**Eng 12: Short Story Reading Unit – In Class Write**

As a summative assignment for our short story reading unit, we will be writing a brief literary analysis paragraph. Your paragraph must be at least 150 words, and you must support your answer with evidence from the text, which means you must use quotes. This will be due at the end of the class.

**Step 1: Choose one of the following short stories.**

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

**Step 2: Look at the questions for your chosen short story, and select one question to answer in paragraph form.**

“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?

“The Red Convertible” by Louise Erdrich

1. What is the significance of pushing the car into the river?
2. What changes does the car go through in the story, and how, then, is the car symbolic in the story?
3. Was this a case of suicide of accidental drowning? Take a position and support with evidence from the text and elaboration?
4. What is the significance of Susy in “The Red Convertible”?

**Step 3: Write your paragraph.**

Although this is not an essay, think about what we have learned about writing essays over the course of the year. Make sure you have a clear topic/thesis statement. Support your thesis statement using quotes and paraphrasing, while also explaining how those quotes relate to your thesis. Avoid the use of I, contractions, slang, etc., and make sure you are using formal language. Give your paragraph a title. Use your time wisely, and try to give your paragraph a proofread.