ENC 1102

Instructor: Nick Rupert

Spring 2014

Writing Assignment #2: Fiction

**Due Date**: Tues, Feb 25th (at the beginning of the class period)

**Length**: 1,200 words

**Submission Parameters**: Submit a clean, printed copy at the beginning of class on the day the paper is due. \*Do not, under any circumstances, email your paper. Emailed papers will receive no credit.

**Format**: 12 pt. Times font, 1” margins all around, double-spaced. There should be no extra gaps between paragraphs, and assuming you run over one page (and you definitely should), include a header with page number in the top right-hand corner.

See example for formatting / writing tips on FrontDoor.

**Quotation Procedure/Stylistics**: Consult handouts and writing guides. Each of your paragraphs should contain multiple specific references to the text. These references must satisfy basic MLA protocol. All quoted materials should be followed by a precise and meaningful analysis.

Ex: The literal circumstances of the novel’s disaster event remain muted: “A long shear of light and then a series of low concussions . . . A dull rose glow in the windowglass” (McCarthy 52).

**Works Cited (?)**: Your analysis must be followed by a Works Cited listing all the specific resources your paper references. Now for the good news: this assignment does not call for any secondary research / source work, so you are encouraged to simply reference whichever story / stories your analysis addresses.

**Prompts**: choose ***ONE*** prompt to explore in your essay.

*Poe:*

Discuss the significance of Montressor choosing to share his story fifty years (“half of a century”) after it takes place. What new/important details about Montressor’s psychology

does this framing narrative allow us to access?

Or

Based on the evidence that the story allows us to access, make a case for which character emerges as more sympathetic in Poe’s story: Montressor, or Fortunato.

*Gilman*:

Conduct an analysis of the power dynamic that takes place between “Jane” (the narrator) and John, her husband. How might this dynamic relate to the narrator’s illness? If you find it relevant to your analysis, you may also want to bring up the potential influence of Jane’s brother as well as popular physicians such as Silas Weir Mitchell and the “rest cure.”

Or

The wallpaper is arguably the most dynamic “character” in the story, since it constantly shifts and changes according to the narrator’s state of mind. Citing key passages, make a case for what the wallpaper reflects about the narrator’s shifting psychology throughout the story.

Or

Giving special focus to the story’s somewhat disturbing conclusion, make a case for what Gilman’s story tells us about late nineteenth-century gender relations. (Your analysis may or may not tie into the previous prompt).

*Atwood:*

What does the story’s setting, which involves an unidentified village from an unidentified era, add to the story’s overall meaning? What suggestion might Atwood’s story be making with its tension between science and folk remedies?

Or

Taking the story’s ending into account, make a case for what the story seems to suggest about society’s treatment of members who defy cultural norms.

*Hemingway:*

First, identify the topic Jig and the unnamed narrator are discussing. Then, paying careful attention and citing key passages, analyze how Jig goes about trying to express her viewpoint to her companion. Contrast Jig’s behavior to the manner in which the man goes about expressing his viewpoint. What is Jig trying to convince him of? What is he trying to convince her of? What kinds of rhetorical methods are on display?

**Weight**: 100 points

**Grading Criteria**:

•Does the paper construct a valid argument based on a logical progression of ideas and well-established grounding?

•Do the stylistics reflect the agreed-upon tenets we have discussed?

•Is the prose clear and authoritative?