**Creative Writing Assignment: Thematic Short Story**

**Assignment:** Choose one of the topics listed below, one of the topics we brainstormed together as a class, or an idea of your own to create a short story that demonstrates your knowledge and understanding of the literary elements of fiction.

**Due date:** Friday, Sept. 25th

**First Step**: Before beginning the writing process, you must complete a plot diagram for your story. This will help you map out your ideas and make sure you have all the required elements for the final project. You will also complete a character development packet for your story. Your story must have at least two character and use dialogue, so developing and understanding who your characters are will help you meet this expectation.

**Paper requirements:**

* The paper must be **3-4 pages typed**, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1inch margins.
* Include a creative title that doesn’t give too much of the story away.
* Include at least 2 characters, dialogue, and descriptive concrete details that give the reader a sense of who the characters are.
* You must include the six basic features of the fiction plot diagram:
  + Exposition
  + Conflict
  + Complications/Rising Actions
  + Climax
  + Resolution
  + Theme
* Remember to include the required heading in the upper left-hand corner.
  + Example: Jane Smith

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* The story should use rich language and show understanding of the 6 traits of effective writing

(ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions,)

* You must include all process, including brainstorming activities, rough drafts, peer review, and your final copy. (Staple all supportive materials to the back of the final copy.)
* Rubric must be stapled to the front.

**Due Dates and Points Available:**

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| Assignment | Points: 150 points total | Due Date |
| Brainstorming activities | 10 | September 4th |
| First Draft | 10 | September 11th |
| Peer Review | 10 | September 14th-15th |
| Second Draft | 10 | September 18th |
| Second Peer Review | 10 | September 21st-22nd |
| Final Draft | 100 | September 25th |

**Story Choices (if not choosing your own idea):**

# Twisted Fairy Tale

This is a story that uses fairy tales you know and changes the *characters, setting, points of view,* or *plots*. You can mix fairy tales plots; change the exposition, setting, conflict, or resolution; tell the story from another character’s perspective; or even put yourself in the story.

Examples: *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, *The Wolf Who Cried Boy, Big Red Riding Hood*

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|  | Common Elements of Fairy Tales |
| 1. Basic Situation | * Set in the past—usually significantly long ago * May be presented as historical fact from the past * Includes fantasy, supernatural, or make-believe aspects * May include objects, people, or events in threes |
| 2. Conflict | * Typically incorporates clearly defined good characters and evil characters * Focus the plot on a problem or conflict that needs to be solved |
| 3. Complications/  Rising Actions | * Involves magic elements, which may be magical people, animals, or objects * Magic may be positive or negative |
| 4. Climax | • There is usually a good vs. evil face-off |
| 5. Resolution | • Often have happy endings, based on the resolution of the conflict or problem |
| 6. Theme | • Usually teach a lesson or demonstrate values important to the culture |

# Science Fiction

This is a literary genre in which fantasy, typically based on speculative scientific discoveries or developments, environmental changes, space travel, or life on other planets, forms part of the plot or background.

Examples: *War of the Worlds*, *A Brave New World*, *Dune*, *The Time Machine*, *Star Trek*

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|  | Common Elements of Science Fiction |
| 1. Basic Situation | * A setting in outer space, on other worlds or planets, or involving aliens, or all of these elements combined * A setting somewhere in the future, in a parallel universe, in an alternative timeline, or in a historical past that oppose known facts of history or archaeological finds * Stories that engage scientific principles or technology that contradict known laws of physics or nature |
| 2. Conflict | • Man vs. Science/Technology |
| 3. Complications/  Rising Actions | • Stories that involve the discovery or the application of new scientific principles, such as time travel, or new innovations or technology, such as nanotechnology, faster-than-light travel or robots, or of new and different political or social systems |
| 4. Climax | • There is some kind of struggle between Man and his humanity with the advances of technology |
| 5. Resolution | • Either Man or technology wins |
| 6. Theme | • The lesson is usually about the power of science and how it can be used for good or evil |

# New Superhero Tale

In this option you can create a new superhero to solve a problem. Superheroes usually have super-human power that they use to protect the public from evil. You can even create a superhero with an unlikely power. Use the following guidelines to help build your story.

Examples: *Batman*, *X Men*, *Spiderman*, *Superman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Iron Man*

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|  | Common Elements of Superhero Tales |
| 1. Basic Situation | * Includes a special story about how hero receives powers * Superheroes consider their duty a calling * Superhero usually has a theme that affects the costume or symbol • Works out of a headquarters |
| 2. Conflict | • Has an archenemy |
| 3. Complications/  Rising Actions | * Includes a secret identity the superhero needs to protect * Superhero powers vary widely; superhuman strength, the ability to fly, enhanced senses, and the projection of energy bolts are all common |
| 4. Climax | • There is usually a showdown between the superhero and his/her archenemy |
| 5. Resolution | • Superhero usually wins |
| 6. Theme | • Good concurs evil |