English 10
Short Story Compare-Contrast Essay

For this formal writing assignment, you will compare two short stories we have read in this unit. You may prepare a notecard during class time on Thursday and Friday, and complete the notecard at home. You will write your essay in class on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Structural Requirements

★ Your essay should have in introduction that
  ○ Hooks the reader
  ○ Establishes the context for your discussion (including titles and authors of texts)
  ○ Leads up to and includes your thesis
★ Your essay should have at least two body paragraphs that each include
  ○ A clear topic sentence that tells what you are comparing or contrasting regarding the two stories
  ○ Multiple pieces of direct evidence (four total in essay)
  ○ Analysis/interpretation of evidence to develop your argument
  ○ Transitions between points
  ○ A concluding sentence
★ Your essay should have a conclusion that
  ○ Revisits the main points of your essay
  ○ Connects those points and draws out their implications

Topics

1. “The Monkey’s Paw” and “Miriam” involve an element of the supernatural: compare how these elements affect the protagonists and drive the plot of their respective stories.
2. “Lamb to the Slaughter” and “The Boar Hunt” involve potentially disturbing deaths. The reader, however, reacts differently to these deaths. How does the mood and/or tone of these stories connect to their ultimate purposes? How does Roald Dahl keep the reader distant from the murder of Mr. Maloney? How does Jose Vasconcelos involve the reader in the deaths of the narrator’s companions?
3. “Lamb to the Slaughter” and “The Boar Hunt” involve irony, but the authors’ tones are very different. How do the authors use irony in their works, with what tone, and toward what purpose?
4. “The Flowers” and “Butterflies” use brief snapshots to convey major themes. How do Walker and Grace use diction to develop the context and theme in such a short space?
5. “The Veldt” and “All Summer in a Day” are both science fiction stories by Ray Bradbury. Compare and contrast their themes and/or characters.
6. A topic of your choice that involves two short stories we have read. You must check this with Ms. Hieber before beginning.
**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50-45</th>
<th>Essay includes required amount of evidence. Evidence is effectively analyzed to support and progress the thesis statement. Introduction includes hook, context, and a clear thesis. Conclusion effectively summarizes essay and leaves reader with lasting thought.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-40</td>
<td>Essay includes required amount of evidence. Evidence is almost effectively analyzed to support and progress the thesis statement. Introduction and conclusion include most required elements, but are unfocused or elementary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-35</td>
<td>Essay includes most of required amount of evidence. Evidence is analyzed but does not necessarily support and progress the thesis statement. Introduction and conclusion include most required elements, but are unfocused or elementary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-30</td>
<td>Essay lacks significant elements.</td>
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**Timeline**

- Thurs 11/15: Prep in class (pick a prompt and develop an outline)
- Fri 11/16: Prep in class (make sure you have the stories you need)
- Mon 11/19: Write essay in class
- Tues 11/20: Write essay in class; DUE at end of hour