

## ***Binti* Object Analysis Assignment**

### **Description of Assignment:**

The objects we carry and surround ourselves with often say a lot about who we are, and the same can be said for Binti, the protagonist of Nnedi Okorafor's *Binti: The Complete Trilogy*. For Binti, objects become a way to learn more about her family and to remain connected to home even as she travels far away. This assignment will encourage us to think about how objects in a text serve various functions: how they are artifacts through which we can learn more about the characters' communities and cultures, as well as vehicles through which the plot and characterization develop.

This project consists of two components, a personal narrative and an analysis essay. These project components are intricately connected, for the personal narrative can help you develop points of inquiry to guide your analysis of an object in Binti's life.

### *Part 1: Personal Narrative*

Select an object that bears significance in your life. This object can be anything, though it should be something that feels special to you and has played a significant part in your life story. Write a brief 1-2-page narrative that completes the following tasks:

- Describe the object in detail.
- Tell about how the object features in your life, considering the following questions:
  - What role does the object play within your life?
  - How does your relationship to the object characterize you?
  - What memories are associated with the object?

### *Part 2: Object Analysis*

For the remainder of the assignment, select an object within the *Binti* stories that plays a significant role in Binti's life, such as her astrolabe or *edan*, or the *otjize* she carries in a jar. Write a 2-3-page essay that completes the following tasks:

- Identify at least 2-3 passages that offer descriptions of the object and summarize these passages within your own description of the object.
- Analyze the object as if it were a historical artifact, considering the following questions:
  - What characteristics and features does the object have?
  - What is the object used for?
  - What might the object tell us about those who created it—their culture, interests, etc.? What might the object tell us about those who use it?
- Analyze the object within the text, considering the following questions:
  - What role does the object play within the text?
  - How does the object play a role in characterizing characters within the text?
  - How does the plot develop in relation to the object? How does Binti's relationship to the object change over the course of the text?
  - How does the object pertain to and/or build a theme within the text?
- Offer a compelling thesis that attends to the connections between the object's cultural context and literary significance.
- Employ a logical organization to present and develop the argument and its evidence.

**Logistics:**

The narrative and essay should be submitted as a single document, with each component beginning on a separate page. The document should be double-spaced and include a proper MLA heading in the top left corner and page numbers (with last name) in the top right corner.

**Assessment:**

Your narrative and essay will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- *Personal Narrative*: The personal narrative is thorough and perceptive, giving a clear and captivating story about the significance of the object within the author's life.
- *Object Analysis*:
  - *Description*: The object description is detailed and descriptive, providing a clear image of the object by way of textual evidence.
  - *Contextual Analysis*: The analysis provides generative insights about the text's represented culture and/or community via the object.
  - *Literary Analysis*: The analysis clearly and persuasively analyzes the object's role in the text's plot and characterization.
  - *Argument*: The essay provides a compelling argument about the connections between the object's cultural context and literary significance.
  - *Organization*: The essay uses a logical organization to present and develop the argument and its evidence.
- *Creator Ethos*: The narrative and essay are written clearly, concisely, and professionally, with little to no errors.