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Lit & Film: Summer Reading

Dear students in Lit & Film,

May 2021

To jump-start our analysis of how literature is adapted into film and how the story is impacted, you will read one short story, watch one film, and complete one written assignment over the summer. You will read the story “Story of Your Life” by Ted Chiang and watch the film *Arrival*.

First, please read the story. ([You can access a pdf version here.](#)) After you finish, write a thorough paragraph in which you identify and explain three key elements you think the filmmakers will need to consider and/or include as they adapt the story into a feature film. You may use personal pronouns and adopt a conversational tone, but your thinking should be sophisticated and specific.

Next, please watch the movie. When you finish, will write a second paragraph, in which you explain how each element you identified was incorporated into the film as well as how successfully (or not) you think each element was handled. This is literary analysis with an eye to film production, while this type of writing is not familiar, good, clear thinking will lead you to good, clear writing. The essay is the first grade of the course. It may be conversational, but it must be well-written and edited. You will turn in a typed, printed copy, formatted in MLA style, on **Wednesday August 18**.

If you have questions, feel free to email me.

Hope you enjoy your summer and your reading!
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