

**ENGL 3922**  
**Explication Two**  
**DUE 02/27**  
**hard copy at start of class**

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 poem or passage about?"). **UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS STATEMENT.**

Instructions:

Use ONE the quotes below to offer an explication. Make sure you explain the significance of the given quote as well as relate the quote to the rest of the novel. Write between 475-500 words, double-spaced, 12pt. times new roman font, 1-inch margins. **Please include the word count at the end of the essay.**

Quotes:

"I ask again—you, Don Santiago, all the rest of you, what has Mexico then done for you? Might you not be better off, in the end, with a new government?" (56)

"Was it possible that her departure from convention could outweigh its results? Surely her father could not think so; her father could not think evil of her as Alvaro had." (273)

"It was like a house. No matter how strongly built the house, one could not tear out a corner of it and expect the house to stand. One by one, then, the old things, the good things, would begin to go, and it was to preserve them that there had been the trek to this Indian-infested wilderness a hundred years before." (282)

"A scoop of earth, brown and dry, trickled from the palm and lost itself in the sandstones." (337)

"It is just another *peon* and of small consequence." (191)