

CLITR 3670: Bildungsroman
Dr. Lucas Dietrich
Spring 2019

Final Project

- Due Monday, May 6th, before class (Submit to Blackboard as a .doc or PDF file)
- 20% of Overall Grade

The final for our Bildungsroman course will be a creative writing project in three parts. Students will write a short bildungsroman chapter, introduce the chapter with some contextual description, and then explain their authorial decisions. The chapter should be influenced by our readings throughout the semester, with some reference to either *The House on Mango Street* or *Persepolis*.

Part One.

Introduce your bildungsroman chapter by providing some context. Who is the protagonist? What are they going through? When and where is the story set? This introduction does not need to be incredibly detailed in terms of describing a full novel. It just needs to offer the essential background information—who, what, where, when—that a reader will need in order to understand the chapter. The introduction should allow you to dive right into your creative writing, both stylistically and in terms of the plot/scene. This part should be just 1-2 pages in length (200-400 words).

Part Two.

The central portion of the assignment is to write the chapter itself, which should be a scene from your bildungsroman, 3-5 pages in length (1000-1500 words). The chapter can be autobiographical, inspired by a true story, or purely fictional. Stylistically, you are welcome to draw on the work of authors we have read throughout the semester. Give particular consideration to the short chapters used by Sandra Cisneros and Marjane Satrapi, and how they function as independent narratives in support of a larger coming-of-age novel. Ultimately, this is creative writing. Feel free to write however you like, just as long as it is a scene from a bildungsroman. Please include a chapter title.

Part Three.

Explain your authorial decisions when writing Parts One and Two, with reference to assigned readings from our Bildungsroman course. How are you thinking about plot, conflict, character interaction, narrative perspective, voice, setting, scene, and imagery? (You need not address every one of these issues, although they should probably all be on your mind). How were your authorial decisions influenced by our course and by your evolving understanding of the bildungsroman genre? This final section should be 2-3 pages (800-1000 words).

Submit the project to Blackboard as one single file. Please begin each Part on a new page. No need for citations, but you can use MLA style on the first page and then include your last name and page numbers in the "header."