

- Choose TWO stories, one we studied as a class (“Sunflowers”, “Paul’s Case”, “The Lottery”) and compare/contrast it with the story your group was assigned.
- You will have time in class to create an outline and then will write the essay in class. The essay must be 5-6 paragraphs in length, answer the question in detail, incorporate quotations for evidence, and explain the connection between the stories.

Characterization / Symbolism / Motif

1. Discuss how the minor characters reveal the protagonists’ personality traits. (“Worn Path”, “Paul’s Case”, “Sunflowers”, “Rocking-horse Winner”).
2. Discuss how the characters’ personalities are revealed through non-verbal communication. For example, through their eyes, gestures and movements. (“Paul’s Case”, “The Lottery”, “Rocking-horse Winner”, “Miss Brill”, “A Worn Path”, “The Guest”).
3. Discuss how the authors evoke sympathy in the reader through characterization. (“Miss Brill”, “Paul’s Case”, “The Lottery”, “The Rocking-horse Winner”).
4. Authors use symbolism reveal the relationship between characters and their personality traits. Discuss in relation to two stories. (“Paul’s Case”, “Sunflowers”, “The Lottery”, “A Bolt of White Cloth”).
5. In many stories loneliness is an important motif and has a direct impact on the characters. For example, in both “The Guest” and “Miss Brill”, the setting reflects the solitary life of the protagonist and the feeling of loneliness. How is this similar to “Paul’s Case”?

Theme / Symbolism

6. Discuss how the authors effectively use symbolism to reveal the theme. (“The Lottery”, “Paul’s Case”, “Sunflowers”, “Miss Brill”, “A Worn Path”, “A Bolt of White Cloth”, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”).
7. Discuss colour as an important symbol in two stories.
8. Discuss the importance of perseverance and having faith despite the struggles along the way. (There is a noticeable contrast between Paul in “Paul’s Case” and Phoenix in “A Worn Path”).
9. A dominant theme is the importance of trust. Discuss. (“The Guest”, “Sunflowers”, “A Bolt of White Cloth”).
10. Discuss how the authors reveal the theme: decisions have consequences. (“Paul’s Case”, “The Lottery”, “The Guest”, “Miss Brill”, “A Worn Path”).
11. Discuss the theme: relationships and kindness are essential to one’s development. (“A Worn Path”, “Paul’s Case”, “Sunflowers”, “The Guest”, “Miss Brill”, “The Rocking-horse Winner”).
12. Discuss the effect of obsession in “The Rocking-horse Winner” and “Paul’s Case” (Hester and her son are both negatively impacted by this trait and in “Paul’s Case”, he is overcome with the need for wealth and a lavish lifestyle). Both stories reveal a faulty sense of values.

Juxtaposition / Environment

13. Discuss how the authors use juxtaposition effectively in their stories. (“Paul’s Case”, “The Lottery”, “Miss Brill”, “The Rocking-horse Winner”, “A Worn Path”, “Sunflowers”).
14. Discuss how the environment affects the characters and causes them to change. (“Paul’s Case”, “Miss Brill”, “The Rocking-horse Winner”, “A Bolt of White Cloth”).