**AP L&C - *A Visit From the Goon Squad -* Assignments - REVISED**

**Story Web**

As you read Jennifer Egan’s Pulitzer Prize winning work of fiction, *A Visit From the Goon Squad*, you will begin to wonder whether it is a novel or a collection of linked stories. The short answer is that it is both. Our challenge as we read this creatively composed to text is to find the big story, while, at the same time, we embrace the small stories along the way. To this end, you need to take extra steps to keep track of all the action as we dart non-chronologically from character to character, and it is especially important to notice the web of connections that link the different stories.

Your task is to create a visual map of the book as you read. For each of the thirteen chapters, note the title and number, the narrator, the setting (**when** is just as important as **where** in this book), the broad plot events of the chapter, and an important idea that is explored in the chapter. Put a circle around this information for each chapter. Once you start to notice the relationships between the people and events from chapter to chapter, draw lines to connect the stories and explain the connections on the line.

Update the story web as you read the book.

**Analytical Essay**

Describe and analyze the rhetorical strategies that Jennifer Egan uses to develop a central idea (or ideas) in *A Visit From the Goon Squad*.

You will plan and write this essay entirely on your own, without the benefit of class discussion or reflection. I encourage you to discuss your ideas with your classmates outside of class; however, I recognize that this was not the original plan for this essay and will take that into account when reading and grading these essays. In order to satisfactorily write this essay, you need to identify some rhetorical strategies that Egan uses, a central idea that she develops, and discuss how the two intersect. In order to successfully write this essay, you will need to find a connection that goes beyond the obvious and come up with something new and interesting to say about this book. For example, to write about the fact that the stories are told from the perspectives of many different characters, thus allowing readers to see and understand multiple perspectives is a fairly superficial observation. Don’t be afraid to focus on small sections of the book. You do not need to discuss all the different strategies and characters. Start with an idea or moment that especially interested you and work from there. Your goal for this essay should be to teach your readers something new about this book. Broadly, think about the framework that we have been using for in class rhetorical analysis exercises, but this is a longer paper that allows you more freedom with structure and idea development.

Nuts and Bolts:

* Use short quotations from the book to illustrate your idea. Remember – your quotations work most effectively when you use them for analysis instead of summary.
* If you decide to use any secondary sources, which you do not have to do, make sure to cite them and include a works cited page
* Include a carefully written thesis at the end of your introductory paragraph
* This is an analytical essay – you are not evaluating how well these strategies worked or whether or not you liked the book.
* Maximum length: four pages, typed and double-spaced
* submit by 2:30 PM on turnitin.com on Wednesday, December 21