

English 120: Introduction to Literature
Dr. Newmark
Essay One Assignment

Due: Thursday, October 2
Length: Four to Five pages

Please choose one of the following questions and answer it, with a prominently placed thesis (in the first paragraph), in a four- to five-page essay. In this essay you will need to quote from your primary text on numerous (probably at least four) occasions. You are also required to quote from, and correctly cite following MLA guidelines, at least one scholarly source. The article that you use as your scholarly source must come from a peer-reviewed journal. You cannot use a book review or an abstract as a scholarly source. The whole paper must follow MLA guidelines. Please use Times New Roman font, 12 point, and double-space throughout your paper.

1. This term, we have discussed the ways in which classical allegorical rivalries -- between good and evil, for example, or between youth and age, male and female, poor and wealthy -- emerge in short stories. Once we recognize allegorical opposition in a story, we have improved skills of interpretation; in essence, because we are familiar with such tropes, we know how to "read" a story that includes them. Choose a story from the first half of this term that presents clear binary opposites, maybe in an exaggerated and caricatured way, and examine the creative tactics the writer uses to make these classic conflicts "new," or newly applicable and thus meaningful.
2. Choose a story we have read this semester wherein the message of the story is closely tied to the story's setting. In the story you've chosen, the setting should be well described by the writer. Within the setting, perhaps symbolic features emerge. How does the setting in the story you've chosen supplement the information the writer gives us about the characters? Could the story you've chosen have been told in a different setting, or with the setting less richly described?
3. Choose a story where the author uses third-person narration. Describe carefully what type of third-person narration the writer uses. Create an argument regarding the effectiveness of this narrative point of view. What does it add, or take away, from the story? Does the third-person narrator influence the message the story conveys at its conclusion? How?