

### SHORT ESSAY #1

**Writing Assignment:**

Choose one story we've read so far this semester and discuss some narrow aspect of that work. You may choose to discuss the use of plot, setting, characterization, point of view, or symbolism. Explain how one of these five aspects works in the short story to unify the artistic expression.

**Do not** use library or Internet-based sources for this assignment. I want to see how well you can discuss the story on your own.

The "WRITING ABOUT..." sections that appear at the end of each chapter and "CHECKLISTS", which appear after the introductory material for each chapter, can be helpful in guiding and framing your discussion in your essay.

Requirements:

1. In the text of your essay, you should cite specific passages from the story you are discussing, but use these passages sparingly. Do not quote long passages since your essays will be only two to three pages long.
2. When you cite your sources, you must correctly use the current version of the MLA in-text parenthetical, works cited method.
3. Your essay must include a separate (but numbered) Works Cited page at the end of your paper for the literary work you are discussing.
4. Remember, you must write this essay in the third person, *avoiding the use of "I" and "you"*. Make the story the focus of the essay, not yourself.

Make sure you mention in the introduction of your essay the **author** and **title** (in quotation marks) of the short story that you are analyzing. As you discuss the story within your essay, remember not to confuse the narrator as the author; they are two entirely different individuals. Do not write plot summaries or story reviews; these will jeopardize your grade.

- **Page length:** Your essay must be 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages.
- **Audience:** freshman college students; assume they have read the work you are discussing.
- **Purpose:** to interpret and to explain.
- **SAE:** Remember, your paper must follow the basic conventions of standard American written English (correct mechanics, usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and so forth). Be sure to use the present tense whenever you discuss the fictional events in the story.

**FINAL ESSAY DRAFT DUE** \_\_\_\_\_