**English Language & Literature 10**

**Short Story Unit**

**Summative Assessment: Response to Literature**

***Key Concept:*** *Connections*

***Global Context:*** *Orientation in Space & Time*

***Statement of Inquiry:*** *Stories can convey universal truths about ourselves and others, across different time periods and diverse cultures.*

As we have discussed, short stories often present snapshots of human experiences. Their strength lies in presenting interesting characters, settings, and situations, and in rendering small but significant truths about human nature and the meaning of the human experience.

**GOAL:** Your goal is to use your analytical, organizational, and writing skills to convey your ideas about a short story you have read during this unit.

**AUDIENCE:** You are writing for your classmates and your teacher to express your ideas about a story. Your register should be formal.

**PRODUCT:**

You will write a **response to literature**, which is a piece of writing that shows your understanding and interpretation of a text. Your interpretation must be supported with textual evidence and extended to your personal experiences and general knowledge.

To do this, you need to choose an idea you found particularly interesting in the story your group read. Consider what the writer’s message is about this idea (THEME). In your response to literature, you should examine your chosen theme, how it is conveyed, and then discuss the links between this theme to the “bigger picture” of the real world (human personality traits, relationships, crises, wars, thematic universal truths, life lessons, etc.). In essence, you are answering the prompt:

***To what extent is the theme in my short story universal?***

See the 3rd page of this document for more guidance.

**PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS:**

You need an introduction, 2-4 body paragraphs, and a conclusion (4-6 total paragraphs).

The response must be between 800-1000 words

You must use MLA formatting and citation, including a Works Cited List

**STANDARDS & CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS:** You will be assessed using the following criteria:

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| *MYP criteria:* | *Task-specific clarifications:* |
| **Criterion A: Analyzing**  i.analyze the content, context, language, structure, technique and style of text(s)  ii. analyse the effects of a creator’s choices on the audience.  iii. justify opinions and ideas using examples, explanations, and terminology  iv. evaluate similarities and differences by connecting features across and within genres and texts | **Criterion A: Analyzing**  i.Examine the story’s plot, language and literary features as well as the writer’s stylistic choices.  ii. Explain how the writer uses language and literary elements to create meaning (relate theme to audience).  iii. Root your ideas in textual evidence, and explain all quotations and examples from the story fully; use specific language that we learned for elements of stories and literary devices.  iv. Connect your story’s theme and ideas to a real-world situation, linking specific points from the story to validate your ideas |
| **Criterion B: Organizing**  i.Employ organizational structures that serve the context and intention.  ii. Organize opinions and ideas in a **sustained, coherent and logical** manner  iii. Use referencing and formatting tools to create a presentation style suitable to the context and intention. | **Criterion B: Organizing**  i.Your response should written in clear, developed paragraphs. You should have an introduction with a thesis and then develop your points in the body.  ii. Your response must have a logical flow; set up your points and examples clearly and effectively and then extend to the bigger picture of the issues presented. Ideas should build on one another.  iii. Use MLA format to write your response. Use embedded quotations and citations in the MLA style. Include a Works Cited List for your story and any other sources you used. |
| **Criterion D: Using Language**  i. Use a range of appropriate vocabulary, sentence structures and forms of expression  ii. Write in a **consistently appropriate** register and style that serve the context and intention.  iii. Use correct grammar, syntax, and punctuation.  iv. spell and write with accuracy | **Criterion D: Using Language**  i. Use a variety of words and sentence structures to express your ideas (simple, complex, and compound sentences).  ii. Use a formal register that is suitable to a formal written task (no contractions, “I”, slang, etc.).  iii. Make sure your sentences are grammatically correct (subjects and verbs agree, consistent verb tense, sentences are all complete thoughts). Use periods, commas, semi-colons, and quotation marks correctly.  iv. Check spelling of all words, particularly literary terms, titles, and names. Edit your writing for typing errors and appropriate capitalization. |

**How to write a response to Literature**

**With information From:** *the Young Writers Project*: http://youngwritersproject.org/node/2448

**INTRODUCTION:**

Begin with a catchy opening to hook your readers’ interests

BRIEFLY summarize the story including the title, author, main character(s), and main conflict.

Give any key contextual/background information

State your THESIS (what THEME you will be proving and how is it universal; this should relate to the prompt).

**BODY PARAGRAPH 1:**

What are you arguing is the main theme of the story? Be sure to root this theme in specific evidence from the text, analyzing and examining various literary elements and devices.

Be sure to explain how your quotations relate to your theme, and do not forget MLA citation.

**REMAINING BODY PARAGRAPHS**

Based on your argument, what is an insight you have gained from reading about theme?

What connection(s) you can make to the story (text to text, text to self, text to world)?

Discuss the extent to which the character, conflict, or theme in your story is universal and/or timeless. How are the ideas in the story relevant today? What can we learn from this story?

**CONCLUSION**

Briefly summarize your main points. Avoid repeating from your body paragraphs.

Re-state your thesis and take your argument a step further by raising a question or sharing a relevant personal observation.

**Writing Tips:**

* Use the present tense when talking about the events in the book.
* Do not assume that your reader has read the book; write a quick, concise summary in the opening paragraph.
* Do not use "I" statements. We know this is what you think because it's your paper. Your argument will sound stronger without "I think" or "I feel" in front of your beliefs.
* Use transitional words or sentences between examples to ensure that your paper flows smoothly.
* Always reread and edit your writing before submitting it. This helps you discover awkward sentences that do not have flow. Make sure that all of your evidence supports your argument. If it doesn't (even if it sounds good), take it out.
* Take another look at the criteria and task to ensure that you are meeting the requirements!
* There is a lot of information on essay and paragraph structure, MLA format, and quotation integration on the class website – use it!