

Short Story Extended Response – Grading Rubric

Parents: Together with your student, revise the paragraph using this rubric as a guide. Then, score the items in the left column only, and sign and date this form. Students should staple this sheet BEHIND their printed paragraph.

ITEMS GRADED BY PARENT

Each checkbox in the left column is worth ½ point. Together, you may continue making revisions until full points are earned.

MLA Formatting:

- 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Double-spaced. No extra space between paragraphs. (i.e. set paragraph spacing to 0 “before” and “after”)
- Times New Roman, 12-pt font. (including header)
- Header: student’s last name, a space, and the page number; upper right corner of every page, ½ inch from top.
- On the first page, aligned left:
 - 1st Line: Student’s First and Last Name
 - 2nd Line: Tutor’s Name (spelled correctly)
 - 3rd Line: Course Name
 - 4th Line: Date formatted like: 15 August 2023
- The paragraph title is centered and properly capitalized on the 5th line. (*not bold, not italics, not underlined*)
- The paragraph begins on the 6th line.
- The first line of the paragraph is indented ½ inch.

Word Choice:

- Limit of 2 “be” verbs* (please count each occurrence of *am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been*)
 - 3rd person voice ONLY* (*he, she, it, they*)
(No 1st or 2nd person: *I, me, you, your, we, us, our, etc.*)
 - No contractions*
- *those in direct quotes do not count*

Paragraph Components:

- Minimum of 8 sentences. (please count)
- The topic sentence includes the author’s full name and the full title of the short story.

Formatting:

- The title of the short story is properly capitalized and in quotation marks; *not underlined, not italicized.*
- After the first mention of the author by full name, he/she is referred to subsequently by last name only.
- Each quote has a properly formatted and punctuated in-text citation with the author’s name and page number.
Example: “This is the quote” (Dickens 9).
or: Dickens writes, “This is the quote” (9).

Parent Points: _____ / 8

ITEMS TO BE GRADED BY TUTOR

Use this list as a guide to help with paragraph revisions but **do not mark** the items in this column.

- 1 0 Title: creative, hints at paragraph’s topic but does not give it away. *Not* the story’s title or “ER”
- 2 1 0 Topic Sentence: includes title, author, and clearly but broadly addresses the prompt question.
- 2 1 0 1st Assertion: expands the topic by telling a more specific claim *and* gives brief story context.
- 1 0 Evidence: a direct quote that clearly relates to and supports the 1st assertion.
- 2 1 0 Commentary: literary analysis that explains how your evidence (quote) proves your assertion (claim). Completes the first proof.
- 1 0 Transition: a word or phrase that clearly indicates the change from the 1st proof to the 2nd proof.
- 2 1 0 2nd Assertion: expands the topic again by telling a second (different but related) claim *and* gives brief story context to set up the second quote.
- 1 0 Evidence: a direct quote that clearly relates to and supports the 2nd assertion.
- 2 1 0 Commentary: literary analysis that explains how your evidence (quote) proves your assertion (claim). Completes the second proof.
- 2 1 0 Concluding Sentence: final, impactful thought. Wraps up the *entire* paragraph (not just the 2nd proof). Does not add new evidence or analysis.
- 1 0 Argument: shows thoughtful construction; fully, clearly, and persuasively answers the prompt.
- 1 0 Syntax: complete sentences, no run-ons or sentence fragments.
- 2 1 0 Communication: clear and logical; no awkward phrasing; transitions between ideas as needed.
- 2 1 0 Word Choice: strong, descriptive words; varied, not repetitive.
- 1 0 Tense: discusses the author, characters, and story events in literary present tense.
- 2 1 0 Editing: proper grammar, punctuation, spelling.

Final Point Total: _____ / 33

Parent Signature: _____