

Hey everybody!

I'm super excited to see you all in English 2, where the work becomes a little more challenging, the expectations are ratched up a bit, and the stakes are just a little higher. What you'll learn about me is that I expect you to behave with academic integrity and honesty, and personal responsibility and ownership. As sophomores, I don't expect to have to chase you around and remind you 100 times to be in class on time, do you work, and own your stuff. I consider you young adults, and my expectations reflect that. I'm sure you'll rise to the challenge.

I'm changing up the usual summer work for the E2 course just to add some variety. I am providing you with a copy of three of my favorite short stories. Individually, I don't think you'll find any of them overly difficult, but they demand your attention and focus. A couple are a little long, one is very short, but all of them will ask something of you. In response to each story, you will write a brief, 1-2 paragraph analysis, responding to questions below.

You will turn in one document within the first week of our return to school. I will also open a summer Google Classroom page where you can ask questions if you have them, and submit your work early if it's complete.

Questions to inform your short story analysis:

Remember to give your short bios on the authors before you read.

These are three of my favorite stories, so don't screw this up or you'll hurt my feelings!!!

1. One thing that continues to be a challenge with your grade, and will be even more important as sophomores, is to remember that the purpose of your writing is *never to prove to your teacher that you've read*. If you write that way, you'll write a book report, and you're not in elementary school. If you write about a text without reading it, I'll know. Or, maybe you'll get away with it. You are not regurgitating; you are analyzing. As such, there are no specific questions that I need you to go down the line and answer. What I do want your thoughts on are theme, character, symbolism, etc... Of those items, theme is the most important. If you analyze theme sufficiently, often you will address the other items in the course of the writing. What was the author doing in the story? What message, lesson, warning, etc? And, of course, textual evidence. How do you know that? If you answer that thoroughly, all else will follow.

So, in summation, what I want are a couple of paragraphs for each, analyzing the theme of each story, and supporting that analysis. Within that, I would imagine analyses of character, plot, symbolism, etc..., will naturally emerge.

In terms of formatting, divide each analysis with a subtitle. The subtitle should be the title of the story analysis. For instance, for "Ishwari's Children", your title would be:

"Ishwari's Children" Analysis

You'll learn that I'm a stickler for details and formatting. In my class, we follow MLA (Modern Language Association) formatting guidelines. I'm not going to articulate those rules, or give you any resources... for now. I want you to do your very best to format this paper correctly and

include everything that needs to be included. I will not be taking credit away for formatting mistakes. I just want to see where you are and what you need from me. After this assignment, formatting errors will cost you credit.

All of the stories are linked here, and will be on the Google Classroom page as well. The Classroom page will be the best place to reach out to me with questions, as I will not be checking my email very frequently.

Don't let this be a burden to your summer! It's quick, easy work. Do it early on and then relax. You've earned it.

Have fun and enjoy these works!

[Ishwari's Children](#)

[The Scapegoat](#)

[The Veldt](#)