

UMass, Lowell
Art Appreciation
Fall 2015

PAPER GUIDELINES

*****The paper is due Oct. 19*****

For this extra credit assignment, visit the Art Department Gallery in Mahoney Hall (just on the left as you enter the building). The exhibition runs from Sept. 1 through Oct. 16.

Hours of opening: M-W 10-4; Thursday 10-9; and Friday and Saturday 10-3.
Admission is free.

The current exhibit, “E is For Elephant” showcases the art of Edward Gorey. Gorey is a late twentieth century arts, but parallels can be made between his work and that of the cave paintings we have studied in class.

So for this assignment, I would like you to **compare** some of the etchings in the exhibit with the cave paintings. **Please note:** You can use the textbook for additional images and discussion of the cave paintings, not just notes from class.

Walk through the exhibit and as you think about your paper, consider the following:

Question: How do Gorey and the cave artists use images to communicate? That is the question you should address in the assignment. To help you, I have broken down a few steps:

--Consider the technique and manner of representation:

Are there similarities in the way Gorey and the cave artists represent animals?

To answer this, be sure to give specific examples from the works. Also try to use the terms we are covering in class.

--Consider the purpose:

We said that the cave artists wanted to create an experience—what kind of an experience does Gorey seem to create? (You might want to flip through a few of the books on display, such as the Gashlycrumb Tinies.)

--Consider the presence or absence of a written record:

We saw that the cave paintings had no text; but Gorey does include a text. Does that alter the interpretation of the etchings? Consider one of the etchings without its text: can its meaning be interpreted differently? How does this compare with the many interpretations of the purpose of the cave paintings (it would help here to read the section in your textbook on the various interpretations). Consider what Gorey himself wrote about one of the etchings:

“Just because things aren’t specifically mentioned in a text does not mean they are not there just the same, if not more so.”

Again, be sure to give specific examples from the works to support your conclusions.

Now use your imagination: Based on Gorey's example, what kind of text could you imagine with the cave paintings?!

Your assignment should be two pages in length, typed, stapled, and proofread. **I will NOT accept emailed copies.**

Avoid Plagiarism:

Please do not plagiarize on this assignment. To avoid confusion about plagiarism, I have copied the text from the University of Massachusetts Lowell Undergraduate Catalog (p. 42):

[p]lagiarism is defined as 1) direct quotation or word-for-word copying of all or part of the work of another without identification or acknowledgement of the quoted work, 2) extensive use of acknowledged quotation from the work of others which is joined together by a few words or lines of one's own text, and 3) an abbreviated restatement of someone else's analysis or conclusion, however skillfully paraphrased, without acknowledgment that another person's text has been the basis for the recapitulation.

If you plagiarize you will fail the course.

Some hints on good writing:

Avoid Passive Voice:

Passive voice, forms of "to be," weaken your writing.

1. The tower *was tilting* because of the soft soil on which it *was being built*.

Fix: The tower tilted because they built it on soft soil.

2. The tower *was to be* closed

Fix: They closed the tower. OR: they wanted to close the tower.

Avoid Colloquial Language

"Colloquial" means you are using words and phrases that are too informal.

For example, "The idea of soil extraction was put into play...."

"A team of the best of the best got together...."