

The Eudora Welty Ephemera Prize

“No Place For You, My Love” Lesson Plan

Preparation:

Read Eudora Welty’s story “No Place For You, My Love” from *The Bride of Innisfallen*. Have students write a one-paragraph free response to the story before discussing together.

Some Questions for Discussion:

What does driving below New Orleans, “south of South,” represent for these characters?

Why do they end up at a place that is both “the end of the road” and “a jumping-off”?

Welty’s narrator says “A thing is incredible, if ever, only after it is told.”

How does this evening adventure change the lives of these characters? Or does it?

Her characters never tell anyone about this evening: does that mean it isn’t incredible?

Assignment:

Write a 1-3 page personal essay, poem, or story about a time you, someone you know, or a fictional character came to “the end of the road” or to “a jumping-off place.” Find an image or series of images, like Welty’s of the road, the bar, or the cemetery, that exemplifies your feelings about this experience. Use the image to paint a picture of those feelings and comment on the experience. You might decide not to reveal what happens after that moment or you might tell the reader what decision you or your characters make.

Alternate assignment:

Write a 1-3 page personal essay, poem, or story in response to “No Place For You, My Love.” You might take on one of the characters and tell the story from their perspective or tell what you think happens to a character after the ending of the story. Or you might rewrite the story in a more modern setting allowing for different choices or a different ending.

Activity:

Hold a class contest: Let all the students read each other’s work and decide together which pieces are the most compelling or give each other suggestions. Encourage students to revise their work and submit it to the contest. All students are welcome to submit, even if the class didn’t pick their work. Our judges might find value that your class overlooked, so encourage everyone to revise and submit! Holding a class contest might help some students get past the hurdle of submitting to the main contest.

Have your students submit their poems, stories, or essays to ephemera@muw.edu by Sept. 15, 2022. See the prize announcement for full details.