

Dystopian Short Story Group Project

You will be divided into groups of 3-4 and will be given one short story for your group. Your task is to read the selected work of short fiction and teach the class about the main components. Your group should be experts on the story and all of the elements listed below.

We will study the following short stories:

- “All Summer in a Day” ~ Ray Bradbury
- “Harrison Bergeron” ~ Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
- “The Minority Report” ~ Philip K. Dick
- “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” ~ Ursula Le Guin
- “A Pail of Air” ~ Fritz Leiber
- “The Pedestrian” ~ Ray Bradbury
- “The Star” ~ Arthur C. Clark
- “There Will Come Soft Rains” ~ Ray Bradbury
- “Welcome to the Monkey House” ~ Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

The total presentation for the group should be approximately 15-20 minutes. If you wish to allow time for questions, your presentation itself should be no longer than 17 minutes, and the question time no longer than 3 (points will be penalized if shorter or longer, and from your group if you create disruptions between presentations).

Components of the Presentation:

1. Written (You are required to submit an MLA formatted hard copy and upload the information to turnitin.com):
 - Plot summary
 - No more than 100 words
 - Eliminate linking verbs
 - Free of grammatical errors
 - Setting
 - The time, place, physical details, and circumstances in which the story occurs.
 - Settings include the background, atmosphere or environment in which characters live and move, and usually include physical characteristics of the surroundings.
 - Explain how the setting affects the plot and characters.
 - Character Analysis
 - Identify the protagonist and the antagonist
 - Identify all the minor characters in the story
 - Explain how the different attitudes, mannerisms, and even appearances of characters influence the other major elements in a literary work, such as theme, setting, and tone.
 - Character Development
 - Explain how the major characters develop during the course of the story.
 - Explain how the character is portrayed at the beginning of the story and how and why he or she changes by the end of the story.
 - Explain how the change affects the outcome of the story.
 - Identification and analysis of themes
 - Identification and analysis of literary elements
 - Identification and explication of thematic passage(s)
 - Identification and explication of central conflict and climax passage(s)
 - Create a handout containing ten (10) “Higher Order Thinking” questions. The questions may not have one or two word answers; rather, they should be able to be answered in several sentences. Create an answer key for your HOT questions which answers the questions in complete sentences. These questions MUST include questions based on the standards listed below. Please identify the standard in parentheses at the end of the question:
 - Theme
 - Point of View
 - Tone
 - Characterization
 - Foreshadowing
 - Protagonist/Antagonist
 - Plot structure: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution
 - Text connections

2. Visual

- Present the above material using PowerPoint, Prezi, pictures, film, music, animation, or some other creative method. The key is to showcase your creativity and knowledge of the story; your group must be experts in order to teach the lesson effectively.
- Your visual must be uploaded to the classroom computer in advance of your presentations, which anyone could begin as early as September 15th. Thus, you should turn in your presentations, digitally, by the 14th. While you will have your own iPads, I still need to be able to grade your presentations. I will not upload presentations from flashdrives or pull them from e-mails on the day you present.
- Please make sure you follow the standard rules for visual presentations:
 - Your visual is not a teleprompter, so don't read off the visual. By doing so, you fail to connect with your audience. Does your audience really want to listen to you read the slides? Make notes for yourself.
 - Make slides that reinforce your words, not ones that repeat them. This is where pictures and music enter the picture.
 - Use a minimum 24 point font size; anything smaller and people in the back of the room can't read it.
 - Avoid paragraphs and long blocks of text. Limit the number of words on the slide – that's why you're talking. Key words and images are much more powerful.
 - Less is more – Fancy slide transitions and fly-ins get old quickly. A basic dissolve from one slide to another is usually sufficient. Avoid sound effects—they serve no other purpose than annoying the audience and distracting them from your presentation. Find real audio tracks that add to the meaning of your presentation.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your presentation is free of basic grammatical errors

3. Presentation:

- Each person should be allotted a part of the presentation.
- Anyone who does not speak will receive a "0" for the oral component of the grade.
- Each member will be individually assessed on their physical and vocal presentation skills.

4. Written Assessment:

- You will be graded independently on the section you complete as an individual and the overall information you provide as a group.

5. Rubric:

- Overall Content and Quality of Information (25)
- Quality and Creativity of Visual Aid (25)
- Preparation and Rehearsal of Presentation (10)
- HOT Questions (10)
- Independent Evaluation of Writing (15)
- Individual Evaluation of Speaking (15)

6. Assign Roles to Everyone in the Group:

- Background - writes plot summary on the text and analyzes the setting of the piece
- Character - understands the main characters and their development
- Themes – identifies, analyzes and explicates themes
- Literary Devices - identifies, analyzes and provides examples of literary devices
- Conflict - identifies, analyzes and explicates conflict and climax of the story
- HOT Questions - completes the group's HOT questions