

English III Short Stories Assignment

Due the fourth day of school

Printing the assigned short stories is not required.

Theme is the overall message of a literary work. Some common literary themes are “good and evil,” “perseverance,” survival,” “family ties,” “faith,” “death and loss,” and “generosity.”

As you read the three assigned short stories, consider a prominent theme and how the author develops the theme in the story. Then, **write a five-to-six sentence explanation for each**. Include **textual evidence** as support. Use the third person only; do not use contractions. Prefer strong verbs and adjectives. Write about literature using the present tense of the verb. **Simple plot summary of the text rather than theme analysis = half credit**

“Civil Peace” (Chinua Achebe)

“The Distant Past” (William Trevor)

‘The Hanging’ (George Orwell)

“Six Feet of the Country” (Nadine Gordimer)

“What Men Live By” (Leo Tolstoy)
