

Ms. Frandsen

English 4P

Week #5: Short Story Reading

Digital

For your Week 5 assignment, I encourage you to read and ponder one more short story. There will be no written assignment this week, but it's important to continue to exercise your mind with reading not just this week, but throughout your life. As you read, envision and enjoy the world the author creates by developing settings, characters, plots, and symbols. Always consider the messages about life the author is conveying through the literature he or she has created. You may not agree with an author's theme; however, identifying and pondering themes in the literature you read helps you to clarify your own beliefs and attitudes and ultimately helps you to know yourself better.

Here are some short story suggestions:

"Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" by Nathaniel Hawthorne

"A Mystery of Heroism" by Stephen Crane

"To Build a Fire" by Jack London

"A Pair of Silk Stockings" by Kate Chopin

"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce

"Winter Dreams" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

"Speaking of Courage" by Tim O'Brien

"Rules of the Game" from *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

"The Girl Who Wouldn't Talk" from *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston

"The Demon Lover" by Elizabeth Bowen

"Like the Sun" by R. K. Narayan

"Games at Twilight" by Anita Desai

"The Lady or the Tiger" by Frank Stockton

"The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson

"The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant

Analysis Questions

You do not need to write out responses to these questions, but they are good questions to consider as you think about the story you chose to read for Week 5.

1. Explain the title. In what way is it suitable to the story?
2. Who is the main character, and what sorts of conflicts confront this character?
3. What type of narration is used (first person, third person limited, third person omniscient) and why did the author choose that point of view to tell the story?
4. What happens during the rising action, climax, and falling action of the story? How is the story's resolution?
5. Does the story create a special mood?
6. Are the incidents in the plot presented in flashback or chronological order?
7. Is there a villain in the story? A hero? What makes that character a villain or a hero?
8. What is the story's theme or message about life? Do you agree or disagree with this theme and why?
9. What aspects of the story do you find particularly important or memorable and why?