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? ____________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________.

1
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.


________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________