Dr. C. Carney

**English 1301** **Literary Analysis Peer-Response Questions**

**Overall:**

• What is **your general reaction** to this literary analysis? Did it engage you, the reader? Why? Were you already familiar with the story? Did the author effectively make the basic story line clear enough to understand for anyone unfamiliar with it (and without indulging in too much retelling)?

• Is this analysis **unique and insightful** (it should be), or is it just the retelling of a story and/or a restatement of the obvious? Explain, and justify your response; be honest and straightforward with author.

• Is the essay written entirely in the **third person voice (it should be)**? Is the tone lively and engaged **(it should be**)?

**Focus:**

• What specific sentence is the paper’s **thesis**, the point of this literary analysis? Is it **debatable** (**it should be**)? Explain why or why not. Does this thesis address something that might accurately be considered an “issue” of some sort—perhaps even an issue we see today in our time and culture.

• Do all paragraphs contribute to the point of the paper—a literary analysis? (Cite specific paragraphs which work and which do not.)

• Is the larger issue or concern of the story made clear and explained well by the author of the essay?

NOTE: if the paper has a debatable thesis, then it is likely that the paper *does* address a larger social issue.

• Did the author effectively use two outside sources to develop and shape the larger issue, concern, or theme of the story (through short, direct, in-text quotes from such sources cited in MLA format)?

• Does the paper contain a healthy amount of quotes from the story to support the authors’ points about the story?

**Development of the Analysis and Organization:**

• Does the paper deal thoroughly and effectively with the traditional and expected literary elements of the story, such as the characters, the setting, or the conflict? Explain.

• Look closely for signs of too much retelling of the story or stating the obvious; what needs to be done with statements that seem boring, obvious, or flat? Name them, underline them, or circle them…but make sure the author knows what some of the most obvious examples of this problem look like in his/her essay.

• Are paragraphs “healthy” regarding development of ideas? Are they coherent and cohesive in terms of flow and organization? Explain why or why not.

• Discuss the effectiveness/ineffectiveness of both the introductory and concluding paragraphs.

• Briefly explain the paper’s organizational structure. Does the paper build its case logically, or does it seem all over the place? Explain.

• What transitions are used to build the rhetorical (and any literary) analysis (words/phrases such as *however, on the other hand, likewise, in addition to, etc.)*?