

***Between Shades of Gray* Final Assessment**

For your final assessment, you will have several choices. Please be advised that these are not the only choices. If you have an idea that is not mentioned, feel free to come see me and pitch your idea.

These final assessments are individual projects unless you can convince me otherwise.

Here are some ideas:

1. Write an essay that looks at the structure of Sepetys' novel. Why does she use the flashbacks, for example, and how do the flashbacks (and other structural elements) influence the novel?
2. Examine the motifs that Sepetys uses in her novel. We looked at the rock, artwork, watch, cigarettes, darkness and the sun. You could examine three motifs (one per body paragraph) and argue how the use of motifs influences the novel. What does each symbol mean and how does each symbol impact the novel. A topic sentence might be something like . . . Sepetys uses the SYMBOL to show that XYZ.
3. The world didn't know much about Stalin's annexation of the Baltic States for 70 some years. Research a similar event that has happened/is happening in other parts of the world. Bosnia jumps to the top of my mind. Syria? North Korea? Darfur? United States? The list goes on! They are not all the same, but the issue is exploring man's humanity to man. Find stories of survivors that are similar to those in *Between Shades of Gray*. Make sure you connect the novel, with direct quotes, to the event that you've chosen.
4. This novel is a testament to strength and courage. Choose at least three characters and analyze in what ways they are strong and courageous. What is Sepetys suggesting by creating these characters the way she has (that will most likely be your thesis).

Topics below will require special permission.

5. We started the novel by looking at artwork and how artwork, in general, can be a reaction to trauma. Choose 10 different pieces of art from at least three different genres (poetry, painting, song, story, sculpture, photography, etc.) that are responses to traumatic events. For each piece of art, explain it and what it means. Make sure you include a copy of each piece of art and connect each piece to *Between Shades of Gray* in some way.
6. Research the artist Edvard Munch. Why do you think Sepetys creates Lina with such an affinity for his artwork? Choose at least 3 of Munch's paintings that are referenced in the novel and explain how each one adds meaning to the situation. The intro might be about Munch and each body paragraph could look at a different painting that is alluded to in the novel.
7. Invent your own project. Be sure it involves research, structured writing, and a clear connection to the *Between Shades of Gray* (specific examples / quotations from the story.).

Expected Length: At least 5 well-developed paragraphs, with at least 3 direct quotes from the text.

In Class Workdays: Friday 12/14, Monday 12/17, Tuesday 12/18

Project Due Date: Please submit on my website by Thursday, December 20th at 11:59pm

| | Secure | Developing | Beginning | Not Evident |
|---|--------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Score Range | 23-25 | 19-22 | 16-18 | 0-15 |
| Thoughtful and In-Depth Analysis of Selected Topic (Project analyzes topic in depth, contains thoughtful discussion of ideas) | | | | |
| Overall Quality of Writing / Ability to Communicate Ideas (Topic sentences are thoughtful, Transitions are smooth, Project effectively communicates selected topic) | | | | |
| Overall Connection (Project effectively and thoughtfully connects ideas to <i>Between Shades of Gray</i>) | | | | |
| Attention to Detail (Evidence of careful formatting, integration of quotations, project is carefully edited) | | | | |