

Williams – AP Literature and Composition  
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## Short Story Analysis Assignment:

For most of the emphasized short story elements (plot/structure, setting, characterization, point of view, symbolism, tone, style, irony), you'll have to write a short analysis for one of the selected stories (your choice) for that element (also your choice). These analyses should be between 300-550 words and typed. While the specifics you will discuss are open, you must analyze a specific literary element as it works in that story—*not only how it develops in the text, but, more importantly, what effect it has on the work as a whole*. To help you with this task, keep this definition of an analysis in mind.

**An analysis, instead of trying to examine all the parts of a work in relation to the whole, selects for examination one aspect or element or part that relates to the whole...A literary work may be usefully approached through almost any of its elements...so long as you relate this element to the central meaning of the whole (1373).—Perrine's *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense***

The structure of your analysis does not need to be a five-paragraph essay. You'll want a brief introduction that ends with your thesis statement. (No "hook" is necessary.) The body paragraphs are the most important—how well do you analyze the emphasized element? Remember to stay focused on the element and your selected text. End your analysis with a clear conclusion. Think of these mini essays as polished timed writings. Please pay attention to the rules of good writing. For example, some errors to avoid include: informal pronouns and phrasing such as "I think," "you" or "we," not double-spacing your paper, incorrect spelling and usage, improper punctuation of quotes, etc.

Think of those "9"s that we read in class... When given time to compose and edit, your essays should begin to resemble that level analysis and clarity. Please don't be tempted to use Spark, Cliff, Shmoop, or Thug to inspire you. While plagiarism is one reason to avoid using these crutches, more importantly I believe that reliance on these sources cheapens your own self-worth and stunts your growth as thinkers. You can write clearly and in a sophisticated manner on your own without feeling that you're "missing" something. You are not. Your analysis can only be yours if you give yourself the chance to stretch your thinking ability. Try it. You will gain confidence the more you read, think, analyze, and write.

I am looking forward to reading your thoughts!!

Specifics:

- 300-550 words (add word count on bottom left of last page)
- MLA format (see sample on AP Literature home page on [www.thatenglishteacher.com](http://www.thatenglishteacher.com))
- Focus on a single short story selected from the week's readings
- Properly cited and quoted evidence from the story to support your analysis
- All drafts must be typed and uploaded to turnitin.com

Adapted from various AP resources, including AP Teachers Judy Motika and Katie Martin