ENG 3407 Gothic Literature and Culture, Prof. Sean Scanlan

Essay 1 Assignment

Fall 2015

Primary Goal: Write a three-page essay (750 words) in which you compare two of the following short stories that we have read so far:

\* “The Lottery” -Jackson

\* “The Black Cat” -Poe

\* *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* -Stevenson

\* “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” -Irving

\* “Young Goodman Brown” -Hawthorne

\* “Afterward” -Wharton

\* “The Yellow Wallpaper” -Gilman

Your comparison should engage with the frame of reference of Gothic fiction. What this means is that you need to utilize at least one of the core terms that we have examined: gothic, renaissance, enlightenment, romanticism, Victorian, industrial revolution, irony, puritanism, evil, spirit of perverseness, the sublime, and various symbols and metaphors (this is not a complete list). I suggest that you use these terms as they seem to affect characters and plot; put another way, write about the characters and plots that interest you and see how certain terms might help you to make more sense of the stories.

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Essay Details:

1. Make sure to begin with a strong thesis that you support by using evidence from the text. Also, use direct quotations that you properly cite from the original text.

2. Write using clear paragraphs that contain declarative topic sentences.

3. End with a conclusion that does more than just repeat or summarize your own thesis. You might consider asking (and answering) a provisional question about the stories.

4. Three full pages (750 words—use the word count feature). Use the standard Journal/Essay format. You should not use outside sources—use the texts and criticism from our class such as Groom, my lecture notes, Stevens, and Lloyd-Smith (and, possibly, a dictionary).

5. If you have questions about format, writing a thesis, paragraph structure, conclusions, or citations, please study the Purdue OWL website that is on our OpenLab course page. If you still have questions after trying to answer questions on your own, then ask me.

6. Above all: choose a topic that interests you. And if you want to write about something that is not on this list, just ask me. Chances are that I will approve it.

Important Dates:

\* Two page draft due: Oct 6

\* Final Draft due: Oct 13

-Late essays will be penalized by one full letter-grade for each day late.