

## THE SHORT STORY



The following reading assignments can be found in your anthology, *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Most reading assignments will include a section on elements of fiction as well as the short story itself. In these sections, you are expected to familiarize yourself with the boldfaced terms. You should begin to compile a list of literary terms (and their definitions) from these sections of your textbook. After reading each story, you should answer the question or write the assigned journal.

1. *Literature*. Read "Plot" and "The Short Story" (pp. 12-15). Read "A&P" by John Updike (pp. 15-20).

Complete the handout for "A&P".

Due \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Literature*. Read "Setting" (pp. 124-126) and "Greasy Lake" by T. Coraghessan Boyle (pp. 144-151).

Complete the handout on the story.

Due \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Literature*. Read "Character" (pp. 91-94). Add to your list of literary terms. Read "Cathedral" by Raymond Carver (pp. 110-121). Write a one-page, double-spaced journal in which you discuss the narrator's preconceptions about blindness: What does he expect Robert to be like? What is Robert *actually* like? Describe an experience where your expectations did not match up with reality. How did it make you feel? What did you learn?

Due \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Literature*. Read "Point of View" (pp. 23-28). Add to your list of literary terms. Read "Barn Burning" by William Faulkner (pp. 178-191). Answer the following questions:

- What do you understand to be Faulkner's opinion of Abner Snopes? Make a guess using evidence from the text to support your view.
- What is the central conflict of the story?
- From whose perspective is the story told? Characterize the narrator according to the literary terms provided in your "Point of View" reading.

- How does this point of view contribute to showing the conflict in and developing the theme of the story?
- What is the theme of this story?

Due \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Literature.* Read “Theme” (pp. 212-214). Add “theme” to your list of literary terms and consider the questions provided on p. 239. Read “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (pp. 242-247) and write a theme statement for the story in your notes.

Due \_\_\_\_\_

6. *Literature.* Read “Tone and Style” (pp. 170-174) “Araby” by James Joyce (pp. 612-617). Complete the handout for the story.

Due \_\_\_\_\_

7. TEST: The Short Story. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your paper assignment for the short story unit will be announced at least two weeks before it is due.