**Eng 21 Purple – Essay #6:** due Wed 12/11—share doc with Mr. B. by beginning of class

Write a 2-5-page analytical essay arguing a thesis about 2 or 3 stories that interest you. Make insights beyond what came up in class discussion. An excellent argument will attend to the stories’ themes as well as style.

As practice for the Sophomore Synthesis—and so you can commence thinking on these terms as you read for it—you must generate your own topic.

You do, however, have a few general options to consider. Do **one** of the below:

1. Write about multiple stories by single authors we’ve read (i.e. Alexie, Lahiri, Hawthorne, Hemingway).
2. Write about multiple stories by different authors we’ve read. Choose stories that have a comparable thematic and/or stylistic element. Differences are at least as interesting as similarities; but if there is no notable similarity as grounds for comparison, then your argument may lose tension.
3. Read an additional story by an author we’ve read, and write about those two (or three). Here are some suggestions:
   1. Carver – “The Father or “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love”
   2. Jones – “The Store”
   3. Diaz – “Boyfriend,” “Drown,” ‘Edison, New Jersey” or “Negocios” (along with “Fiesta, 1980,” which was optional to begin with)
   4. Alexie – “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven,” “Every Little Hurricane” or “The Only Traffic Signal on the Reservation Doesn’t Flash Red Anymore”
   5. Lahiri – “The Third and Final Continent”
   6. Hawthorne – “The Artist of the Beautiful”
   7. Hemingway – “The Killers”

If you pursue this 3rd option, I can help you get a copy of a story.

Here are the stories you read:

“Popular Mechanics”

“Dinner Time”

“A Dog’s Life”

“The First Day”

“Snow”

“Fiesta, 1980” (optional, on Canvas)

“The Flowers”

“What Happened During the Ice Storm”

“Indian Education,” “What You Pawn I Will Redeem”

“I Walk Between the Raindrops” (optional, on Canvas)

“Hell-Heaven,” “A Temporary Matter,” “Interpreter of Maladies”

“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment,” “The Birthmark”

“Hills Like White Elephants,” “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place,” “Cat in the Rain”