

English 11/12: Short Story Unit Guidelines

For each short story that you read, you'll do a brief analysis. Use the following guidelines to help structure your response.

Setting: In 1 paragraph describe when the story takes place, where it takes place, what's going on in the world in your story at this time, & any other relevant details about the setting.

Character Analysis: Write at least 1 paragraph for each of the major characters in the story. Make sure to include: personality type, role in the story, appearance, age, and anything else you think is important about the character. Do they remind you of someone you know? A character from a movie or another book you've read?

Plot Summary: In 2-3 paragraphs summarize the major events of the story. In other words, pretend you're explaining the story to someone who hasn't read it but not spending an hour doing so.

Themes / Message: In 2-3 paragraphs identify and discuss the major themes & messages of the story. What do you think the author is trying to say with this story?

Conflict: Conflict is central to most stories. The conflict in a given story typically falls within one of the following categories: **Person vs Environment** (eg. a character is at odds with society at large), **Person vs Self** (the conflict is within the character, aka an internal conflict), **Person vs Person** (the conflict is between the character/s and another character or group of people). In 1 paragraph, describe at least one of the conflicts in your story.

Reaction: However long you want it to be – this is your chance to be honest about what you thought of the story. Tell me what you liked about the story, what you didn't like about it; questions that it makes you ask; did it relate to you on a personal level? Things you agreed with or disagreed with. Really, any reactions you have to the story that you want to share.