

## Week 7

Discussion Questions for “Brokeback Mountain.” Identify textual evidence to support your analyses.

1. One of the strengths of Annie Proulx’s short story is the characterization of Ennis and Jack as genuine and complex characters. That is, they are not stereotypes. In what ways are they genuine and complex (or, how does Proulx avoid the stereotyped gay characters)?
2. Does Ang Lee, the director of the film version, stay true to Proulx’s complex characterizations? Why or why not?
3. Like *The Motorcycle Diaries*, “Brokeback Mountain” features two male characters. The obvious difference between the stories is the characters’ sexual orientations, what are some similarities in the male relationships?
4. What conclusions might you draw about bringing a short story (“Brokeback Mountain”) to the screen compared to a classic novel (*Pride and Prejudice*), a Shakespeare play (*Much Ado about Nothing*), and/or a foreign-language memoir (*The Motorcycle Diaries*)? Are there any narrative (storytelling) techniques that are consistent among them? What techniques are clearly different?

You do not have to write a mini-essay for next week, as your second critical paper is due, but you may want to use one of these questions as inspiration for your paper topic.