

Name _____

Short Story Adapted _____

Title of Film Adaptation _____

Short Story Film Adaptation Essay Assignment

Over the past several weeks, we have read a variety of short stories, focusing on how the specific literary elements in the stories could be adapted for a film version. Using class discussion, the short-story-to-film example from March 21 and 23, and the guidance provided below, you will write a 4-5 page proposal for a film adaptation of ONE of the stories from this unit that demonstrates your understanding of both the meaning in the story and how the literary elements function within it. Your proposal will be written for an audience of studio executives and producers. Your essay should convince them of the marketability of the short story in your adapted film version. Ensure them that audiences will LOVE your film.

Your essay must discuss the following elements for your adaptation:

[character] Who will you cast for each of the characters in your film adaptation? Name specific actors, and provide rationale for why that actor would be cast in the specific role. Make sure to consider roles the actors have previously played rather than simply your favorite actors.

[setting] Where and when will your film adaptation be set? Will you retain the setting from the short story? If so, why do you think that is necessary? If not, describe where and when your adaptation will take place, and then describe why this setting is more appropriate or more marketable for your film.

[plot/conflict] What techniques will you use to lengthen the short story for a full-length film? Consider how you might need to expand the plot in certain places, make use of flashbacks to provide background, and/or extend the beginning/ending of the story. What types of conflict will you use from the short story? How might you develop those conflicts further to deepen the plot? Think about ways to ensure your film is at least 100 minutes without dragging out the plot and leaving your audience bored.

[irony] How will you incorporate irony within your adaptation? Consider what irony the author includes in the short story and how those can be adapted for film. Also, think about what other forms of irony would make your film more engaging for viewers.

[symbolism] How will your film adaptation incorporate the symbols from the short story? How will you convey the importance and meaning of those symbols to an average audience without an obvious "this item is symbolic" line within your film?

For submission on Wednesday, March 28, 2007, your folder should include these items in this order:

Left Pocket

- This Sheet
- Revised (clean) draft of your essay
- Reflective summary on the essay (will be written in class on Monday)

Right Pocket

- Notes on your application of the literary elements in your film adaptation
- Any drafts and other items that demonstrate your writing process

Make sure your name is on the front of the folder and is on every sheet within the folder. Any paper submitted without all of these items will NOT be graded.

Short Story Film Adaptation Essay Rubric

evaluation category	extremely well	well	average	Not well	not at all
	A	B	C	D	F
<u>title and introduction</u> : engage reader, explain general concept of film, include short story title and author					
<u>character</u> : demonstrate understanding of how character functions in short story and film					
<u>setting</u> : demonstrate understanding of how setting functions in short story and film					
<u>plot/conflict</u> : demonstrate understanding of how plot and conflict function in short story and film					
<u>irony</u> : demonstrate understanding of how character functions in short story and film					
<u>symbolism</u> : demonstrate understanding of how character functions in short story and film					
<u>conclusion</u> : provide closure and reflects the thesis of the essay					
<u>overall essay</u> : clearly unified around topic, all content is relevant, nothing is missing					
<u>style</u> : address the rhetorical situation, appeals to logos, ethos, pathos, makes convincing adaptation plan for audience					

Comments and Grade: