

Name _____ Date _____

The written portion of this assignment is due on _____

The oral portion of this assignment is due on _____

SHORT STORY ASSIGNMENT

Directions: Read three short stories by the same author. Some author suggestions are at the bottom of the page. You may complete this assignment with a short story author who is not on this list; *ask your teacher's permission first.*

I. Written Part

1. Write the author's name and the title of each story followed by a one or two paragraph summary of each short story. Don't include every detail: stick to the essentials.
2. In at least one page, answer the question:
Did the three stories relate to each other in any way? (Think about the theme, type of characters, type of setting, etc.)

II. Oral Part: (approximately 10 minutes)

Choose one of the stories, and briefly summarize the plot. Then, still focusing on that one story, present your ideas about any FOUR of the following topics. Choose your topics carefully, realizing that not all topics will apply to your story. You may present the items in any order.

- 1- The writing style of the author
- 2- The focus of the short story. Was the focus on plot, character, setting, suspense or a combination of elements?
- 3- The universality of the theme of the story
- 4- The psychological development of a particular character
- 5- The real and unreal aspects of the story
- 6- Discuss one or two of the conflicts present in the story
- 7- Was there anything especially confusing or disturbing about the story to you?
- 8- Could you relate to this story on any level?

Author suggestions:

Aldiss, Brian (science fiction stories)
Andersen, Hans Christian (fairy tales)
Bradbury, Ray (fantasy and science fiction stories)
Buck, Pearl S. (stories about China)
Christie, Agatha (mystery)
Cormier, Robert (teens, often troubled)
Dahl, Roald (stories that deal with the unusual)
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan (mystery- Sherlock Holmes)
Jackson, Shirley (stories that have unusual endings).
Kipling, Rudyard (nature and cultural difference)
Lessing, Doris (stories about Africa)
Lewis, C.S. (science fiction stories)
London, Jack (stories about nature, animals)
Poe, Edgar Allan (stories of terror and fear)
Twain, Mark (humorous stories)