

Verse 1: Deep Time

Content Guide

Read, watch, and/or listen to the following material at your leisure by September 9. (Ideally, have it all completed by September 8, since we begin a new verse on September 9.) By “at your leisure,” I mean just that: Leisure. Your engagement with this material should be leisurely. Unhurried. Slow. Even enjoyable. Waiting until the bitter end and attempting to digest all this at once wouldn’t be leisurely, would it? My recommendation is to find a system that works for you, but inasmuch as possible take this in small pieces. I do realize this first verse is heavy on essays and articles—some on the long side—but a leisurely pace is still doable with planning.

To access the material, simply click the titles. All material below could end up on the first quiz (though no question will be super-specific or intended to trick you). More importantly, you’ll use the content below for your Verse 1 Reflection, which you can technically begin now. You could also reference any of this material in your WTF journals along the way, and maybe even find something you’d like to pursue for a course project.

I will be providing commentary on the material below (sometimes specifically, sometimes holistically) in my Monday/Wednesday emails between now and September 9. I am also glad to engage in conversations about this material prompted by you, which you can do over GroupMe or by sending me an email.

The materials are listed in no particular order. Order is up to you. In fact, one point of this verse is to show at the beginning that maybe there is no order. Beyond that, we’re asking if we can consider cave art to be world literature.

- [“Step Outside Your Door”](#) | Video by Chris Martin (This is more of an into for the class than for this verse.)
- [“Oldest Known Drawing by Human Hands Discovered in South African Cave”](#) | Article by Nicholas St. Fleur
- [“Cave Art 101”](#) | Video by National Geographic
- [“Cave art”](#) | Encyclopedic entry at PBS Evolution Library
- [“The Mushroom Hunters”](#) | Poem by Neil Gaiman (Read the overview article by Maria Popova, and then watch the animated video for the poem.)
- [“First Impressions”](#) | Essay by Judith Thurman
- [“A Journey to the Oldest Cave Paintings in the World”](#) | Article by Jo Marchant
- [“Earliest known cave art by modern humans found in Indonesia”](#) | Article by Hannah Devlin
- [Cave of Forgotten Dreams](#) | Documentary by Werner Herzog (I highly encourage you to watch this film. You should be able to stream or rent it on most platforms such as Google Play, Amazon, YouTube, etc. Unfortunately, it’s no longer on Netflix. Had we met in person, we would’ve watched this film together. Because watching it involves a rental fee or streaming platform subscription, it’s not required that you watch it. However, if you can swing the rental fee or if you have a subscription to a platform where it’s streaming, it would be well worth your time and would add an extra layer of meaning to this verse. Because it’s optional, it won’t appear on a quiz, but you could certainly use it as material for your verse reflections or even course projects. The embedded link will take you to a review. If you can’t watch the film, at least read the review so you’ll know what it is.)
- [“The Cave Painters”](#) | Poem by Eamon Grennan
- [“What the Caves are Trying to Tell Us”](#) | Essay by Sam Kriss
- [“Small Wonder”](#) | Essay by Barbara Kingsolver