

Introduction to **SHORT STORIES** Grades 7-10

WORKS ALL SHORT STORIES

PowerPoint, Teaching Resources
Theme Analysis Essay with Rubric





THE DARING ENGLISH TEACHER

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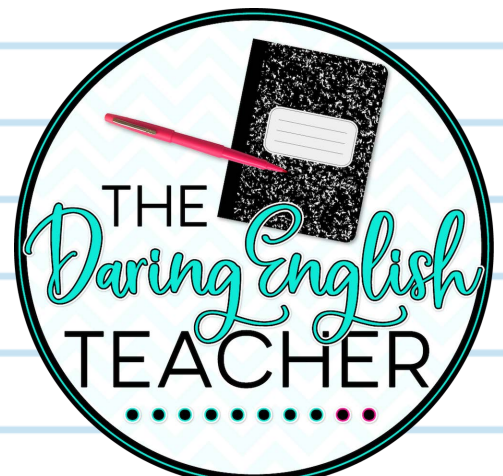
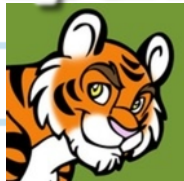
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THE SHORT STORY

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THE SHORT STORY

Hello, and thank you for purchasing this Introduction to Short Stories lesson unit. I created this PowerPoint and lesson for my ninth grade students, but this unit can easily be adapted for grades 7-12.

While this unit is designed to be an introductory unit to short stories, the supplemental materials in this document can be used for ANY short story.

The 20 slide PowerPoint can either be taught all at once, or in sections as your class explores different short stories.

There are three different character analysis graphic organizers in this document: one takes a look at protagonist vs. antagonist, one takes an in-depth look at a single character, and the final one focuses on character development. The setting graphic organizer asks students to locate five quotes from the story that depict its setting. This activity helps students see how the author created a realistic setting. There are two plot diagram organizers: one asks students to identify key details, and the second one asks students to include quotations. The second one is a bit more challenging. This is an ideal activity for honors students. The last graphic organizer is a theme and plot analysis graphic organizer. This organizer is ideally used with the theme essay.

The theme essay includes a student handout sheet with space to fill-in important information, an outline, peer edit form, and a 100 point rubric. This essay can be used for any short story, and the concept can be used for any piece of literature.

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THE SHORT STORY

Introductory Cornell Notes

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

What is a short story?

What are literary devices?

What is a character?

- What are the differences between:

- Round vs. Flat?

- Static vs. Dynamic?

What is setting?

What is the plot?

What are the different elements of the plot?

What does a plot diagram look like?

PLOT DIAGRAM

THE SHORT STORY

Introductory Cornell Notes Back Page

Introductory Cornell Notes Back Page

What is conflict?

What are the types of conflict?

What is point-of-view?

What are the different kinds of point-of-view?

What is theme?

SUMMARY:

THE SHORT STORY

Cornell Notes

Short Story Title: _____

Author: _____ Publication Date: _____

What is the story's setting?

Describe the story's main characters.

What is the central conflict?

What is the theme of the story? When does the theme first emerge, how is it developed, when is it fully realized?

What is the point of view of the story?

What is the author's tone?

What was the author's purpose for writing this story?

SUMMARY: _____

THE SHORT STORY

Character Analysis

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the details for the narrative's protagonist and antagonist. Then, draw each character.

PROTAGONIST PROFILE

Name: _____

Age: _____

Allies: _____

Enemies: _____

Three personality traits: _____

Three physical traits: _____

Wants: _____

PROTAGONIST CHARACTER SKETCH

ANTAGONIST PROFILE

Name: _____

Age: _____

Allies: _____

Enemies: _____

Three personality traits: _____

Three physical traits: _____

Wants: _____

ANTAGONIST CHARACTER SKETCH

SHORT STORY TITLE:

Character Silhouette Analysis

Directions: In the box on the left, use at least three details from the text to illustrate the character. In the box on the right, answer the questions about the character, and support your answers with textual evidence and explanations.

Character Name: _____

Name: _____ **Period:** _____

Is the character round or flat? (circle one)

Textual Evidence (quote): " _____ " (_____).

Explanation: _____

Is the character static or dynamic? (circle one)

Textual Evidence (quote): " _____ " (_____).

Explanation: _____

Is the character the antagonist or protagonist? (circle one)

Textual Evidence (quote): " _____ " (_____).

Explanation: _____

Is the character's main conflict internal or external? (circle one)

Textual Evidence (quote): " _____ " (_____).

Explanation: _____

THE SHORT STORY

Character Development Analysis

DIRECTIONS: Trace the character's development from the beginning to the end of the story. Keep a record of how the character feels (emotions) and what the character wants or needs (motivation). Also provide a quote from the text to support your answer.

SHORT STORY TITLE: _____ **CHARACTER NAME:** _____

BEGINNING	Illustrate the character's thoughts, emotions, wants, or motivation.	Character Name: _____ feels: _____ wants/needs: _____ supporting quote: " _____ _____ _____ _____ _____" (____).
MIDDLE	Illustrate the character's thoughts, emotions, wants, or motivation.	Character Name: _____ feels: _____ wants/needs: _____ supporting quote: " _____ _____ _____ _____ _____" (____).
END	Illustrate the character's thoughts, emotions, wants, or motivation.	Character Name: _____ feels: _____ wants/needs: _____ supporting quote: " _____ _____ _____ _____ _____" (____).

HOW DOES THE CHARACTER CHANGE? _____

THE SHORT STORY

Setting the Scene

DIRECTIONS: As you read the short story, write down five quotes that describe the scene. Hint: look for descriptive language, sensory details, and figurative language.

“

_____” ().

“

_____” ().

“

_____” ().

“

_____” ().

“

_____” ().

THE SHORT STORY

Setting the Scene

DIRECTIONS: Illustrate a setting from the story and then write two supporting quotes from the story that show the author's description of the setting.

“

” ().

“

” ().

THE SHORT STORY

All About Plot

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the plot diagram with key details from the story that represent each point of the diagram.

<div>Climax: _____ _____ _____</div>		<div>Falling Action: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</div>	
<div>Rising Action: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</div>	<div>Inciting Incident: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</div>		
<div>Exposition: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</div>		<div>Resolution _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</div>	

THE SHORT STORY

All About Plot

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the plot diagram with quotes from the story that represent each point of the diagram.

Rising Action: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Climax: _____ _____ _____ _____	Falling Action: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Resolution _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Exposition: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____			

THEME & PLOT CHART

Name: _____ Per: _____

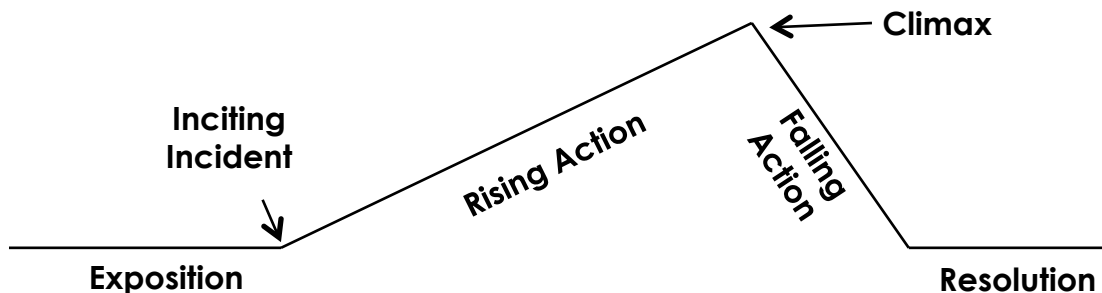
THEME: The message and the meaning of the text.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the organizer. Analyze how the narrative's theme develops by citing specific details from the plot. Provide supporting quotes and explanations.

Narrative Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Genre: _____ **Setting:** _____

Protagonist: _____ **Antagonist:** _____



Plot Element	Specific details in the narrative	Supporting quote	How does the quote help explain how the theme...
EXPOSITION			emerges?
INCITING INCIDENT			is shaped?
RISING ACTION			is shaped/refined?
CLIMAX			is refined?
FALLING ACTION			is refined?
RESOLUTION			The theme is:

STORY CUBE

DIRECTIONS: Draw a picture or symbol that accurately represents the theme of each box.

To assemble the cube, cut out the shape along the thick, solid line. Fold the paper where there is a dotted line, and apply either glue or tape to the striped pieces.

ANTAGONIST

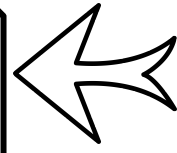
STORY TITLE

THEME

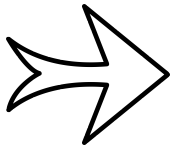
SETTING

CONFLICT

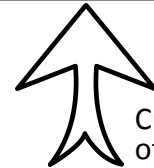
PROTAGONIST



Apply glue or tape to these striped lines when creating the cube.



Draw and label a colorful visual representation for each cube's theme.



Cut the outline of the cube out. Use the solid line as your guide.

THE SHORT STORY

Figurative Language Tracker

TITLE: _____ AUTHOR: _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE Identify the type of figurative language used.	IN CONTEXT Write the quote in which the figurative language appears.	MEANING/SIGNIFICANCE What is the meaning or significance of the language?

THE SHORT STORY

Prediction Chart

TITLE: _____ AUTHOR: _____

PREDICTION	REASONS	TEXTUAL EVIDENCE
Make a prediction about what you think is going to happen.	What reasons from the text support your prediction?	Provide quotes that support your reasons and your prediction.

THE SHORT STORY

Graphic Organizer

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the chart with information about the short story.

THEME

SYMBOL

TITLE AND AUTHOR

CONFLICT

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

THE SHORT STORY

Comic Strip Assignment

DIRECTIONS: Fold your paper into eight boxes like in the example below. Using the eight boxes, create a comic strip that for either the entire novel or just a specific chapter of the novel. Be sure to include the key details and a beginning, middle, and end. Also, make sure that there is a comic strip box dedicated to the conflict of the chapter or novel.

You will need to include colorful illustrations, narration, dialogue (properly cited in MLA format), and conflict in your comic strip.

<p>TITLE BOX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comic Title • Name • Period • Color Illustration 	<p>Make sure the narration is detailed enough to explain the action in the box.</p>	<p>Narration can also be at the top of the box.</p>	
		<p>Dialogue needs to include a "quote from the text" (###).</p>	

COMIC STRIP CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Title Box:** your title slide must include the title of the comic, your name, class period, and an illustration.
- ☐ **Dialogue:** You must include five quotes from the text into the comic. The quotes can be included in any box (except for the title box). Each quote must be properly cited in MLA format.
- ☐ **Narration:** Not including the title box, every box in the comic strip needs to include narration (a summary of the action happening that is written in your own words). The narration needs to be accurate, grammatically correct, and in chronological order.
- ☐ **Conflict:** At least one box in your comic needs to establish the conflict that is presented in this episode.
- ☐ **Illustrations:** Every single box needs to be in full color and show that you put effort into this project.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Per: _____

THE SHORT STORY

Comic Strip Assignment

Use the space provided below to plan a rough sketch of your comic strip before you transfer it to the larger paper.

THE SHORT STORY

Analyzing Theme Essay

The theme of a short story is its central message. It is an idea that the author is trying to convey to the audience. In a five paragraph essay, you will analyze and identify the theme of the narrative.

Look specifically at how the theme emerged in the beginning of the story, how it is refined throughout the story, and how the theme became fully developed by the end of the story.

Your final essay must be typed in MLA format and include textual citations and a works cited page. All textual citations must be properly cited in MLA format.

Final Draft Due: _____ Rough Draft Due: _____

Other Important Deadlines: _____

Text Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Summary: _____

} Use this information for
the background
section of the
introduction

Possible Themes:

Use the space below to begin brainstorming.

THE SHORT STORY

Theme Analysis Essay Outline

Use this essay outline to help you organize your thoughts. Remember to introduce quotes, cite them properly, and explain how the quote supports your topic sentence.

I. Introduction

- a. Hook
- b. Background information
- c. Thesis

II. Body Paragraph 1 (How the theme emerges. Where is the theme first introduced?)

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Example 1
- c. Quote supporting example 1
- d. Explanation
- e. Example 2
- f. Quote or paraphrased information supporting example 2
- g. Explanation
- h. Transition

III. Body Paragraph 2 (How the theme is refined. What new details help shape the theme?)

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Example 1
- c. Quote supporting example 1
- d. Explanation
- e. Example 2
- f. Quote or paraphrased information supporting example 2
- g. Explanation
- h. Transition

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (How the theme is fully developed. How does the conclusion of the novel shape the theme?)

- a. Topic Sentence
- b. Example 1
- c. Quote supporting example 1
- d. Explanation
- e. Example 2
- f. Quote or paraphrased information supporting example 2
- g. Explanation
- h. Transition

V. Conclusion

- a. Restatement of thesis
- b. Final thoughts

THE SHORT STORY

Theme Analysis Essay Outline

Author Name: _____ **Peer Reviewer Name:** _____

Essay Topic: _____

Essay Thesis: _____

	Yes	No	Comment
ORGANIZATION			
Is there a title?			
Are paragraphs used? Is each paragraph indented?			
INTRODUCTION			
Is there an attention getter in the first sentence of the paper?			
Does the author include background information informing the audience about the topic?			
Is there a thesis statement?			
Is the thesis statement the last sentence of the paragraph?			
BODY PARAGRAPHS			
Is there a quotation in every body paragraph?			
Does each body paragraph provide at least two examples that support the topic sentence?			
Is the evidence cited properly? "quote" (#).			
After the quote, is there some sort of explanation of the T.S.?			
CONCLUSION			
Does the writer restate the thesis?			

Circle the below errors in the paper you are peer editing and make the necessary corrections

- Contractions (don't, won't, he's, can't, should've, etc.)
- Slang (wanna, coulda, gonna, etc.)
- 1st and 2nd personal pronouns (I, me, we, you, your, you're)
- Numbers 1-10 are spelled out and numbers 11 and higher are written as numbers
- Spelling errors
- Grammatical errors

THEME ANALYSIS GRADING RUBRIC

Introduction	15	12	9	3
	Contains an interesting hook, adequate background information, and a strong thesis.	Contains a hook, background information, and a thesis.	Missing or partial background information and/or hook. Thesis is present.	No introduction/ no thesis statement.
Body	30	24	18	6
	The body paragraphs include excellent detail, sufficient evidence, and at least one quote per body paragraph. The examples are thoroughly explained.	The body paragraphs include adequate detail, some evidence, and at least one quote per body paragraph. The examples are somewhat explained.	The body paragraphs include some detail and evidence. One body quotation may be missing. There is an attempt at explaining the examples.	The body paragraphs are lacking detail and do not have enough quotations from the book.
Conclusion	10		5	
	The conclusion restates the thesis and includes a final statement, thought, or idea.		The conclusion restates the thesis.	
MLA format	15	12	9	3
Paper is properly set up and cited in MLA format	There are no MLA formatting or citing errors.	There are a few MLA formatting or citing errors.	There are formatting and citing errors.	The paper is not in MLA format
Grammar	10	8	6	2
	There are no grammatical errors.	There are a few minor grammatical errors.	There are a few major grammatical errors.	The paper contains many major grammatical errors.
Style	10	8	6	2
Academic language, formal tone, correct POV, no contractions	No contractions and no 1 st or 2 nd person personal pronouns.	Paper contains fewer than three contractions and/or 1 st or 2 nd person personal pronouns.	Paper contains fewer than 10 contractions and/or 1 st or 2 nd person personal pronouns.	Paper has many stylistic errors.
Organization	10		6	
	The paper is organized in a logical manner		The paper lacks organization	

 Comments: _____

Total Score

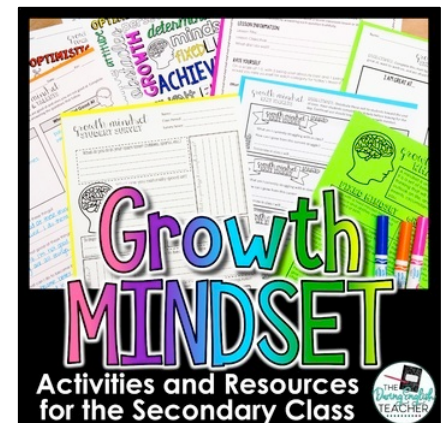
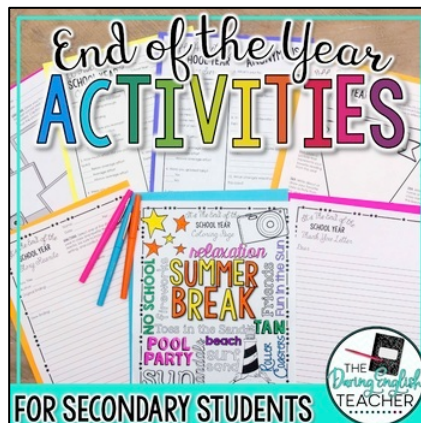
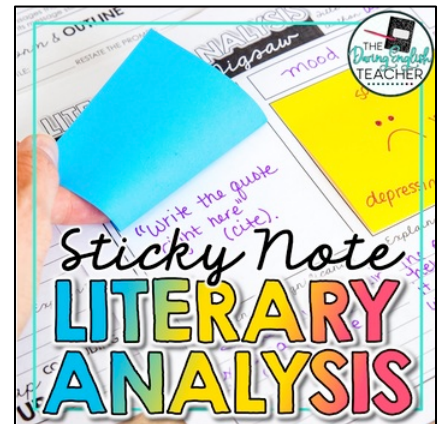
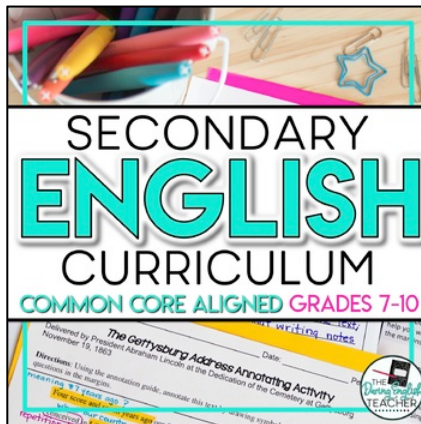
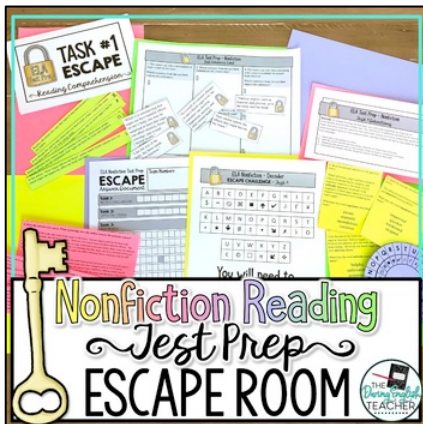
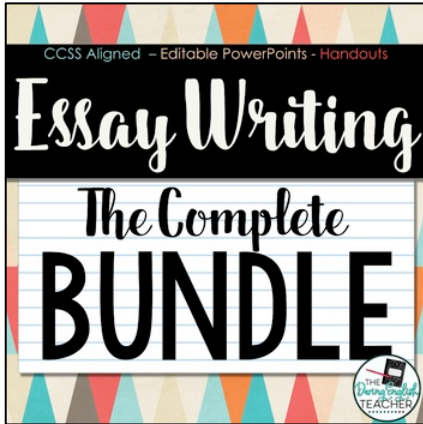
THEME ANALYSIS GRADING RUBRIC

Introduction				
	Contains an interesting hook, adequate background information, and a strong thesis.	Contains a hook, background information, and a thesis.	Missing or partial background information and/or hook. Thesis is present.	No introduction/ no thesis statement.
Body				
	The body paragraphs include excellent detail, sufficient evidence, and at least one quote per body paragraph. The examples are thoroughly explained.	The body paragraphs include adequate detail, some evidence, and at least one quote per body paragraph. The examples are somewhat explained.	The body paragraphs include some detail and evidence. One body quotation may be missing. There is an attempt at explaining the examples.	The body paragraphs are lacking detail and do not have enough quotations from the book.
Conclusion				
	The conclusion restates the thesis and includes a final statement, thought, or idea.		The conclusion restates the thesis.	
MLA format				
Paper is properly set up and cited in MLA format	There are no MLA formatting or citing errors.	There are a few MLA formatting or citing errors.	There are formatting and citing errors.	The paper is not in MLA format
Grammar				
	There are no grammatical errors.	There are a few minor grammatical errors.	There are a few major grammatical errors.	The paper contains many major grammatical errors.
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Organization	10		6	
	The paper is organized in a logical manner		The paper lacks organization	

 Comments: _____

Total Score

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