

Short Story Unit: Goals and Expectations for the Student

Overview: This document will outline what is to be expected of the student, grading percentages, mandatory assignments and basic levels of understanding. Students are expected to attend class every day, complete both written and computer-based homework assignments, as well as read independently outside of class. A portfolio will be required and the checklist will be provided at a later date.

Grading: The fourth quarter grade will be determined by performance in the following areas. Quarter 4 is broken-down into categories on the left and Standard-based criteria are on the right.

Assignment Categories	Grade reports will look like this...
Formative Assessments- 20%	(A) <u>Exceeds</u> Proficiency- maximum grade of <u>100%</u>
Short Story- 50%	(B) <u>Meets</u> Proficiency- maximum grade of <u>89%</u>
Quiz/Test- 20%	(C) <u>Partial</u> Proficiency- maximum grade of <u>79%</u>
Final Portfolio- 10%	(D) <u>Approaches</u> Proficiency- maximum grade of <u>69%</u>
	(F) <u>Below</u> Proficiency- maximum grade of <u>59%</u>

Students will be expected to:

- Maintain a 5 section binder (Do Now, Classwork, Homework, Short Story Assignments and Quiz/Test).
- **Read three assigned books independently outside of class-time, and complete the attached activities.**
- Work both in groups and independently on various in-class and homework activities..
- Enhance knowledge of the Parts of Speech and Sentence structure through writing and revision..
- Complete weekly supplemental vocabulary enrichment activities @ vocabtest.com.
- **Complete each 'Short Story Activity' as it is assigned.**
- Participate in 'Do Now' journal entries at least two days for each regular week.
- **Complete at least two drafts of a Short Story. The short story must contain the elements listed in class: conflict, plot, setting, characters, characterization, theme/moral, snapshot and thoughtshot. Students will also be expected to understand, identify and use the following terms effectively: internal and external conflict, protagonist, antagonist, direct and indirect characterization, stated and implied theme and inference.**
- Positively participate in all homework and classwork activities
- Create a portfolio that includes assignments created during the quarter.

Goals:

- The student will understand and be able to explain the elements of a short story.
- The student will demonstrate mastery of the writing process through the creation of a short story.
- The student will be able to make connections to and determine relevance of both fiction and non-fiction to real life.
- The student will expand their use of vocabulary through the learning of word roots and college level vocabulary.
- The student will gain insight about him/herself by making a connection with a character from a book of his/her own choosing.

**Short Story:
Important Dates for the Student**

Overview: Writing stories is very different from writing the research paper. Not everyone starts at the same spot. Some will start with a character. Others will begin with a setting or a detail. Still others will begin with a theme or an idea. Wherever you choose to begin, there are certain activities that will be required for this activity. These activities are required because, whatever order you choose, they will enhance your final written story. Just so we are clear: ALL OF THE STEPS ARE REQUIRED. Once you begin writing the short story, two drafts are required; but, feel free to write as many as you like until it is what you want. Remember: it must have all of the elements listed in class: internal and external conflict, plot, setting, protagonist and antagonist, direct and indirect characterization, implied and stated theme and thoughtshot. A snapshot is recommended, but many of your stories might be one big snapshot!

List of Assignments and Due Dates:

Assignment	Due Date (student's responsibility to write-in)
Brainstorm (three ideas)	
Character Card	
Plot Outline/storyboard	
Rough Draft (this may focus on one element)	
1st Draft (this includes all elements)	
Editing/Revision (This will be one the 1st Draft)	
Final Draft (this will have a rubric attached)	
Reader Feedback (from a non-teacher)	
Reflection	
Optional: Additional Draft*	
Optional: Dramatic Reading*	
Optional: Creative product for enrichment**	

** Optional activities are in-addition to the regular assignments in class and will not negatively affect the student's grade. If interested in these activities, plan to meet with the teacher outside of class-time to arrange them.*

***Creative product ideas are boundless, but here are a few: song, poem, diorama, drawing/artwork, sculpture, music video, film, advertisement, etc.*