Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School

7th/8th English

Ms. Schiller

Essay I: short stories

Please choose ONE of the following questions and, using TIQA, respond to it with a literary analysis essay. This should be double-spaced, typed in 12 point font, and written in 3rd person.

Please remember that you can always email me if you’re having trouble or just want to bounce thesis ideas off of me (mschiller@akibaschechter.org). Just don’t wait until the last minute.

Good luck!

***Stories***

* “The Fun They Had,” by Isaac Asimov
* “The Thrill of the Grass,” by W.P. Kinsella
* “Charles,” by Shirley Jackson
* “Eye of the Beholder,” by Rod Serling *(Note: this was not converted into a short story format, so you have two choices for referring back to the text and finding evidence. You can rewatch the episode at this URL or you can read the actual screenplay, available at this URL:)*
* “The Tell-Tale Heart,” Edgar Allen Poe
* “The Landlady,” by Roald Dahl
1. “The Thrill of the Grass”: In this story, many of Kinsella’s word choices suggest that for the protagonist, baseball—and the grass on which it’s played—is more than just a game. **Just what else IS baseball and why is it worth writing about?** What is Kinsella’s main point about baseball and its relationship to the American people? How do his word choices help to convey this theme?
2. “Eye of the Beholder”: This story is powerful not just because of what you see, but because of what you don’t see. Serling’s choice of when to reveal certain images plays a significant part in that. Using this story as your model, **show how a writer’s decision to withhold information helps or detracts from his ability to convey a theme.**
3. SUSPENSE: Many of the stories above are suspenseful, though in very different ways. **Which is the most suspenseful? Why?** How does a writer build suspense?

*(Note: the above essays all ask you to focus on one story in particular. The next two ask you to compare* ***two.*** *These are a bit more complicated, because you will have to use two pieces of evidence in each TIQA paragraph.)*

1. THEME. Choose two of the stories listed above and compare them for theme. **Which is more effective at conveying the theme?** Why? How does the author’s use of literary techniques (foreshadowing, suspense, climax, imagery, you get the picture) either contribute to or detract from that theme? (Note: you do not need to introduce every literary technique into your essay. Choose a couple that you feel good about discussing.)
2. IMAGERY. Some of these stories use a great deal of imagery; others do not**. Is there such a thing as too much imagery?** Choose two stories from above to prove your point. (Note: you may want to compare one story with a lot of imagery to one without much at all and show how one is more effective than the other.)