

Literary Analysis of a Short Story Essay Assignment

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you analyze how one of the following short stories uses a specific literary technique to reveal theme. Be sure your thesis includes three parts: **what** technique you will analyze; **how** that technique is used; and **why** it matters: to reveal the theme/purpose of the story. Each body paragraph should include two sub-arguments: **CEA's** – interpretive claims, supported by quotations as evidence, and analysis of how those quotations prove the immediate claims and reveal the larger thematic purpose of the piece. Remember to use one of three acceptable means of introducing evidence (formal intro with colon, signal phrase with a comma, or blended with no additional punctuation).

Use the sample outline for a literary analysis of “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson as your model for completing the graded **Outline Planning Sheet** (50 pts). Next, students will complete an initial draft **D1 Essay** that incorporates feedback from your outline planning sheet for which students will conduct a **Peer Review** (25 pts) in class. Ultimately, students will submit a **Final Draft essay** (100 pts) that incorporates feedback from your peer review along with the **peer reviewed D1 essay**. You must submit both drafts of the essay to receive Peer Review points.

You may select one of the following essays for analysis:

“I Stand Here Ironing” by Tillie Olsen

“The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

“A & P” by John Updike

Please note: This essay assignment is a literary analysis of how writers use specific techniques to reveal theme and purpose. This assignment is **NOT** an application of literary critical theory. Please do not write an essay in which you attempt to apply Marxist, Freudian, or Feminist critical theory to your selected short story.