Year 4, Unit 1
Due Co-op #1
Rhetoric Literature
Introduction and Short Stories

Introduction to Rhetoric Literature

Welcome to Rhetoric Literature Year 4. I'm excited to explore 20th Century literature with you. For those of you joining us for the first time, please know that there is lots of grace as we learn to study literature together. As you get used to the assignments and learn how to study literature in a deeper way, my hope is you will appreciate the power that stories and words have had on our history and our culture. My main request is that you attempt all assignments and read all books. You will be stretched, intrigued, sometimes confused, and often surprised by the books and authors that become your favorites. Please feel free to email me anytime with questions and clarifications.

Make sure you look at the literature list and have the appropriate books, poems, plays, or stories several weeks in advance. Don't get caught unprepared. It is your responsibility to look ahead and know what you need. Many of the selections (poetry and short stories – even dramas) can be found online. However, I recommend having a paper copy where you can take your own notes as you read.

Literary Terms: Please create an index card file of literary terms. These terms are in each week's R Lit student pages and definitions are also in a Poetic's glossary appendix. I will highlight which terms you need to catalogue in each assignment page posted. Write the term and the definition. Having a working knowledge of these terms will help you in all your literary studies.
We may quiz over these terms. Bring your index file to class.

Poetics (big purple notebook or digital)
   Poetics: this term means "theory of literature." You will occasionally be directed to Poetics to read a section of this document. Also you will find all author biographies and literary term definitions in this book.

Rhetoric Literature Pages: In the TOG curriculum, there is always introductory reading and questions for the students. I will direct you to read the introduction and will usually select a few questions for you to answer for each class.

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Short Stories

We will cover the following short stories during co-op #1. <u>I will provide a packet with these stories at the parent meeting on Tuesday, August 2nd.</u> Obviously, we won't be able to talk deeply about each one, but you need to be familiar with all of

them. Many of them were written in the late 1800s and capture our themes of Realism and Regionalism. Short stories are meant to be read in one sitting (not like a novel). Try to set aside time to read each one in its entirety.

"The Luck of Roaring Camp" by Bret Harte
"A White Heron" by Sarah Horne Jewett
"Desiree's Baby" by Kate Chopin
"A Wagner Matinee" by Willa Cather
"The Law of Life" by Jack London

Do these things in order - the stories and assignment will make more sense
1. **Poetics:** Read the sections titled
    *The Short Story in Nineteenth Century America: An Art Unto Itself (p.229)
    *Realism in America (p.249)
    *American Regionalism (p.249)
    *Naturalism as a Literary Movement (p.250)

2. **Read** the rhetoric literature introduction for weeks 1 & 2.

3. **Literary Terms Index Cards** (find these in *Poetics*: Appendix A, p. 283)

Week 1:		Week 2:	
	Artistry		Content
	Character		Morality
	Plot		Naturalism (in literature)
	Setting		Realism (in literature)
	Short Story		Realistic Mode
			Romantic Mode
			Theme
			Topic
			Values
			Worldview

4. Prior to reading each story, please **read the author biography** in *Poetics:* Appendix B, p. 373

5. **Read each story and take notes** on each story following the topics/questions below (please type):
    a. Central characters (short stories usually have only a few)
    b. Central plot line – tell plot in one or two sentences
    c. Setting – time, place, culture (region of America)
    d. In no more than 2-3 sentences, describe the regional flavor of each story. How did the author connect the region/place with the story through characters, language, and description?
    e. How does this story fit into the category of Realism