**English 12 – Short Story Reading Project**

Over the course of our short story reading unit, we have read a few fantastic short stories. It is time to wrap up that unit by doing a final project. You are going to show what you know about **one** of the short stories (of your choice), by completing a **written** assignment **and** a **creative** assignment.

**Short Story Options:**

* “Boys and Girls” by Alice Munro
* “The Jade Peony” by Wayson Choy
* “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

**Written Assignment Options** (Choose One)

“Boys and Girls” by Alice Munro

1. Using the narrator as evidence, how do the expectations of society affect our personal identity?
2. How is power shown in “Boys and Girls”?
3. To what extent are Flora and the narrator similar?
4. Discuss the role of gender in “Boys and Girls”.

“The Jade Peony” by Wayson Choy

*Please Note: For “The Jade Peony” there is only one question option, but you choose the theme you would like to write about.*

1. “The Jade Peony” touches on multiple themes. Choose one theme that you believe is most central to the text and the author’s message. In a paragraph response, consider and discuss how the author presented and developed the theme over the course of the text through the characters, setting, and plot. Your response should include a clear focus (i.e. theme you will be addressing and how the author introduced/developed it) and use specific examples from the text that explain and further your reader’s understanding of the topic.

Themes:

* The depth of love between family members must be cherished.
* Different cultures have specific traditions and beliefs about life and death.
* Respecting cultural traditions in a new time and place can be difficult.
* Accepting the death of a loved one may contribute to a person’s strength.

“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

1. Except for the final five paragraphs, are there any indications of violence in the life of the village? What might the absence of presence of violence in other aspects of village life indicate, considering the story’s conclusion?
2. Do you agree with Mrs. Hutchinson – is the lottery unfair? How or how not? Her friends and neighbours point out that they all take the same risks in participating. Is this hypocritical of her?
3. Are there any clues in the story that might explain how the lottery first started? What might its purpose be? What passages give the reader clues about the origins of this ritual?

**Written Assignment Requirements**

* Times New Roman
* 12 point font
* Double spaced
* 2 pages minimum, no maximum but don’t go overboard
* Use quotes from the story to support your answer.
* Clearly indicate what question you are answering.
* Include a title that is more creative than ‘Written Assignment’, etc.
* If you include any sources outside your chosen short story, please create a bibliography/works cited using MLA style.
* <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html>

**Creative Assignment Options** (Choose One)

* Scene – draw a detailed scene from one part of the story. Make sure the scene’s elements are clearly depicted. Label the elements of the scene with quotes from the text to show where you got the idea for the different components of the picture.
* Dust Jacket – create and design a book cover/dust jacket for the short story based on a scene from the text. Pretend you are an artist for a publishing company and design both the front and back cover and books spine to include the title, author’s name, and a summary of the story that will make people want to read it.
* Comic Strip – Create a comic strip that illustrates the main events and conflict of the story. You may use quotes from the text – or your own words, but make sure you stay true to the story. Make sure you label the comic strip carefully so that it is clear what you are trying to capture.
* Soundtrack – Create a soundtrack that could be used for the short story. Create a plot graph for the story that shows how the various events occur. Then assign each part of the story a different song (list song title, and artist) that captures the feeling of the event and illustrates that part of the story. Must include a minimum of six songs. Use Spotify or YouTube to put the songs together in one place so Ms. Legault can listen to it.
* Movie Poster – Design a movie poster to depict the theme of your short story. Pretend that you have transformed your short story into a movie. You have to create a poster that captures what the movie is trying to convey (the theme). Include details such as who you would cast to play the roles, premiere date, and other things found on a movie poster.
* Children’s Book – Rewrite the story as a simple illustrated picture book for a child. Use simple vocabulary and just focus on the main elements that convey the theme of the story.

You must complete **both** a **written** and a **creative** assignment on the **same** story in order to receive a **passing** grade on this assignment.

**Due Date:** Monday, June 6th, 2022