

Intertext Concept Tree

Due: 8:30 AM 10/20

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Setup

The best way for us to understand the intertextuality that binds all texts together is to investigate it ourselves. In many ways, that's what this whole class is about, but we're going to explore it more deeply in your two major projects. The first, this Intertext Concept Tree (ICT), will actually lead to the second, which will be an interactive map. For now we'll focus on the ICT, in which you will trace intertextuality down a number of forking paths, beginning with a single "entry" text.

Task 1: Down, down, down

You will select a single text. In/through that text, you will identify and select three (3) referent texts. In/through each of those texts, you will identify and select three ($3 \times 3 = 9$) more referent texts. In/through each of those texts, you will identify and select three ($9 \times 3 = 27$) **more** referent texts. Some should be physical, some should be digital. All of them should be accessible later.

So what is a referent text?

We've been talking about the ways in which texts refer to other texts. Sometimes it's a remake (like a book into a movie); sometimes it's a song cover—so that one text is based almost entirely on another. Sometimes we see explicit references, like when an academic article cites another article or book, or when David Foster Wallace uses *Jeopardy!* as the setting for a short story. Other times we see remixes, mashups, allusions, homages, assemblages, parodies, and various levels of pastiche and quoting without quotations. When one text is referred to in another text, whether implicitly or explicitly, we can call it a referent text.

Task 2: Write it Up

For each text, you will write a 100-150 word annotation including (1) information all about that text--its medium, its era or origin, its production/creation/authorship, its delivery/distribution, etc.— (2) a note or more about the connection between the referent text and its referring antecedent; and (3) a short bit of reflection on *why* you selected the text.

I'm confused.

Don't worry. We have a diagram. Alice, too, was confused.

I'm overwhelmed.

Don't worry. We're going to do this together, in sections. Alice, too, was overwhelmed.

Why are we doing this again?

We are establishing a set of case examples that we can use later in the term to test the limits of intertextuality and explore the possibilities of visualizing the connections between and among texts.