

Possible genres to practice writing in: [sci-fi](#) (also [here](#)), superhero origin stories, fantasy, steampunk/cyberpunk, different species, historical fiction, [mystery](#), [horror](#),

2017

May 18

--Red Carpet

--Dr. Horrible and response (FINAL)

--Answer the following questions in groups:

--**First, write down one possible theme and HOW IT WAS SHOWN. Second, considering your thoughts about short films vs. feature-length movies, write down a few things you think would have CHANGED if the movie were longer and WHY. Thirdly, write down how the movie was LIKE a short story. (Not like a SPECIFIC short story but short stories in GENERAL.)**

--After Party!

May 16

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #31: MUSIC!

--Silent Reading

--“The Lady or the Tiger”: Write your own ending. (Call it Brainstorm #32.)

--After Party!

May 12

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #30: [Photo of the Day](#)

--Silent Reading

--Sci-Fi Group Outline

May 10

--Red Carpet

--Share your story with someone else. Talk about it. Read through their comments.

--Read your story. Based on your discussion and the comments, score your story according to the rubric.

--Do Sci-Fi group outline

--After Party!

May 8

--Red Carpet

--Final work day for Final Draft (typed version due next time)

--After Party!

May 4

--Red Carpet

--CLOSAT

--Brainstorm #29: CLOSAT Mash-up

--Finish "I Sing the Body Electric"

--Answer questions and turn in. (**Questions: (1) What elements made this story science-fiction? Explain/expound. (2) What was one theme? HOW WAS IT SHOWN? (3) Did you like this story? WHY OR WHY NOT? Be specific.**)

--Begin Sci-Fi group outline, if time

--After Party!

May 2

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #28: Clip from *In Time*

--Characteristics of the Sci-Fi genre.

--Science Fiction things that you have liked/enjoyed/been intrigued by.

--Begin reading "[I Sing the Body Electric](#)." Mr. Durham will start reading it and we will discuss as we go.

--Next time we will answer questions about it.

--Silent Reading

--After Party!

April 28

--Red Carpet

--Silent Reading

--Brainstorm #27: Brainstorm off of something from your book. :)

--FINAL DRAFT WORK TIME

--Here is the [rubric](#). You will fill it out on May 10th before you turn in the story.

- One more work day before it is due on May 8th.
- Next week will be two days of discussing and looking at Sci-Fi.
- After Party!

April 26

- Red Carpet
- Silent Reading
- Brainstorm #26: Storytelling
- How real stories turn into fictional stories.
- Read Mr. Durham's story about graduation and practice revision.
- What can help? What works? What does not?

April 24

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #25
- Silent Reading
- Work Time on Final Draft
- After Party!

April 20

- Red Carpet
- CLOSAT
- Brainstorm #24 -- MUSIC!
- Walter Mitty discussion/Finish questions
- Endings!
- Read "[The Feather Pillow](#)" and "[Rooftop](#)"
- (1) How does each title contribute to the meaning of each story? Does either story tip off where it is going by its title? Why or why not? (2) Compare and contrast the two endings: How are they similar? How are they different? Which ending was more satisfying? WHY? (3) Write down one possible theme of EACH story. HOW WERE THOSE THEMES SHOWN?
- After Party!

April 18

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #23: [Photo of the Day](#)

--[Walter Mitty](#) -- First two, after you read the story: **(1) How does the story characterize Walter? How do we know what kind of person he is? What do his “flights of fancy” tell us about him? (2) Name one possible theme and explain HOW IT WAS SHOWN.** Second two, after you watch the movie clip: **(3) Identify the similarities and differences between the movie and the story. Why were they present? (4) How did the filmmakers try to stay true to the “spirit” of the story?**

--Watch clip and answer the last two questions.

April 14

--Red Carpet

--Share mystery outlines??

--Workshop rough draft #3 (share a few plots with the class)

--Silent Reading

April 12

--Red Carpet: Discuss the plot of “Clean Sweep Ignatius” because a lot of people were confused.

--Finish mystery outline (share)

--WORK TIME (Short story #3 rough draft due next time)

April 10

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #22

--Finish mystery short story

--Work time!

March 30

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #21 -- Respond to this quote, “And it takes no time to fall in love. But it takes you years to know what love is.”

--Read “Clean Sweep Ignatius.”

--Answer the following questions:

(1) Describe the plot of the story in your own words. (2) What clues did the author leave that foreshadowed the ending of the story? (3) Were there

any mystery elements in this story? And, would you consider it to be a mystery? Why or why not?

--With your group, begin brainstorming a mystery short story. (Just like you did with the fantasy story.)

--If you finish, silent reading.

--After Party!

March 28

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #20 -- Beginning of *Nowhere Man*.

--Characteristics of the [mystery](#) genre. (Also [here](#).)

--What are some mystery stories/plays/TV shows/movies that you have liked? (Cataloged [here](#).)

--Read "[Lamb to the Slaughter](#)"

--Discuss what elements of "Lamb to the Slaughter" are mystery elements. What elements are not?

--Exit Card: (1) What elements of "Lamb to the Slaughter" would you consider to be mystery elements? Why? (2) Overall, is it a mystery in your opinion? Why?

March 24

--Red Carpet

--B1 ONLY: Finish short story outline

--Silent Reading

--Brainstorm #19: Use what you read to inspire you. Perhaps something a character goes through. Maybe it's a turn of phrase that you enjoyed. Try to take something interesting or cool from your story and use it to brainstorm.

--INTERMISSION

--Work Time: Write. Pick a previous idea or a story you have already worked on and try to write. (Some can use the keyboards.) Use your time wisely.

March 22

--Red Carpet

--Finish short story outline

--Reading

--INTERMISSION

--Brainstorm #18

- Work Time
- After Party!

March 20

- Red Carpet
- CLOSAT
- Brainstorm #17
- Reading Time
- INTERMISSION
- Group Fantasy Outline
- After Party!

March 16

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #16 - [Photo of the Day](#)
- Reading Time
- INTERMISSION
- Remind of [fantasy genre](#) (or [here](#) or [here](#))
- Read some of The April Witch. Answer questions.
- Work on an outline--in a group--for a fantasy short story.

March 14

- Red Carpet
- Reading Time
- Brainstorm #15 - Use this quote as inspiration: "Do not meddle in the affairs of wizards, for they are subtle and quick to anger."
- INTERMISSION
- Discussion of genre and [fantasy genre](#) (or [here](#) or [here](#))
- Movie examples
- Begin reading The April Witch by Ray Bradbury
- Experimenting with the fantasy genre
- After Party!

March 10

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #14 - Watch clip from

- Turn in Brainstorm Bibles
- Reminder about writing small/character goals
- Read "After 20 Years."
- Discuss
- Reading and Work Time

March 8

- Red Carpet
- CLOSAT
- Brainstorm #13 -- Photo of the day.
- WORKSHOP!! (Pay special attention to dialogue, word choice, and characterization.) Guys, you get points for just participating. I do not want to make you turn in a piece of paper just to jump through a hoop. Talk to each other. Leave comments. Help each other out. If dialogue is misformatted, tell them. Where there is purposeful dialogue, applaud them. Make sure that it is a collaborative environment. You are all trying to learn and be better writers.
- Reading and Work Time, if time

March 3

- Red Carpet
- What to work on for next story: Word Choice, dialogue, characterization, story creation, theme
- Brainstorm #12: Storytelling
- Purposeful dialogue example
- Finish dialogue practice

March 1

- Red Carpet: Short story rough draft #2 due Wednesday. (We will not do a final draft until Term 4.)
- Brainstorm #11
- Reading Time
- Continue dialogue practice. First, share last time's practice. Explain how you tried to make the dialogue purposeful.
- Practice some more dialogue and share.
- What to work on for this short story draft?
- After Party!

Feb 27

--Red Carpet

--A little more dialogue practice.

--Meet in D259. Use your time to write a second rough draft.

Feb 23

--Red Carpet: Monday is the computer lab visit. Today, we will focus on how to flesh out a story idea and how to make dialogue more purposeful (which will carry over to the beginning of next time).

--CLOSAT #4(?) (0-10 minutes)

--Brainstorm #10 -- Take at least two of your previous CLOSAT entries and combine them into some idea(s). Riff and just try. Once you have an idea that seems interesting to you, expand it on an index card. (10-20 minutes)

--**On the index card:** (1) Describe the main character of this story idea. (2) What does that character want and how are they going to get it? (3) What are the obstacles to that character's goal? (4) What is one theme that could be shown in this potential short story? (20-30 minutes)

--Mr. Durham has to run down to the auditorium. If you finish your index card, grab a book and read. When I get back, we will work on dialogue. Focus and treat Mrs. Child with respect.

--INTERMISSION

--Switching gears to [practicing dialogue](#) before Monday's lab visit. Dialogue needs to have a PURPOSE!

--*Social Network* dialogue. What is revealed about Mark Zuckerberg through the dialogue? What kind of person is he? What does he want?

--Pick out number of characters, where they are, what is happening, what they are hiding, and a characteristic of someone and [make the dialogue actually MEAN something](#).

--After Party: Come prepared next time to get two pages of a short story done. We will do a little dialogue practice at the beginning.

Feb 21

--Red Carpet

--"Never Stop on the Motorway" -- Listen well and then discuss with your group.

--INTERMISSION

--Brainstorm #9/Work Time - Try to create a story (idea) similar to the last few we have read. How can you use the audience's knowledge against them or set up a little twist that was unexpected? ([My example](#): A story that is set up as if a friend is narrating about their buddy. They keep telling the "audience" about their friend that doesn't have a lot of success with the ladies. He is telling the audience that his friend is a good dude and then explains exactly what a woman would need to be to win him over and to want to be with him. As he is describing this, the story is being told of the friend falling in love with a girl and being astonished because he never thought this would happen. In the end, the "narration" is revealed to be the narrator friend "coaching" the girl that ends up winning over his self-conscious friend. So everything that seemed "perfect" about her is what she was told. Betrayal.)

--Use your time wisely.

--After Party!

Feb 16

--Red Carpet -- Keep working on your stories.

--Brainstorm #8 - Use this quote: "Monsters are real, and ghosts are too. They live inside us, and, sometimes, they win."

--Short Story for today: Pick one of the three stories laid out in class ("The Cask of Amontillado," "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," or "The Lottery"). Read and annotate it. (What should you annotate? Good lines, great details, surprises, things you are confused about. Make notes. Don't JUST underline.

--Response: **(1) Summarize the story well; (2) Write down one possible theme and how it was SHOWN by the author; (3) Write down at least THREE good details and what they contributed to the story; (4) Does the "surprise" at the end work? Why or why not? How did it change the story?**

--Reading/Writing time--Use it wisely.

--After Party!

Feb 14

--Red Carpet

--Read part of "The Perfect Murder."

--Brainstorm #7 - [Photo of the Day](#)

--Finish "The Perfect Murder." **Answer these questions: (1) What are the consequences (for the reader) of having a narrator like this? (2) How did Archer "hide" the final surprise? Did it feel like cheating or did it feel effective? Why or why not? (3) What is one possible theme you can take away from the story? How was that theme shown? (4) Write a short one to two paragraph review of the story. Have a claim and explain why you think the entire story was successful or unsuccessful in its goals.**

--If time, share Twitter stories. If not, next time.

Feb 10

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #6 -- Watch opening of *Hanna*. Brainstorm ideas in your notebook and then share.

--Read more of "The Perfect Murder."

--Discuss Twitter stories. Create at least three. [Twitter Stories](#) (Other [examples](#).)

--Read more "The Perfect Murder."

--Reading/Work time

Feb 8

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #5 -- Story time. Mr. Durham will tell a story and then see if you are reminded of a story that you can tell to a partner. After listening to all of those stories, see what you come up with. Many writers take inspiration from real life. They use what they have lived or seen and then change it and morph it into something fictional.

--"The Perfect Murder"

--Discuss as we read. Afterwards, predict one thing that will happen later on an index card. (Read the current clues.)

February 6

--Red Carpet: Workshop day!

--CLOSAT

--Then, one a half sheet of paper, answer these questions about YOUR short story that you have been working on: Summarize your short story. What is the protagonist's goal? How did you write small? What is a theme that can be take away from your story?

--Workshop. Start by summarizing for the group what your story is about. Try to help them see how you came up with the idea of your story. Explain briefly what the main character's goal is and why. Give them some thoughts on where your theme is headed.

--For each story you read, write comments. Focus on details, character, writing "small," and dialogue and paragraph formatting. Those are the things I will look at for the final draft.

--If time, we will read some of "The Perfect Murder."

February 2

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #4 -- Music

--Review expectations for story and workshop. I will look for well-chosen details and correctly formatted dialogue and writing small and character development (in your final draft).

--Short Story for today: Mr. Durham will read the beginning and you should answer these questions in groups: (1) Summarize the story well so far; (2) What is the protagonist's goal at this point and why?; (3) What are the current obstacles to that goal?; (4) Is the author "writing small"? Justify (explain) your answer.

--Brief discussion

--Reading/Work time

--After Party!

January 31

--Red Carpet

--Dialogue and paragraph formatting

--Work time in D259.

January 27

--Red Carpet: Computer time NEXT class. Be prepared to write your story so that you can finish a rough draft.

--**Brainstorm #3:** Use this Monkees quote to inspire you in any way: "Today there is no day or night. Today there is no dark or light. Today there is no black or white. Only shades of gray." What does it mean? What plots or characters or

stories does it inspire? Does it remind you of anyone or anything from your life? In what way? Brainstorm in whatever ways you want!

--Finish "Fascination Blues." Answer these questions as you would if any author had written this: **(1) What SPECIFIC details (words said, things done, description of character, etc.) help to characterize Jeff and Mrs. Kingsley? (2) What do those details reveal about each of those characters? (3) Mr. Durham told you the random details and ideas that led to the story. What was the story ultimately ABOUT? (Not just a theme, more like topics or ideas. What was the driving action or what was it exploring?) (4) What is one theme from the story and how was it shown?**

--Work and reading time. Use it wisely.

--After Party!

January 25

--CLOSAT/Share

--Red Carpet: January 31st we will be in the computer lab. Come prepared to continue writing.

--Inspiration Index: Inspiration from other works. Beginning of *Stranger Than Fiction*.

--Today's focus: Crafting a story. HOW? Everyone is different. I will give you some insight into what I do or have done. (Paragraphs, dialogue, write what you know).

--My story. I will give you the background of why I wrote it and what I was trying to do and the initial responses I received.

--Read it. Annotate it. (Don't worry about the teacher! Was the author successful at what he was trying to do?)

--Work time. (Keep in mind proper paragraph and dialogue format, which will definitely be a part of your score on your final short story.)

--Reading/Writing Time

--After Party!

Jan 23

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm Bible: Write something in response to this [photo of the day](#).

--Today's story: More about character and, then, finding theme.

--How do we ascertain a theme in a written work?

--Read "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. Sometimes stories have an agenda.

--Exit Card/Short response: (1) Describe what you know about the main character. (2) HOW do you know those things (details from the story)? (2) Write down one possible theme (4) HOW was that theme is shown in the short story?

--If time, work or reading time

Jan 19

--Red Carpet

--Discussion about inspiration. The point of decorating the Brainstorm Bible is partially to have some silly fun but also to remind you of the things that excite you and inspire you to write and to work hard. Talk to someone about the things or people that inspire you (in whatever you need inspiration for).

--Decorate your notebook with magazine pictures or drawings or anything that inspires you/reminds you of getting excited or creating things.

--After Party

Jan 17

--Red Carpet: Notebooks, if you have done NaNoWriMo with an 11th grade teacher, you may have done a little bit of what we will do today before. Just go with it!

--[Intro to CLOSAT](#)

--First CLOSAT

--First entry in Brainstorm Bible (My example of how you could decorate)

--Intro to [characterization](#)

--B1: Discuss The Open Window.

--Character of Vera/Characterization

--Your character/Well-chosen details

--Reading

--After Party!

Jan 12

--RED CARPET - Welcome to Short Story: What is this class? You should not be in here if you are not willing to read and write a lot. You will be turning in a short story every three weeks. We will be reading short stories as well and breaking

them down. You will be SHARING those stories, as well. We will be figuring this out together.

--Intro to me and intro to my class and room. About me: Stories, five things I love/hate, why I'm a teacher, why I love THIS EXACT CLASS, any questions about me??, journals, silent reading

--Remind registration, my [website](#) (day-to-day agenda), tardy log

--Cell phone discussion and obstacles to learning? (Reminders?)

--INTERMISSION

--Short story principles: Write small, use details well, character-driven,

--One of my favorites. Just enjoy for now. We are going to talk about how the ending is foreshadowed and how they characterize Vera.

--[The Open Window](#)

--Think about the principles of short stories that we talked about earlier: **How did the author write small? What details were used well? How did the author characterize Vera and Framton?**

--After Party!

2016

B3: Focus on ONE story for the rest of the year; B4: Write a fifth new story (April 27) and then turn in the final draft on May 13th.

May 23

--Red Carpet

--Discuss this class with others and come up with an actual organization for next year. Like, PLAN THE YEAR for Mr. Durham and Mr. Wood.

--Help Mr. Durham fix his story??

May 19

--Red Carpet

--Final Brainstorm (#36): Clip!

--More Twitter Stories (CONTEST)

--Rubric: Details, implication, concision

May 17

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #35: Last "story" brainstorm

--Write an ending to "The Lady or the Tiger"

- Silent Reading
- After Party!

May 13

- Red Carpet
- Have two people read your story (or part of your story if it is extra long). Get written feedback in the story and oral feedback after. Fill out a [cover sheet](#) and staple it to the front of your paper or just turn it in if you emailed or shared the final draft.
- Help Mr. Durham fix his old story??!
- Silent Reading, if time

May 11

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #34: Music brainstorm (Last music one!)
- SILENT READING!!
- What am I looking for? A creative story (brainstorming), good grammar (final copy), relevant dialogue (and formatted correctly), good details that reveal setting visually and reveal things about the characters.
- EXIT CARD about your final short story.

May 9

- Red Carpet
- Finish last time's two assignments.
- First, finish your outline of a Fantasy short story.
- Then, 10 more minutes to finish your answers to [The Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#) questions.
- WORK TIME**
- Silent Reading
- After Party!

May 5

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #33: Picture of the day
- Read [The Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#) to yourself.

- Mr. Durham will check off your brainstorms and CLOSATs while you read.
- Answer a few questions about it. **(1) Would you consider this a fantasy? Why or why not? (2) Why is there so little dialogue? Where and why would you add dialogue? (3) What is one theme and how was it shown?**
- Silent Reading
- After Party!

May 2

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #32: Clip from *Nowhere Man*.
- Finish dialogue practice and turn in.
- Check off notebooks.
- Genre study: Fantasy ([Link #1](#), [Link #2](#), [Link #3](#)). What are the elements of fantasy and what are some of your favorites?
(Examples: *Pan's Labyrinth*, *The Princess Bride*, *Willow*, *Lord of the Rings*. *Harry Potter*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*(?))
- Brainstorming
- Group story, if time.
- Reading
- After Party!

April 29

- CLOSAT
- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #31: Combine CLOSATs from the past into something new and different.
- A little more dialogue practice. (For B3--share last time's dialogue and find where they may have made mistakes on the format but also underline things that set the scene and reveal character and the things that they were supposed to include.) B4 gets intro and practices once.
- Reading/Work Time

April 27

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #30 -- Quote: "And it takes no time to fall in love. But it takes you years to know what love is."

--Answer the questions about "[I Sing the Body Electric](#)" because we did not quite have time last time for most of the students.

--B4: WORKSHOP DAY. Share and help each other

--B3: Dialogue work. Review dialogue format and giving the characters things to do while writing and "tags" (she SAID, he INSISTED, etc.). Also, when to leave off tags. Use *Great Gatsby* as a guide--the ELMO.

We will draw things from a hat that will give you something to reveal about a person through their dialogue. Things in the hat: How many characters, where it is taking place/what they are doing, a relationship between two of them, what to reveal, and personality. This should be fun, but think through what you are trying to do.

--Silent Reading

--After Party!

April 25

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #29 -- Music!

--Finish reading "[I Sing the Body Electric](#)." After your notes, answer these three questions: (1) What qualities make this story a science-fiction story? (2) What details did you write down that contributed to the mood/tone of the story or appealed to the senses? (3) What is one THEME of the story and HOW WAS IT SHOWN?

--Reading/Work Time

--After Party!

April 21

--Red Carpet: B4--New story due on April 27th. B3: Final story due on May 13th and it should be even better and more effective.

--Brainstorm #28: Mr. Durham tells a story. It's a pretty good one. A little sad, a little silly.

--Read "[I Sing the Body Electric](#)" if I can make copies. Annotate and watch for good details and characterization. It is long enough that we may not finish today.

--Reading/Work Time

--After Party!

April 19

- CLOSAT
- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #27: Trailer for movies to get you inspired
- B4: Work time for Short Story due on April 27th
- B3: Details practice and then add details to your story.
- READING
- After Party!

April 15

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #26 -- [Picture of the Day](#)
- Read [Lamb to the Slaughter](#)
- Discuss what elements of Lamb to the Slaughter are mystery elements. What elements are not?
- Work on your mystery short story outline with your group.
- Silent Reading
- After Party!

April 13

- Red Carpet: One full story for the rest of the year from your stash of four???
- (What activities would help in class?)
- Group Brainstorm #25 -- Funny tweets about McDonald's
- Group work on last time's story--Share and talk.
- Genre fun! [Mystery](#)! (also [here](#)) What I am reading right now.
- Examples of mysteries that you love?? What are the elements of those mysteries that make it stand out? Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock), *Memento*, *Usual Suspects*, *Inception*
- Brainstorm by yourself and then with a group.
- Begin outlining your story.
- Reading Rainbow
- After Party!

April 11

- Red Carpet
- Brainstorm #24 -- Clip!
- Workshop Day!

--Pick your own groups. Positive AND negative. Each person has a separate piece of paper?

--Reading and Work Time

--After Party!

Mar 31

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #23--MUSIC

--Finish "The Perfect Murder"

--One-page response/mini-essay: (1) How does Archer characterize the narrator? What are the consequences (for the reader) of having a narrator with those qualities? (2) How did Archer "hide" the final surprise? Did it feel like cheating or did it feel effective? Why or why not? (3) What is one possible theme you can take away from the story? How was that theme shown? (4) Write a short one to two paragraph review of the story. Have a claim and explain why you think the entire story was successful or unsuccessful in its goals.

--Read or write when finished with the one-page response.

--After Party: Short Story #4 due after Spring Break. **FIRST DAY BACK.**

Mar 29

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #22: Be inspired by this quote, "**Once something is passion, the motivation is there.**" --Michael Schumacher

--Next, you will get into groups, and using your brainstorm and knowledge of sci-fi (and our discussion), come up with a storyline or concept.

--HOW SHOULD YOU WRITE THIS? Should one person do it? Should everyone do it? Should you trade papers and write parts of it for each other? What would be most effective and yield the best story? (Turn in your outline/writing for your story.)

--Silent Reading/Writing Time (Work on Short Story for April 11th)

Mar 25

--Red Carpet: First short story rough draft/workshop--April 11th. Have it done before Spring Break if you would like to have Spring Break free.

--Brainstorm #21 -- Story time

--“The Perfect Murder”

--Genre Fun!! First, we will chat about the science fiction GENRE. (What are the elements? Examples? *Fahrenheit 451* and other dystopian novels. They don’t always have to be downbeat.)

--More “Perfect Murder”

--Exit Card: (1) Two things that stuck out to you/were cool in today’s reading. (2) Do you like it so far? Why or why not? (3) Are you able to pay attention? Why or why not?

--After Party!

Mar 23

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #20 -- [Picture of the Day](#)

--Share.

--Share one of your stories that I liked a lot.

--Read some more of “The Perfect Murder.” (What did you like last time?)

--Silent Reading/Writing Time

--After Party!

Mar 21

--Red Carpet: No computers **this term** because of SAGE testing. We will have class work days, but you will have to write it out.

--Brainstorm #19 -- Watch the opening scene of *In Time*. Brainstorm.

--Share.

--While I read Jeffrey Archer’s “The Perfect Murder,” write down two thoughts you have about what is coming. Also, write down at least two good examples of writing that you notice. (Good turn of phrase, good word choice, good twist, good foreshadowing, etc.) Explain why you thought those two things were “good.”

--Reading/Writing

--After Party!

Mar 17

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #18 -- MUSIC!!

--[Twitter Stories](#) (Other [examples](#).)

--Today's "Competition": Create two (or three) twitter stories (under 140 characters) by yourself. Then, create two twitter stories with a partner. We will vote on our favorites, MAYBE.

--Silent Reading

--After Party!

Mar 15

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #17 -- Use your mind and everything in your brainstorm bible to brainstorm some more biz.

--Discuss *Dr. Horrible*

--Tense presentation

--Be as specific as you can on today's Exit Card: (1) What has worked about this class? WHY? (2) What has NOT worked about this class? WHY? (3) What else would I wish Mr. Durham to know? (4) What do I need to do as a student to improve during 4th term?

--Reading Rainbow

--After Party!

Mar 11

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Review last time's short story vs. novel and short film vs. feature-length movies discussion.

--Watch the movie

--Response: First, write down one possible theme and HOW IT WAS SHOWN. Second, considering last time's notes about short films vs. feature-length movies, write down a few things you think would have CHANGED if the movie were longer and WHY. Thirdly, write down how the movie was LIKE a short story. (Not like a SPECIFIC short story but short stories in GENERAL.)

Mar 9

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #16 -- STORYTELLING!!

--Share your final story with someone near you. Comment on it. Remember that it is getting turned in, so don't make negative comments.

--What are the differences (and similarities, if any) between novels and short stories? WHY? Focus on what strengths and weaknesses there are in both? Why would longer be harder than shorter and vice versa? (ONE SIDE OF THE INDEX CARD)

--What are the differences (and similarities, if any) between short films and feature-length movies? How are they similar to the issues between short stories and novels. (OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE INDEX CARD)

--Next time, we are going to watch a short film and you will write a short response on its similarities to a short story, what might have been added if it were more than two times as long, and what one possible theme was and how it was shown.

--After Party!

Mar 4

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #15 -- [Photo of the Day](#)

--[RUBRIC FOR SHORT STORY FINAL DRAFT](#)!!!!

--The final draft is worth 60 points. This term, the things we have MOST worked on are details, characterization, theme, and format. Those are reflected in the scoring. :)

--Work on revising and preparing for the final draft. :)

--After Party!

Mar 2

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Workshop without Mr. Durham

--Brainstorm #14 -- Use your previous CLOSATs to come up with one to two good ideas and write down a brief synopsis. Try to combine 2 to 4 of your entries to create something different and interesting.

--WORKSHOP TIME!!

--When you are done, fill out your exit card accounting for your time and your story and make sure your name is on it and it gets turned into the sub. Thanks so much!!!

--Reading time, if time remaining.

Feb 29

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Please work hard and be good. :)

--Brainstorm #13 -- Respond to quote

--2 short stories and response. ("Rooftop" and "The Feather Pillow.") **Here are the questions they need to answer: (1) How do the stories differ in where they begin? How do those beginnings impact the ultimate meaning of the story? (2) Compare and contrast the two endings: How are they similar? How are they different? Which ending was more satisfying? WHY? (3) Write down one possible theme of EACH story. HOW WERE THOSE THEMES SHOWN? (4) How does each title contribute to the meaning of each story? Does either story tip off where it is going by its title? Why or why not?**

--Reading and Writing Time

--After Party!

Feb 25

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Slightly longer story for March 2nd's workshop.

--Brainstorm #12 - Music brainstorming again

--Story ("Secret Life of Walter Mitty") and response: **(1) How does the story characterize Walter? How do we know what kind of person he is? What do his "flights of fancy" tell us about him? (2) Name one possible theme and explain HOW IT WAS SHOWN. (3) Identify the similarities and differences between the movie and the story. Why were they present? How did the filmmakers try to stay true to the "spirit" of the story?**

--*Mitty* clip

--Reading time

--After Party!

Feb 23

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Computer and keyboard time (longer story -- Due March 2nd)

Feb 19

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #11 - Storytelling! Tell a story and listen to a story and then write down some story ideas or write down how you would fictionalize that story.

--Workshop DAY!! (Same as last time, generally, except that I am going to put you in the groups myself. Also, after you make comments on the story, make two columns on the back: Improvements and Strengths. Cite at least two things you think they could improve and at least two things that you feel worked well.) Don't forget to help with dialogue formatting and paragraph formatting.

--Reading Time

--After Party!

Feb 17

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Workshop changes??

--Brainstorm #10 - *Hanna* clip. Take inspiration from it. What does it inspire in you, remind you of, or create in your mind?

--During today's activities, I will give you credit for doing the CLOSATs and the brainstorms. Easy participation points. (Also, I will return papers :))

--Today we will mess with ultra short stories. Try to write a story that is complete, but is about one page or 400 words or less. (You don't have to "count," but try to be economical.) [MY ULTRA SHORT STORY](#)

--Share with someone around you and with the class.

--Reading time

--After Party!

Feb 12

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorm #9: [Photo of the Day](#)

--Quick [story](#)?

--WRITING WORK TIME

--[INTERMISSION](#)

--EXIT CARD?

Feb 10

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Phones, February 19th Workshop

--Brainstorm #8 - Try to create a story (idea) similar to the one we read last time.

How can you use the audience's knowledge against them or set up a little twist that was unexpected? ([My example](#): A story that is set up as if a friend is narrating about their buddy. They keep telling the "audience" about their friend that doesn't have a lot of success with the ladies. He is telling the audience that his friend is a good dude and then explains exactly what a woman would need to be to win him over and to want to be with him. As he is describing this, the story is being told of the friend falling in love with a girl and being astonished because he never thought this would happen. In the end, the "narration" is revealed to be the narrator friend "coaching" the girl that ends up winning over his self-conscious friend. So everything that seemed "perfect" about her is what she was told. #Betrayal.)

--Reading Time (25 minutes)

--After Party!

February 8

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet

--Brainstorming: Take at least two things from your CLOSAT journal and tie them together into a story or a story idea or something. Feel free to try to throw three or four together or even to use different combinations for different ideas.

--"Clean Sweep Ignatius" response (structure, choices, themes). I will read the story. Follow along and mark things about how it is organized or structured (Is it a flashback? What is the intro about? What information is deliberately left out? What is the theme?). **In partners, write a response detailing: (1) What you noticed about the structure and the specific choices the author made, (2) What was one theme and how was it shown?, (3) Pick a character and describe him or her and how you were shown those things about him/her.**

--Reading Time

--After Party!

February 4

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Workshop today. Be helpful. Be garrulous. Don't settle for saying too little. Take it seriously and try to use all of the time.

--Use your time wisely.

--How the workshop [will work](#)

--WORKSHOP and WRITING time

--Exit Card: (1) How helpful was this workshop? (2) In what ways was it most helpful and in what ways was it least helpful? (3) How would you change it in the future to make it better?

--After Party!

February 2

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: SHORT STORY AND WORKSHOP NEXT TIME!! What would you prefer, bringing three copies of your story and having notes on all of them (but having everyone read each story at the same time) OR bringing one copy and switching off reading the stories before talking about them one by one.

--Brainstorm: I will tell a story because I didn't get to last time. Today, though, is music brainstorming again.

--Share some thoughts about the short stories you read last time. What was good? What stuck out to you?

--What makes up a story? (Plot diagram--writing small. My example about the basketball coach.) Compare bigger stories to smaller stories.

--Remember for your story: Characterization, Write small, details, theme, correct format.

--Writing/Reading time -- use it wisely

--After Party!

January 29

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Remember February 4th for first story and workshop.

--Brainstorm: Tell a story to another student. Then, write some thoughts down, either inspired by the story or how you would fictionalize that story.

--Short Story for today: Pick one of the three stories laid out in class ("The Cask of Amontillado," "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," or "The Lottery"). Read and annotate it.

--Response: (1) Summarize the story well; (2) Write down one possible theme and how it was SHOWN by the author; (3) Write down at least THREE good details and what they contributed to the story; (4) Describe one of the characters well and how the author showed you the things about that character.

--Reading/Writing time--Use it wisely.

--After Party!

January 27

--CLOSAT

--Red Carpet: Computer time today. Use it wisely. February 4th--First workshop and story due

--Inspiration/Brainstorm: Use this Beatles quote (OR SOME OTHER LYRICS YOU LOVE) to inspire you -- "And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make." What does it mean? What plots or characters or stories does it inspire? Does it remind you of anyone or anything from your life? In what way?

--Length of short story? Discuss.

--Work and reading time: Ask questions and use it wisely.

--After Party!

January 25

--CLOSAT/Share

--Red Carpet: February 4th--First workshop and story due; January 27th we will have the computers.

--Inspiration Index: Inspiration from other works. Beginning of *Stranger Than Fiction*.

--Today's focus: Crafting a story. HOW? Everyone is different. I will give you some insight into what I do or have done. (Paragraphs, dialogue, write what you know).

--My story. I will give you the background of why I wrote it and what I was trying to do and the initial responses I received.

--Read it. Annotate it. (Don't worry about the teacher! Was the author successful at what he was trying to do?)

--Work time. (Keep in mind proper paragraph and dialogue format, which will definitely be a part of your score on your final short story.)

--Reading/Writing Time

--After Party!

Jan 21

--Red Carpet

--Discussion about inspiration. The point of decorating the Brainstorm Bible is partially to have some silly fun but also to remind you of the things that excite you and inspire you to write and to work hard. Talk to someone about the things or people that inspire you (in whatever you need inspiration for).

--Decorate your notebook with magazine pictures or drawings or anything that inspires you/reminds you of getting excited or creating things.

--Brainstorm Bible: Write something in response to this [photo of the day](#).

--Today's story: More about character and, then, finding theme.

--How do we ascertain a theme in a written work?

--Read "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. Sometimes stories have an agenda.

--Exit Card/Short response: (1) Describe what you know about the main character and HOW you know it. (2) Write down one possible theme and HOW that theme is shown in the short story?

--If time, work or reading time

--After Party

Jan 19

--Red Carpet

--[Intro to CLOSAT](#)

--First CLOSAT

--First entry in Inspiration Index/Brainstorm Bible (My example of how you could decorate)

--Intro to [characterization](#)

--Character of Vera/Characterization

--Your character/Well-chosen details

--Reading

--After Party!

Jan 14

--RED CARPET - Welcome to Short Story: What is this class? You should not be in here if you are not willing to read and write a lot. You will be turning in a short story every three weeks. We will be reading short stories as well and breaking

them down. You will be SHARING those stories, as well. We will be figuring this out together.

--Intro to me and intro to my class and room. About me: Stories, five things I love/hate, why I'm a teacher, why I love THIS EXACT CLASS, any questions about me??, journals, silent reading

--Remind registration, my [website](#) (day-to-day agenda), tardy log

--Cell phone discussion and obstacles to learning? (Reminders?)

--[INTERMISSION](#)

--Short story principles: Write small, use details well, character-driven,

--One of my favorites. You get a copy. Mark anything you like as we go.

--[The Open Window](#)

--Go back and underline the hints about what is coming. Afterward, write down what we learned about the three main characters and write down a possible theme. (What is theme?)

--After Party!

[The Veldt](#)

[I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream](#)

[Nine Stories](#)