**Prompt**

In a well-developed essay of five paragraphs, compare and contrast Shirley Jackson’s “The Possibility of Evil”and “The Lottery,” focusing on the plot, theme, and literary elements we discussed in class

**Introduction and Conclusion**

The **introduction** for a literary analysis essay is a bit different than a normal essay. Primarily, it’s easier. Instead of a STAMPY intro, you just need to give an overview of the piece(s) and author you will be discussing in your essay.

**Sample:**

Shirley Jackson is widely recognized as one of the most important American short story writers. Using techniques and language designed to make the reader feel a growing sense of unease as the story progresses, her works subtly make the readers feel as uneasy as the characters she describes.

The last sentence of your introduction paragraph should be your **thesis**, discussed below.

Your **conclusion** should offer an evaluation of the two stories. Referring to the elements you’ve discussed in the body of the essay, make an argument about which story you believe was the better one. Explain why one story or the other was more interesting, more suspenseful, engaging, or surprising and why those elements made you enjoy the story more.

**Thesis**

The thesis needs to two do things: 1) preview the elements you’ll discuss in the piece and 2) argue which story you believe was more effective based on those comparisons.

**Sample Thesis:** While both “The Possibility of Evil” and “The Lottery” effectively use suspense and mood to draw in the readers, “The Lottery” is a more effective story because of its use of interesting, surprising characters.

**Paragraph Structure Model**

**More Alike Than Different**

* Introduction/Thesis
* Point of Similarity
* Point of Similarity
* Point of Difference
* Conclusion

**More Different Than Alike**

* Introduction/Thesis
* Point of Difference
* Point of Difference
* Point of Similarity
* Conclusion

**Topic Sentences**

**Body Paragraph 1**: Both “The Possibility of Evil” and “The Lottery” rely heavily on effective use of suspense.

**Body Paragraph 2:** In addition to their use of suspenseful elements, both stories engage the readers with a powerful use of tone and mood.

**Body Paragraph 3:** Despite their similarities, “The Lottery” more effectively creates characters that are both believably and symbolic.

**Titles**

When referring to a single short story, always put it in quotation marks.

**How to Incorporate Quotations**

* Remember to embed your quotations inside sentences so they make logical and grammatical sense.
* There is a specific order when you incorporate a quotation from literature: quote, quotation mark page number, punctuation.

**Sample incorporated quotes:**

* Gatsby is not to be regarded as a personal failure. "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (176), according to Nick.
* For Nick, who remarks that Gatsby "turned out all right" (176), the hero deserves respect but perhaps does not inspire great admiration.

**Requirements**

* Please submit a typed response that uses a legible 12-point font, 1” margins, a double-spaced body, and a simple header. Everything should be **double spaced**.
* The response should be at least 600 words long
* You need to include **5 quotes from the stories**. Each of them should be short, interesting bits of text that illustrate an argument you are making. Use the quotes as evidence to support your claims about the differences between the two stories.

**Essay Outline**

**Thesis:**

**I. Body Paragraph I Topic Sentence:**

Both “The Possibility of Evil” and “The Lottery”

**II. Body Paragraph II Topic Sentence**

In addition to their use of

**III Body Paragraph III Topic Sentence**

Despite their

**Body Paragraph 1: Similarities**

**Topic Sentence:** Both “The Possibility of Evil” and “The Lottery” are molded around a whirlwind of suspense that keeps the reader wondering what will happen next.

**A:** Jackson conveys a strong sense of suspense in “The Possibility of Evil.” When Mrs. Strangeworth drops the letter, Jackson makes the reader fear the outcome because the letters were filled with nasty sentiments. Another example of suspense in the story occurs when Mrs. Strangeworth tells herself that “many people seem disturbed recently” (3), suggesting that not all is well in their little town. Mrs. Strangeworth is right, as people across the town, from the married couple with the baby to the shop clerk, seem nervous and preoccupied.

**B:** There is also a great deal of suspense in “The Lottery.”

EVIDENCE: SUMMARY [kids and rocks]

EVIDENCE: QUOTE: Mrs. Hutchinson’s increasing nervousness and anger, when she declares that the drawing “wasn’t fair” (32).

EVIDENCE: SUMMARY [nervous parents, refusal to open slip, the black box, not knowing what the lottery is for until the end]

**CLOSING SENTENCE:** why these bad boys were so suspenseful.