Short Story Review Assignment

Name:

Wilson

Choose one of the stories that we have studied so far in class to answer the question:

Citizen's Arrest Fear Tell-Tale Heart One of These Days Monsters Are Due on Maple Street

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Complete the following steps for this assignment:

- 1. Choose one of the five stories listed above.
- Read through the Vocabulary for Elements of a Short Story handout. For the sections Character, Setting, Plot, describe five terms for each from the handout and show how they are used within the story. Include examples from the story to show you understand the terms.
- 3. For the section **Point-of-View** and **Theme** describe a total of five terms and how they are used within the story. Include examples from the story to show you understand the terms.
- 4. Design an appropriate cover for the story you choose. Remember that all book covers contain the following elements:
 - →Title
 - →Author's Name
 - → Eye-Catching Graphics/Pictures relevant to the story
 - →Sometimes one line from the story to attract reader's attention

Marks:

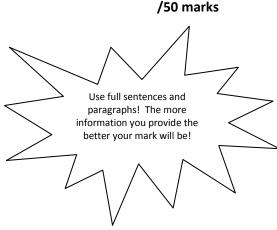
Knowledge:	(Short Story terms; information from stories)	/20
Thinking:	(Examples to connect terms to stories)	/10
Communication:	(Clear ideas, spelling & grammar)	/10
Application	(Design of book cover)	/10

Total

An Example of how to set up your review:

1. Character

- a. Protagonist This story includes a protagonist, which is the main character responsible for solving the problem of the story. In the case of this story the main character is Bob. This is because Bob tries to kill the evil dragon.
- b. Motive The motive of a story means the reason why a character does something. In the case of this story, Bob's motive is to....



Wilson

1. Vocabulary for Elements of Short Story: Character

The following terms should be familiar to the students after focusing on the element of *character* in the short story:

Character Dynamic—Round

Protagonist Static—Flat

Antagonist Characterization

Motive Concrete Words Dialect **Abstract Words**

Character Development Dialogue

Motive Action

Vocabulary Worksheet

A person in a short story is called a *Character*. The person around whom the conflict revolves is called the Main Character. Character Development is the change in the person from the beginning to the ending of a story. The way of showing what a character is like: The way that person looks, talks, acts or thinks is termed *Characterization*. We say the person who changes in personality or attitude is Dynamic or Round, those that remain the same are referred to as Static or Flat.

The hero of the story who is faced with a conflict is the *Protagonist* while the villain of the story, the person who causes the conflict is the Antagonist.

A Motive is the reason behind an individual's action(s). A conversation between two or more people in the story is called a *Dialogue*. The way these individuals speak in the story if they are from different parts of the country is known as Dialect.

In writing about people in a short story we use *Nouns*, the part of speech that names a person, place, thing or idea. If the word names a person, place, thing or idea that can be seen, smelled, touched, tasted or heard, it is *Concrete*. If the word names an idea that cannot be seen, smelled, touched, tasted or heard, it is Abstract.

2. Vocabulary for Elements of Short Story: <u>Setting</u>

The following terms should be familiar to the students after focusing on the element of setting.

Setting Figurative Language

time metaphor place simile

Imagery personification

Symbol Senses

Connotation auditory (hearing)
Denotation gustatory (taste)

olfactory (smell) tactile (touch) visual (sight)

Vocabulary Worksheet

The setting of the short story tells the *Time* and *Place* of the action. To make a setting or background for the main character to come alive, we often use descriptive language which is not meant to be taken in its literal sense called *Figurative Language*.

Some examples of such descriptive language are:

- 1. *Simile*: A comparison between two unlike things that uses the words like or as; for example, This bread is as hard as a rock.
- 2. *Metaphor*: A comparison between two dissimilar things that does not use the words like or as; for example, Life is a short story of conflicts and compromise.
- 3. *Personification*: That which give human traits to non-human things; for example, The waves danced on the jagged rocks.

Using language that appeals to any sense or any combination of senses is called *Ima*gery. These senses are *Sight*, *Hearing*, *Taste*, *Touch* or *Smell*. Sometimes using an object, person, place, or action that has a meaning in itself and stands for something larger than itself; an idea, belief, or value called *Symbol* helps to improve our writing of a short story. It is important that we can differentiate between the literal meaning of a word *Denotation* and the emotion or association that a word may arouse *Connotation*.

3. Vocabulary for Elements of Short Story: Plot

The following terms should be familiar to the students after focusing on the element of plot in the short story.

Conflict Irony

Solution Flashback

Internal Foreshadowing

External Suspense

Vocabulary Worksheet

The main character is presented with a *Conflict*, a situation or problem which he will be called upon to resolve. Sometimes the problem lies within the main character and is said to be *Internal*, while other times outside forces act upon the main character, which is said to be *External*.

There is a constant, ongoing struggle in which the main character attempts to resolve his problem; hence he seeks a *Solution*.

Throughout this struggle a growing excitement or *Suspense* is felt as the *Climax* is approached.

The author often uses certain techniques to creatively unfold the plot:

Irony: An unexpected twist of events, the opposite of

what was expected.

Flashback: A move back in time to an earlier incident.

Foreshadowing: A hint or allusion to events which will occur in the future.

4. Vocabulary for Elements of Short Story: Point of View

The following terms should be familiar to the students after focusing on the element of point of view in the short story.

Narrator First Person

Omniscient Point of View Internal Story Teller
Detached Observer External Story Teller

Vocabulary Worksheet

The person telling the story is called the *Narrator*. When the person telling the story knows all the thoughts, motives and feelings of each character, the story is being told from the *Omniscient* point of view. When the main character tells his own story and refers to himself as "I" the story is being told from the *First Person* point of view. An *Internal* story teller is one that takes part in the action of the story. An *External* story teller is one that can remove himself from the action of the story.

5. Vocabulary for Elements of Short Story: Theme

Theme Allusion Proverb Idea Maxim

Vocabulary Worksheet

The main *idea* or basic meaning of a literary work (short story) is called the *Theme*. Frequently a short story may have more than one controlling idea. Very often we can associate a wise saying or *Proverb* with the basic meaning of the story. Another way to express a fundamental rule of principle or conduct is using *Maxim*.

Sometimes a reference in one work of literature to a person, place or event in another work of literature or in history, art or music is known as an *Allusion* and quite effectively reinforces the meaning of a story.