

The journey of exploring and expressing thoughts on literature this quarter has been a transformative experience for me. As an Engineering major, delving into the world of literature required a shift in my study habits and a conscious effort to incorporate reading into my daily routine. In reflection, the experience I have in literature this quarter has had a significant change in my daily habits and the way I have analyzed literature. In the past I had never really thought about the meaning of texts besides their surface level narratives. However, when reading *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf, I have had to think very deeply about what each sentence was trying to convey. Which at the beginning of the quarter was a learning curve.

At the onset of the quarter, my approach to literature was limited, and my writing reflected a lack of depth and critical analysis. As I displayed in my first “4 Column Notebook” assignment, I could not comprehend why certain objects were referenced so much. Like the taxis on page 7 of *Mrs. Dalloway*, which are very prevalent in London and that is overwhelming. Not just because there are so many cars but because every car represents another life. Basically inferring that Mrs. Dalloway kind of just feels like another life. That’s some analysis that took me time to be able to truly hypothesize and I had to think differently.

Recognizing the need for a change, I decided to overhaul my study habits. Instead of treating literature as a secondary pursuit, I made a conscious effort to allocate dedicated time for reading and analysis. This shift allowed me to engage more deeply with the texts, fostering a better understanding of the nuances that contribute to the richness of literary works. One crucial aspect of my changed study habits was incorporating active reading techniques. Previously, my reading was passive, and I often found myself struggling to retain information. By adopting annotation, note-taking, and reflective reading practices, I enhanced my comprehension and began to extract more profound meanings from the texts. This not only facilitated a more insightful approach to writing but also laid the groundwork for a more profound appreciation of literature as an art form.

As an Engineering major, my daily routine was primarily dominated by technical coursework and problem-solving. Taking more STEM based classes like physics which has not been easy. Integrating literature into this routine required a deliberate effort to create a balance between the analytical demands of engineering and the imaginative nature of literature. Initially challenging, this integration ultimately proved to be rewarding.

I made reading a non-negotiable part of my schedule, setting aside specific time blocks dedicated solely to literary exploration. By doing so, I found that my mind could better transition between the logical rigor of engineering problems and the creative depths of literary analysis. This integration not only enriched my overall academic experience but also contributed to a more holistic and well-rounded intellectual development. As I could then give advice to fellow classmates as well, even those who are genuine English majors. Like I did do for the “Mid Term Draft” for *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Being an Engineering major presents a unique set of challenges when it comes to immersing oneself in the world of literature. The demands of complex equations, problem-solving, and technicality can make it difficult to shift gears and appreciate the subtleties

of literature fully. However, I realized that the two seemingly disparate disciplines could complement each other in unexpected ways.

The analytical skills in engineering proved invaluable when approaching literary analysis. As I began to view literature through a more structured lens, dissecting themes, characters, and narrative structures. In one instance I recall Professor Chrisman specifically stating that she liked my very “straight to the point” type of analysis and writing that was attributed to my STEM based background. Engaging more with literature also allowed me to foster better perspectives, encouraging a well-rounded and deeper approach to problem-solving and critical thinking.

Maintaining focus on literature while the demanding requirements of an Engineering major posed its own set of challenges. The cognitive shift from the logical frameworks of engineering to the abstract realms of literature demanded adaptability and mental agility. Which left me a little hesitant to voice my opinions in class. But I broke out of my shell once I had realized that I could actually analyze the text critically. I had to learn how to do so though.

One effective method was compartmentalization. By mentally separating my engineering and literature, I could be immersed in each discipline without the distraction of competing thoughts. This approach allowed me to maximize the quality of my engagement with literature during dedicated study sessions, ensuring that I could appreciate the depth and beauty of the texts apart from my STEM directness. Rather than viewing Engineering and Literature as isolated domains, I came to appreciate the interconnectedness of knowledge. The ability to draw parallels between scientific principles and literary themes provided a unique lens through which I could explore the intersection of seemingly disparate worlds. This interdisciplinary approach not only increased my understanding of both fields but also broadened me intellectually.

In the past I had not really delved into politics much. Nor have I really considered the impacts that empires had on their subjects. Being of Mexican descent, both terms I had just stated have shaped Mexico into what it is today. Starting with its indigenous peoples getting subjugated by the imperialistic Spanish early in its history. To political parties being corrupt and dangerous today. Empires and politics are subjects I had not really cared too much about until attending this course. A necessary informatic occurrence for me.

The growth in my writing about literature this quarter has been a multifaceted journey marked by changes in study habits and the integration of literature into my daily routine. But also marked as a knowledgeable experience I am very grateful for. By adapting my approach to literature, I have not only become a more proficient writer but have also discovered the symbiotic relationship between the analytical nature of engineering and the creative depth of literature. I am confident that the lessons learned from this quarter will serve as a foundation for a more harmonious and interconnected academic journey. Thank you Professor Chrisman.

Word count: 1049