

## CW 2 Final Exam – Analyze a Short Story

**Primary Goal:** To practice writing an MLA formatted Essay that effectively analyzes an element of a short story [either words or film] -in other words write an essay that explains what you think the story means by looking closely at a specific element of the story.

**What are you required to do to complete this assignment successfully?**

**Choose a short story** assigned in the Lessons. **Choose** an element of the story to analyze. **Write** a 2-3 page essay + a Works Cited sheet explaining what you analyzed and what it means.

**What do you need to do to complete this assignment?**

1. **Read** the short story. Read it again and look for patterns.
2. **Think about the story.** Consider how the story is written– meaning what decisions did the author or creators make while writing this story. Consider what the story means and how the author or creator communicates the meaning – do they use symbols? Or characterization? Or dialogue? Metaphor? What patterns did you notice? Are there any stories you can compare or contrast this story to? If so, what do you notice about how the meanings change?
3. **Format** the assignment in MLA style. Times New Roman size 12 font, correct heading, with one-inch margins.
4. **Choose** a literary element to analyze [For review, check out the website linked below.]
5. **Write** your essay:
  - a. In the **first paragraph** include the title of the short story within double quotation marks plus the author's name. Include a thesis statement. I've attached a link in the Lessons of sample literary thesis statements. Feel free to use them a guide or even as a template.
  - b. In the **second, third, and fourth paragraphs** support your ideas with details from the story. Focus on explaining to me what you see in the story. What do you think the story means?
  - c. In **your conclusion** explain why your thesis- your view matters – what would you like your readers to think or do in response to reading your essay?
6. Finally **proofread** for any typos or errors.
7. **Upload** to the dropbox by midnight Monday, May 2.

### **Literary Technique:**

Symbolism / Imagery / Metaphor / Characterization / Structure / Allusion / Repetition  
Juxtaposition / Irony / Dialogue etc.

Here is a helpful resource: <https://writers.com/common-literary-devices>

**Questions to ask yourself before submitting this assignment:**

1. Is the assignment formatted properly in MLA style?
2. Is your thesis statement clear?
3. Have you written your body paragraphs to explain & support your thesis statement?
4. Did you include a properly formatted MLA Works Cited sheet?