

# Mr. Miller / Introduction to Fiction

## Unit 1: Fiction / Essay 1

### Directions:

Review (from Week 1) Chapter 29: Writing About Literature

Write a 4-5 page essay on **one** of the two topic options listed below.

The essay must include a well-developed introductory paragraph (about one page in length) that ends with your thesis statement (see page 1098). A thesis statement is the assertion you're making about the story. Prove what you're saying in the thesis through the use of reasons and evidence.

To support your thesis, you must have a minimum of 3 researched sources drawn from the C. H. Cozean Library databases (which include EBSCOhost and JSTOR).

The essay must include detailed references to the story and the page numbers for where this information can be found.

The essay must be written in Times-New Roman 12 point font.

### Format:

Use MLA format. See the example of the student essay on pages 1111-13. Note the header (with last name and page number) and the sequence of information in the heading. Note that there is no extra spacing anywhere in the essay. Everything is double-spaced.

Some versions of Microsoft Word include a blank MLA template, which you can access after clicking on "New" document and typing in "MLA" in the template search window.

If you're not sure about some aspects of MLA formatting, please contact me.

For additional assistance with MLA formatting, use the link below to access the Purdue OWL Writing Lab.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

### Topic Options:

#### **Option 1: Jack London, To Build a Fire**

Consider Kennedy and Gioia's interest in the protagonist (122). Why might he simply be called "the man"? Naturalism emphasizes the extent to which people are driven by internal and external forces. Short of choosing not to leave the house in the morning, does the protagonist in this story have any means to escape his fate (mortality)? Does he have any choice or free will? If so, why does he not act on it or make different choices? What exactly does him in?

#### **Option 2: Read Shirley Jackson, The Lottery (235-43).**

"What do you think Shirley Jackson is driving at?" Address this part of Kennedy and Gioia's Question 6: "Jackson, writing her story soon after World War II, indirectly expresses her horror at the Holocaust. She assumes the massacre of the Jews [and other groups] was carried out by unwitting, obedient people like these villagers." Do you agree with this interpretation? You might skim the article below:

<http://www.nytimes.com/1992/04/12/books/the-men-who-pulled-the-triggers.html?pagewanted=all>