

A Final Examination of Neil Gaiman's **N E V E R W H E R E**

Throughout the semester we have looked at the stories we have read as allegories, (*stories with a message or moral*), where the characters, events, and environments represent deeper truths than what is seen in the surface of the story. We have talked about how the stories can be understood on *more than one* level and how the more profound meanings, (religious, moral, political, or personal), are usually of greater importance than the story itself.

For the 2nd half of the semester we have gotten a little lost living in the world of ***Neverwhere***... of London Above...and of London Below, and like Henry David Thoreau once said, "*Not until we are lost, do we begin to find ourselves.*" By writing a Fantasy novel that presents us with different worlds, different realities, and different truths, **what did Neil Gaiman help you to think about? What did you find for yourself? How is Richard's Choice similar to the Choice we must all make in our own lives?**

YOUR FINAL EXAMINATION ASSIGNMENT:

Write an in-depth reflection¹ that explores Neil Gaiman's ***Neverwhere***. Use Hyemeyohsts Storm's point of view provided in the statement below as a starting point:

"Stories are like paths, or Ways. Whenever we hear a Story, it is as if we were physically walking down a particular path that it has created for us. Everything we perceive upon this path or around it becomes part of our experience, both individually and collectively. [Each] particular story has within it many Mirrors which Reflect certain realities that exist in all of us. Each one of these little Mirrors, when we look into as a whole thing...can be a Teacher for us."
 -- Hyemeyohsts Storm

Here are some questions to get your thinking started:

- What is the message of Neil Gaiman's ***Neverwhere***? What does it teach us?
- What is The Story *beneath* the story?
- What does this novel help us to see about The Story of our own lives?

IN YOUR REFLECTION, BE SURE TO:

1. Interpret what you think Hyemeyohsts Storm means
2. Use those ideas to help you reflect more deeply about the message of ***Neverwhere*** by Neil Gaiman and what it means for you.
3. Support your opinion using at least three references to the novel (or quotations as evidence)
4. Discuss how Neil Gaiman uses the following literary elements and devices to deliver his message to us (please do not summarize the novel!):
 - Characterization and the relationships between the characters;
 - Plot Progression: the events and action of the story;
 - Metaphors and Similes to describe people, places, and events

¹ Please use the 1st 45 minutes of your time to work on a rough draft and/or outline of your reflection. You may use all of the project work you have completed to help you!!!