**Take Home Essay Assignment**

**In a well written (AP worthy) essay, discuss the author’s use of literary elements and how they relate to the meaning of the work in one of the stories we studied.**

**You MUST use at least three specific examples (quotes) from the story. Quotes should be introduced, stated, and explained.**

**You MUST relate all literary elements to the meaning of the work and explain how they contribute to the meaning. (In order to do that, you MUST state what the meaning of the work is!)**

**This assignment is worth 25 points (half a test grade).**

**Suggested Procedures:**

-Read the story while taking notes multiple times (AS IN AT LEAST ONCE!). Once you have an idea of its overall theme (or a possible thesis for your essay), look closer at the details noting how the author accomplished that theme. LOOK FOR LITERARY ELEMENTS and consider how they work together to enhance the meaning or big idea you gleaned from the story.

-Begin to construct a thesis statement that will include your focus (literary elements or ideas) AND the relation of that focus to the story as a whole.

-Your thesis statement will represent your conclusion or big ideas about the story. A good thesis is ARUGUMENTATIVE! It should not be something obvious, but should be a thoughtful statement indicating some complexity in the story that not every reader will notice. Remember the “So What?” factor. Ask yourself if a reader will say, “Yes, that’s true, but so what?” of if your thesis will give the reader some point that he/she might not have noticed at a first reading. See class examples.

-Create an outline of main points to focus on, *including quotes* you plan to use to prove your points

IMPORTANT NOTES:

-MAKE SURE YOUR PAPER IS MORE THAN PLOT SUMMARY! Your reader knows what happens in the story. Your job is to EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS. If you wish, you may offer a VERY BRIEF plot summary somewhere if needed to provide background, but the majority of your paper must be analysis.

-Include a title. “Analysis of ‘Insert Title Here’” is not going to cut it. Preview and interest your reader in your topic. Have this centered on your first page.

-Your first paragraph should include the title and the author of the story you are analyzing.

-Short story titles ALWAYS go in quotation marks

-Follow ALL direct quotes with a page or paragraph number in parenthesis.

-When writing about literature, write in present tense:

*"Goodman Brown* ***goes*** *to the forest and* ***thinks*** *he sees his wife there,"* not *"Goodman Brown* ***went*** *to the forest and* ***thought*** *he saw. . ."*

-A decent analysis takes time. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE and rush to complete this assignment. You will drive yourself crazy trying to do it, drive me crazy being forced to read it, and your grade will suffer for both. Neither of us want that!

-**No research is needed for this. If for some reason you feel the need to look something up SEE ME FIRST and you must indicate what outside source was used and document it properly. ANY OTHER USE OF INTERNET (OR OTHER) SOURCES WILL CONSTITUTE PLAGIARISM AND RESULT IN A 0 ON THIS ASSIGNMENT!**

**Suggested Topics:**

**“Young Goodman Brown”**

-Discuss Hawthorne’s portrayal of religion

-Discuss the symbolism (of many things!)

-Discuss the portrayal of good vs. evil

-Discuss the ambiguous ending

-Discuss the tone of the story

**“First Confession”**

-Discuss the effect of this narrator

-Discuss the symbolism (could focus on religion)

-Discuss the tone of the story

**“Hills Like White Elephants”**

-Discuss the symbolism of the title

-Discuss Hemingway’s use of dialogue in the story

-Discuss Hemingway’s use of irony in the story

-Throughout the story, Hemingway is very vague and unclear about the type of ‘operation’ in the story. Why?

-Discuss the tone of the story

**“The Chrysanthemums”**

-Discuss Steinbeck’s unique, simplistic writing style

-Discuss Elisa’s growth/change as a character

-Discuss the symbolism of the chrysanthemums

-Discuss the tone of the story

**“The Story of an Hour”**

-Discuss the use of irony in the story

-Discuss the use/portrayal of time in the story

-Discuss the use of symbolism in the story

-Discuss the implications of Mrs. Mallard’s repression

-Discuss the idea of freedom as portrayed in the story

-Discuss the tone of the story

**“A & P”**

-Discuss the narrator and his effects on the story

-Discuss the idea of appearances

-Discuss the use of social classes

-Discuss the tone of the story

**“The Yellow Wallpaper”**

-Discuss the use of irony in the story

-Discuss the symbolism of the wallpaper in the story

-Discuss the narrator in the story. (How does she change? Why? How does her narration change?)

-Discuss the ending of “The Yellow Wallpaper.” What does it represent? How is it a victory and a defeat?

-Discuss the tone of the story