

Writing Workshop #1 – Literary Analysis

Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour”

You are to conduct a close reading of Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour”. Write an essay analyzing how the author uses at least three literary devices or stylistic techniques to convey a theme to the reader.

For the purposes of this story/essay, analyze for the following:

<i>Dramatic Irony</i>	<i>Situational Irony</i>
<i>Verbal Irony</i>	<i>Symbolism</i>

Once this has been completed, you need to produce a **thesis statement**. A thesis statement is, in one sentence, the intended focus or main idea of an essay (your argument or proposal). For an essay where you have only a few main points that will be the criteria which you will use to support your argument, it helps to list those things (criteria) in your thesis:

A simple thesis:

The theme of Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour” is _____.

A thesis containing the criteria:

Kate Chopin is able to convey the theme of _____ in “The Story of an Hour” through her use of dramatic irony, situational irony, and symbolism.

Your thesis statement will be the last sentence of your introduction and will serve as an organizational aid to determine the order of your essay. In essence, your first body paragraph will be about dramatic irony, the second about situational irony, and the third about how symbolism adds to the theme.

Each body paragraph will contain, at the beginning of the paragraph, a similarly formatted topic sentence:

Simple topic sentence:

One of the ways that the author is able to relate the theme of _____ in her short story was through her use of dramatic irony.

Try to re-word your topic sentences to avoid redundancy

Complete your body paragraphs by adding clarification of the literary device being discussed, evidence from the text to support your claims, and an analysis of how the evidence you have provided does, in fact, prove your argument.

Finish your essay by completing your introduction and adding a conclusion. Your thesis should reappear in the conclusion, however, reworded to avoid redundancy.

In the end, you will have a well thought out and properly formatted five paragraph essay.

- Follow MLA guidelines for formatting of page setup, parenthetical citations, and works cited
- Use proper and appropriate grammar, punctuation, spelling, diction, and syntax
- Cycle through no less than two rough drafts, having your essay peer-reviewed and signed by two different people
- Your final draft will be clean, free of major errors, have a title, follow MLA guidelines, and have a works cited page
- Final product: final draft (on top) → 2nd draft → 1st draft → brainstorming notes (all stapled together)

I will provide notes on body paragraphs, introductions and conclusions, as well as MLA formatting