

Writing Response for Short Stories

1. Choose **one pair** of short stories: “The Most Dangerous Game” and “War”; “Lady, or the Tiger” and “All the Years of Her Life”; “The Balek Scales” and “The Portable Phonograph”; “The Gift of the Magi” and “The Necklace.”
2. Using the information from Laurence Perrine’s essay “The Scale of Value” and the “General Questions for Analysis and Evaluation” (page 349-350), write a persuasive essay defending the claim that one story, when compared to the other in the same pair, deserves to be closer to the range of excellent to good (as opposed to good to poor).
3. Specifically refer to the lens we used in class discussion: Characters are consistently developed and motivated by the conflicts of the plot. The theme is a natural product of the conflict and the characters’ reactions/actions to those conflicts.
4. Consider the vocabulary of describing characters: round, flat, dynamic or static.
5. Consider the use of symbol, irony, emotional effect/by-product of emotion, or sentimentality.
6. Pay close attention to the “General” questions #23-30 on page 350. Having a clear response to each question will help you organize your response.
7. Limit your persuasive essay to two or three pages, MLA format. You may use both brief summary and directly quoted textual evidence as support.
8. The essay is due in hard-copy in class on November 13th. Send it to Turnitin as well; the window will be open until 11:59 p.m. on November 13th. (This is a grade for the second marking periods.)