

English 12

Winter's Bone Writing Prompts

Due Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018

Choose one of the five prompts below for a written piece on *Winter's Bone*. This piece must be three-to-four pages in length, double-spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman. It is due on Thursday, October 11. For all of the prompts except the creative one, use quotes to support your points.

1. Gender Roles

Gender expectations, and their defiance, play a significant role in *Winter's Bone*. Write an essay that analyzes the ways female characters in *Winter's Bone* conform to expectations around gender and also defy them. You may focus on one character or several characters.

2. Nature

Natural forces and factors such as the weather, season, and environment are described in detail throughout *Winter's Bone*, almost to the point of being a character in the novel. Analyze nature's impact on Ree's character. You may consider the ways nature affects her physically, psychologically, and emotionally.

3. Plot Development

Identify and analyze the climax of *Winter's Bone*. In particular, analyze the conflict that culminates in that climax, the theme or themes expressed by the climax, and the resolution of the climax. When you write about the conflict, be sure to indicate whether it is an internal or external conflict, and when you write about the theme, don't limit yourself to a one word theme; be sure to indicate the significance or consequence of the theme. In writing about the climax, feel free to talk about any character development that occurs during that part of *Winter's Bone*.

4. Character

Imagine you are a teacher at Ree's high school who wished she would return to school. You've kept tabs on her from a distance, and now that you've heard the situation with her house and her father's disappearance have resolved, you decide to reach out to her. Write a letter to Ree, as her teacher, explaining why she should return to school. Feel free to use details from *Winter's Bone* (remember, you've been getting updates about her) to explain why she should return to school. Ree might feel that school isn't for her. From what you know about her and the kind of person she is, why should she be in school? (For this prompt, you want to focus on Ree's characteristics. Don't give much attention to the social, economic, or long-term benefits of graduating from high school.)

5. Creative

Write a scene or story about something that happened in *Winter's Bone*, but was only mentioned in passing (e.g., the explosion of the meth lab; Gail and Floyd's wedding; Teardrop's disfigurement; the day Ree decided to drop out of high school; Jessup's decision to become an informant; or some other incident that caught your eye). You must write this in the style of the narrator of *Winter's Bone* and from a third-person limited omniscient point of view.