**ENGLISH 11**

**SHORT STORY JOURNALS**

**Remember all journals must be a GOOD discussion of the topic(s) and should be at least 1 page double spaced (250-500 words). They need to be written in pen, in your separate journal notebook, titled & dated, in order. Use the journals to practice different writing techniques & to improve your writing skills.**

**\*\* Please note that the journal topics may vary from year to year. Use the blog or a classmate to ensure you have the correct topic. \*\***

1. **Journal #1** – “Identities” - What is identity? What is YOUR identity? List the top 5 descriptors you would use to describe you & explain each choice. (Ex. Kind, female, determined, religious, loyal, friend, etc.) Why do you think the man in “Identities” is battling with his identity?
2. **Journal #2**- “ Miss Brill” - Empathy Journal – write a journal as if you were Miss Brill when she gets home after the park or within a week or two after the story ends. Using your understanding of her character, consider what just happened, how she would feel, what she would do, and how she lives her life.
3. **Journal #3 –** Identity & Appearance **–** Consider the first two stories, along with all the other sources we discussed and your responses. How much does your appearance (gender, age, race, looks, status, etc.) impact your personal identity & behaviour?
4. **Journal #**4- “Jade Peony” - What struggles might some immigrants face when trying to balance their cultural heritage with their new nationality and/or culture? Canada is known for being “multicultural”. Considering the information in the article, what is your opinion on the state of multiculturalism in Canada? Is there true diversity or a diversity of “isolated islands”? Explain.
5. **Journal #5-** Synthesis: Poetry & Narrative - Write a synthesis response using one of the poems and one (or two) of the first three stories we’ve studied. Discuss how aspects of the poem connect to aspects of the story. Use specific references to the poem & story to explain your ideas.
6. **Journal #6 -** “The Lottery” – What do the events in the story say about human nature? Compare and contrast the story to the movie version of the story. Which do you prefer? Why? Explain with examples.
7. **Journal #7 – “**Totem**” –** Satire – What is Thomas King satirizing in the story “Totem”? Are his criticisms valid or fair? Explain your opinion. King is discussing issues of stereotyping and race, is satire an appropriate way to discuss such sensitive subjects? Why or why not?
8. **Journal #8 –**Traditions – What are some traditions you & your family celebrate? Are all traditions positive? Explain. Is it important to hold onto traditions or is it more important to adapt and evolve with the times and/or the dominant culture? Explain. With reference to all 3 tradition stories we’ve studied, discuss your opinion on the value and purpose of traditions. (The Lottery, Jade Peony, Totem)
9. **Journal #9 –** “Behind the Headlines” – Choices: A dilemma – In this short story Lakshmi reflects on the choices she’s made in her life and wonders how her life has turned out this way. In this moment of reflection, she is faced with a dilemma: to remain the same or to change. As we get older, we are given more responsibilities, have more power to make choices for ourselves, but we also have to deal with the consequences of our choices. Consider an important choice or dilemma that you’ve had to face. Discuss the situation. What did you do? How did you choose? What were the consequences? Do you have any regrets? Explain.
10. **Journal #10** “Just Lather, That’s All” - Is the barber a hero for holding back and not killing Torres or a coward for not killing him when he had a chance? Explain. What do the choices of both the barber and Torres say about human nature?
11. **Journal #11 -** “The Lady or the Tiger” – Which door– lady or tiger – do you think the daughter advises her lover to choose? Explain why using evidence or reasons from the story.
12. **Journal #12** – Choice – Reflect on the last 3 stories and consider the power of choice. One person’s choices can not only greatly impact his/her own life, but also decide the fate of another. Consider the power of your choices. What impact do the choices you make have on you, your family/friends, your school/community, city, country, and world? Explain with examples. Can you make a difference in someone else’s life – for good or for bad? Explain.
13. **Journal #13** – Look back to all the stories we studied & consider what each illustrates about human nature or behaviour. Consider the following questions: How do we see ourselves? How do we learn (are forced) to evolve and/or attempt to hold on to our pasts? How do we make choices and deal with the consequences of those choices? How do we make, keep, or break our relationships with one another? How do we love, help, or harm one another? Why do we behave this way? What motivates us? What causes us to act this way?

What have you learned about human nature and about yourself through reading these stories?