

**Assignment: Character Analysis Paper**

Due Monday, October 12, 4pm on Moodle (late assignments will not be accepted)

**Learning objectives:**

- Students demonstrate an understanding of the main character's complexity (actions, feelings, relationships)
- Students can identify ambiguities in the character's analysis (what are the grey areas for interpretation?)
- Students demonstrate the ability to link the analysis of the character to the overarching theme of the tale (So what?)

**Assignment:** Use the same Hans Christian Andersen' tale that you picked for your Research Paper. Identify the main character and write a detailed analysis of his/her personality (virtues, vices, and aspirations), actions (reasons and consequences) and interactions or relationships with other characters (what drives them? love, revenge, utility, greed?). Make sure to point out ambiguities: when it is unclear why the character behaves or thinks in a certain way, or when there could be multiple, equally valid explanations. Finally, consider the following questions as your guide for the analysis:

- Which character interests you the most? Why?
- Do characters change over time? How? (stereotypical/well developed)
- How does a specific character function within the work? What is her/his purpose?
- What character traits are most significant? Which of them represent morals and social norms (historical and cultural context)

Use examples from the tale to support your arguments. If you quote, refer to the Hacker's A Pocket Style Manual how to cite correctly using the MLA citation style. You will be graded whether you cite correctly for this paper.

**Paper length and requirements:** 500-560 words (2 pages); please indicate your name, assignment title and the date on the top left corner of your essay. It is a generative writing assignment, therefore your critical inquiry and the organization of your ideas weigh more than the revised, carefully edited and proofread text. Keep in mind that this is NOT a rough draft or a diary type of writing where "anything goes". Your essay should have an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, and a closing paragraph. The tone of your paper should be formal and academic. It is ok to use the first pronoun throughout this essay. Think of this assignment as an ongoing exercise in the refinement of your voice. Your classmates and the instructor is your audience.

**Grading:**

- appropriate analysis of the personality, actions and interactions
- the essay addresses ambiguities of the main character interpretation
- well structured essay with a clear beginning, middle, and end
- appropriate voice for assignment/audience (no usage of slang, colloquial expressions and abbreviations)
- grammar and punctuation do not distract from reading the essay
- correct MLA in-text citation and Works Cited list.

The essay score x15

13-15	Mostly plus scores; strong performance in all areas
10-12	Mostly check-plus scores; room for improvement in a few areas
6-9	Mostly check scores; work is OK but could be improved in most areas
0-5	Low scores in several areas

