

Dr. Cothran
English 200
Reading Response 1

Pick a topic (race, gender, religion, class, disability, nationalism, psychology, criminal behavior, sexuality/desire, anything!) that interests you. Then look through *The Moonstone*. Using quotes and examples from the text, write a **2-3 page essay** (typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font) on what we can learn about nineteenth-century views on your topic from reading a book written during that time.

The more nuanced and detailed your discussion, the more likely you are to make a good grade. If you can, discuss a variety of comments (hopefully made by more than one character), that give us a complex view of attitudes on the topic. Some characters' views might contradict the views of other characters ... why might this be? Who do you think Collins wants us to trust? What does it mean if there are a variety of conflicting views about the nature of women or about the moral integrity of the Indians? These are just few things you might think about!

Some advice: The evidence you provide when supporting your thesis should present not only quotations from the text (or descriptions of plot/character elements) that support your ideas but **analyses** of those quotations. Analysis means exploring the significance of a quotation. Define, discuss, and describe the quote. Explain why you have used this particular passage. How does it relate to your thesis? Don't assume that your reader will automatically see the significance of the examples you use.

Note: You are not expected or required to use outside sources when writing this essay, but if you do use them, please be sure to cite all source material using correct MLA format.