**Literary Analysis Poster (4th Quarter Summative Grade)**

**A Literary Analysis requires the breaking down of a work of literature into its components to explore its content. Examining the different elements of a piece of literature is not an end in itself, but rather a process to help better appreciate and understand the work of literature as a whole.**

To understand the components of a literary analysis essay, you will be reading a short story and creating an analysis in poster format with up to three partners (groups of four).

Short Story: *TBD*

Task: Support the theme of the chosen short story by highlighting the author’s use of literary elements in its development.

**Literary elements that can develop theme (not limited to these):**

*Symbolism*

*Irony (situational, dramatic,verbal)*

*Foreshadowing/ Flashback Point of View*

***Tone (DIDLS)***

*Satire*

*Setting*

*Characterization*

* **Intro/Thesis**: Your poster will feature the title and author of the short story and begin with a hook. The summary should be very brief—2-3 three sentences ONLY. Present a clear thesis statement that argues the author’s use of (at least) three literary elements (with a separate analysis of tone) to develop the theme, which you will also determine.
* **Arguments**: The rest of the poster will be occupied by your arguments and evidence from the short story. For each literary element that your group explores, include 1-2 examples from the text to show how it supports and develops the theme. Include quotes and paraphrases, citing them in MLA format (“example” (3)). Essentially, you’ll write a short MEAL paragraph for each example.

Example: *The Gift of the Magi*, by O. Henry

Thesis Statement: In his short story *The Gift of the Magi*, O. Henry uses vivid imagery, symbolism, and situational irony to develop the idea that love leads to sacrifices.

Evidence #2: Henry uses situational irony to support the theme when Jim unexpectedly receives the fob that Della gave him for his watch, but Della did not know that he sold it. Henry adds a twist toward the end of the story when Jim says to Della, “Let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while .... I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on" (3). Instead of getting upset about the gifts that they cannot use, which a reader might expect, Jim is happy to move past the situation and eat dinner. In the last paragraph of the story, Henry points out that the sacrifices that Jim and Della made for each other were more valuable than the gifts themselves.

Evidence #3: The author uses imagery to support the theme. There is the flat itself, with its malfunctioning mailbox, dead doorbell, worn red carpet, and cheap mirror equivalent. There is the dull scene out the window: a "gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray backyard" (6). There is Della's "old brown jacket" and "old brown hat" (11), and Jim, with his worn overcoat and gloveless hands. All of this imagery creates a contrast between the rich, warm, inner world of love and affection which Della and Jim create, and the gray, ugly, outer world of money and work and miserly, hair-buying business owners. It highlights Henry’s theme through the sacrifices Della and Jim have to make in order to show their love for one another.

* **Context**: In addition to the thesis statement and evidence, include a section highlighting the context and main events of the story. When was it written? What is it about? What inspired the author to write it? (SOAPS). Consider how the true meaning of the story is apparent throughout the uses of literary devices.
* Make your poster **visually appealing**. Try to present your information on your poster in a creative way.
  + If you would like to explore more than three literary elements, you may add two and earn up to 4 points each (up to 8 points).