

Perspectives: A Journey into Short Stories for Middle School Students Session Two

**Please note: You do NOT have to take “Perspectives” in any order.
The two semesters are INDEPENDENT of one another.
They are simply labeled “Session One” and “Session Two”, so you know which short stories we are
focusing on each “session”**

Grades:

7th * – 8th/9th **

*It is **strongly encouraged** that students have taken at least one year of Eva Goldstein-Meola’s Middle School IEW Writing Class (or the equivalent) as those writing skills will be utilized. If your child has not taken Eva’s MSW class, the alternative is that your child feels comfortable writing a 5-paragraph essay. If you have questions, please contact Eva at eva@opententacademy.com.*

*** NOTE: 9th grader who needs work on reading comprehension and writing five paragraph essays.*

Day of Week:

Thursday

Time of Class:

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

Length of Class:

10 Weeks

Semester:

Winter 2024

Tuition:

\$250.00

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of January 8

Week 2: Week of January 15

Week 3: Week of January 22

Week 4: Week of January 29

Week 5: Week of February 5

Week 6: Week of February 12

Week 7: Week of February 19

Week 8: Week of February 26

Week 9: Week of March 4

Week 10: Week of March 11

Make-Up Days: Week of March 18

Instructor's Name: Eva Goldstein - Meola
Instructor's Email: eva@writingteacher.com
Instructor's Phone: 305-906-2853
Instructor's Whats App: 305-906-2853

Description of Class:

In literature, characters become our friends. We can sympathize or celebrate with them. We feel their joys, sorrows, and pain. In this class, Perspectives, your child will embrace the world of Short Stories. We will delve deep into these pieces of literature analyzing, discussing, and writing about the details pertaining to these stories. The writing will consist of three 5-paragraph Expository Essays and two Creative Writing assignments.

Class Approach:

Participation is an absolute to make the most of this class. Participation happens in two ways: (1) through students speaking out loud OR (2) through typing in the chat log. Students may opt to what method of participation they prefer. Students should “pre-read” the short stories that we will be discussing during that lesson. While reading, they should put themselves in their character’s situation and think what life would be like walking in their shoes.

Goals:

To explore and gain an appreciation of a variety of writers.

Textbook:

None.

All short stories will be provided on the LMS or via links on the internet.

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Internet access

Computer access

Requirements:

Class Attendance

Participation

Reading of the Short Stories before Class

Discussion

Weekly Homework:

Throughout the course of one short story, which equals 2 classes or 2 weeks, about five hours depending on speed/fluency of writing

Homework Policy:

Homework is due by the due date – uploaded to the LMS.

Evaluation of Homework:

Students will receive an evaluation back via CANVAS with written, oral and possible "video" comments. In addition, you will find "grades" in GRADEBOOK within Canvas once papers are graded and/or quizzes are submitted.

”E” stands for Exceeds Expectation. To receive an “E”, there is significant evidence that the student used the ASSIGNMENT PLANNER and COMPOSITION CHECKLIST. This paper “exceeds” my expectations. It goes the extra mile. This is the equivalent of an “A” in a traditional grading system. A means excellent, which in my opinion is above and beyond my expectations. *You must Impress me to receive a “E”*. Within the grade book on CANVAS, you will receive 10 points for an "E".

”M” stands for Meets Expectations. This paper shows that they have learned most concepts from the lesson presented in class as well as continued to implement the past concepts. It is a good paper; however, it does NOT go above and beyond. There is likely evidence of BASIC mistakes that the student should have mastered already. This is the equivalent of a “B” in a traditional grading system. This is where your child should be to be successful. This is a SOLID grade. Most students will likely be at this level. Within the grade book on CANVAS, you will receive 8 points for an "M".

”Y” stands for Not Yet. This paper shows lack of understand of the basic concepts taught in class. This paper shows that not enough time was put into writing and/or editing. This paper does not demonstrate that the student understood the lesson from class. This is the equivalent to a “C-” or “D” in a traditional grading system. Within the grade book on CANVAS, you will receive 6 points for an "Y".

"I" stands for Incomplete. This means you have not completed your work correctly according to the ASSIGNMENT PLANNER or COMPOSITION CHECKLIST. This is equivalent to an "F" in a traditional grading system. Students CAN redo an I. Within the grade book on CANVAS, you will receive 4 points for an "I".

Additional Policies:

I expect students to participate!!!! Their voice and their opinions count! Please note, students must be respectful of others and allowing for dissenting views to be heard.

Participation Policy:

Active participation is essential for maintaining the best learning environment. It is also a fun part of learning.

Attendance Policies:

Students are strongly encouraged to attend live classes but are not required to attend live classes. However, students who do miss a class, for whatever reason, will be responsible for viewing the class recording and completing assignments. Recordings of each class are usually available within 24 hours of the class meeting and may then be accessed 24/7 from the course class pages. Students may also review recorded classes at any time.

Anticipated Syllabus

Week	Topic
Week 1	“The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry
Week 2	“The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry Writing Assignment: Expository Essay
Week 3	“Rules of the Game” by Amy Tan
Week 4	“Rules of the Game” by Amy Tan Writing Assignment: Creative Writing
Week 5	"Mother and Daughter" by Gary Soto
Week 6	"Mother and Daughter" by Gary Soto Writing Assignment: Expository Essay
Week 7	“The Moustache” by Robert Cormier
Week 8	“The Moustache” by Robert Cormier Writing Assignment: Expository Essay
Week 9	“All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury
Week 10	“All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury Writing Assignment: Creative Writing