Connecting Unit of Study and Books Read This Semester

*After the First Death* by Robert Cormier does not pair exceptionally well with any of the classic Gothic Horror novels I am utilizing, but it ties in very well with the theme of manifesting societal fears. *After the First Death* would work excellently to lead into a discussion of the fears horror manifests in more modern media, as terrorism is itself a more modern fear. In particular, *After the First Death* could be used in a discussion of post-9/11 horror and the manifestation of fears of terrorism and large scale attacks.

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson would pair very well with *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Both are stories of women who are suffering mental health related issues and could be used in tandem to discuss portrayals of women in horror and the types of fears that are typically expressed surrounding women.

*Witness* by Karen Hesse could pair well with *Beloved* by Toni Morrison or with H.P. Lovecraft’s *The Shadow over Innsmouth*. *Witness* and *Beloved* would complement each other because both are discussions of racism from the point of view of those experiencing racism. Together, they could lead into discussions of racism and the fears of those who have to face racism. In contrast, *Witness* could pair with *The Shadow over Innsmouth* from the angle of racism in the eyes of those with the racist beliefs. *The Shadow over Innsmouth* is a horror story from H.P. Lovecraft (himself a notorious racist) that deals with fears of racial mixing. In *The Shadow over Innsmouth* the primary conflict is a result of human intermarraige with a fishman species, with the narrator disgusted at these “Others”. *Witness* and *The Shadow over Innsmouth* could be used to discuss fears of other races and how that fear manifests in horror, particularly older horror like Lovecraft. The two novels could also be used to discuss how racism manifests itself and how it often has incredibly arbitrary roots, such as the fear of sea creatures in general that is present in T*he Shadow over Innsmouth*.

(Additional) Works Cited:

Anderson, Laurie. *Speak*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1999.

Cormier, Robert. *After The First Death*. Pantheon Books, 1979.

Hesse, Karen. *Witness*. Scholastic, 2001.

Lovecraft, H. P. *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*. Visionary Publishing Company, 1936.