

On Authorship

(Class 12)

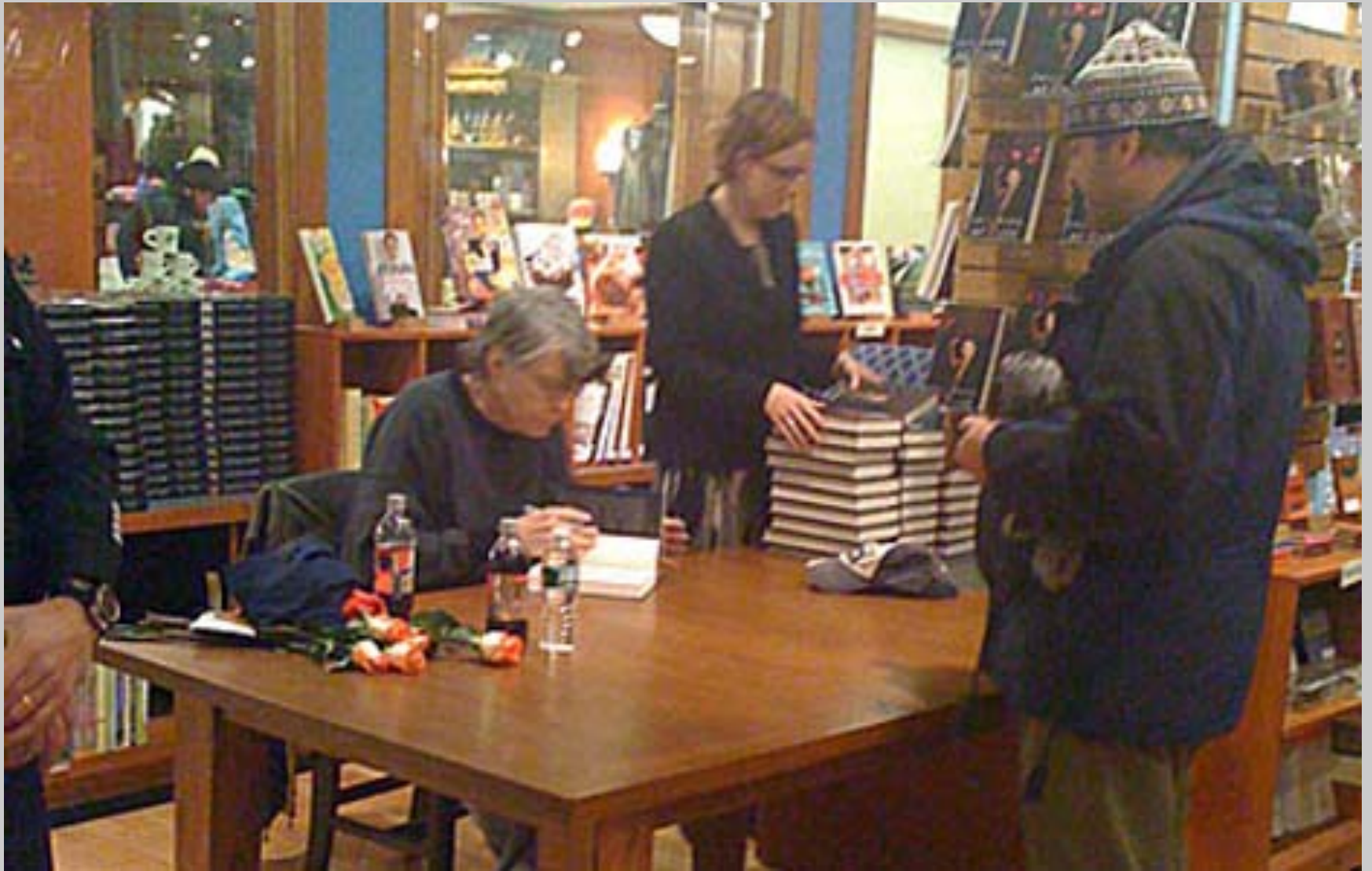
Today's Agenda

- The Author
- Examples
- Semiotics and Meaning
- Authors and Readers

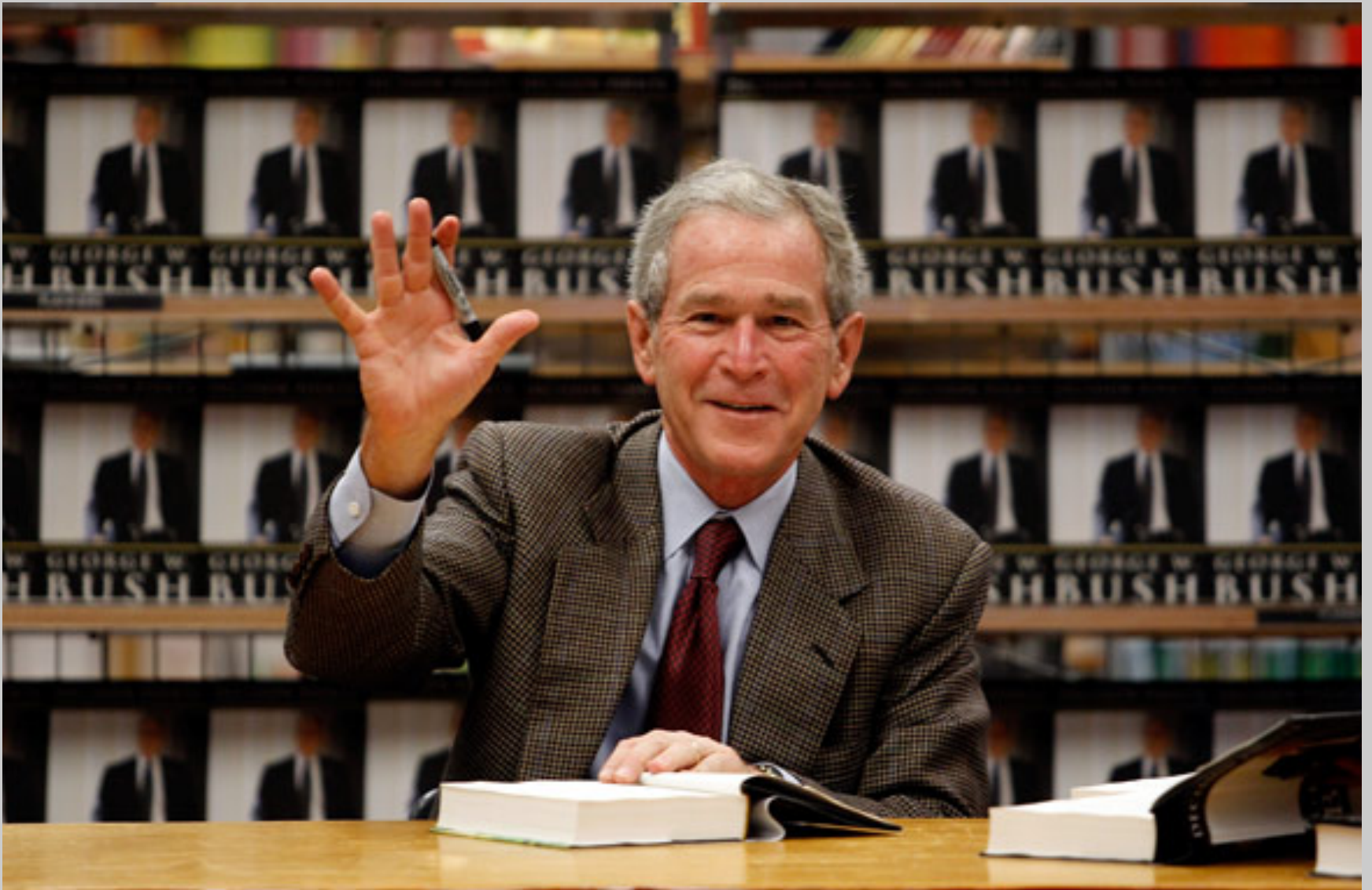
The Author



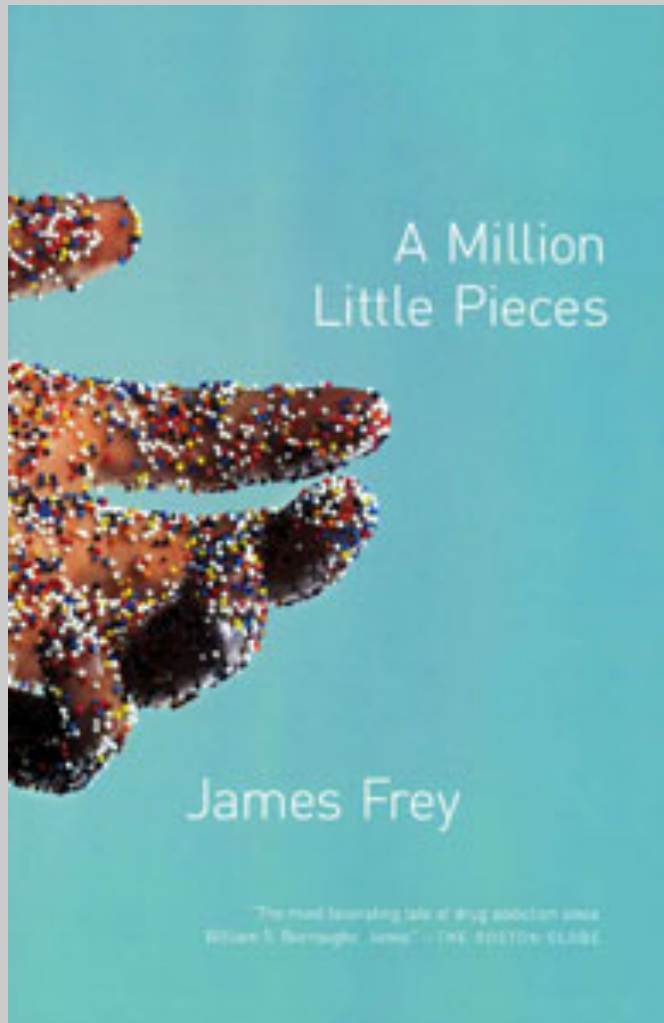
The Author



The Author?



The Author?



Authorship

The “six cardinal intersections of author and text” :
Intention, Authority, Biography, Accountability, Oeuvre, and
Autobiography

(Seán Burke 1992, p. 4)

Authorship – Intention and Meaning

- Romantic (18th C) understandings of sublime genius
 - Authors are better than the rest of us. Or so they say.
 - Insanity/Genius/Divine Standing/Celebrity
- Uncovering the true meaning (author's intended meaning) is important

Authorship – Intention and Meaning



Authorship – Intention and Meaning

William Wordsworth
“The Prelude”
1798-1850

<http://www.bartleby.com/145/ww287.html>



Authorship – Authority and Accountability

“someone whose position is established by the words that are spoken, someone whose beliefs have been told, someone who is committed to what the words say”

(Goffman 1981, p. 146)

Authorship – Authority and Accountability

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation. — We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. — Such has been the Patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them and formidable to Tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. — He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Strangers; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. — He has created a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For calling off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives

pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and pernicious to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has deprived Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People. — He has refused for long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within? — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Law for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power? — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For calling of our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our People. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have un mindd them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Bruce Gwinnett
Lymon Hall
Geo Walton.

Sam Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Edward Rutledge

Thos Heyward Jr
Thomas Lynch Jr
Arthur Middleton

Samuel Chase
Wm Paro
Thos Stone
Charles Carroll of Md

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th Jefferson
Wm Harrison
Th Nelson Jr
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carler Braxton

John Hancock

Rob Morris
Benjamin Rush
Ben Franklin
John Morton
Geo Clymer

Sam Smith
Geo Taylor
James Wilson
Geo. Ross
Casar Warrick
G. Mifflin
Thos M. Mifflin

Samuel Chase
Chas. Sumner
Jaan Linn
Lewis Morris

Rich. Stockton
Jos Witherspoon
Fred Livingston
John Hancock
Abra Clark

Josiah Bartlett
Wm Whipple
Sam Adams
John Adams
Robt Treat Paine
Wbridge Gerry

Step Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
John Huntington
M^r Williams
Oliver Wolcott
Noah Webster

Authorship – Authenticity and Ownership

Ownership is not in Burke or Goffman's definitions.

Why?

Authorship – Authenticity and Ownership



Certificate of Authenticity

 This certificate verifies the authenticity of the accompanying Hand-made beadwork by Jana Hassett. The Artist's signature on this document attests this one-of-a-kind art piece has been personally created by Jana Hassett. This document further verifies that no other exact jewelry art piece has been created by the Artist.

Title: _____ Artist: Jana R. Hassett AKA
Copper Raven

Description: _____

I hereby certify the authenticity of the above:

(Artist's Signature) (Date)

Jana R. Hassett, Artist * Copper Raven Jewelry * [Http://www.copperraven.com](http://www.copperraven.com)

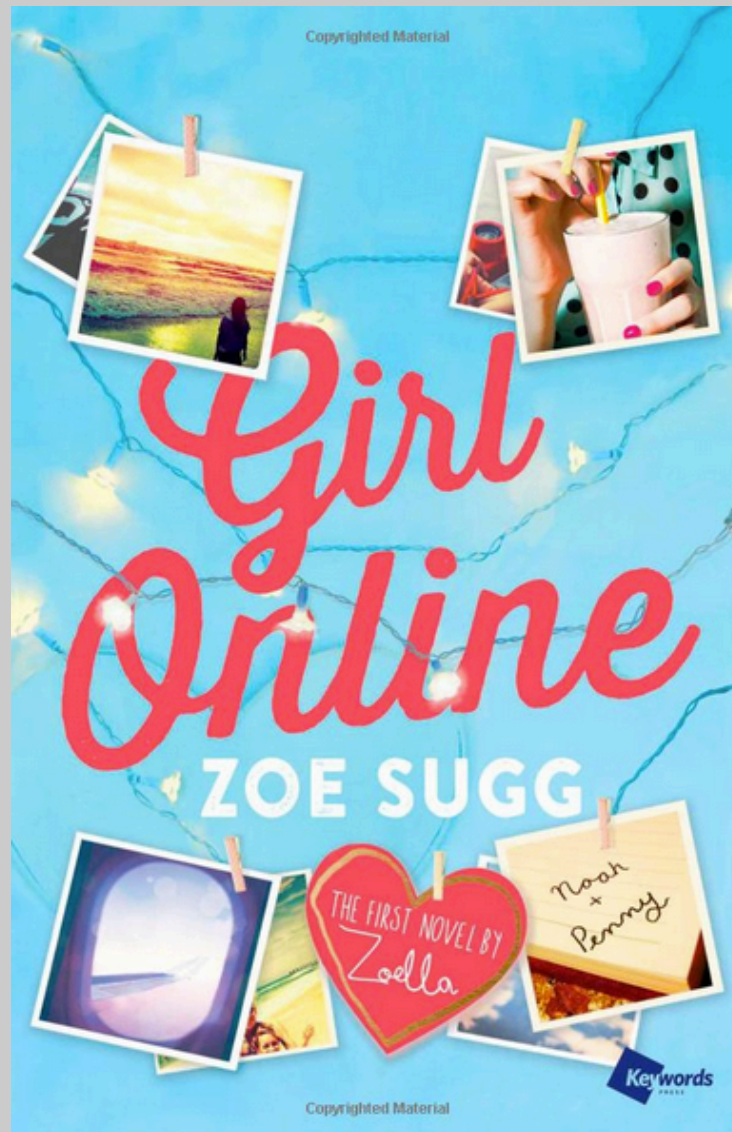
Authorship – Authenticity and Ownership



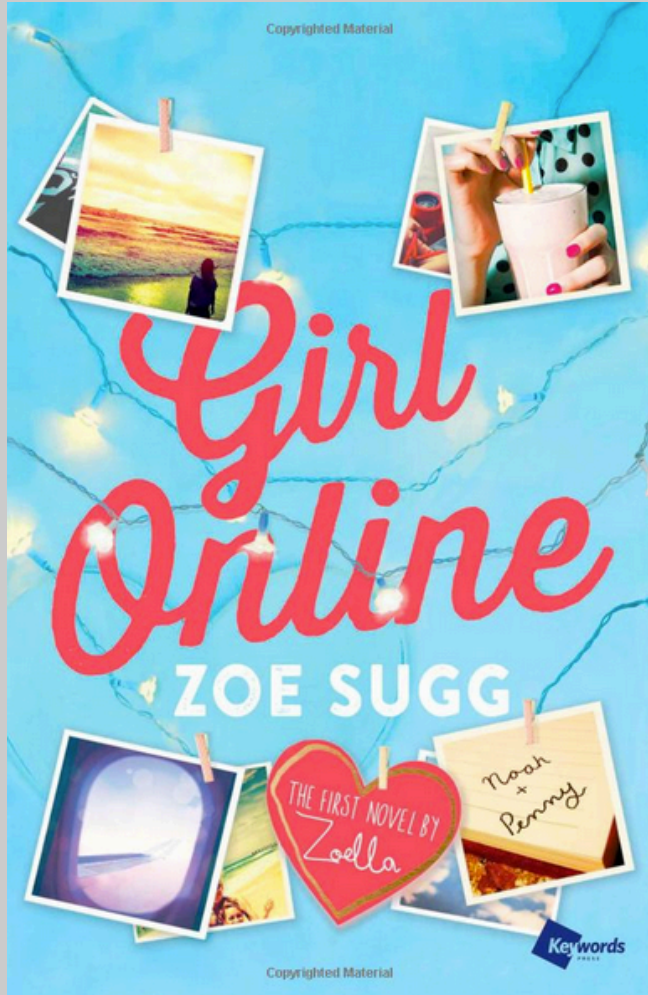
Examples

1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
3. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
4. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
6. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

Examples



Examples



Zoella and publishers confirm that Girl Online was ghostwritten

f share



ZOELLA'S FIRST BOOK: YOUTUBE BLOGGER ZOE SUGG POSES WITH GIRL ONLINE CREDIT: PENGUIN/JAMIE SIMONDS

Examples



Examples



Tom Keating – painting a “Van Gogh”

OVER ONE MILLION DOWNLOADS

JAMES POTTER

AND THE HALL
OF ELDERS' CROSSING



G. NORMAN LIPPERT

Based upon the characters and worlds of J.K. Rowling

COVER BY JOHNNY ATOMIC OF LEAGUE ENTERTAINMENT

The Author Function

“the author is not an indefinite source of significations that fill a work; the author does not precede the works; he is a certain functional principle by which, in our culture, one limits, excludes, and chooses; in short, by which one impedes the free circulation, the free manipulation, the free composition, decomposition, and recomposition of fiction. In fact, if we are accustomed to presenting the author as a genius, as a perpetual surging of invention, it is because, in reality, we make him function in exactly the opposite fashion... The author is therefore the ideological figure by which one marks the manner in which we fear the proliferation of meaning.”

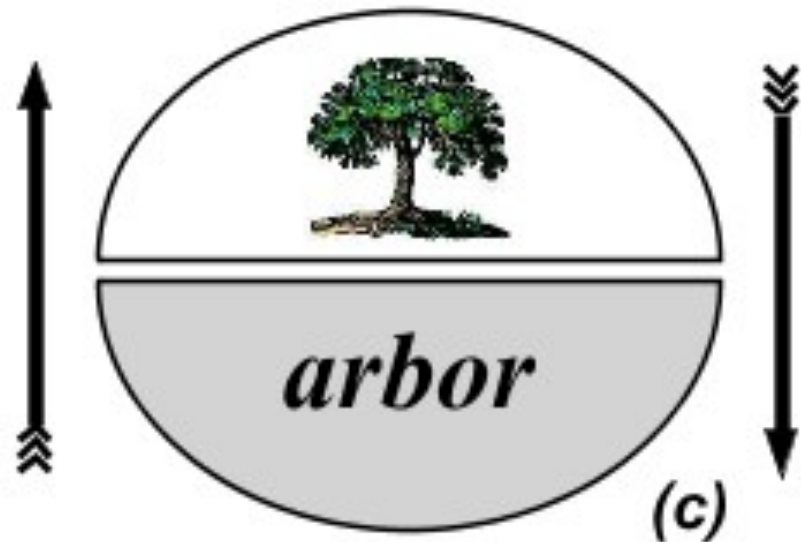
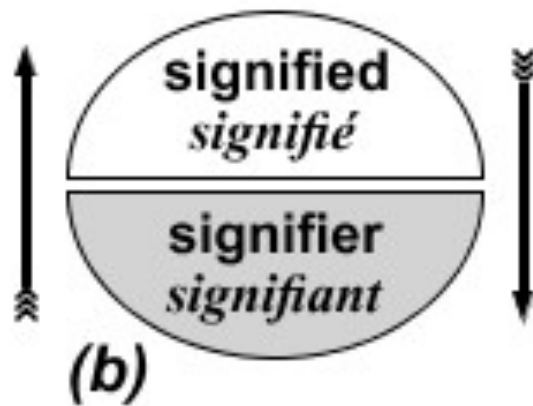
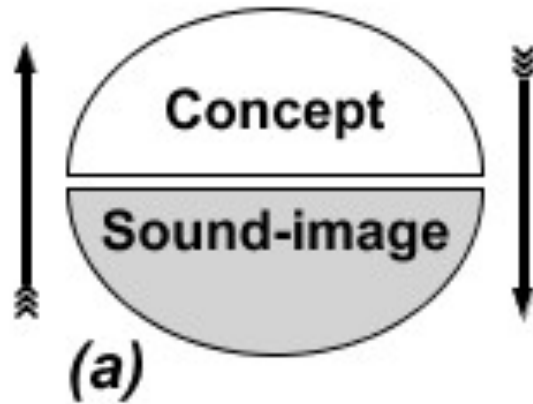
(Michel Foucault 1969)

Semiotics

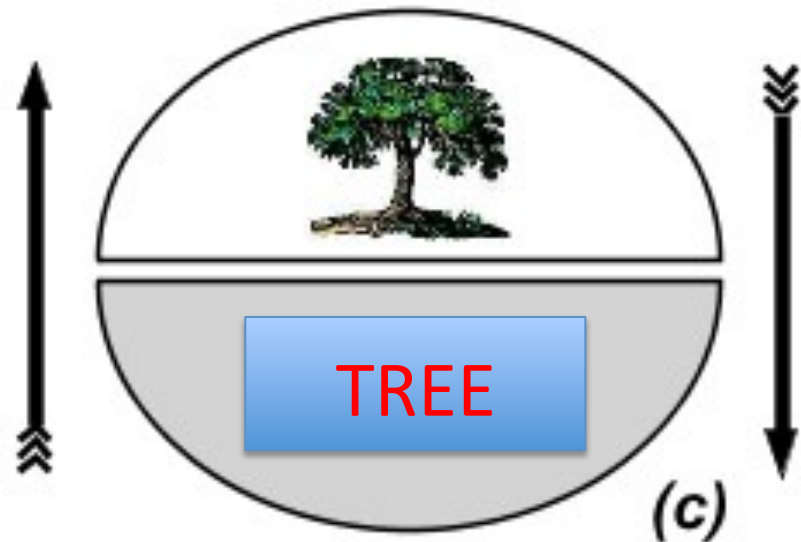
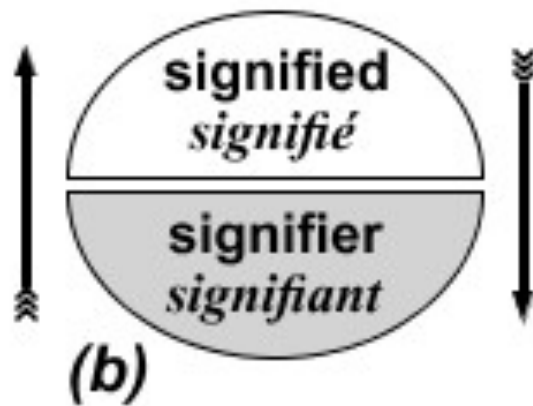
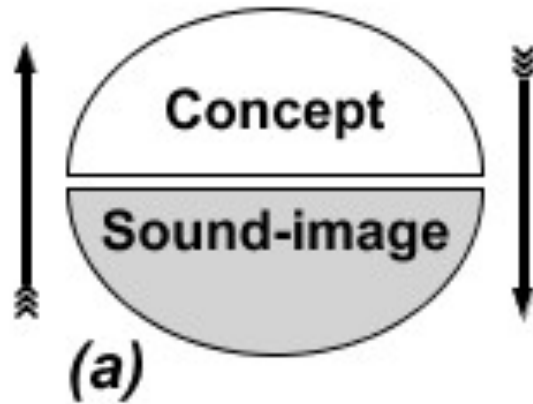


The Science of Signs

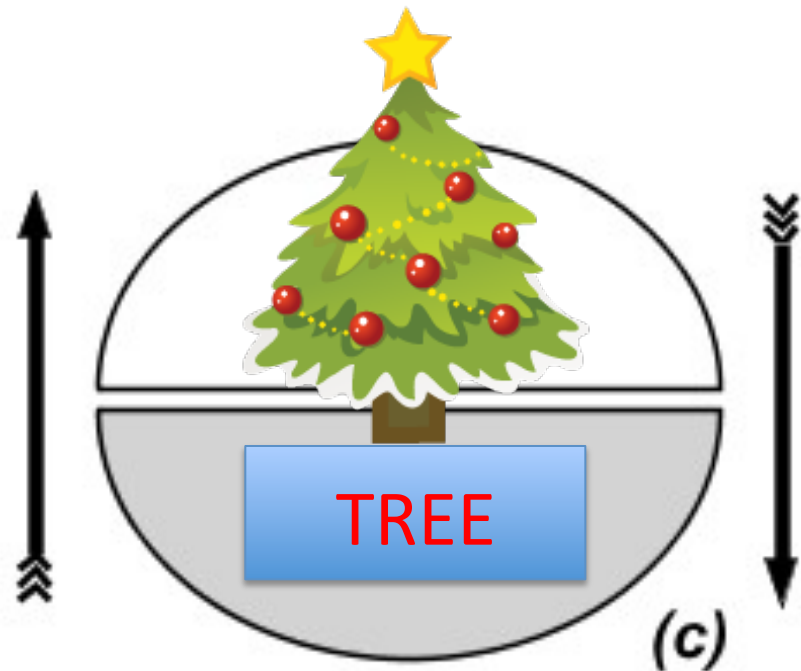
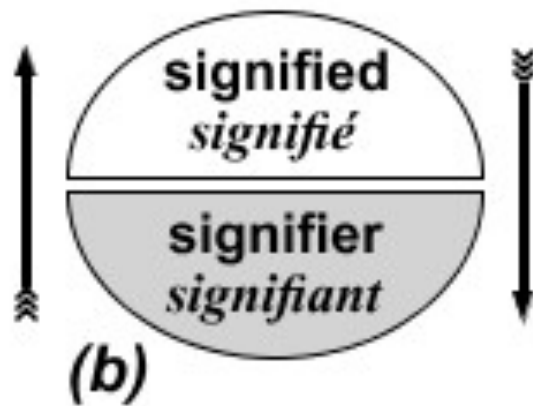
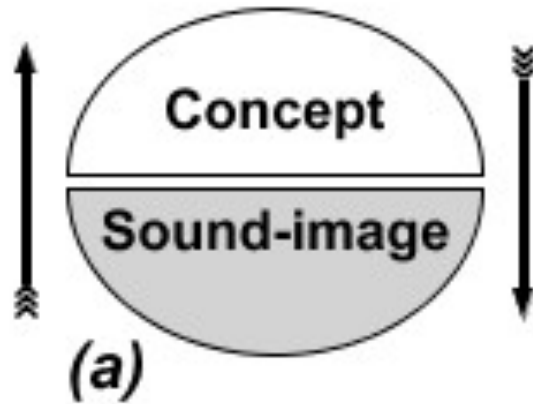
Semiotics



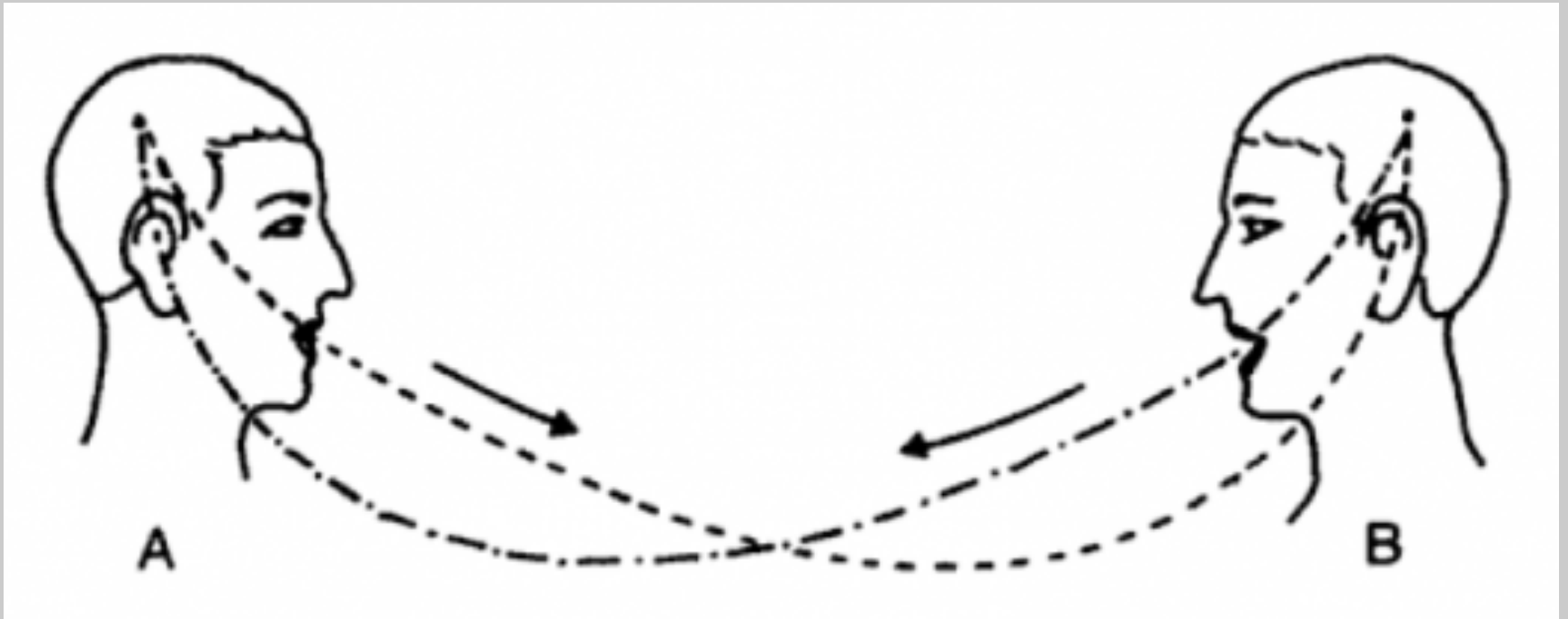
Semiotics



Semiotics



Semiotics

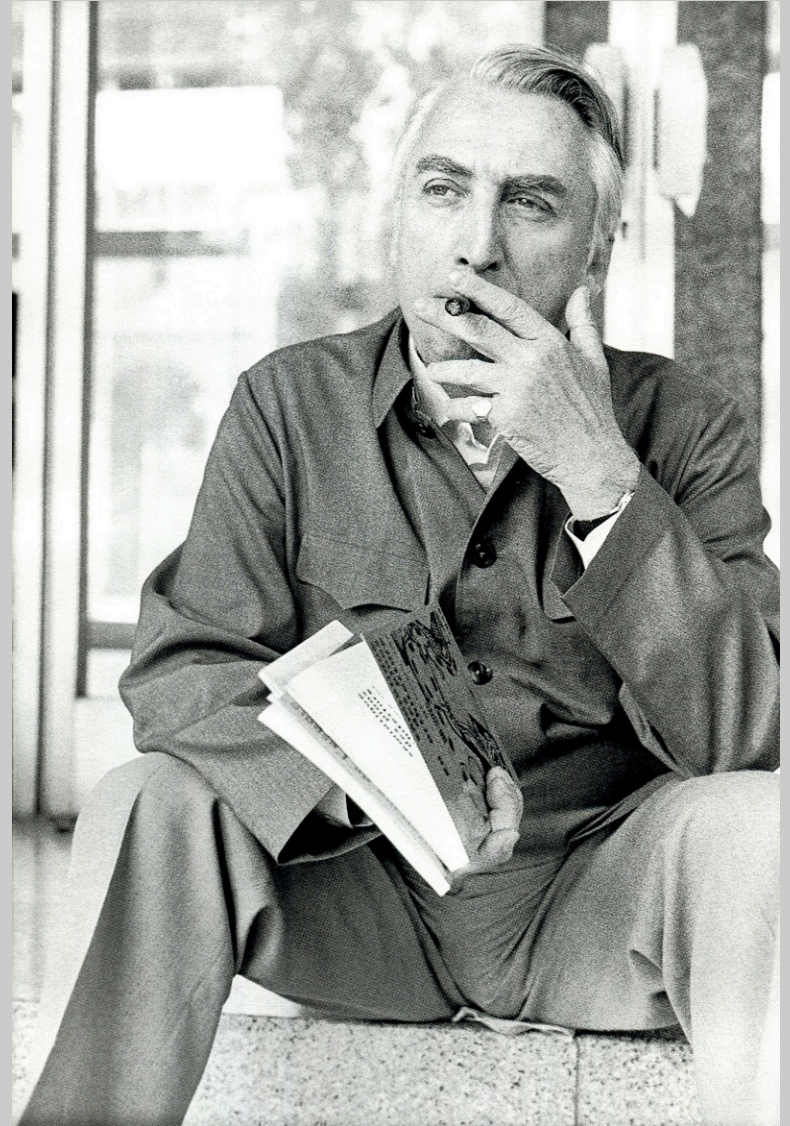


meaning in a constantly moving system

Barthes – The Death of the Author

“the birth of the reader must be
ransomed by the death of the
Author.”

(Barthes 1967, p. 6)



“The author still rules in manuals of literary history, in biographies of writers, in magazine interviews, and even in the awareness of literary men, anxious to unite, by their private journals, their person and their work; the image of literature to be found in contemporary culture is tyrannically centered on the author, his person, his history, his tastes, his passions; criticism still consists, most of the time, in saying that Baudelaire’s work is the failure of the man Baudelaire, Van Gogh’s work his madness, Tchaikovsky’s his vice: **the explanation of the work is always sought in the man who has produced it**, as if, through the more or less transparent allegory of fiction, it was always finally the voice of one and the same person, the author, which delivered his ‘confidence.’”

(Barthes 1967, p. 2)

Barthes – The Death of the Author

“Once the Author is gone, the claim to ‘decipher’ a text becomes quite useless. **To give an Author to a text is to impose upon that text a stop clause, to furnish it with a final signification**, to close the writing. This conception perfectly suits criticism, which can then take as its major task the discovery of the Author (or his hypostases: society, history, the psyche, freedom) beneath the work: **once the Author is discovered, the text is ‘explained:’ the critic has conquered**; hence it is scarcely surprising not only that, historically, the reign of the Author should also have been that of the Critic, but that criticism (even ‘new criticism’) should be overthrown along with the Author.”

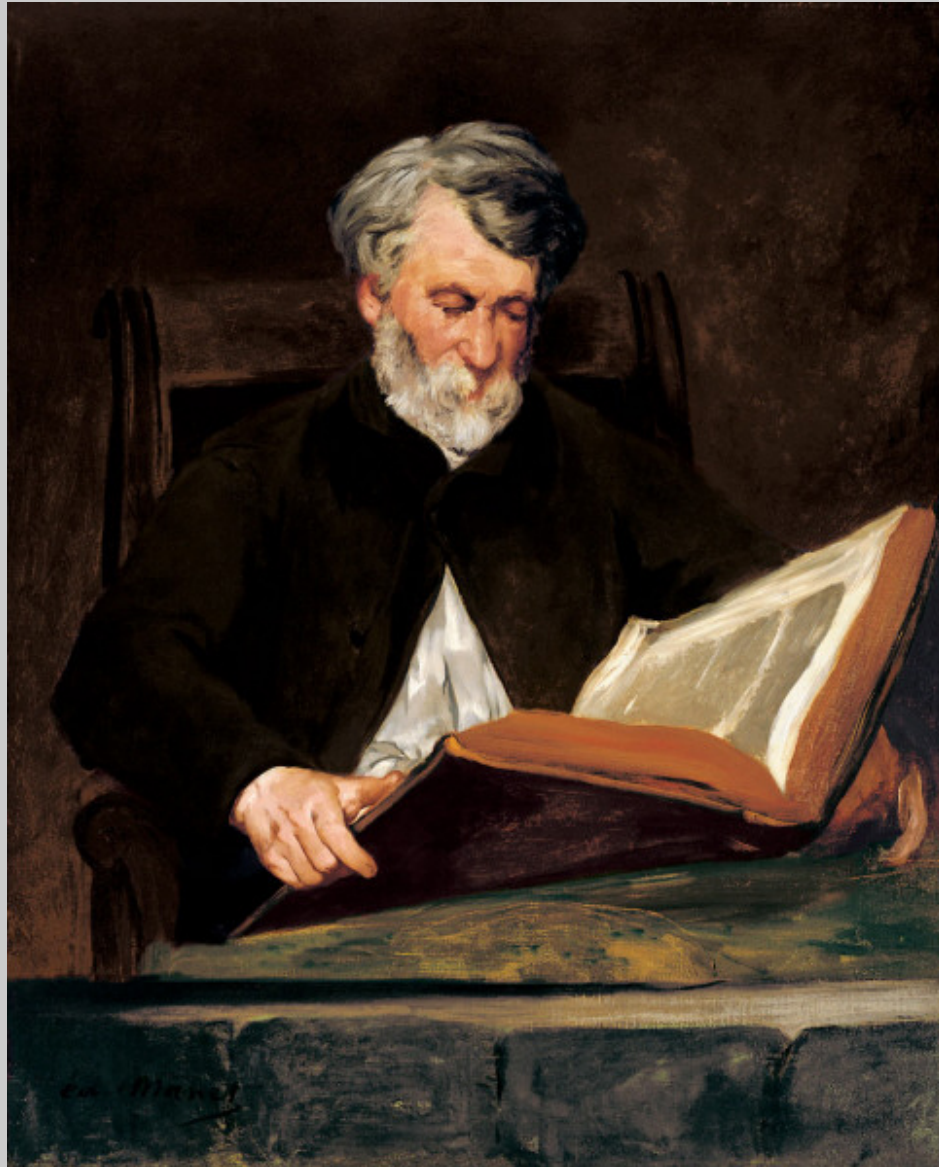
(Barthes 1967, p. 5)

Barthes – The Death of the Author

“Thus literature (it would be better, henceforth, to say writing), by refusing to assign to the text (and to the world as text) a ‘secret:’ that is, an ultimate meaning, liberates an activity which we might call counter-theological, properly revolutionary, for to refuse to arrest meaning is finally to refuse God and his hypostases, reason, science, the law.”

(Barthes 1967, p. 5)

Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



Edward Manet.
(1861).
“The Reader.”
Oil Painting.

Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



Felix Gonzalez-Torres. (1991). "Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.).
Multicolored candies, individually wrapped, 175 lbs.

Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



Konami. (1998). *Dance Dance Revolution*. Arcade.

Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l-mRWtBGsA>

Barthes – The Birth of the Reader



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs4R-6D09Zk>

Next Up...

Art and Games

Blog #3: DUE on THURSDAY, March 2 before 11:59pm

Reading:

Clarke and Mitchell - "Introduction" in *Videogames and Art*: pp. 7-22

John Sharp - "Introduction" in *Works of Game*: pp. 1-17

Reading Tips

- Clarke and Mitchell refer to "videogame art." Sharp refers to "Game Art," "Artgames," and "Artsts' Games." How are these four terms similar? How are they different?
- What are Clarke and Mitchell's and Sharp's theses?
- *Videogames and Art* is an edited volume from 2007; *Works of Game* is a monograph from 2015. How are these drastically different and how can you best approach their contents?