

# Narrative Assignment

**GOAL:** In the spirit of the first three short stories you've read for this class, write a narrative that effectively develops imagined events that convey an implied theme.

- Before writing anything, identify an **implied theme** that you would like your short story to convey; this idea should never be directly stated in your narrative. (Write it down at the top of a sheet of notebook paper: your *planning sheet*.)
- Consider using **literary techniques** that were used effectively in some of the short stories that we've read thus far (e.g. dystopian fiction, satire, parody, fairy-tale structure, symbolism, magical realism).
- Before drafting your narrative, determine an interesting **conflict** that will be the driving force of its plot. (Consider the central conflicts of "Harrison Bergeron", "Once Upon a Time", and "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" as inspiration.)
- Use a well-structured **sequence of events** so that plot events build on one another to create a coherent whole; refer to the Prose Vocabulary sheet as you plan. Outline these events on your *planning sheet*.
- Use these elements to establish a specific **tone** (two or more attitudes from the Wheel of Feels handout) and to develop the implied **theme** (as delineated in the Stated & Implied Theme handout you recently used with bellwork).
- While writing your narrative, use **sensory details** that convey a vivid picture of the events, setting, and characters.

## PRODUCTS:

1. *planning sheet*: a for-your-eyes-only single sheet of notebook paper that (neatly) includes the implied theme(s) and intended tone of your short story, an explanation of the conflict(s), a sequential outline of plot events, and some justification as to how the individual elements of your story serve both to establish your intended tone and to imply the intended theme
2. *short story*: a typed narrative (of no more than 1,000 words) that will engage its reader while implying a theme – due to ManageBAC