**War/Modernism Unit: American Lit Spring 2021**

**Some Reminders (Think of these in terms of the traits on the reverse side)**

Robinson “Richard Cory” Hughes “I, Too” and Dream poems Sandburg “Grass” Whitman “Beat, Beat, Drums!”

Crane “An Episode of War” Cullen “Saturday’s Child” Hansberry *ARitS* Erdrich “The Red Convertible”

ALSO: Wharton, *Age of Innocence* Hughes “Mother to Son” and “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”

**WWI/Modernism**

Borden h/o “Song of the Mud”

Hemingway 801 “In Another Country”

h/o “A Soldier’s Home”

Foo h/o “The Real Decoy”

Fitzgerald bk *The Great Gatsby*

Williams 723 “This is Just to Say”

Cummings 780 “old age sticks”

Auden 774 “The Unknown Citizen”

Frost 877 “Stopping…”

Stephens o/l “Disillusionment…”

**A Few Traits of Modernist Writing**

* Disillusionment in all that led to the war (religion, science, technology, society, etc.) **…which leads to…**
* Bold experimentation in form/line/content (Ezra Pound said “make it new”)
* Time is cyclical, not linear: man does not progress over time but is doomed to repeat the same mistakes. **leading to…**
* Hopelessness (Gertrude Stein quoted to Hemingway a garage owner speaking to worker, “You are all a lost generation.”)
* Loss and Disappointment
* Carelessness/callous mistreatment of others and of nature
* Desire to find meaning in a world that has been shifted (redefining of morals/what it means to be a hero)
* Alienation/Isolation/Separation/Disconnectedness/Feeling lost in the modern world
* PTSD (although not recognized as a real ailment until more recent time)
* Stream of Consciousness writing/Exploration of the mind and thought processes/Psychology a new science (Freud)
* Mechanization—being lost in the system
* Inability to attain the American Dream (so close, but yet, so far….)