Book and Film Comparison Paper
DATE DUE: _____

The Project: Read a book that has been adapted to film. The book should be age, content, and reading level appropriate. No books read as assigned reading for previous classes will be accepted. Make sure you take notes as you read the book and watch the film.

The Question: How does the book "translate" to film? Is the film a successful adaptation? Why or why not?

The Assignment: Write a 3-4 page paper (double spaced, typed, 12 point size font) in which you respond to the following questions and directions, supporting your statements with evidence and examples.

Part I – Introduction

Begin with a hook to interest the reader. Explain why you have chosen to read this book and watch this movie.

Part II - THE BOOK

1. **Book Details:** List the title, author, publisher, date of 1st publication, and number of pages in your chosen book. Be certain to *italicize* the title.

2. **Précis** (summary):

    Include the setting of the book. Mention the place and time in which your book's story occurred, for example: San Francisco, 1920's.

    In a carefully written paragraph, summarize the plot of your book. This should be no longer than a page and if done carefully it may be much shorter.

3. **Classic/Noteworthy**: Write an evaluation or explanation of why this piece of literature is considered classic or noteworthy. Why has it endured or been read and recommended to others? What does the book have to "say" that lasts? In this section of your report, you might consider such literary elements as: characterization, conflict, description, plot, theme, style, setting, tone or point of view. You need NOT discuss all of these but you could focus on one that stands out in your mind as noteworthy.

Part III - THE FILM

1. **Film Details**: List the title, director, producer, primary actors/characters and year of the film. Be certain to *italicize* the title. (Provide basic film facts)

2. **Comparison/contrast:** In carefully written paragraphs summarize the similarities and differences between the book and the film. Compare and contrast the basic elements of the setting, plot, characters, etc. Be specific, but select the primary differences and similarities.

3. **Adaptation of the book to screen:** In a paragraph or two discuss what techniques and devices are used to "translate" the book to the screen? (scenery, setting, music, camera techniques, editing, lighting, type of shots, mise-en-scene, cinematography, art design, costuming, special effects, etc.)

Part IV - Effectiveness/Success of the Adaptation?

Discuss the following topics in a well written paragraph(s):

   a. Is the film a successful adaptation of the book? **Why or why not? *****
   b. Which is preferable - -the book or the film? Why?
   c. If you could direct the film what would you do to enhance the adaptation of the book to film? (For example: different cast, setting, add or delete characters or sections of the book, different method of narrating the story.)
   d. If you wouldn't change anything about the film, then discuss what was done particularly well. Focus on the specific and provide examples.
   e. End with a solid clincher sentence.

Part V – Works Cited
Include the book, the film, and any other sources you used. Should follow MLA format.

Additional Notes:
Support your opinion and ideas with specific evidence from the book and film. Avoid generalities.

Consider the following facts as you make your argument. Keep them in mind and perhaps address some of these issues if they are relevant to your book/film adaptation:
a. POV is crucial: many novels are told in the 1st person; films are usually told in the 3rd person. Therefore it is sometimes difficult to "get into" the film protagonist's mind very well.
b. Film usually relies on one protagonist and a handful of characters.
c. Film usually utilizes the 3 act structure.
d. in Film scripts, 1 page = 1 minute of screen time. Film scripts are typically 120 pages long or less. Books are generally longer.
e. Some books are more "cinematic" than others: Some have a better visual or narrative structure that moves through time and space like a movie.
f. Sometimes a faithful adaptation doesn't make for a good film. Some works need to be "opened up" or changed considerably for the screen.
g. Certain deep concepts (For example: Hard Science fiction) is sometimes difficult to adapt due to abstract or philosophical content that can't be conveyed through dialogue (unless the director or someone else makes a speech) or visuals.

BANNED BOOKS:
You are not allowed to do any of the books on this list:
All *Harry Potter,* All *Hunger Games*, *Forrest Gump,* All *Twilight, The Great Gatsby,* All *Percy Jackson, The Secret Life of Bees, Huckleberry Finn, Life of Pi, Of Mice and Men, The Outsiders, Holes, Eragon,* All *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.
This list is not all inclusive. Books need to be approved prior to writing.

	Exceptional (A) 100	Proficient (B) 85	Approaching (C) 75	Below (D) 60	Well Below (F) 0
CONTENT					
• Introduction with thesis	Engaging introduction that contains hook. Contains a strong, well defined thesis (last sentence of introductory paragraph!) Paper has direction	Coherent introduction contains some general background info. Clear thesis defined, provides direction for paper	Intro is weak, doesn't give reader general background or hook. Thesis is not clearly stated, perfunctory, simple unclear.	Vague introduction, reader has little sense of what film is about. No clear thesis, incomplete	No attempt
• Support & evidence	Detailed, accurate, specific, convincing and appropriate examples or quotations from film. Fully developed throughout essay	Sufficient, accurate examples or quotations from film. May not be fully developed throughout essay.	Uneven, general, often brief support. Minimal examples used from film. Not fully developed throughout essay	Vague, missing or inappropriate support. Little or no examples from film used.	No attempt
• Ideas, analysis, & argument	Reasoned, insightful ideas. Shows critical thinking and analysis. Shows thorough knowledge of film topic, themes, and/or production values. Thesis is well developed, interesting, and clear.	Shows some critical thinking and analysis. Shows knowledge of film topic, themes, or production values Thesis is clear and thoughtful.	Shows limited critical thinking and analysis' Shows limited knowledge of film, theme, or production values Thesis is simplistic, inadequately developed, or lacking in relevance.	Minimal analysis Doesn't demonstrate knowledge of film, theme, or production values Thesis is obvious, unsound, or inaccurate.	No attempt
• Conclusion	Stylishly and subtly returns to thesis. Extends main ideas, connects and comments on topic.	Returns to thesis & summarizes main points and ideas. Effectively concludes but doesn't extend	Summarizes previously stated information, but lacks closure or extension	Incomplete, Fails to conclude, adds nothing in many words	No attempt
ORGANIZATION • Follows Format of a good essay. Includes Topic Sentences and Transitions	Perfectly follows format of essay. Topic sentences clearly related to thesis and comprehensive. Fluid, engaging and varied transitions made between paragraphs	Follows format of essay. Topic sentences are related to thesis. Clear, functional "bridge" transitions made between paragraphs	Somewhat follows essay format. Topic sentences are a restatement of position, narrow or inaccurate, may not be appropriate for paragraph's content Awareness of transitions but seems mechanical / forced.	Doesn't follow format of essay. No topic sentences or not appropriate for paragraph's content. No clear connections between paragraphs	NA
EXPRESSION • Sentence Structure	Complete, varied, interesting, evident command of style, technique, & grace	Complete and correct, some style	Some variety, some errors present	Repetitious, fragments and run-on's frequent	NA
• Vocabulary	Varied and sophisticated	Effective, appropriate to task	Adequate, uneven or "Thesaurus syndrome"	Limited, monotonous, inappropriate, lazy words	NA
• Mechanics	Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization)	Contains few minor errors in conventions	Contains errors that are distracting or cause confusion	Many convention errors interfere with communication or meaning	Errors are so profound they prevent readability.
RESOURCES	Works Cited and internal citations complete and in proper format. Film is properly cited.	Works Cited and internal citations are complete, with minor errors. Film is cited.	Works Cited and internal citatoins complete, not in proper format. Film is cited.	Works Cited is incomplete or missing some internal citations.	No attempt at Works Cited or Internal Citations