**ELA 7: *The Ransom of Red Chief* Essay Overview**

**Final essay Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I can:**

* Produce effective and well-supported writing for my purpose and audience
* State a claim and identify reasons that support my choice
* Present my information in a formal style that includes an introduction, supporting details, transitions, and a concluding statement
* Use graphic organizers to develop my writing ideas
* Compose a clear and logical piece of writing that demonstrates my understanding of a specific writing style
* Apply revision strategies and edit my writing to check for errors
* Determine textual evidence that supports my analysis and reflection
* Compose written responses and include textual evidence to strengthen my analysis and reflection
* Select and integrate information from text and film viewing
* Analyze my sources and determine relevant and irrelevant information
* Use precise language and style appropriate to my purpose and audience when drafting or revising

**Steps you will be following**:

**Your assignment**

**Part 1: Reading and Viewing**

You will read the short story *The Ransom of Red Chief* and view the film version of the short story. You will complete the required close-reading/viewing and information gathering assignments given during the reading/writing workshop class periods each day. You will then use the information you have gathered to write an essay about a selected character from the short story.

**Part 2: Planning**

You will review your text, notes and assignments to plan your essay. A graphic organizer for planning will be provided to help you organize your ideas based on your claim regarding your selected character, character trait, and evidence.

**Part 3: Drafting**

After you have completed your plan, you will begin constructing your written draft. Your draft will be double-spaced (handwritten or typed), and include the following:

* An introduction paragraph stating your claim about the selected character and the character’s trait
* A paragraph giving evidence and an explanation that proves the stated claim from the text
* A paragraph giving evidence and an explanation that proves the stated claim from the film
* A concluding paragraph wrapping up your analysis and reflecting on your stated claim

**Part 4: Revising**

You will read and make changes so your essay meets the scoring criteria. Use the revision and editing checklist to check for errors, making changes to your draft before submitting a final draft.

**How your essay will be scored:**

1. **Statement of purpose/focus**—how well you clearly state and maintain your claim
2. **Organization**—how well the ideas progress from the introduction to the conclusion using effective transitions and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay
3. **Elaboration of evidence**—how well you provide relevant evidence from sources about your selected claim and elaborate with specific information
4. **Language and vocabulary**—how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose
5. **Conventions**—how well you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

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| \_\_\_\_ Did you put a proper heading at the top of your paper?  \_\_\_\_Did you skip lines/ double space?  \_\_\_\_Did you indent each new paragraph?  \_\_\_\_Did you eliminate “I think”, “I believe”, “In my opinion”?  \_\_\_\_Did you check for spelling errors?  \_\_\_\_Did you check for proper capitalization? | \_\_\_\_Did you include the required information in your topic sentence and introduction paragraph?  \_\_\_\_Did you identify one piece of evidence from your short story WITH an explanation of why that proves your claim?  \_\_\_\_Did you identify one piece of evidence from the film WITH an explanation of why that proves your claim?  \_\_\_\_Did you finish with a concluding statement reminding the reader of your claim? |

**Other Helpful Resources in your ELA binder**

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| * English Language Arts Style Sheet * Character Traits * Six Traits of Writing * Developing Ideas in Writing * Introduction and Conclusion Writing: Leads and Endings * Organizing a Constructed response | * Transitions * Capitalization * Commas * Quotation Marks * Synonym for Said * Usage Words and Words Often Confused |