

3/28/06 UWF Library

1. Stories so far and their themes/subjects:

Anomie	crumbling mores, changing reality with ideas
Exit Laughing	humor as defense vs horror, Florida bleakness
Raw Recruits	wrong ideas about death, arrogance, backfiring, Civil War
And Justice for Doll	- playing someone else's metaphors against them, humor
Representative Sample	- humorous revenge, crumbling human spirit
Solidarity	vagrancy as rebellion, infeasibility, theorizing
Faraji	perception, optimism, creating reality with thought
Trespasser	wrong ideas, arrogance, sudden epiphany, UFOs
Nessmass	Loch Ness, end of mysteries with banal facts

Common: individual perception (often flawed)
humor
rebellion of strange against mundane
triumph of imagination over fact
crumbling human spirit

2. Authors I enjoy and their subjects / techniques -

- Patricia Highsmith - clear prose, ordinariness of madness
Philip K. Dick - idiosyncratic perception, each mind is a world, bending reality
Oscar Wilde - flamboyant lies, aesthetics, creating a better world
Truman Capote - empathy for characters, human detail
T.E.O. Klein - vivid descriptions, human-centered stories, subtle
Ray Bradbury - passion, enthusiasm, wonder = terror + joy
Harlan Ellison - passion, drive to excellence, good elitism
Ayn Rand - individuality, freedom, drive to excellence
Jorge Luis Borges - ability of words to transform reality, biblio-weariness
James Joyce - inner landscapes of the human mind, resisting ordinary, parallel
Charles Beaumont - subtle, wit, conversational prose
Shirley Jackson - ordinary horror, horror that doesn't know it, domesticity
H.P. Lovecraft - vastness of existence, man's small role, comfy tradition
Edgar Allan Poe - hoaxing, telling a good lie, conveying madness

Common:

Telling big convincing lies
Words that bend reality
People who perceive different realities
Subtle, ordinary, sneaking horror
Passion, excellence, elitism
Wonder

Madness

3. What experiences make me special?

Parental divorce

fall of a despotic empire followed by chaos
rebuilding self-discipline after fear and tyranny
regaining direction, personal ambition

Abuse

overreactions to small things
fear of idiosyncratic reactions
being quiet, withdrawn, low-profile
hiding, telling complicated lies to avoid trouble

My divorce

leaving a woman I believed was "my destiny" to make my own
religion vs. individuality
crazed rationalizations, dramatic pronouncements
not giving her enough of a chance to change with me

9/11

walking home from U.S. Capitol
knowing that flight 93 might have saved my life
making it worth it

4. Values

- Oscar Wilde - wit, intellect, aesthetics, cavalier attitude toward reality
Harlan Ellison - driven, passionate, opinionated, eloquent
Ray Bradbury - appreciative, creative, optimistic, sense of wonder
H.P. Lovecraft - intellect, aesthetics, gentleman philosopher
P.J. O'Rourke - humor, incisiveness, libertarianism, responsibility, humbly
Charles Beaumont - careful work ethic, perception, sense of wonder
Sherlock Holmes - dignity, reason, intellect, focus, purpose
Ragnar Danneskjold - integrity, intellectual, reverse Robin Hood, revenge
Howard Roark - artistic integrity, independence, freedom
Rod Serling - creative entrepreneur - connecting creative people, moral sense
Voltaire - writing for justice, integrity, humor
Philip K. Dick - imaginative consciousness, writing even under duress
David Lynch - courageous and unapologetic weirdness

Anti

- George W. Bush - plain-spoken, anti-intellectual, conservative, unimaginative
Teacher 1 - surly, cynical, defeated, hopeless, unimaginative
Great Aunt - practical, pessimistic, religious, stern, humorless
Teacher 2 - pseudo-intellectual, dismissive, unappreciative
Writer 1 - anti-intellectual, mercenary, cliché tastes
Writer 2 - sell-out, speaks more than listens
Writer 3 - sanctimonious, patronizing, self aggrandizing

so I don't get stuck...

5. What am I interested in?

American Revolution

Crime, detection, forensics, law

Literary criticism: deconstruction, new historicism, genre

Psychology: Viktor Frankl, Jung

Victorian era

Hacking / History of computers

Ghosts, zombies

Folklore

Gaming: strategy, role-playing