

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 **PLOT MAP** 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

→ see next week's schedule for info on how/where to turn these in