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**Short Story Project Rubric – STAPLE TO THE BACK OF HARD COPY**

AP English 4 – Major Grade

**Part One: (15 pts.)**

You should do some brief research on the author’s background and the time period to get a sense of how those impacted your story. You can approach this as a reflection regarding HOW this information impacts your reading of the story. CITE your information from a CREDIBLE source. 2+ sources, 200+ words. (MLA citations at the end of this section – you may use EasyBib. Please also use in-text citations when using direct quotes.)

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| PART ONE SCORING | **Level 4** (5 points) | **Level 3** (4 points) | **Level 2** (2 points) | **Level 1** (1-0 points) |
| **Development of Ideas**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Ideas about impact of author’s background are insightful and interesting  - Ideas are well-supported with evidence  - Explanations are especially thorough | - Ideas about impact of author’s background demonstrate thoughtfulness  - Ideas are supported with evidence  - Explanations are well-developed | - Some attempts at original thought but, overall, provides only surface-level comparisons between the author’s life and the story  - Most ideas are supported with evidence  - Explanations are present but underdeveloped | - May lose focus by giving a biography without really explaining its impact OR by focusing on personal reaction without referring to research  - Several ideas not supported  - Explanations minimal, redundant, or otherwise flawed |
| **Fluency and Word Choice**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Effectively uses sentence variety to add liveliness to writing  - Sentences are especially fluent and transitions enhance clarity of ideas  - Word choice is purposeful, precise, and impressive  - Audience awareness is clearly evident  - Superior editing (no errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, etc.) | - Uses sentence variety to enhance writing  - Sentences are fluent and transitions create clear connections between ideas  - Word choice is effective and purposeful  - Audience awareness is evident  - Effective editing (only a few minor errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, etc.) | - Attempts to vary sentences but with some syntax issues  - Some issues with fluency and/or transitions between ideas  - Some issues with word choice (not always effective or precise)  - A few minor lapses in audience awareness  - Editing problems (multiple errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, etc.) | - Limited sentence variety and/or several syntax problems  - Pervasive issues with fluency and/or abrupt shifts between ideas  - Pervasive issues with word choice (ineffective or vague)  - Does not demonstrate audience awareness  - No attempt at editing (several errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, etc. that impede meaning) |
| **Sources and Formatting**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Draws well-chosen and interesting information from at least 2 credible sources  - Effectively embeds all quotations  - Uses MLA-formatted parenthetical citations for all outside information  - Includes MLA-formatted Works Cited entries at the end of the section  - Follows all formatting guidelines:12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings | - Draws relevant information from at least 2 credible sources  - Embeds all quotations  - Uses MLA-formatted parenthetical citations for all outside info, perhaps with 1 minor error  - Includes MLA-formatted Works Cited entries, perhaps with 1 minor error  - Follows all formatting guidelines:12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings | - Draws information from at least 2 credible sources  - A few quotes are not correctly embedded  - Uses MLA-formatted parenthetical citations for most outside information but may have a few errors  - Includes MLA-formatted Works Cited entries at the end of the section but with some errors  - Follows most formatting guidelines | - Information is irrelevant and/or does not come from 2 credible sources  - Fails to embed quotes  - Several parenthetical citations are missing or incorrectly formatted  - Works Cited entries are missing or not in MLA format  - Does not follow formatting guidelines |
| **SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 15** | | Comments: | | |

**Part Two: (15 pts.)**

TWO OPTIONS: 1) Write a paragraph based on what YOU think the overall theme of this story is (i.e., what is the author’s purpose in writing this story? What message is he trying to get across to his audience? How does Existentialism and/or Absurdism factor into the theme?) Use at least 4 embedded quotes to back up your assertions. 200+ words. 2) Come up with a creative response to the thematic questions posed in #1. This could be a comic strip, a drawing, a sculpture, a painting, a video, a poem, etc. You could also find and analyze a poem that connects to the same theme as your short story. This creative interpretation must be ORIGINAL and THOUGHTFUL (not lazy, and I have high standards). If you choose this option, I would like you to pitch it to me first, which you may do to my face or via an email (PRE-SPRING BREAK). On the back of your artwork (or somewhere within your creative piece), you must incorporate 4 relevant quotes from your text in some way.

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| PART TWO SCORING | **Level 4** (5 points) | **Level 3** (4 points) | **Level 2** (2 points) | **Level 1** (1-0 points) |
| **Development of Ideas**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Thoroughly addresses all parts of the prompt  - Demonstrates impressive insight  - Supports ideas with at least 4 well-chosen quotes from the text | - Fully addresses all parts of the prompt  - Demonstrates thoughtfulness  - Supports ideas with at least 4 relevant quotes from the text | - Addresses most parts of the prompt but development may be limited in some places  - Some attempts at original thought but may be superficial or cliché at times  - Supports ideas with at least 3 relevant quotes from the text | - Fails to address several parts of the prompt OR does so with very minimal development  - Ideas or overly simplistic, vague, or mainly summary  - Missing 2 or more quotes OR quotes provided are irrelevant |
| **Fluency and Word Choice**  **OR**  **Creative Execution**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Effectively uses sentence variety and word choice (or creative elements) to add liveliness  - Sentences are especially fluent and transitions enhance clarity of ideas  (or product is especially easy to understand)  - Audience awareness is clearly evident | - Uses sentence variety and word choice (or creative elements) to enhance meaning  - Sentences are fluent and transitions create clear connections between ideas (or product is easy to understand)  - Audience awareness is evident | - Attempts to vary sentences (or use creative elements) but with some issues  - Some issues with fluency and/or transitions between ideas (or some aspects of product are difficult to understand)  - Some issues with word choice (not always effective or precise)  - A few minor lapses in audience awareness | - Limited sentence variety (or creative elements) and/or several problems  - Pervasive issues with fluency and/or abrupt shifts between ideas (or product is difficult to understand)  - Pervasive issues with word choice (ineffective or vague)  - Does not demonstrate audience awareness |
| **Format & Editing**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Effectively embeds (or incorporates) all quotes  - Follows all formatting guidelines:12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings  - Superior editing (or neatness) | - Embeds (or incorporates) all quotes  - Follows all formatting guidelines:12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings  - Effective editing (or neatness) | - A few quotes are not correctly embedded (or incorporated)  - Follows most formatting guidelines  - Editing problems (or issues with neatness) | - Fails to embed (or incorporate) quotes  - Does not follow formatting guidelines  - No attempt at editing (or sloppy/rushed) |
| **SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_ / 15** | | Comments: | | |

Part Three: (25 pts.)

You will then read an article of literary criticism based on your story and write a short essay analyzing the merit of that criticism based on your reading and interpretation of the story. You may agree with some things and disagree with others, or agree/disagree with the criticism entirely. Regardless, you’ll need to ADD to the critic’s argument using your own ideas and supplemental textual support (for example, if you agree, you can’t just say, “I agree with this. I also agree with this. This is good, too. Mobled queen is good.” You need to defend WHY the critic’s assessment is accurate and supply support). 400+ words. (Use the **school’s databases** to look for lit crit BEFORE resorting to Google; if you can’t find something on just your story, look for lit crit on the author’s work in general.) CITE your lit crit at the end of this section.

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| PART THREE SCORING | **Level 4** | **Level 3** | **Level 2** | **Level 1** |
| **Organization**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | **5 points**  **-** Section is thoughtfully organized according to requirements and models provided (look at book project sample essay, but these sections can be shorter).  - Ideas are clearly structured and especially easy to follow  - Transitions enhance clarity of ideas | **4 points**  **-** Section is organized according to requirements and models provided  - Ideas are effectively structured and easy to follow  - Transitions create clear connections between ideas | **2 points**  **-** A few problems with organization  - At times, ideas are hard to follow or seem disjointed  - A few abrupt or ineffective transitions between ideas | **1-0 points**  **-** Pervasive issues with organization (makes no attempt to follow the models or requirements)  - Ideas are difficult to follow throughout the essay  - Several abrupt shifts between ideas |
| **Development of Ideas**  \_\_\_\_ / 10 | **10-9 points**  - Thoroughly analyzes the merit of the lit crit and crafts a compelling, persuasive argument in response  - Demonstrates impressive insight  - Supports ideas with at least 4 well-chosen quotes (min. of 2 from the lit crit and 2 from the story) | **8-7 points**  - Effectively analyzes the merit of the lit crit and provides an original, persuasive argument in response  - Demonstrates thoughtfulness  - Supports ideas with at least 4 relevant quotes (min. of 2 from the lit crit and 2 from the story) | **6-5 points**  - Partially analyzes the merit of the lit crit and/or provides an argument that is not particularly persuasive  - Some attempts at original thought but may be superficial at times  - Does not fully support ideas; only includes 3 relevant quotes total from lit crit and story | **4-0 points**  - Fails to analyze the merit of the lit crit and/or provides an unoriginal or ineffective argument in response  - Ideas or overly simplistic, vague, misguided, or mainly summary  - Missing 2 or more quotes from the lit crit and/or story OR quotes provided are irrelevant |
| **Fluency and Word Choice**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | **5 points**  - Effectively uses sentence variety to add liveliness to writing  - Sentences are especially fluent  - Word choice is purposeful, precise, and impressive  - Audience awareness is clearly evident  - Superior editing (no errors) | **4 points**  - Uses sentence variety to enhance writing  - Sentences are fluent  - Word choice is effective and purposeful  - Audience awareness is evident  - Effective editing (only a few minor errors) | **2 points**  - Attempts to vary sentences but with some syntax issues  - Some issues with fluency  - Some issues with word choice (not always effective or precise)  - A few minor lapses in audience awareness  - Editing problems (multiple errors) | **1-0 points**  - Limited sentence variety and/or several syntax problems  - Pervasive issues with fluency  - Pervasive issues with word choice (ineffective or vague)  - Does not demonstrate audience awareness  - No attempt at editing (several distracting errors) |
| **Sources and Formatting**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | **5 points**  - Effectively embeds all quotations  - Uses MLA-formatted parenthetical citations for all quotes and paraphrases  - Includes MLA-formatted Works Cited entry at the end of the section  - Follows all formatting guidelines (12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings) | **4 points**  - Draws relevant information from at least 2 credible sources  - Embeds all quotations  - Uses MLA-formatted parenthetical citations all quotes and paraphrases, perhaps with 1 minor error  - Includes MLA-formatted Works Cited entry, perhaps with 1 minor error  - Follows all formatting guidelines | **2 points**  - A few quotes are not correctly embedded  - Uses MLA-formatted parenthetical citations for most quotes and paraphrases but maybe a few errors  - Includes MLA-formatted Works Cited entry at the end of the section but with some errors  - Follows most formatting guidelines | **1-0 points**  - Fails to embed quotes  - Several parenthetical citations are missing or incorrectly formatted  - Works Cited entry is missing or not in MLA format  - Does not follow formatting guidelines |
| **SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_ / 25** | | Comments: | | |

Part Four: (25 pts.)

You will also analyze your story based on style and structure: since this is arguably the hardest aspect of literature to complexly analyze, we want to get some more practice. Analyze your story on a close-reading level based on diction, syntax, and other stylistic elements (for example: the inclusion of dialogue versus the omission of dialogue, or the length of paragraphs or sentences). See the back of this page for guidelines on writing about style. 400+ words.

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| PART FOUR SCORING | **Level 4** (5 points) | **Level 3** (4 points) | **Level 2** (2 points) | **Level 1** (1-0 points) |
| **Organization**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | **5 points**  **-** Section is thoughtfully organized according to requirements and models provided (look at book project sample essay, but these sections can be shorter).  - Ideas are clearly structured and especially easy to follow  - Transitions enhance clarity of ideas | **4 points**  **-** Section is organized according to requirements and models provided  - Ideas are effectively structured and easy to follow  - Transitions create clear connections between ideas | **2 points**  **-** A few problems with organization  - At times, ideas are hard to follow or seem disjointed  - A few abrupt or ineffective transitions between ideas | **1-0 points**  **-** Pervasive issues with organization (makes no attempt to follow the models or requirements)  - Ideas are difficult to follow throughout the essay  - Several abrupt shifts between ideas |
| **Development of Ideas**  \_\_\_\_ / 10 | **10-9 points**  - Thoroughly analyzes the author’s writing style  - Demonstrates impressive insight  - Supports ideas with at least 4 well-chosen quotes from the text | **8-7 points**  - Effectively analyzes the author’s writing style  - Demonstrates thoughtfulness  - Supports ideas with at least 4 relevant quotes from the text | **6-5 points**  - Partially analyzes the author’s style OR analysis contains minor flaws  - Some attempts at original thought but may be superficial or cliché at times  - Supports ideas with at least 3 relevant quotes from the text | **4-0 points**  - Fails to effectively and/or accurately analyze the author’s style  - Ideas or overly simplistic, misguided, vague, or mainly summary  - Missing 2 or more quotes OR quotes provided are irrelevant |
| **Fluency and Word Choice**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Effectively uses sentence variety and word choice (or creative elements) to add liveliness  - Sentences are especially fluent and transitions enhance clarity of ideas  (or product is especially easy to understand)  - Audience awareness is clearly evident | - Uses sentence variety and word choice (or creative elements) to enhance meaning  - Sentences are fluent and transitions create clear connections between ideas (or product is easy to understand)  - Audience awareness is evident | - Attempts to vary sentences (or use creative elements) but with some issues  - Some issues with fluency and/or transitions between ideas (or some aspects of product are difficult to understand)  - Some issues with word choice (not always effective or precise)  - A few minor lapses in audience awareness | - Limited sentence variety (or creative elements) and/or several problems  - Pervasive issues with fluency and/or abrupt shifts between ideas (or product is difficult to understand)  - Pervasive issues with word choice (ineffective or vague)  - Does not demonstrate audience awareness |
| **Format & Editing**  \_\_\_\_ / 5 | - Effectively embeds (or incorporates) all quotes  - Follows all formatting guidelines:12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings  - Superior editing (or neatness) | - Embeds (or incorporates) all quotes  - Follows all formatting guidelines:12 pt Times New Roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, bold headings  - Effective editing (or neatness) | - A few quotes are not correctly embedded (or incorporated)  - Follows most formatting guidelines  - Editing problems (or issues with neatness) | - Fails to embed (or incorporate) quotes  - Does not follow formatting guidelines  - No attempt at editing (or sloppy/rushed) |
| **SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / 25** | | Comments: | | |

**PLEASE STAPLE THIS TO THE BACK OF YOUR HARD COPY!!!! NOT THE FRONT!!! THANK YOU!!!!! 😊**