

English 301-902: Introduction to the English Major
Fall 2021: Assignments: Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8 (21 September- 14 October)
Character, Point of View, Setting, Symbol and Allegory, Theme
Dr. Mangum

I. Readings

- A. Primary Readings:
“Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” (Oates 977); “Paul’s Case” (Cather 229); “A Rose for Emily” (Faulkner 454); “Araby” (Joyce 675); “Blood-Burning Moon” (Toomer 1283); “Good Country People” (O’Connor, 1016); “The Lottery” (Jackson 624)
- B. Readings Related to “Elements of Fiction” or “Critical Perspectives:”
“Point of View” (1684-1688)
“Character” (1680-1682)
“Setting” (1682-1683)
“Style” and “Theme” (1688-1691)
“Writing About Context,” p. 1765-1767; “Other Perspectives,” p. 1767-1768; for the brief notes on Symbol and Allegory, see p. 1739-1740.
- C. Related Readings: (Optional)
“The Meaning of ‘A Rose for Emily’” (1424)
McFarland’s essay on “Good Country People” on page 1611.
O’Connor’s discussion of Hulga’s wooden leg as symbol is on 1592-1597.
Paper #2 due Tuesday, 14 October (Analysis of Character, Point of View, Setting, or Symbol and Allegory)

II. Schedule

NOTE: DATES BELOW INDICATE DAY BY WHICH THE WORK LISTED IS TO BE READ. Additional assignments due for each due date due to me by email will be announced through Blackboard. For your reading of the works, use the schedule below for your guide. For your written assignments Blackboard will be your guide. I will make assignments and due dates available both on the Announcement page and under the Assignments tab.

Week Five: (21, 23 September)

Tuesday: “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?; (“Point of View 1684-1688)

Thursday: “Paul’s Case” (“Character”: 1600-1682)

Week Six (28, 30 September)

Tuesday: "A Rose for Emily"
Thursday: "Blood-Burning Moon"

Week 7 (5 October, 7 October)

Tuesday: "Good Country People" and O'Connor on
"symbol" 1592
Thursday: "The Lottery"; "Style," and "Theme" (1688-1691)

Week 8 (12, 14 October)

Tuesday: "Araby" ("Setting": 1682-1683); "Writing About Context," p.
1714-16;; for the brief notes on Symbol and Allegory, see p.
1689.
Thursday: **Paper #2 due** "Everything is Green" "Style" and "Theme"
(1688-1691); "Other Perspectives," p. 1716-17; Discussion of

III. Description of Paper #2 (Due Thursday, 14 October)

"An analysis of a story is the result of the process of separating it into its parts in order to study the whole... While explication deals with a specific section of the text, analysis can range further, discussing details throughout the narrative that are related to your thesis."

In this essay you are to analyze either (a) **one of the characters** in a story we have read, (b) the **story's point of view** (as it relates to a main idea you have about the story), (c) the **relation of setting to theme**, or (d) the author's use of **symbol or allegory** in an essay of 500-700 words. This opens the paper up considerably to one of a variety of approaches. If you choose character, select a character that we have encountered, form a narrow thesis about this character, and analyze the text in such a way that you support your thesis with the text of the story. You may be examining the character in terms of what you perceive to be her or his motivation (which may be conscious or unconscious), but remember that your analysis should be aimed also at exploring the author's "method of characterization as well as the character's motivation." If you select point of view, demonstrate how the author's choice of viewpoint works to communicate what you see as a main point of the story. If you choose setting, demonstrate how the author's use of setting works in relation to what you determine is a central theme of the story. Or finally, if you decide to work with symbol or allegory, construct a thesis that examines a central symbol or symbols in a way that reveals how the author uses a controlling symbol or several symbols to communicate theme. If, as in the case of "The Lottery" the story works as allegory, analyze the story as allegory. Each of the four areas is dealt with in detail in the section of the Charters text that we have referred to in our discussions. Make certain that you have come up with a narrow claim in the introduction.