

Name: _____ Class: _____
ELA 7th Grade

Theme Based Essay Prompt
(Final Essay due: Friday January 24th, 2020)

- 1) "The Landlady" by Roald Dahl
- 2) "The Possibility of Evil" by Shirley Jackson
- 3) "Amigo Brothers" by Piri Thomas

In each of the above stories, the author develops a theme through the characters in the story. In this essay, you will **pick ONE** of the above short stories to focus on. Once you have done that, you will be expected to determine the overall theme of the story and explain how the author develops it through the story. You will also use direct quotes and details to support your analysis of the text.

Your writing will follow the format below:

1. **Introduction** – Hook your readers and explain your purpose for writing this essay
2. **Body paragraph 1** – Summarize the story for your readers in 5-10 sentences. You can follow the "Somebody Wanted But So" method.
3. **Body paragraph 2** – Identify the theme of the text and explain how the author develops and shows that theme. For example, if I were to say the theme is "Don't judge a book by its cover" I would then explain how the characters in the text show that and use at least **TWO pieces of textual evidence to support that.**
4. **Conclusion** – Wrap up your main points. Make a recommendation – Should readers read this text? Why/ Why not?

***Be sure to check your writing for spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors. Also, remember to indent all paragraphs and put quotes in quotation marks! A cover page is REQUIRED.**