

Wednesday's Reading Response Option

Instructions: Practice distant reading mixed with close reading. Respond using the regular instructions, or follow the instructions below. The steps below are designed to help you find your way through the texts, and to best prepare you for our discussion on Wednesday.

Mahasweta Devi, "Breast-Giver":

1. Skim for character names, relationships, plot, and highlight moments of the absurd.
2. Highlight unfamiliar terms (return to these and read footnotes if you have time)
3. Write a brief plot summary (1-3 sentences).
4. Quote one absurd or defamiliarizing passage
5. Explain what you find absurd about the passage or explain what's being defamiliarized.
6. This is part one of your daily response for Wednesday.

Jacques Derrida, Excerpt from *Monolingualism of the Other*: Start reading at "2. Arendt," and stop before "3. Levinas" on p. 90. Don't expect to "understand" in the typical sense.

1. Highlight answers to the following questions:
 - What does Arendt claim, according to Derrida?
 - What questions does Derrida pose to Arendt's claim(s)?
 - What alternative(s) does Derrida suggest?
2. Paste your highlighted answers to the response questions, or explain in your own words.
3. Do your best, and know that this is a slippery (and possibly "mad") text.
4. This is part two of your daily response for Wednesday.