

SHORT STORY ANALYSIS

Fill in the following blanks with complete sentences:

A. The Basics:

1. Story title: _____.

2. Author: _____.

B. CHARACTERIZATION: The method a writer uses to communicate information about characters to readers.

3. Who is the **PROTAGONIST**? List three character traits of this character. _____

_____.

4. Who is the **ANTAGONIST**? List three character traits of this character. _____

_____.

C. **SETTING**: The environment (**time & place**) in which the story takes place.

5. What is the **SETTING** of this story? Why is it important? _____

_____.

D. **POINT OF VIEW**: The perspective from which a story is told: first person, third person, third person omniscient, or third person limited

4. From which **POINT OF VIEW** (see above) is this story told? _____

_____.

E. CONFLICT: The central source of **tension and drama** in the story, the **problem**: Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Fate, Man vs. Technology, Man vs. Society

5. What is the major **CONFLICT** in this story? In addition to specifying the **TYPE** of conflict (see above), Be sure to be **SPECIFIC** in explaining the conflict. _____

F. RESOLUTION: The conclusion of the story. The **resolution** includes the story's action after the climax until the end of the story.

6. How is the **CONFLICT** above **RESOLVED** in this story? (It is **VERY** important that your resolution match your conflict!)

G. THEME: The "universal truth" that the author is trying to communicate.

7. What is the **THEME** of this story? You **MUST** use **THEMATIC STATEMENTS!**

H. FORESHADOWING: A technique that gives readers clues about events that will happen **later** in the story.

8. Is there any **FORESHADOWING** in this story? Please cite specific examples from the story and explain what is being foreshadowed. _____

I. **FLASHBACK**: A technique that takes readers back in the past in the life of a character.

9. Is there any **FLASHBACK** in this story? Please cite specific examples from the story.

J. **SIMILE**: A comparison of two unlike things using the words "like" or "as".

10. Are there any **SIMILES** in this story? Quote each example directly: _____

K. **METAPHOR**: A comparison of two unlike things that does NOT use "like" or "as".

11. Are there any **METAPHORS** in this story? Quote each example directly: _____

L. **PERSONIFICATION**: Writing that gives inanimate objects or abstract ideas human qualities.

12. Is there any **PERSONIFICATION** in this story? Quote each example directly: _____

M. **HYPERBOLE**: An exaggerated statement used to make a strong effect.

13. Is there **HYPERBOLE** in this story? Quote each example directly and explain the point the author is trying to make. _____

_____.

N. **SYMBOL**: An image, object, character, or action that stands for an idea (or ideas) beyond its literal meaning.

14. Is there any **SYMBOLISM** in this story? Explain the symbol and what it stands for. _____

_____.

O. **tone**: The way that the writer feels about his story.

15. What is the **tone** of this story? _____

_____.

P. **MOOD**: The way a story makes the reader feel.

16. What is the **MOOD** of this story? _____

_____.