

## Paper One: Interpretive Short Fiction Essay

**Directions:** Write a 3-5 page essay on one of the following topics. Your essay needs to be an interpretation based on **analysis**, not just a summary, of **one** of the works assigned for this class. The essay should demonstrate a deep understanding of the work you choose to explore and reflect critical thinking. There should be **NO** additional research; stick **ONLY** to the story you are analyzing. Since you will want to cite evidence from the work, the essay should, of course, contain proper MLA in-text citations and a properly formatted Works Cited page (refer back to the MLA .ppt!).

### Possible Topics:

1) Many characters in the stories we have read go on a journey of some sort (physical, emotional, psychological, or a combination of these). Choose a story and explore the journey that a character makes. What type of journey is it? What do we learn about the character(s) involved? What are the outcomes? How does the author choose to reveal this journey to the reader? *How does the answer to all of these other questions relate to the theme of the story?*

2) Many of the stories we have read evoke the thematic issue of illusion versus reality. Sometimes the character(s) embrace an illusion and are ultimately forced to come to terms with a much different reality. Other times, the author's intent seems to be to present a certain illusion to readers only to shock them with a startling reality at the end of the story. Choose a story and explore how, why, and what the effects are of an author's intentionally blurring the line between illusion and reality. *What does the story's message about illusion and reality seem to be?*

3) Choose any of the literary terms we have discussed and explore how an author uses it/them in one of the works we've read. You need to go far beyond simply identifying a symbol or some foreshadowing; you need to analyze the effects of the literary device(s) explain how it/they is/are employed, and connect it/s/their use to the theme of the story.

4) Take any element from one of the "one page papers" you've written thus far and expand it into an effective and thorough 3-5 page argument. You may want to take an effective thesis and add more evidence to it. This is your chance to take one of those brilliant thesis statements you wrote and actually prove it with **MORE** than just a single quotation! **Remember:** Success on a one page paper does not guarantee success on a 3-5 page paper. A lot can go right or wrong as you expand!

5) Got your own idea? Run it by me.

**Remember to properly format your paper, to proofread carefully, and to accurately cite all quotations! While you DO need a Works Cited page, you should NOT be conducting any research for this paper—I want only original interpretations.**