Literary Analysis Paper
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Curriculum Outcomes:
- explore how authors use literary elements, techniques, and devices to achieve a desired effect
- use the writing process (pre-writing, writing, responding, revising, editing, publishing) to produce well-crafted original works

Task: Based on one of the short stories we have read in class, write a 750 word analysis paper that examines how the author uses literary elements, techniques and/or devices to communicate/develop theme. Your essay must include the following:
- an intro (with a clear thesis), body, and conclusion
- emphasis on analysis
- a discussion of 1-3 elements/techniques/devices and how they work to develop/communicate a particular theme
- quotations from the text to support ideas
- proper incorporation and citation of quotations
- proper MLA format

Focus on analysis: DO NOT write a plot summary—this assignment is to analyze: what is the author “saying” to the reader. What literary techniques and conventions does he or she use to say it? What is the “point” of the story? Does it show us anything worthwhile about people or about life? Keep your discussion focused on analyzing how the THEME works within the short story.

Possible elements/techniques/devices from which to choose:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>setting</th>
<th>plot structure</th>
<th>irony</th>
<th>foreshadowing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>symbolism</td>
<td>point of view</td>
<td>imagery</td>
<td>tone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diction</td>
<td>sentence structure</td>
<td>foils</td>
<td>figurative language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example thesis: In “The Lady or the Tiger”, Stockton uses archaic language and point-of-view to illustrate that human actions are driven more by jealousy than love.

Example thesis: In order to emphasise the idea that humans suffer when freedom is limited, Kate Chopin artfully creates a suffocating setting in “The Story of an Hour”.

Example thesis: Through colour imagery and bird symbolism, James Hurst’s “The Scarlet Ibis” reminds readers how guilt haunts.

Note: There is some latitude in assigning meaning to a short story. What I see as the major theme may be different than what you see. The important criterion to keep in mind is: can you prove it?

Assessment:
Formative: Process marks awarded for writing process assignments
Summative: Rubric (on reverse)