

Theater and Cultural Diversity in the United States
21M.621
Spring 2008
Walker
Thomas DeFrantz

Writing Assignment Four: Short Eyes Character Analysis

For Wednesday, March 19, read the Miguel Piñero play Short Eyes (1974). Write a 1-2 page analysis of a single character in the play. Using the play as a starting point, construct an imaginary character biography that might include a family history, social and geographic circumstance surrounding your character's upbringing, the story surrounding his incarceration, or his relationships with people outside the prison.

You may choose from any of the main characters that you feel offer you enough information to imagine. You should support your flights of fancy with some textual evidence. For example, if the playwright tells us that the character became violent after a particular incident, be sure that your biography could, logically, include that incident.

Your analysis should be 'written,' that is, you should frame specific arguments in English with an attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Be creative, but be sure to ground your invention in the reality of the play, its time period, and the character information provided by the playwright. Your paper need only be two-pages long, so you probably will only have time to take on a few important incidents or character traits in your analysis. Be particular, and offer examples or evidence **supported by Piñero's play** to underscore your arguments.

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