Fall 2016 English 100W **Works You Can Use for the Research Project** (a partial list)

I was planning something much grander than this, but this is as much as I have the time and energy for right now. Still, it should be enough to get you started. For more, you can just turn to the *Literary Experience* text, pages 395-399, where all of the authors and their works are laid out with some publication information (credits) like dates and anthology titles, and use Google to find other works by writers who intrigue you. If you want to explore poetry, the poetry text has an *immense* list of poets and titles, so knock yourself out!

I’m still hoping most of you will pick something we are going to actually discuss a bit, but I’ll stretch it to anything in these texts. You’re on your honor to not just pick something you’ve already written (or are writing about) for another class. For those of you inclined toward the biographical inquiry, the poetry text gets you started with some great author commentaries—that is, writers writing about their own lives and historical periods, such as a Langston Hughes’ essay about the Harlem Renaissance (*IP* pp. 356-359).

**Fiction and Drama/Film**

* **A.S. Byatt**: “Cold,” “The Djinn in the Nightingale’s Eye,” “The Story of the Eldest Princess” (both short stories—though rather long ones) Films based on A.S. Byatt’s work: *Possession, Angels & Insects*
* **Rita Dove**, who wrote the poem “Hattie McDaniel Arrives at the Coconut Grove,” also wrote a brilliant play that reimagines Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex*, setting it on a Southern plantation before and during the Civil War: *The Darker Face of Earth.*
* **Bernard Shaw**: *Pygmalion* (play and/or film), other films based on it, other plays by Shaw. Recommended: *Arms and the Man, Mrs. Warren’s Profession, Major Barbara, Caesar and Cleopatra, John Bull’s Other Island, The Dark Lady of the Sonnets, O’Flaherty V.C.* The first 4 have film versions.
* **Mary Zimmerman**: *Metamorphoses* (with the King Midas section we read)*, The Odyssey, The Arabian Nights, Argonautika*
* **Tom Stoppard**: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Shakespeare in Love, Professional Foul, Travesties* (These are just some of his plays. The first two were also made into films. Note: Shaw’s *Dark Lady of the Sonnets*, a 1-act play, is part of the same “conversation” about Shakespeare’s youth as *Shakespeare in Love*.
* **Michael Chabon** ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*** (brilliant novel, set during WWII in Prague and NY.)
* “Little Red Riding Hood” by Charles Perrault (or any other version).

**Additional films related to works we have discussed or will discuss**:

* *Into the Woods* (fairy tales)
* *The Charge of the Light Brigade*
* *My Boy Jack* (relates to Kipling, especially his war poetry)
* *Bright Star* (bio-pic about Shelley)
* *Gone with the Wind* (and its sequel)

**Poets/Poetry**

* “Harlem” by Langston Hughes (This would give you an excuse to also discuss James Baldwin’s story “Sonny’s Blues,” another great work set in Harlem.)
* Rita Dove “Hattie McDaniel Arrives at the Coconut Grove
* “Picture Bride” by Cathy Song. It’s a short poem, but it’s the title poem of a collection, if you want to investigate this poet and/or the idea of literature that springs from “orphaned” photos, or the institution of picture brides. *Sweetland* is a wonderful film based on the experience of a German picture bride in Minnesota, and a photo of her becomes a talisman in the story.
* Margaret Atwood “Happy Endings,” “Siren Song,” “you fit into me,” and many brilliant novels, including a short one, *The Penelopiad*, a retelling of *The Odyssey* from the wife’s POV, like Dorothy Parker’s poem “Penelope” but witty and fierce. Also a witty short story called “My Last Duchess,” about a student reading that poem.