

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Response to Literature Writing Task

Directions:

- Read the narrative on the following pages.
- As you read, you may mark the story or make notes. Marks and notes will not be scored.
- After reading the narrative, you will be given directions to write an essay. You will have time to read, plan your essay, and write a first draft with edits.
- You may reread or go back to the narrative at any time during the test.
- Only what you write on the lined pages in this booklet will be scored.
- Use only a No. 2 pencil to write your essay.

Scoring:

Your writing will be scored on how well you

- show your understanding of the narrative,
- organize around several clear ideas,
- give examples and cite evidence from the narrative, and
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Response to Literature Writing the Essay

In “The Luckiest Time of All” and “Both Sides of the Fence” the main characters of change dramatically and learn valuable lessons. Use details from one of the narratives to explain how the theme “Appearance vs. Reality” is revealed throughout just one of the stories. Be sure that you do not use both stories; pick only one to work with.

When you write your essay, remember

- to show your understanding of the narrative,
- to organize around several clear ideas,
- to give examples and cite evidence from the narrative, and
- to use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Begin your Pre-Writing below to organize your ideas, finding the strongest points you can support (Remember, pre-writing is worth 10 points).

The Power of Two

(Hook) “Judgments prevent us from seeing the good that lies beyond appearances.” Unfortunately because human beings are meaning making machines, they tend to initially look at the surface and often make too quick judgments. (GDT) The same is true in Teresa Bateman’s short story “Both Sides of the Fence” because the main character, Alberto, acts so irrational in his perceptions and beliefs all because he thinks he has the “finest” apple tree in his village. In turn, Alberto believes that he is so much better than everyone else and should be treated as such. Unfortunately, it takes his poor neighbor Juan’s simple generosity to show Alberto what is really important in life. (Thesis) As this story unfolds it is clear that the theme “Appearance vs. Reality” exists through Alberto’s belief that he could control nature and people, his make-believe stories about Juan, and the true meaning of generosity.

(TS) To begin with, because Alberto is so proud of his beautiful apple tree and wants to keep it all to himself, he falsely accuses his neighbor of stealing his apples missing the opportunities to see the truth in the situation. (1st Pt.) First, to keep his gorgeous tree from everyone else who admired it, the townspeople and his neighbor Juan, Alberto builds “a high fence so that he alone could enjoy the tree’s blossoms and bounty” (Bateman 1) believing that he could direct nature to his will. (Ex.) However, even though he believed he could be in charge of nature and curtail the growth of his tree, branches end up growing over into Juan’s, his neighbor, yard. Alberto gets very upset with this situation and says, “To damage so fine a tree would be wrong. Still, why should Juan receive any benefit from a tree that is clearly mine?” (1) Alberto is thinking that only he should enjoy his tree, it is his very own privilege, and can’t see that it is okay for others to enjoy it too showing that things don’t always seem as they appear. (2nd Pt.) Second, in Alberto’s belief that he is somehow better than everyone else, he ends up falsely accusing his neighbor, Juan with inaccurate information. (Ex) When Alberto finds an “apple cake on his doorstep” (1) that was made from the apples that fell from the branch extended beyond his fence with a note of thanks from Juan, Alberto felt he had been wronged, thought his neighbor had stolen his apples without permission, and wanted revenge. (Ex) In his rage, and without even consulting Juan and get the whole story, he runs to the town mayor’s home demanding justice for this theft. He shouts to himself, “I must have justice!” (1) and tells the mayor that “Juan [was] guilty of stealing” (1) his apples. Obviously, Alberto is clueless when it comes to seeing things as they actually are and doesn’t understand that he cannot oppress either nature or people. (CS) Therefore, Alberto’s egotism and lack of insight make him miss the initial opportunity to see how life truly operates.

You can easily use Elzie’s desire to go to the show and see the world, getting overly excited, and sneaky acts. There are more for both Alberto and Elzie