



# UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH LIT. ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020 • ISSUE 3



### UELA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE!

- The Undergraduate English Literary Association (UELA) E-Board has chosen a new Diversity & Inclusion Rep!
- (Check out PG 2 to see who it is)

#### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

- Want to be in the next newsletter? Send us an email ([englishA@bu.edu](mailto:englishA@bu.edu)) to be featured! We're looking for:
  - Poetry, recipes, creative projects, club advertisements, book reviews, book recommendations, events, etc.

#### WEAR A MASK!

- COVID-19 is still an ongoing issue in this country!
  - Wearing a mask protects not only yourself, but those around you.

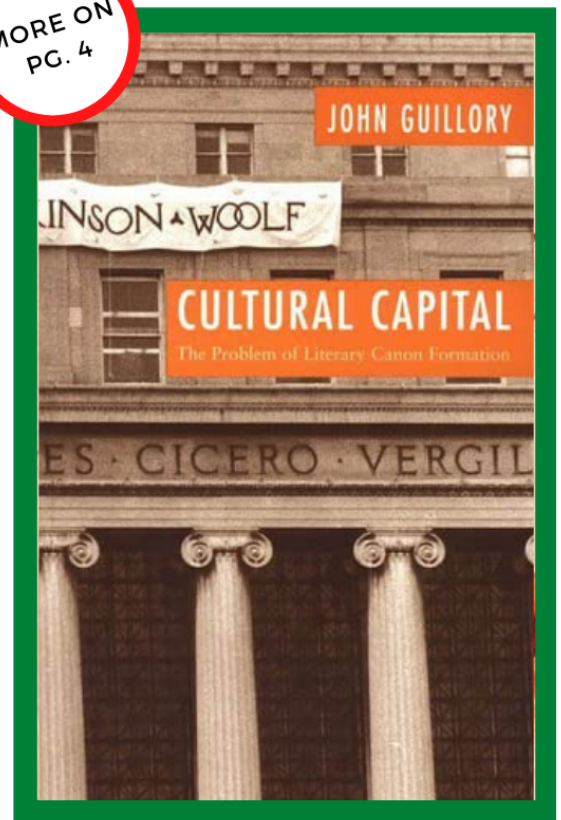
#### WHAT'S INSIDE

Meet our new Diversity & Inclusion Committee Rep!

Try this fun book-themed recipe

New media recommendations

MORE ON  
PG. 4



## MEET SABINE!

### OUR NEW DIC REPRESENTATIVE



My name is Sabine Tesson, an English and Political Science major graduating in 2021, and I am the undergraduate representative of the new Diversity and Inclusion Committee in Boston University's English Department.

As a member of this committee, and as a black student at BU, I'm happy to be a part of this committee to not only help continue the ongoing dialogue of race and representation, but to also take action in creating diverse, inclusionary spaces that create a safe educational space for both students and faculty.

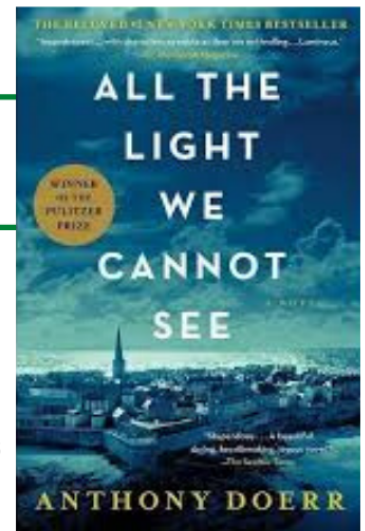
In the coming weeks, I will be working closely with faculty and graduate student representatives to propose ways to change the curriculum and additional methods of action to make the department more inclusive and beneficial for everyone.

As someone who loves literature and the subject of English with my whole heart, I find it important that we push for more representation and rework the way we learn about literature and writing as a whole in order to make concrete change and give attention to groups that deserve inclusion. So, as the undergraduate representative of the DIC, I hope to be a part of this growing change within the department, and the university as a whole.

## ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

BY GIULIO GIUFFRIDA

Doerr masterfully collides two coming of age stories within the context of World War II, expressing a meaningful juxtaposition between the wholesome beauties of adolescence and utter bloodshed of warfare. A homogeneous mixture of elegant prose and blunt reality permeates this novel in the best way possible, ensuring that the beauties of life don't drown in the sea of chaos and coldness that was World War II.



Each sentence is imbued with noticeable attention to detail, an intricate filigree of words. These wonderful arrangements of words take you through a timeline of two lives which overflow with love, loss, pain, confusion, euphoria; the spectrum of human emotion. This novel's astonishing realism and relatability will cement its various pockets of irony and insights into your thoughts and possibly leave you with a new outlook on war as a whole.

# THE KING OF STATEN ISLAND

BY DANIELLA AUERBACH

Judd Apatow, well known for the “40-Year-Old Virgin,” “Knocked Up,” “Funny People,” “Trainwreck,” and more, has joined forces with Pete Davidson to create one of the best films of 2020. King of Staten Island is semi-autobiographical and is dedicated to Davidson’s late New York City fireman father, who passed during 9/11.

The film is centered around Scott Carlin (Davidson), who, like Davidson, lost his firefighter father when he was a child. The film is a dark comedy that is an accurate portrayal of someone truly at a lost point in their life. Scott is mouthy, lonely, insecure, and managing mental illness during a time when his family and friends are just about done enabling him. Davidson’s character has impressive life goals; however, the movie shows us that he must help himself, open up, and let go of his anger before he can achieve them.

The comedic element that lightens the load in the King of Staten Island is its Oedipal complex. In the film, Scott’s mother starts dating a middle-aged firefighter who Scott sees as a threat to the support system he has grown accustomed to. He does all he can to end their relationship, even eroding his own life that he had set out to protect.

The King of Staten Island is a film worth watching that will have you laughing and wanting to give Pete Davidson a sorrowful hug. You can watch it on Apple TV, Prime Video, Xfinity Stream, Vudu, and Google Play.



## Podcast of the Month:



*In August of 1619, a ship carrying more than 20 enslaved Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia. America was not yet America, but this was the moment it began. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the 250 years of slavery that followed. On the 400th anniversary of this fateful moment, it is time to tell the story. “1619” is a New York Times audio series hosted by Nikola Hannah-Jones*  
- New York Times.

**NYTIMES.COM/1619PODCAST**



## T H E C A N O N & Y O U : C U L T U R A L C A P I T A L

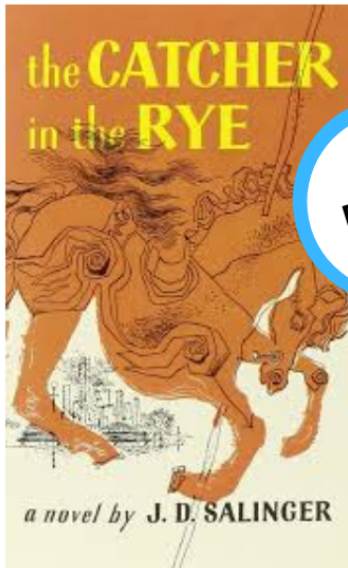
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BY JACK BECK

Why are we taught the books that we're taught? John Guillory's book *Cultural Capital* is about that question, but it's less concerned with finding an answer than it is with figuring out what the question is actually asking. Guillory begins his analysis by challenging the traditional notion that works taught in schools teach "the best which has been thought and said." Looking historically, Guillory shows how these books, while valuable in their own regard, were first taught not on account of a universal quality but rather as a way of standardizing and instituting a specific type of English grammar. Furthermore, because these works were taught in schools that were generally only accessible to the upper class, this cultivated language became a tool used to reinforce a social class system. This elitism helped foster a notion of distinguished "high culture" represented by these classic English texts.

Guillory argues that this situation has changed today. Currently, the language of "the classics" is no longer perfectly synonymous with the language used by those in power. Stepping outside of Guillory's book for a moment, an example that greatly helps in demonstrating his point can be seen in the second season of the Netflix show *You*.

Amongst the show's array of LA characters, a notable standout is Forty, an artless screenwriter who seems to be the only one unaware of his perpetual failures. Relevantly, Forty is constantly addressing people with the phrase "Old Sport"; anyone familiar with *The Great Gatsby* will immediately recognize the reference. But anyone familiar with the book will also understand that Forty has completely misunderstood it: Forty didn't take away from *The Great Gatsby* any sort of social commentary or cautionary message against glorifying masculinity and wealth. Forty refers to *The Great Gatsby* only to show that he has read it. For him, *The Great Gatsby* exemplifies an elite literary artifact, and his references to the work ignore its subtext to reduce it to a status symbol (or cultural capital, in Guillory's terms). While this way of reading might have gotten Forty respect centuries, or even decades, ago, in contemporary LA his illusory allusions only serve to show the disconnect between his approach to literature and the sort of literary appreciation and comprehension that actually bring success.



**RYE  
BREAD  
RECIPE**

RECIPE BY  
TASTE OF HOME



**Ingredients:**

2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast  
1/2 cups warm water (110° to 115°)  
1/2 cup molasses  
6 tablespoons butter, softened  
2 cups rye flour  
1/4 cup baking cocoa  
2 tablespoons caraway seeds  
2 teaspoons salt  
3-1/2 to 4 cups all-purpose flour  
Cornmeal

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Beat in the molasses, butter, rye flour, cocoa, caraway seeds, salt and 2 cups all-purpose flour until smooth. Stir in enough remaining all-purpose flour to form a stiff dough.

Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-1/2 hours.

Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide in half. Shape each piece into a loaf about 10 in. long. Grease 2 baking sheets and sprinkle with cornmeal. Place loaves on prepared pans. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 1 hour.

Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until bread sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.

## THE CANON & YOU ( C O N T . )

Ultimately, Guillory calls for an understanding of literature that rejects those like Forty who use it as a mere status symbol. His book is now thirty years old, and while there have been countless examples of progress made towards the sort of teaching he advocates for, work can always be done on disengaging literary studies from its elitist roots. The conversation he introduces is consistently expanding and always relevant, but despite its age this book can be an excellent introduction to the debate for anyone interested in graduate school or teaching, or just anyone curious about the history and reasons behind why we study what we do.

The entire book can be downloaded for free through the Mugar Libraries Online Database!

## SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

“

We deserve to feel comfortable with our skin and confident in the products we use.

CAIRO

FOUNDER OF BLACKER BERRY



### **BLACKER BERRY**

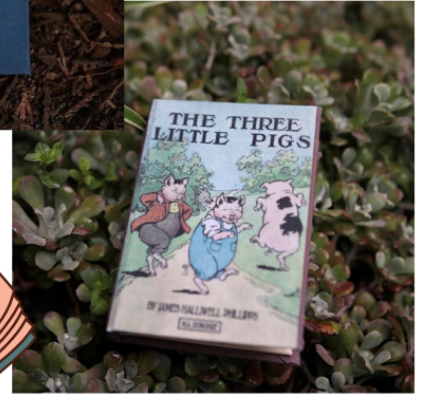
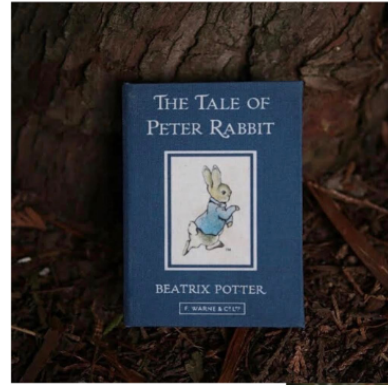
A Skin Care and Beauty Business  
[www.blackerberrycos.com](http://www.blackerberrycos.com)  
 Instagram: @blackerberrycos

The business is black owned  
 The products are vegetarian,  
 100% Plant-based, and cruelty-free

Prices range \$6-12 before shipping and taxes!

Products:

Calendula Facial Toner  
 Coconut Rose Facial Oil  
 Buttah Baby Whipped Shea  
 Honey Bee Body Bar  
 Glô Baby Shimmering Body Oil



### **NOVEL BOOKWALLETS**

Wallets disguised as antique literature.  
 Instagram: @novelbookwallets

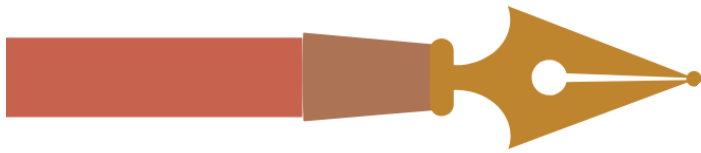
Cloth-bound, ethically sourced,  
 and vegan/no plastic leather

This project is in need of kickstarter backers!  
 (bit.ly/novelkickstarter)

Prices range: \$25-\$180  
 This is a PREORDER

All orders are custom! On August 6th, the company will send a survey to its backers and you can request any book you'd like





**WEAR A MASK !**

UELA joins the BU community in mourning the loss of US Representative and Civil Rights Leader John Lewis.



"Be optimistic, don't get lost in a sea of despair, but be bold, be courageous, and all will work out" - John Lewis (Hon. '18)

1940 - 2020

To help stop the spread of COVID-19 it is imperative that you wear a mask in public ... but who said you couldn't add a bit of *bookish* flair?

Instagram: @litographs  
www.litographs.com/collections/face-masks

Masks:  
Black Literature  
Science Fiction  
Banned Books  
Literary Quotes

\$14.99 before shipping and tax

SONG OF THE MONTH:

