

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE SHORT STORY REVIEW

English **Quarter 1, 2015**

What is it?

In a response to literature, the writer discusses what he or she likes and dislikes about a literary work.

Where would you see this type of writing? You would find literary responses in letters to authors or in book and movie reviews.

The Assignment

Choose a short story we have read this quarter and write about what it means to you. Include these elements:

- ◆ A strong, interesting focus on an aspect of the short story
- ◆ An organization that focuses on several clear ideas or images
- ◆ A summary of important features of the work
- ◆ A judgment about the value of the work
- ◆ Support to defend your ideas
- ◆ A sense of closure to your writing
- ◆ Error-free writing, including correct verb tenses

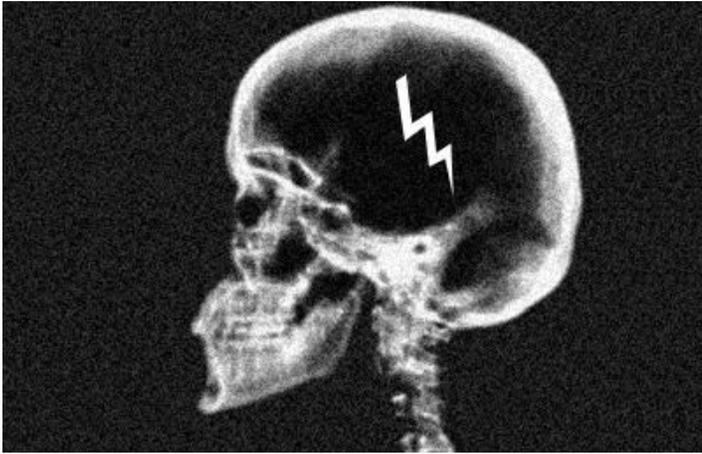
Stories to Choose From

“Seventh Grade”

“Thank You, M’am”

“After Twenty Years”

Criteria	Rating Scale
Focus: How well does your response present a strong, interesting aspect of the work?	Not very Very 1 2 3 4 5
Organization: How logical and consistent is your organization?	1 2 3 4 5
Support/Elaboration: How convincing are your supporting examples?	1 2 3 4 5
Style: How clearly do you express your judgment about the work?	1 2 3 4 5
Conventions: How correct is your grammar, especially your use of verb tense?	1 2 3 4 5
Word Choice: Was the language in your review descriptive enough to create a strong impression?	1 2 3 4 5



Prewriting Strategy

Find Connections.

After you have decided on a story, read or review the selection carefully to find a topic for your essay. Complete the chart below. Fill in each column by answering the corresponding question. Look over what you have written and highlight details that connect in ways that interest you. To create a focused topic, sum up the highlighted details in a sentence.

It's called a story for a reason

Integrate frequent headlines to announce different sections of your story. Consider writing your content in a personal tone, in the same way you might talk to someone sitting across from you at a restaurant.

Characters	Settings	Actions	Motivations
Who did the action?	When or where was it done?	What was done?	Why was it done?

Develop a Tone

The tone of your writing reveals your attitude toward the writing or the audience. Remember how the short story made you feel when you read it. Ask yourself the following questions and answer them in complete sentences:

1. How did the plot of this short story make me feel?
2. Did I like the characters or dislike them? Why?
3. Would I recommend this story to others?

*Use these responses when you draft your review to create the tone you want to convey.

Precise Language

Remember what we have discussed about word choice and creating sensory language. As you write, use language that accurately captures your feelings about aspects of the story. Include colorful words, phrases, and comparisons. Add examples and quotations to support your descriptions. The chart below shows descriptive words that you might find in a review of a short story.



Plot	Characters	Dialogue	Description
Suspenseful	Hideous	Unrealistic	Unique
Predictable	Flat	Engaging	Extensive
Confusing	Intriguing	Humorous	Uninteresting
Forced	Quirky	captivating	Vague

Define and Develop Your Focus Before Drafting

Review your prewriting notes to find the **main idea or focus** for your response. The focus statement sums up your reaction to one aspect of the story. Answer questions like the ones below to help you choose what you will focus on.

1. My response: What is main response to my topic? (example: *I thoroughly enjoyed the story.*)
2. What causes it?: What features of the story cause my reaction? (example: *The suspense. The believability of the characters.*)
3. What conclusion can I draw about the story's features? (example: *The author creates suspense and believable characters, producing a realistic story.*)

One good sentence that states the focus and references a literary element that you wrote about in the questions above:

(This sentence belongs in your introduction. It is your thesis and what your response is all about! It is now time to draft your response.)

Drafting

Use this page to guide you in the drafting process of your response.

Introduction

Use the sentence you created that states your focus and references the literary element you will discuss and the title and author of the story to create the introduction paragraph to your response.

Body Paragraphs

Use multiple body paragraphs to share your responses to the text (do not simply retell the story...we can just go read the story.) Use the prewriting information to find details and examples to support your focus sentence in your introduction. Use examples from the story — specific scenes, characters, images, and action — to support the main ideas in each body paragraph.

Main idea sentence that supports focus sentence _____

Explanation and examples from story:

Main idea sentence that supports focus sentence _____

Explanation and examples from story:

Conclusion

Restate the information you included in your introduction: Your focus and opinion, the author and the title. Make your overall point clear.