

IB Language and Literature
Quarter 1 Assessment
Literary Analysis Paper 1: Short Story Essay

Due Dates:

Rough Draft Due

Final Draft Due

Assessment Description:

A literary analysis essay presents your interpretation and understanding of a literary work, in this case **two short stories**. In this essay, you will select **two short stories** and analyze **a specific aspect of plot, characterization, or setting**.

Your essay must be typed, 12 font, with one inch margins, double spaced, MLA formatting. It may be no longer than two pages. This is a firm requirement. No exceptions.

3 possible approaches to explore as you develop your essay:

1. Ask yourself these questions: What is the overall effect of the story? What are the core themes that the author develops? Then ask yourself, how does a specific element (plot, character or setting) create this effect and/or contribute to a story's theme or deeper meaning?
2. Find a pattern. Are there two stories that seem to be a variation of the same plot? What techniques do the writers use to make their stories unique? Are there similarities or differences among the characters? For instance, do the male characters act differently from the female characters? Why? Do stories share a similar physical setting but vary in terms of emotional atmosphere? How does this influence the story's meaning and effect on readers?
3. Cause and effect is another way to think about a story. How does setting shape a character's choices or journey? What causes a character to change? What effects does one character have on another character? How does the plot structure affect the turn of events?

Remember:

- Short stories are referred to in quotation marks. Hemingway explores marriage dynamics in his story, "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber." In Carver's "Fat," we meet a waitress...
- You **must** refer to the plot of the short stories to explain your points, however, do **not** retell the plot! Use evidence sparingly, wisely, and gracefully. Assume that your reader has read the stories.
- Remember the proper format for quotes: idea, example, explanation.
- Never incorporate a page # in a sentence, use parenthesis (this is known as parenthetical citation in MLA formatting).
- Give your essay a title. If nothing else, a title identifies the work and your focus: Women in Contemporary Literature: "Fat" and "Where Am I Going, Where Have I Been?" or Setting in Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" and "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber"

- Limit your ideas to your own critical reading of the text. As much as possible, make points that we have **not** already made in class. Go beyond simple identifying. Compare, find patterns, look at cause and effect.

Grading Criteria:

Your final grade will reflect your success in incorporating the following criteria.

Intro & Thesis: _____/10

- Introduction begins with a statement that relates to your analysis essay but generally.
- Refers to the name and author of your short stories: In Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place," we see...
- Briefly offers some background and/or necessary context.
- Thesis is clearly stated, engaging and vital, and well-developed.

Analysis: _____/10

- Shows understanding of the texts and how writers use plot, character, or setting to shape meaning in stories.
- Explores similarities and differences between the texts.
- Engages in close analysis of evidence. (*Analysis should be two times the length of the direct reference.)
- Claims are fully supported with well chosen evidence and direct references.

Organization: _____/10

- Essay has a title.
- Writing is organized, coherent, and concise. There is equal treatment of the chosen texts. Body paragraphs are connected in a meaningful way.
- Body paragraphs have clear topic sentences that connect to thesis and are developed within the paragraph.
- Evidence is integrated correctly (using MLA formatting).
- Paper is organized in MLA format.

Language: _____/10

- Writer uses "we" as the central pronoun and refrains from using "I" or "you."
- There are no grammatical or spelling errors.
- Language is clear, effective, carefully chosen and precise.

- Sentences are varied in construction. There is a balance of simple and compound sentences.

Total Points: _____/40