

Common Mistakes in Responding To Literature--Character

1. Your **title** must be creative: “Fortune’s Mishap” “Lucky Pickens” “A Stony Fate” “A Circus Savior” “A Circus Journey” “Right Comes Wrong”
2. The Author, Title, and Brief Summary of the story **MUST** go into the **GDT**
3. Your **thesis** must include part of the question and the 3 main points that will break down the question!!!
4. If your TS is general (meaning it does not state the 2 main points you will discuss in the paragraph), your CS must be specific (state the 2 points you discussed in the paragraph!)—use the TS/CS rule to vary your sentence structure!
5. The question or main topic must appear in both the TS and the CS (for this assignment it is “Appearance vs. Reality” Plus, in your Ex’s as well (tie back)
6. You must focus on and explain/prove the main topic—For **THEME** it is determined by action, conversations, descriptions, interactions, choices, etc.
7. Quotes are not only what characters say, they are also details from the story that you take “word for word” from the story itself to support what you are trying to say in your essay. These help prove your points. Must have (author pg).
 - a. When you use a quote, you must explain how that quote supports what you are trying to say. It must connect and prove your point/interpretation.
8. Response to Literature is written in 3RD PERSON ONLY—No “I think/feel,” “you’s,” “we,” “our,” etc. Use “the reader,” “a character’s name,” “people,” etc.
9. Your Hook and Clincher should be general to all people and not tied exclusively to the topic only. The Hook gets the reader excited or interested in reading the essay and the clincher leaves them with something to think about—both should be in a general sense and not tied specifically to the question/topic
10. You need triple quotes for any text already in quotes: “ ”

Right Comes Wrong

(Hook) Whether promising or not, most people cannot see the future until they are standing toe to toe with it. What often has an impact on the future is fate because time and place can be a roll of the dice. (GDT) Such is the case in Lucille Clifton’s short story “The Luckiest Time of All” because the main character, Elzie Pickens haphazardly decides one day to go join the circus. When she arrives, she is distracted by a dancing dog, accidentally hits the dog with her lucky stone, it chases her, and as fortune’s wheel turned is eventually saved by her future husband Amos, giving up on her dream to join the circus. (Thesis) As Elzie reveals this fortuitous tale to her great-granddaughter Tee, the reader understands that the theme “Appearance vs. Reality” is seen in Elzie’s decision making, the encounter with the dog, and the final outcome of her adventure.

(RT) In conclusion, “The Luckiest Time of All” reveals that things aren’t always the way they seem in Elzie’s thinking, with an unusual dog, and Elzie’s final reward. (Summary) Since no one can actually say for sure when and where they will meet the person of their dreams, everyone should be on the lookout for the unexpected. By being open to such an idea might make life’s story more interesting. (Clincher) After all, what would life be like if everything went exactly the way people planned or thought?