ENG104 Weekly Reading and Writing #3

Tuesday: *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, by Sherman Alexie p 15

*Superman and Me*, p 1400

Thursday: *The Red Convertible*, by Louise Erdrich, page 382

“None but an Indian knows what it is like to have existence in two worlds and security in neither.”

N. Scott Momaday

Choose two questions from the following (one question for Alexie and one for Erdrich). For each question, develop your response in a focused paragraph. Use details, specifics, examples, and quotes from the story to develop your response. Please word-process, single-space, and follow the general guideline of about ½ page for each response.

*Lone Ranger*

- **Analysis – Conflict**: Explore and write about the central conflict in *Lone Ranger*. Begin with the reference of the story’s title (between the Lone Ranger, who represents white society, and Tonto, who represents Native American society). Then expand your analysis to include the deeper conflict within the narrator himself, between his Native background and the white culture he has chosen to enter.

- **Interpretations**: When Alexie was asked what he wanted to see within the ranks of Indian writers today, he responded in this way: “I want us to write books about the way we live.” What details from the story suggest his contemporary struggle? Consider details of setting, character, or imagery.

- **Connections / Creative**: Reflect on the deeper conflict within the narrator in this story. Consider ways in which you or others in our contemporary lives have struggled with issues of identity similar to the ones this narrator is struggling with. Choose a scene from this story and re-write it creating a different context (e.g. a woman who wants to be free from expectations of motherhood; a college student whose aspirations extend beyond what his or her family is comfortable with – use your imagination).

*The Red Convertible*

- **Analysis – Structure of Plot**: Explain in what ways your second reading differed from your first. Consider all of the ways Erdrich uses plot to convey meaning. You might include point-of-view and setting in your analysis.

- **Analysis – Style**: Louise Erdrich is a prize-winning poet as well as a short story writer and novelist. As a poet, she conveys meaning through her imagery and figurative language. Locate, describe, and explain examples of these stylistic “techniques.”

- **Interpretations / Connections / Creative**: Brothers, older brothers, younger brothers, brotherhood . . . Why give the story to Lyman to tell? Why did Lyman wait until the end to explain that “his boots filled with water on a windy night”? This question builds on your analysis of plot – take on the “voice” (persona) of Lyman and explain why you told the story the way you did.