Okinawa in the Japanese Literary Imagination called on me to use existing systems of analysis in a completely new way. Whereas before I thought in terms of applying mass balance, flux, and other tools to biological problems, this class made me build my knowledge in a similar way in a literary context. Using tools like symbolism, allusion, and motif to connect problems and texts, I could adapt my way of thinking to a novel area of study. While I found the task difficult, it was rewarding to be able to flex my mental schema in a new context. This class also called upon me to use a variety of information sources I hadn't seen before. Between historical papers, literary journals, and even visual sources, the professor challenged the class to support their assertions across a multitude of dimensions. I am used to looking up a few research papers on Google Scholar for nearly every paper I write, so this experience pushed me fully out of my comfort zone. That said, I am certain that the skill to integrate a variety of sources and break down information to basic principles will serve me in the future. This class proved to me that the work put into analysis for my biology classes was not constrained to that subject alone.