**Notes from Short Stories Analyses:**

1. Write in **Present Tense**!
2. **DO NOT use contractions** like didn’t, couldn’t, don’t, isn’t, its. Write it out. *(Does not, could not, is not…)*
3. **DO NOT use “I,”** or “I think,” or “I believe,” or “I was confused when…”
   1. This is YOUR essay / analysis so it is implied.
   2. Instead, make it more formal and/or general by using **“one,”** or **“we,”** or **“us”** or **“the reader.”** For example: “*One might think….” Or “The reader is confused when…”*
4. SEPARATE YOUR CHUNKS OF WRITING **INTO PARAGRAPHS** WITH **TOPIC SENTENCES!** Topic sentences are used to introduce your ideas. If all the writing is one big chunk the reader has to work really hard to understand where you have switched topics and such. It gets confusing and meaning is lost.
   1. Just remember that you can break up your writing into paragraphs, or better yet **parts,** even if you are talking about the same topic but a slightly different idea. You just need to add a transition. The reader needs to see a logical progression.

5) If both parts of a sentence that come before and after a comma are complete, then a comma is too weak. A period or a semicolon are stronger and will prevent this from being a run-on.

6) Write out the short story and the author even if you stated it in your title.

7) WHO... When you are talking about people, write "who." When you are talking about things write "that." For example: The men who were talking loud; the table that was very long...

8) Comma after introductory phrase

9) Then = now and then = about time

than = comparison = he is taller than her

(**\*\*\*** If any of the above are present in your next essays, you will receive an NY in Be Precise).

1. **Dialogue and Description are NOT literary element.** Dialogue is a writing technique. Instead of description, you can refer to IMAGERY = this is a literary element. The way the writer describes his language could be through imagery. Again, description is more about the reader talking about language. **LITERARY ELEMENTS INCLUDE:** Foreshadowing, Point of View (first, third), Narration (Reliable, Unreliable)… What else? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. **Theme IS a Literary Element**. A lot you concluded with a theme. This is great! You are coming up with strong themes that could lead to a thesis statement in a thematic essay. A theme could also be part of your claim in an argumentative essay. Keep in mid that with strong analysis you will be able to have richer themes.

**Change all the following verbs into present tense:**

Langston Hughes manages to use irony in the short story “Thank You, M’am”. The story began with the setting. A large woman named Mrs. Jones was walking alone at night when a boy came and he tried to steal her purse but failed to do so. She stopped him. Mrs. Jones screamed at him because of what he attempted to do.

\*\***NOTICE THE FIRST SENTENCE. IT STATES THE AUTHOS AND TITLE OF SHORT STORY. MAKE SURE YOU INCLDUE THIS ALWAYS.**

**Do not use “I.” Change all sentences to make them more formal. Use “the reader” or “one.” How would you re-write some of these sentences?**

To be honest I didn’t like the story because its difficult to understand, I think that the story is difficult to understand because it seems like its an excerpt taken from a longer and larger story and the reader needs more knowledge of what had happened before and after this part because the story just leaves you hanging like oh my god! Who keeps the baby?, why are they fighting?, what kind of relationship is this to be having around a little baby. I’m also thinking maybe its just the way of how the writer writes his stories he probably likes to leave the reader hanging at the end and asking his or herself questions, but I also noticed that the reader uses a little bit of irony in the story for example in the line, “ Then she noticed the baby’s picture on the bed and picked it up.” This line lets the reader know that theres a baby involved and that something is gonna happen with the baby. Another place where the author uses irony in the story is in the line, “... Tightened his hands on the baby.” and also in the line, “ You’re hurting the baby, she said.” I personally think this is irony because its showing how the baby is being hurt and at the end of the story it sort of seems like while fighting over the baby they caused it a bigger harm.

1st sentence revised:

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Last sentence revised:

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**Is there a contraction? Where? Change it.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example of how to use paragraphs even if you are writing on the same topic:**

The narrator and her physician husband, [John](http://www.gradesaver.com/character.html?character=16917), have rented a mansion for the summer so that she can recuperate from a “slight hysterical tendency.” Although the narrator does not believe that she is actually ill, John is convinced that she is suffering from “neurasthenia” and prescribes the “rest cure” treatment. She is confined to bed rest in a former nursery room and is forbidden from working or writing. The spacious, sunlit room has yellow wallpaper – stripped off in two places – with a hideous, chaotic pattern. The narrator detests the wallpaper, but John refuses to change rooms, arguing that the nursery is best-suited for her recovery. Two weeks later, the narrator’s condition has worsened. She feels a constant sense of anxiety and fatigue and can barely muster enough energy to write in her secret journal.

Fortunately, their nanny, [Mary](http://www.gradesaver.com/character.html?character=16923), takes care of their baby, and John's sister, [Jennie](http://www.gradesaver.com/character.html?character=16921), is a perfect housekeeper. The narrator's irritation with the wallpaper grows; she discovers a recurring pattern of bulbous eyes and broken necks, as well as the faint image of a skulking figure stuck behind the pattern. As more days pass, the narrator grows increasingly anxious and depressed. The wallpaper provides her only stimulation, and she spends the majority of her time studying its confusing patterns which, as she asserts, are almost as “good as gymnastics.” The image of the figure stooping down and "creeping" around behind the wallpaper becomes clearer each day. By moonlight, she can see very distinctly that the figure is a woman trapped behind bars. The narrator attempts to convince John to leave the house for a visit with relatives, but he refuses, and the narrator does not feel comfortable confiding in him about her discoveries in the wallpaper.

Moreover, she is becoming paranoid that John and Jennie are also interested in the wallpaper and is determined that only she will uncover its secrets. The narrator's health improves as her interest in the wallpaper deepens. She suspects that Jennie and John are observing her behavior, but her only concern is that they become obstacles to her and the wallpaper. She also begins to notice that the distinct "yellow smell" of the wallpaper has spread over the house, following her even when she goes for rides. At night, the woman in the wallpaper shakes the bars in the pattern violently as she tries to break through them, but she cannot break free.

The swirling pattern has strangled the heads of the many women who have tried to break through the wallpaper. The narrator begins to hallucinate, believing that she has seen the woman creeping surreptitiously outside in the sunlight. The narrator intends to peel off the wallpaper before she leaves the house in two days. That night, the narrator helps the woman in the wallpaper by peeling off the wallpaper halfway around the room. The next day, Jennie is shocked, but the narrator convinces her that she only stripped the wallpaper out of spite. Jennie is able to understand the desire to peel off the ugly wallpaper and does not tell John that anything is out of the ordinary.

The next night, the narrator locks herself in her room and continues stripping the wallpaper. She hears shrieks within the wallpaper as she tears it off. She contemplates jumping out of a window, but the bars prevent that; besides, she is afraid of all of the women that are creeping about outside of the house. When morning comes, the narrator has peeled off all of the wallpaper and begun to creep around the perimeter of the room. John eventually breaks into the room, but the narrator does not recognize him. She informs him that she has peeled off most of the wallpaper so that now no one can put her back inside the walls. John faints, and the narrator continues creeping around the room over him.

**MAKE SURE YOUR ESSAY IS NOT ONE BIG CHUNK OF WRITING. MAKE SURE YOU CAPITLAIZE NAMES. CHANGE THE CONTRACTIONS**

Guy de Maupassant manages to really bring the technique irony into his surprising ending.  It leaves the reader knowing the ending with a shock because we readers and even the protagonist assumed something else.  It also gives the story a social significance. The protagonist, Mathilde comes from a family who struggles with money. Shes very ungrateful and unsatisfied with her husband and her life. However throughout the short story, you can catch the husband, Loisel having such astonishing qualities creating a strong character. Theres multiple times where he will sacrifice anything just for her happiness which Mathilde never realized. She had a problem with judging people by their wealthiness. In the story, she gets the opportunity to attend a ball, and feels the need to look "high class" so she borrows a diamond necklace from her rich friend, Forestier. The only reason why Mathilde relied on her for jewelry because she knew forestier was presented as beautiful and rich. However, when she gets home, she finds that the necklace is missing. She and her husband search desperately for it, but end up not finding it. They then go to a shop, and sees that a similar necklace is being sold but for a huge amount of money. They purchase it, vowing to pay off the debt. They assumed the necklace was worth 36 thousand francs because it came from a wealthy friend. It takes them 10 interminable years of hard working to pay off the debt. As a result of working that hard, she loses all her beauty.  After the 10 years, she sees her friend again and there comes to ironic part. The friend was in shock and announces the necklace she gave her was fake and cost almost nothing.  The ending shattered the illusion of revealing that the ten years of hard work were not required and could have been ignored if only Mathilde had been honest and confronting the truth with Forestier.  The short story carried out a important message of always being honest. Also never judge a person by their wealth. Just because a persons borrow something from a wealthy person, it doesn't mean its was high-priced. It was also very ironic because the author described forestier as rich and beautiful. So a person would assume her necklace is crazy expensive but in reality, the poverty-stricken couple spent triple the amount of money on the replica then forestier’s necklace.  It was hard for the reader to predict the ending because the author doesn’t use the element, foreshadowing. Also it was unique of the author to switch from 3rd person narrative to 1st person narrative. He made it seems not as unusual as it is. Maupassant makes it work. He casually just changes narratives without making it peculiar. For example in line one, “She was one of those pretty and charming girls born, as though fate had blundered over her, into a family of artisans”.

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