



Brevity is the Soul of Lit: Enter the Short Story

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Why Short Stories?

Which Short Stories?

19th Century

“Bartleby, the Scrivener”
Herman Melville

“The Lady with the Dog”
Anton Chekhov

“A White Heron”
Sarah Orne Jewett

“The Yellow Wallpaper”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman

“Young Goodman Brown”
Nathaniel Hawthorne

20th Century

“Bliss”
Katherine Mansfield

“The Chrysanthemums”
John Steinbeck

“Eveline”
James Joyce

“Interpreter of Maladies”
Jhumpa Lahiri

“One of These Days”
Gabriel García Márquez

“A Rose for Emily”
William Faulkner

“Sweat”
Zora Neale Hurston

21st Century

“Anyone Can Do It”
Manuel Muñoz

“Apollo”
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

“Fatherland”
Viet Thanh Nguyen

“Friday Black”
Nana Kwame Adjei-Bryah

“Grief”
Scholastique Muksonga

“Spider the Artist”
Nnedi Okorafor

“Sticks”
George Saunders

“The Stone”
Louise Erdich

“Suburbia!”
Amy Silverberg

“The Trip”
Weike Wang

Short Fiction:
A Pathway to Analyzing
Larger Works

Big Ideas

Character

Narration

Structure

Figurative Language

Setting

Literary Argumentation

Short Story Protocol: Naguib Mahfouz's “Half a Day”

Unit 1: Short Fiction Analysis

Text: Naguib Mahfouz’s “Half a Day”

STEP ONE

Big Idea	Task	Notes/Observations
Character	Identify and describe what specific textual details reveal about a character, that character’s perspective, and that character’s motives.	
Setting	Identify and describe specific textual details that convey or reveal a setting.	
Structure	Identify and describe how plot orders events in a narrative.	
Structure	Explain the function of a particular sequence of events in a plot.	
Narration	Identify and describe the narrator or speaker of a text.	
Narration	Identify and explain the function of point of view in a narrative.	

Extension: Practicing for Literary Argumentation

Many works of literature feature characters who accept or reject a hierarchical structure. This hierarchy may be social, economic, political, or familial, and it may apply to some other kind of structure.

Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character responds to a hierarchy in some significant way. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how that character's response to the hierarchy contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

Unit 9: Longer Fiction/Drama Analysis

Text: _____

STEP ONE

Big Idea	Task	Notes/Observations
Character	Explain the function of a character changing or remaining unchanged.	
Character	Explain how a character's own choices, actions, and speech reveal complexities in that character, and explain the function of those complexities.	
Structure	Explain the function of a significant event or related set of significant events in a plot.	
Structure	Explain the function of conflict in a text.	
Narration	Identify and describe details, diction, or syntax in a text that reveal a narrator's or speaker's perspective.	

STEP TWO

Claim	Evidence	Commentary

STEP THREE

(Students will respond to a previously used Literary Argument question that aligns with the selected text.)

Developing Curricular Units

Sample Cluster 1: Coming of Age

"A&P"

"Half a Day"

"The Moths"

The Catcher
in the Rye

Demon
Copperhead

Jasmine

Sample Cluster 2: _____

"I Stand Here
Ironing"

"The Story of
an Hour"

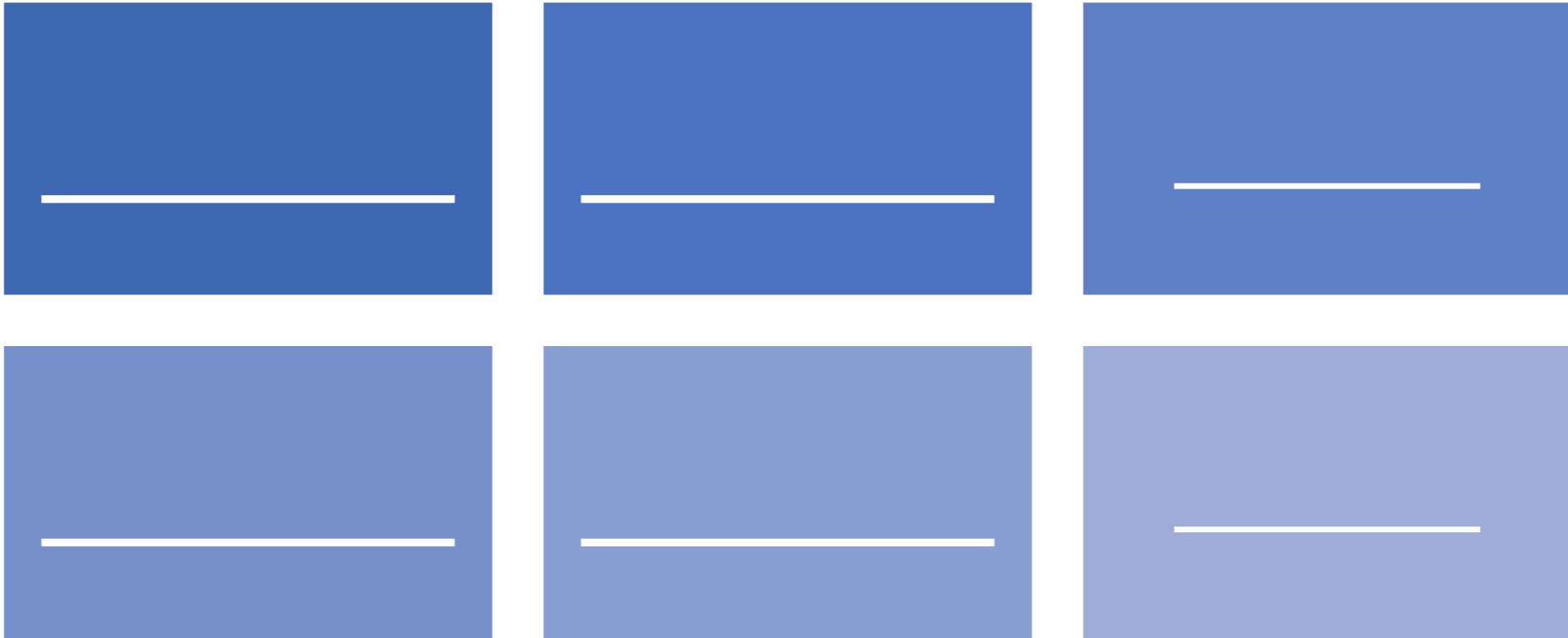
"The Yellow
Wallpaper"

The
Awakening

A Thousand
Splendid Suns

Their Eyes
Were
Watching God

Sample Cluster 3: Setting



Thank You

