

Math, Music and Memory, Fall 2014

Paper on “*That in Aleppo Once . . .*”

Due: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 5:00 pm

Your assignment is to write a brief position paper on Vladimir Nabokov’s short story “*That in Aleppo Once . . .*.” This is a short essay where you take a specific position on some aspect or theme of the story and then argue in favor of your position. The paper should be 1-2 double-spaced pages in length, and should be uploaded to the Moodle page for the course before the deadline.

Your goal is to formulate a precise and interesting thesis, and then present a compelling argument in support of that thesis, backed up by thorough reasoning, evidence from the text, and well-accepted postulates. A sample thesis might be something like “the narrator is really the author in disguise,” or “the point of the story is that amnesia is one manner of coping with the devastating effects of war.” Try to make your thesis bold and insightful, yet also defensible. It should be clearly stated in the opening of your essay. You can assume that you are writing for someone who has read the story.

When quoting directly from the text, please include a reference to the page by writing, for example, (Nabokov, p. 356) directly after the quote. You are welcome to utilize other sources as long as you include a list of references at the end of your paper. The style of your references is up to you, but please be consistent. You do not need to list the story itself in a reference section if this is your only source. The list of references is not considered to be part of the page count.