

(turning around)

Well, hi there.

(walking toward the camera)

It's sure good to see you. Thanks for stopping by. That reminds me of a story about a dog and a bottle of beer...

(pause contemplatively)

You know?? I love a good story.

Reading, books and I have been the best of friends ever since I was a little boy who couldn't fall asleep at night.

And, if you've ever heard me read Cookie Monster and the Cookie Tree, well, that's an experience in and of

itself.

Stories have helped me learn so much about the world, about myself, about others. They have taught me compassion and understanding. They have given me good examples and bad. They have taught me to value the quiet small things, and they have subtly censured me for prejudice.

I'm here today to ask you to join me in the adventures I have as I explore the world the books. You see, I'm a graduate student in Comparative Literature at Stony Brook University

in Long Island, and I have a big test coming up in February, on Valentine's Day. For this test, I will be standing in front of four professors for three hours and answering whatever questions they have about some 200 books and articles--all the while hopefully sounding like I have some idea of what I am talking about.

That's where you come in. I've learned over the years, that I gain information much better when I share in that learning with others. So, what I am asking is that you pick one or two books or articles from the list of 200

and promise to email back and forth with me four or five times over the next month and a half, where we both share our thoughts and questions about what is going on in the book or article you sign up for. There's a lot to choose from; so, go ahead, pick something that interests you. The list includes novels, plays, poetry, films, and cultural and literary theory. Pick something you have read already, or something you have been wanting to learn about. You don't need to have an expert opinion or even like reading--if you pick a movie, that is. All I am looking for is people who are

willing to share their questions and thoughts so we can learn a little bit together.

That's it. If you have the time and inclination, help me prepare for my comprehensive oral examination by signing up for one of the text, and we'll start emailing back and forth about. I'm excited about the texts and I'm excited about the exam. So, please, join me by signing up today, and...let literature in.

such that I can stand in front of four experts for three hours and respond to their questions about the texts without sounding completely inept.

Hi, I'm Ryan Barnhart, a graduate student in Comparative Literature at Stony Brook University of the State University of New York. I have a big test coming up in February and I'd like your help in preparing for it. You see, I need to be relatively familiar with some 200 books and articles such that I can stand in front of four experts for three hours and respond to their questions about the texts without sounding completely inept. That's where you come in. I've learned over the years, that I learn information much better when I share in that learning with others. So, what I am asking is that you pick one or two texts and promise to email back and forth with me four or five times over the next month and a half, where we both share our thoughts and questions about what is going on in the different books and articles. There's a lot to choose from; so, go ahead, pick something that interests you. The list includes novels, plays, poetry, films, and cultural and literary theory. Pick something you have read already, or something you have been wanting to learn about. All I am looking for is people who are willing to share their questions and thoughts so we can learn a little bit together.

Stories are incredibly powerful in how they help us to shape our identity and help us to understand others. Maybe you are looking for inspiration in your daily life, as an artist, as a parent, as a teacher, as a lawyer--all of which have much in common.

Hi friends,

How's it going? Welcome to Colorado. This is the end of my first month here and I'm having a great time, but far from being a promotional ad for Colorado, this video is about asking you for some help. You see, I have a big test I'm preparing for. As you may or may not remember, I'm a graduate student at Stony Brook University SUNY and I have a big test coming up where I have to be able to speak about two hundred texts for three hours in front of four experts. The idea is

that I sound like I have some idea of what I'm talking about. and that's where you come in. you see I've found over the years that I learn a lot better when I share in that learning with other people. and what I'm asking you is if you would like to share with me in that learning. all you have to do is write emails back and forth with me four or five times over the next month and a half. I'm not looking for anything in particular, I'm just wondering what your thoughts and questions about the text. maybe you've read it before, maybe you've never read it. maybe you're looking for In the end, I want this to be something that's meaningful for you like it's meaningful for me. maybe you're looking for inspiration, maybe you want a pastime,

all I know is the best

I love reading, I love learning about different cultures and understanding how we represent ourselves. I love a good story and I want to share that love with you. so join me please, as I prepare for my comprehensive oral examination, as I celebrate my ongoing love affair with literature on valentine's day february 14, 2014.

So please, sign up. and join me