

ESSAY TOPICS, ENG 1120

Autumn 2006

1. Literary scholar M. H. Abrams has written that

The overall setting of a narrative is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place.
(M.H. Abrams, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, Seventh Edition, 284).

Write an essay in which you compare and contrast these different levels of setting in two of the short stories below.

2. Comment in detail on characterizations in two stories by different authors (listed below), choosing a small number of characters for examination. For each character, describe whether he or she is the narrator, a focalizer, or belongs to a group of less central figures. Use examples from the texts to illustrate these different roles and to pinpoint places where characters change or develop (or fail to do so).

Your task is not to summarize or paraphrase character traits, but rather to analyze how the story employs the concept of character. This essay does not require that you compare and contrast; however you may do so in your conclusion if you see fit.

Stories to Select from for topics 1) and 2):

Leslie Silko, "The Man to Send Rain Clouds"

Leslie Silko, "Lullaby"

Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-paper"

3. Discuss any one or two culture texts with reference to how they are relevant for an examination of one the above stories. Select culture texts from your reading list.

4. Analyze the two culture texts "The Declaration of Independence" (1776) and "The Seneca Falls Declaration" (1848). Make sure you include comments on the historical periods the texts were written in.

INSTRUCTIONS

Essays should not exceed 8 typed pages, double-spaced.

Deadline for outline: 9 October

Deadline for first draft: 6 November

Deadline for final essay: Week 48

You must also submit the student contract on plagiarism along with your final essay, **AND NEVER PASTE IN MATERIAL FROM THE INTERNET OR ANY OTHER SOURCE WITHOUT CITING YOUR REFERENCE**

Do not write your name on the final essay; write your candidate number and the essay topic text on a cover sheet (this does not count as one of your 8 pages).