**Writers**

You will be writing your own story that reflects the themes of “The Lottery” and then you will be peer-reviewing them. Right now you should brainstorm about current and past events that relate to “The Lottery.”

Consider the traditions that we all have. Discuss different traditions that you all have within the group and/or different traditions you know about.

i.e What traditions do you have that outsiders might not understand?

Again your assignment is to individually write a short story that uses the themes of “The Lottery” as a basis. I am giving you two writing options to help you generate a story.

Writing Prompts:

1. When we look at the lottery, it seems like an evil, barbarous practice from the outside. I want you to choose a practice, tradition, or celebration that we think is normal but that might seem very strange or even immoral from someone who is not from our society. (Examples might include hazing in fraternities, ignoring homeless people on the streets, bombing other countries i.e. Hiroshima & Nagasaki, death penalty, etc.) Write a story about this practice from the perspective of an outsider who is appalled.
2. Think about traditions, practices, celebrations, and situations in the world or in your community that you do not understand. Many cultures have unique traditions that we do not understand. For instance, why do people in India revere cows? We have a whole industry based on butchering these animals? Why do females in the Middle East have to wear Burkas? If you choose this writing prompt, your assignment will be to create a short story from the perspective of a person from that culture and demonstrate why that practice is acceptable and understandable. This might require some research or it may just involve critical thinking. Consider this as an opportunity to answer or research something that you don’t understand. There are many traditions and actions in this world that we do not understand, which is perfectly normal, but we must try to see the other side.

You can discuss these prompts as group. There is no assigned story format. That is your decision. It can be a children’s book, a comic book, a traditional short story, etc, but your story must be approximately 750-1000 words. Please discuss with me if your story is going to be shorter than that, and we can work something out.

As you write your story consider the verbal devices that Shirley Jackson used to appeal to our senses, create imagery, suggest mood, and to set the tone. Think of your word choice and the literary elements that you use. Be creative and have fun!

After you finish writing the story, you will peer-review your stories to get different perspectives. Just like the other groups, you will have an oral presentation at the end. As a group, you will decide which story you all will read to the class. However, after I correct your stories, I may want you to share them with the rest of the class. Also, you will be able to publish your project on my teacher web page after the presentations.

Finally, you will also write a reflection or a “behind-the-scenes” look that explains what you were trying to convey with your story and what literary devices you used. This is your chance to explain to me what you were hoping to accomplish or what you were struggling with. The length is up to you, but you should try to keep it to approximately 1-2 pages double-spaced. A paragraph most likely will not allow you the space needed to provide a critical reflection on your piece.

Never be afraid to try something new.  Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic.  ~Anonymous

Good luck and remember to have fun!