Assignment: Choose one literary aspect of the novel that interests you to study and analyze. Narrow your topic down to a well defined, unifying thesis. Be creative in your rethinking and interpretation of the text, but be sure to support your argument by using evidence (quotations and cited passages) from and analysis of the text. For your examples, focus on significant, insight-providing quotations and descriptions of setting, action and/or character in the novel. Your thesis must be specific enough, yet narrow enough in focus, for you to develop and support your point in a 4-5 page paper.

Suggested Topics: You are free to develop your own topic and thesis. Use questions and suggestions for idea development in WEAL to help you develop a topic. Or, consider the following questions, which are intended to stimulate thinking, in developing a topic:

- How is the novel representative of the attitudes and views of the time periods portrayed? In what way does it transcend specific time and place? Is it a story about something more universal? Identify what that is and analyze the text to see how it’s conveyed.

- How does the setting contribute to the story’s plot? Or, how does it suggest or mirror important ideas or themes, or perhaps something about the character? Examine and analyze specific scenes to determine their significance in conveying something about the setting that contributes to the novel overall.

- Examine one or more important supporting characters in relation to Jackie. What does that character or characters reflect about Jackie’s character? How does the character or characters contribute to her development in the course of the story? What does their relationship tell us about contemporary human relationships, particularly in Los Angeles today? What does it tell us about social norms and mores?

- How is this story about the larger community? What is the importance of community and what role does it play, particularly in relation to Jackie’s effort to learn more about her family, her family history, and the role community has played in their lives?

Alternate Choice: Choose an entirely new situation for Jackie and write a short story with an original plot. The story should include dialogue and significant interaction between two or three characters; a fully described setting; some form of conflict or tension displayed; and, the actions and speech you create must be true to the existing character(s). In your story, you should stay consistent with a significant theme or idea that exists in the text.

If you choose this option, please let me know in advance what you are intending to do. Be prepared to describe your concept in enough detail so I have a clear understanding of what you plan to write.

Requirements: The paper must be 4-5 pages (or more, if a short story), typed, and double-spaced. For an essay, all references to the text must be properly cited and a "Work(s) Cited" page attached in accordance with MLA guidelines. Be sure to attach your peer-edited rough draft(s).

Deadline: Final draft & peer-edited draft(s) due: Thur., May 13