

Short Fiction Book Talks – AP English Literature & Composition – Maite, Meyer

Purpose: To effectively explain the author’s intention through the eyes of the protagonist

- Organize your short story talk around the following requirements.
- Introduce yourself as the protagonist.
- Diction and word choice appropriate to character portrayal
- Give some background information about yourself, including characteristics, personality traits, events, and personal relationships.
- What life changing events impacted you? What did you learn? (themes)
- What literary devices did the author use to explore your character and themes
- Three to five minutes
- Five Extra Credit points if you dress as the character

Exemplary	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Missing
5	4	3	2-1	0

Vitality, energy and poise _____

Introduction/background of the character x2 _____

Life changing events, learning and themes x3 _____

Literary devices x2 _____

Avoids plot summary _____

Length _____

Diction and voice _____

Total points _____/55

Possible Author for Short Fiction/Free Choice

*Note: Story needs to be at least 5000 words (which is about 10 single spaced pages in Word – MLA). Use your best judgment.

NOTE: Any previously read material concerning 7-11 curriculum is not permissible.

- Tobias Wolff
- Franz Kafka (except *The Metamorphosis* & *The Hunger Artist*)
- Flannery O'Connor (except *Good Country People* & *Late Encounter with the Enemy*)
- Margaret Atwood
- Joyce Carol Oates
- Andre Dubus
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- James Joyce
- William Faulkner
- Alice Munro
- Earnest Hemingway
- Eudora Welty
- DH Lawrence
- Katharine Anne Porter
- Richard Wright
- Anton Chekhov
- Thomas Wolfe (*Not Child by Tiger*)
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Graham Greene
- F Scott Fitzgerald
- Edith Wharton
- John Cheever
- Sylvia Plath
- Dan Chaon
- Washington Irving
- James Thurber
- Virginia Woolf
- Alice Elliot Dark
- Sherwood Anderson
- James Baldwin
- William Carlos Williams
- Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Annie Proulx
- Leo Tolstoy
- Mark Twain
- O Henry
- Oscar Wilde
- Michael Chabon
- Also, any stories from O Henry Award Winners or American Best Short Stories or Glimmer Train Magazine or from The New Yorker are good pieces of fiction. These writers tend to be new names and aren't published with anthologies, but it doesn't make them any less enjoyable or credible.