**Literary Analysis Essay**

**A Moment in a Novel**

**Purpose:** To allow you to demonstrate your ability to do a close, critical reading of a section of a novel, and ultimately, to identify and examine the relationship of a part of a novel to the whole of the novel.

**The Assignment:** Using *Wuthering Heights*, you will examine one moment in the novel, providing a close reading of it and explaining how it resonates with meaning that would not be apparent to a casual reader. Relate this one moment to the entire theme of the novel.

**Considerations:** There are several important points you need to consider as you think about the assignment and prepare your paper.

**Formulate an argument:** Your thesis must be arguable. Make certain that you are specific in your language and that you have answered the always important SO WHAT? that solidifies an idea. A casual reading of this would not automatically demonstrate its importance.

**Limit the Moment:** You must limit your moment to a very short piece of text – no more than a paragraph. Be as selective as you can in framing your moment.

**Originality:** You should choose an unusual moment from the text, one which stood out as you read. You may not choose a moment we have discussed together in class. Look for small, initially irrelevant scenes. Read them closely, looking for diction, figurative language – anything that helps to connect it to the larger themes of the novel. I expect each of you to find an original moment of your own in this novel. (This is your chance to show off your close reading ability).

Initial submission (proposal): Please include the following:

1. Your complete moment typed out. No ellipses, please.

2. Explanation of how this moment looks to the casual reader.

3. Your exact thesis statement in its most refined form.

4. Main points you will be covering in the final essay.

Specifics: Your final paper will be no more than three pages in length. There will be a rough draft and a final draft.