Character Analysis Essay

**Assignment:** Your task is to write a five paragraph character analysis essay about a character from a short story from the list below. Once you have chosen a character to analyze, choose **three** adjectives or descriptive phrases which you can apply to the character – these are traits that the character possesses. **You will organize the body of your essay around these three traits.**

**Introduction:** In this first paragraph, you will introduce your character. Be creative. Use an anecdote, a telling quote or incident from the story, or a summary of how the character changes throughout the play to engage your reader. Remember: your first sentence must be interesting! Your introduction should be roughly 5-6 good sentences. It should end with a strong thesis statement.

**Thesis Statement:** This sentence is the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. This sentence will inform the reader what he or she will read in your essay. The thesis should include the character's name and the 3 adjectives.

**Body Paragraph #1:** Your topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe your character. You will support that topic sentence with 2-3 examples from the story and 1 quote. Your quote must be cited in MLA format. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. This paragraph should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraph #2:** Your topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe your character. You will support that topic sentence with 2-3 examples from the story and 1 quote. Your quote must be cited in MLA format. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. This paragraph should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraph #3:** Your topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe your character. You will support that topic sentence with 2-3 examples from the book and 1 quote. Your quote must be cited in MLA format. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. This paragraph should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**All body paragraphs need to have a topic sentence, transitions into your evidence of the characteristic, evidence to support your claim, explanation of your evidence, and a concluding sentence!**
Conclusion: Summarize your main points. Restate your thesis statement, but make sure you reword it. (summary statement) Provide some final, creative thoughts about the character. (clincher) This is the last paragraph your audience reads, so make it good (5-6 sentences).

Quotation Requirements: You must include the author and page number of the quotation and introduce or lead in the quotation properly. If you are working with a non-paginated selection, then you may simply put the author’s last name.

For example: When telling about Jem’s attempt to touch the Radley house, Scout tells the reader, “In all his life, Jem never declined a dare” (Lee 29).

(Notice how I introduced the quotation, where I put the quotation marks, and how I noted the author and page number.)

Guidelines:

- IN your paper somewhere, you must mention at least TWO of the following terms: direct or indirect characterization (specific method used), static or dynamic characters, flat or round character, protagonist, and antagonist.
- You need an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Your direct quotations should be no more than three lines long each.
- The paper must be typed; 12 point font; Times New Roman; one inch margins; double-spaced.
- You must have a Creative Title. “Character Analysis”, “Sally”, or something to that effect does not work.
- FOLLOWING your essay, you must correctly include a bibliographical entry in MLA format.

Short Story Choices:

- “The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry (in 8th grade lit. book)
- “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” by Mark Twain
- “After Twenty Years” by O. Henry
- “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
- “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allen Poe (in 8th grade lit. book)
- “Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara (in 8th grade lit. book)
- “Seventh Grade” by Gary Soto (in 7th grade lit. book)
- “Lather and Nothing Else” by Hernando Tellez
- “The Moustache” by Robert Cormier