

		sheet for Mr. Behrman. Collect everything you know about him.
8 19.3.	Josefitag, no class	
9 25.3.	Bohemian New York: Greenwich Village and Chelsea "The Chelsea Hotel" "The Last Leaf", O'Henry	
10 26.3.	The Beat Generation: Allen Ginsberg, "Howl" Jack Kerouack, <i>On the Road</i>	Read: Nik Cohn, "Chinatown" and write a found poem based upon the text. (Moodle and printout)
	HAPPY EASTER	Read your novel!!! See instructions in session 1
???	TEST: In order to prepare for the test reread the stories and extracts that we have discussed so far. Try to slip into these characters' shoes and see the city through their eyes. Collect good phrases to describe their experiences efficiently. Text types: narrative writing: (short-story and letter)	
11 8.4.	Jewish New York: "The Whore of Mensa", Woody Allen	
12 9.4.	The Black Experience: Langston Hughes, "Go tell it on the mountain." "Harlem Finally Rides the Economy's A-Train"	
	April 14th to April 23rd Kansas City	
	April 23rd to April 27th (28th) New York	
13 29.4.	Sharing trip memories "Snapshots of Life in America" Working on our NY poetry and short-stories book	
14. 30.4.	continued	
May	Book Presentations: In the footsteps of... Group presentations: Join a group that seems suitable for your novel and prepare a presentation showing a certain neighborhood or aspect of NYC as seen through the eyes of your fictional characters. Compare their experiences with your own. Show the settings on a city map and use pictures to illustrate your points.	

Year 6: Culture through Literature

Literature reflects various aspects of the life and culture of a society. Let's look at people, places, issues and trends through the eyes of writers. What do they have to say about their social environment and culture?

We will use our trip to America as a basis for this topic.

Assignments:

1. Project: *A Literary Mosaic of New York City :In the footsteps of...*

Read one novel that plays in New York. In what places and areas of NYC does the story play?

Keep a **regular reading diary** – include your own experiences in New York wherever suitable.

Analyze the role of the setting in the story. Authors use settings very consciously to convey a certain atmosphere. Every setting carries lots of connotations, be aware of these. Find the settings on the map. Find out background information about each setting and the time-period. Collect pictures (your own or internet pictures) or draw/paint your own based on the descriptions you find in the novel.

List the different places and prepare an **illustrated story map** following the main character through the city. **Present** the character's wanderings through the city to the class. Make a poster, or use OHTs or powerpoint to illustrate your presentation.

What do(es) the setting(s) say about the society and time? (values, problems, wishes...) Why do certain episodes happen at certain places?

Answer all these questions in a **2 page essay-paper + the story map**(12pt). Find a clear thesis statement that explains what the story says about New York and its society at a certain time. Could the novel play somewhere else? If so, where?

Project due: first week of May

2. Reading Short Stories and Poetry

Read the assigned literature and do the little tasks (homework and group-work). Focus mainly on the importance of the settings. What do the settings imply? What are the connotations? Why has the writer chosen this setting? What atmosphere is conveyed? What is the tone? Does the text say anything about the society of the time? What do you know about the time (politics, social problems, historical events)? Be ready to discuss these issues in class.

3. Snapshots of Life in America: Poetry Project and Short stories

a: Observations: This step has to be done during our trip!!!!

Choose a place in New York or Kansas City that you find especially interesting. Take 10 minutes to observe the place in detail and take notes of your observations.

Note the following info:

What is the atmosphere right now?

What contributes to this atmosphere? Jot down bits and pieces, what are people doing, what do you see, hear, smell? What is the temperature and weather? You might also want to take a few pictures. (Please respect peoples' privacy. Do not behave like a paparazzo!)

Collect bits of information that will help you write a poem (a haiku or a short free verse poem) and a short story about this place.

b: Back home: Write a haiku or a short free verse poem about your experience. Prepare a well designed, illustrated page that will be "published" in our book of *Snapshots of Life in America*. See the two haiku pages for details.

c: Short story: Use one of the characters in your observation in a brief short story. The main purpose of your story is to recreate and convey the atmosphere of the moment. Bring your short story for a peer conference. Then revise it carefully.

Write a 3rd draft and illustrate your story if possible (use photos you took in New York). We will publish the stories in our *Snapshots of America* book.

List of New York Novels:

Choose one of the following novels. Read it carefully and show your understanding and reflections about the novel in your reading diary. (Be creative, don't write a summary.) Mark all the references to the New York settings for your literature essay and presentation.

Please buy one of the books immediately and read it **before you go to America**. It will be a great experience for you to really see the places you are reading about.

Most of the novels will be available at the English Bookshop. If you order from Amazon – do it now – don't wait till it's too late to get them.

NEW YORK:

- J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*
- Paul Auster, *The New York Trilogy*
- Henry Roth, *A Diving Rock on the Hudson*
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- Scott F. Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- Truman Capote, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- Ernesto Quinonez, *Bodega Dreams*
- Bret Easton Ellis, *American Psycho*
- Jay McInerney, *Bright Lights, Big City*
- Jay McInerney, *Brightness Falls*
- Tom Wolfe, *The Bonfire of Vanities*
- John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer*
- Claude Brown, *Manchild in the Promised Land*
- Henry Roth, *Call it Sleep*
- James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
- Sister Souljah, *The Coldest Winter Ever*
- Gwen Kinkead, *Chinatown, A Portrait of a Closed Society* (non-fiction)

KANSAS CITY:

- Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*

Writing Haikus

A haiku is a minimalist form of poetry. The writer has 17 syllables through which to convey an experience.

A haiku is like a written snapshot. It recreates the atmosphere of a moment in 3 lines (5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables). Modern English haikus do not always follow this rule very strictly.

The content of a haiku is typically, but not always, focused on a small but important moment in a person's everyday life. Part of writing a haiku is finding the 'awe' that is usually passed by without notice – the act of creating a haiku is the act of focusing our attention more closely than we might otherwise do. It is like a picture in close-up.

Sometimes haikus deal with important realizations (epiphanies) in a person's life. Read the following examples and try to visualize the scenes and take in the atmosphere or understand the important realization.

midday hush
the rasp of a mallard
calling his mate

Ray Rasmussen

street musicians resting –
red maple leaf
lands on the keyboard

Tompkins Square –
an old man teaches Tai-Chi
to a crowd of pigeons

Paul Mena

what is that building?
cobble-stoned streets, glass canyons.
I'm tired. my feet hurt.

Margaret Hinchcliffe

sunrise:
I forget my side
of the argument

George Swede
thundering surf
seagull cries on the
bitter winds

Stonecrow

on every icicle's tip
a drop
of sunlight

Alexey Andreyev

a supermarket:
in someone's cart – beef, beer,
flowers and a child

Alexey Andreyev

hand counting ballots.
who is your president now?
no Y2K bug.

with a flourish
the waitress leaves behind
rearranged smears

Dee Evetts

second husband
painting the fence
the same green

Carol Montgomery p.
the smell of the iron
as I come down the stairs
winter evening

Lee Gurga



What it's about

The Sunflower Project NYC started in the Spring of 2002 as a living memorial planting project to remember the people lost on September 11th, to honor their families, to thank the people everywhere who contributed to the recovery, and to make our world better, one patch at a time.

The idea is for individuals, groups and communities to create their own sunflower memorials everywhere-- to remember and honor life with living, growing symbols of renewal and hope.

☀️ A fork in my bag.
Next to my comb some wet seeds.
Armed and dangerous.

☀️ Dig hole with chopstick
Make sure seed goes into hole
Mission accomplished

☀️ Watering something?
Not me, I just spilled water...
for the seventh time

☀️ In New York, Cher can
strut nude--no notice. Plant seeds?
People stop. What's that?

☀️ Armed with black seeds
I glance around furtively
then complete my task

☀️ Look at me strangely
Wonder why I'm poking dirt
Doesn't everyone?

☀️ Planting sunflowers.
Large Federal Agent says
"Let's see some ID".

☀️ Small dog and small mind
in tow, local Tree Lady
watches me closely.