

### Explication Three

Due: Tuesday, March 27

#### Overview:

Explications are exercises in *close reading*, one of the primary skills necessary for literary analysis.

The word "explication" comes from the Latin term *explicare*, which means "to unfold"; accordingly, an explication unfolds or unpacks the meaning and workings of a literary text. Explications typically examine a text intensively, *line by line*, so they are usually used to interpret either short poems or short passages from longer works of fiction or drama.

An explication should account for all or most of the lines of the poem or passage, paying attention to whatever devices (connotations, allusions, metaphors and similes, symbols, rhythm, sounds, etc.) seem important. Explain how they relate to each other and to the overall meaning and/or effect of the work of literature. Your explication should have a strong thesis, and the rest of the paper should clearly support that thesis (think of your thesis statement as answering the question, "What is this quote about in the context of the overall poem or essay?").

#### Instructions:

Use **one** of the quotes below to offer an explication. Make sure you explain the significance of the quote you choose as well as relate the quote to the rest of *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*. Write approximately 550 words, double-spaced, 12pt. times new roman font. Please include a word count.

Select **one** of the following quotes (or select a quote of your own):

"Those who summoned the devil went crazy, not because the devil appeared, but just the opposite, because he didn't appear. He fell asleep gazing at the moon as it jumped through the clouds and the trees, as if it were extremely content about something." (106)

"He became angry because he was unable to do anything against anyone." (108)

"How come we're like this, like we're buried alive?" (109)

"We never arrive." (145)

"I recall that one time he told the people to read the poems out loud because the spoken word was the seed of love in the darkness." (147)

"To discover and rediscover and piece things together." (152)