sight: Paul Auster’s Examination of Human Loneliness and Tragedy
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Olivia Cronin	A Tangible Inheritance: The Creation of Individual and Communal Identity Through Physical Objects in the Works of Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris
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Lillian Dash	Perception, Reality, and Coping with Both
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Rafaela DeLeon	Unveiling Society’s Truth with Satire
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Kasia Dillon	A Second Children’s Crusade: The Ironic Crisis of Soldiers’ Search for Ego-Identity in the Face of Trauma and Sociocultural Expectations
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Alexandra Dionne	Absolution and Choice: the Role of the Earthly Paradise in the Works of C. S. Lewis
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Kiki Duckworth	Nature and Human Society in Barbara Kingsolver’s Fiction
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Rosy Fitzgerald	The Inextricable Link Between Isms and Phobias: Investigating the Roots of Prejudice in E.M. Forster's Novels
Julius Frank	"Being Alive is a Crock of S**t": An Analysis of Vonnegut and How to Deal with the Endless Drudgery of Existence
Eva Gallagher	Virginia Woolf's "Perpetual Conflict": Evading the Confinement of Society and Self through Nature
Alexander Gharibidian	Vonnegut's Satirization of Societal Success
David Gibson	"Am I not alone, miserably alone?": Isolation and Influence in Gothic Novels
Evan Goldberg	What Makes a Terrorist: The Importance of Empathy and the Questioning of God in the Works of Ian McEwan
Lucia Guzikowski	"He Told the Truth, Mainly": Evaluating the Free Expression of Mark Twain
Hannah Haines	Transcending Time Through the Mind: An Examination of the Power of the Individual in the Writing of Haruki Murakami
Lexi Herosian	"Every aspect of human technology has a dark side": an exploration of the female mind from the protagonists' multiple personalities in hostile society
Hayoung Hwang	From Sleep to Reality: The Pursuit of Individuality within Society in the Works of Saul Bellow
Carol Huang	"Bravery, Power, Righteous, and Overcoming Adversity": How the Hero Archetype Enforces Harmful Ideals in the Novels by Marge Piercy, Ursula K. Le Guin, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Joanna Russ
Chihiro Ichikawa	The Journey to True Self: Murakami's Use of Roles and Their Time Transcending Power
Austin Ickes Freedom	On the Periphery: Social Isolation (Self-Imposed or Otherwise), as the Facilitation for of Thought in the Works of Thomas Mann and Goethe
Lucas Cmok-Kehoe	Controlling Crowds: An Analysis of Totalitarian Oppression in George Orwell's Writings
Sophie Kurz-Cosgrove	Gone but Not Forgotten: Memory and its Relation to Trauma and Psychological Damae in the Works of Foer and Krauss
Clare Lai	External Affairs: Allusions to Western Media and the Struggle for Originality in Haruki Murakami's Novels
Anna Handte-Reinecker	"Finding an identity is easy": Understanding Immigrant Development while Disputing Erikson's Set Stage Theory in Zadie Smith and Jhumpa Lahiri's works

Brenna Harrington	“Language Corrupts Thought”: Exploring the Paradigm of Linguistic Suppression within Dystopian Literature
Nicholas Hasselmo	Parables of Paranoids: The Humanizing Role of Networks in the Works of Thomas Pynchon
Fiona Kolterman	“We’re all as like each other as those dolls cut out of the same folded paper. We’re like patterns stenciled on a wall”: an Examination of Naturalistic Elements in Edith Wharton’s Fiction
Jeffery Lindeland	Love’s Trials in Life: A Study of Masculine and Feminine Development in Ernest Hemingway’s Novels
Xiru Lyu	Jane Austen: Some Thoughts on Women, Men, Marriage and Love
Vanessa Maione	Virginia Woolf’s Mirror of Nature: A Revelation of a Deeper Meaning of Women’s Significance, Treatment and Endurance in Society
Elaine Miao	Freedom of Speech, Religion, Press, Assembly, Petition, and...Sex?: Ian McEwan’s Analysis on the Connection Between Sexual Expression and Gender Equality in <i>Atonement</i> , <i>On Chesil Beach</i> , <i>Enduring Love</i> , and <i>Saturday</i>
Neal Mulani	The American Dream as “Decency’s Blueprint”: Exclusivity Feeding Progression in the Work of Philip Roth
Maggie O’Brien	Food, Sex, and Rebuilding Nigeria: An Examination of Gender Inequality Within Chinua Achebe and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Literary Pieces
Katherine O’Malley	“It is a truth universally acknowledged”: The Truth Behind the Universal, Yet Unfair Treatment of the Female Protagonists in Jane Austen’s Novels
Emma Pejko	Two-Faced: The Multiple Identities of Characters in <i>The Namesake</i> , <i>The Lowland</i> , and <i>Interpreter of Maladies</i>
Luke Perrotta	Pleasure Kills: Delights, Delusions, and Disasters of Sex in the Work of Philip Roth
Emma Perrow	Profiles of the Self: Racial Identity and Acceptance in the Novels of Toni Morrison
Grace Ramsey	More Money More Problems: The Effect of the American Dream on Happiness in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Literature
Izzy Rich	Unwinding the Stereotypes: The Intricate Cycles Revolving Around Life and Death in the Works of Jhumpa Lahiri
Diana Sabitova	Identity Through Social and Intimate Interactions in the Works of Kobo Abe
Becki Sandvos	Identity and Morality--Not Necessarily in That Order: Ambiguities in Kurt Vonnegut’s <i>Cat’s Cradle</i> , <i>Mother Night</i> , and <i>The Sirens of Titan</i>

Haley Sawyer	The Battle for Fulfillment and Content: The Devastating Immutability and Manipulation of Reality in the Works of Toni Morrison
Tae Young Son	“I looked all right myself; that is how I always look--all right”: How Self-Discovery Leads to Selflessness in the Novels of John Irving
Betsy Speros	“Well Butter My Buns and Call Me Corrupt”: How Common Phrases and Tradition Act as Time Capsules of Oppression
Jonah Sundahl	"Who cares?": Vonnegut's Lessons on Creating Purpose in a Meaningless World
Sabine Strauch	Objectification, Oppression, and Victimization of Women: Gender Inequality in Margaret Atwood
Catherine Tang	“There Can Be No Light Without Shadow”: The Duality of Power and Weakness in the Works of Margaret Atwood
Naomi Tuber	A Society of Monsters: Technology Used to Conform to Social Pressures
Daniel Vernick	Fighting for a Future: Earth’s Defining Role in the Works of John Steinbeck
Thomas Wasserman	Social Expectations: How Alcohol Fuels a Self-Deprecating Cycle
Eli Workman	The Cannibalistic Egocentric Crusade: Amorality and Societal Degression in the Works of Cormac McCarthy
Samantha Xu	“Keep It in Chains”: Possessive Love in the Context of Identity Fragmentation within the Works of Toni Morrison
Thomas Zembowicz	“Refuge of Art” or Prison of Deception: The Role of Literature in the Works of Vladimir Nabokov