

English 310 (-001) and (-002)
Paper 1 Assignment Sheet
Spring 2015

The Assignment

Choose a story from class and write about one of the following story elements:

- (1) plot
- (2) characterization
- (3) conflict
- (4) setting
- (5) theme
- (6) style
- (7) point of view
- (8) historical context
- (9) author
- (10)illustrator
- (11)connections to other versions of stories

**Make sure that you balance your paper so that you write an equal amount about the main story and the alternate version. I count off if you write more about the alternate version. **

The Stories You May Write About

"Rumpelstiltskin," *Mary Poppins*, or any of the texts posted to the "Readings" page on our website.

Length

Your paper must be three full pages long. You may write a longer paper, but please don't exceed five pages. If your paper is short, especially if your content is weak, I will deduct points from your grade.

Including Images in Your Paper

Place your images where they are most meaningful.

Please provide captions.

If you include images, the images do not count toward your full three pages.

Format

Use MLA format. Your paper should be double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 point font.

Your paper should include properly formatted quotes, in-text citations, and a works cited page.

Title

Your title is important. It should be descriptive. If someone saw your title in a table of contents they **should** have a good idea as to what your paper is about -- what your take is on the subject of "Rumpelstiltskin," or *Mary Poppins*. Do not title your paper simply "Rumpelstiltskin," or *Mary Poppins*. Do not title your paper simply "Paper One."

An example of a descriptive title is as follows:

P.L. Travers' *Mary Poppins*: Why a Nanny and Not a Fairy?

Another example of a descriptive title is as follows:

Winnie-the-Pooh and Paddington Bear: Why so Hungry? Health Consequences of Chubby Bears in Children's Literature

Works Cited

Use MLA style to cite works that you quote in your paper. Please use in-text citations as well.

Rough Drafts

You may send me a rough draft of your paper and I will comment on it and send it back to you. The rough draft you send me should be a Microsoft Word document. I ask for this format because it allows me to comment on your papers within the text. Send rough drafts no later than two days before the paper is due. Rough drafts can take the shape of a list, a few paragraphs, or an almost-finished paper.

Meetings

We can meet to discuss your paper (or other class-related issues). If you schedule a meeting with me, be sure to bring a hardcopy of your paper. Also, be on time. If you need to cancel a meeting, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you want to come by during my office hours, you don't need to schedule a meeting, but another student may already be talking with me.

Finding My Office

My office is located in Comer 203-A. In order to access my office, you need to enter the English Department main entrance (located in Comer Hall, second floor) and then

turn left. My office will be at the end of that hallway on the left. My door will be open. If "brb" is written on my door, it means that I will return within five minutes.

Due date

Friday, January 30 at the beginning of class.

Submission Method

Hard copy at the beginning of class on Friday, January 30.
I do not accept emailed papers

Late Papers

If your paper is late, I count off 5 points for each late day -- including Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, -- but not including Saturdays and Sundays.

Extensions

You may request an extension of no more than a week. You must request an extension before the due date and you must provide me with a reason that you need the extension. *All extension-related correspondence must be conducted over email so that I have records of your requests.

Rubric

Content -- 75%
Style -- 25%

Content

- (1) Balance between story and alternate story versions/critical articles.
- (2) Meet page length requirements.
- (3) Your paper is interesting, lively, and exhibits your own fresh point of view about your topic. Be brave. Don't settle for writing about the obvious. You may need to start off by stating the obvious--such writing is a good way to begin work on your paper. However, move beyond the obvious. Don't worry if your ideas seem a little weird or if you think you might be stretching it. Stretch away! I value originality and bravery and the feeling that the writer is interested in what he or she is writing lends a dynamic feel to the paper.

Style

- (1) Correct MLA paper formatting
- (2) Sources are correctly cited. When a source is quoted directly, it is put between quotation marks; otherwise the

quoted material can be seen as being plagiarized. Also, when a source is quoted, provide the correct in-text citation.

(3) Few, if any, sentence-level errors. Sentence-level errors are grammatical mistakes, typos, left-out words, or dangling modifiers, for example. Also, malapropisms: using "hateful" when you mean "hopeful" or using "fist" when you mean "fast." Spell-check doesn't pick up on these wrong words because they are correctly spelled and often grammatically correct. However, they are errors.

WAYS TO CHECK FOR SENTENCE-LEVEL ERRORS:

(a) Read your paper aloud. You can record yourself reading on our website using the "Listen to Yourself" device. Or have someone read your paper aloud to you.

(b) Read your paper backward, paragraph-to-paragraph.

(c) Put your paper away for a few days. Don't look at it. Then after a few days have passed, read your paper with a fresh set of eyes. By putting your paper away for a few days, you take on more objectivity than if you read it several times a day.

(d) I suggest that you plan your paper-writing schedule with the following advice in mind:

Give yourself time to not look at your paper.

(4) Do not misspell the names of author(s) and/or title(s).

(5) You need to specify what you mean by words such as "it" or "this."

(6) Write in the literary present tense:

Mary Poppins arrives at Cherry Tree lane when the wind changes direction.

NOT

Mary Poppins arrived at Cherry Tree Lane when the wind changed direction.

*When you write about events that occur within a book or story, write about these events in present tense.

*When you write about a historical event that took place in real life, of course you use the past tense.