Rising Juniors,

This summer you will read five different short stories from a diverse collection of writers. Through these stories, you will be introduced to the themes that we will tackle throughout our American literature class. **As part of your summer reading assignment, we ask that you write fully developed responses (including textual evidence to support your claims) for each of the questions listed below.** We ask that you take your time and carefully craft these typed paragraphs as they will be our first impressions of your ability to write—we highly suggest you make a strong first impression. These typed responses will be submitted to Teams and turnitin.com.

Have a great summer and we hope you enjoy the reading!

Mr. Angiello & Mr. Ovalle

Prompts:

1. *Chicago Christmas, 1984* (George Saunders) – Why does John lose all of his money at the Christmas party? What factor(s) contribute to his gambling losses?
2. *Go Carolina* (David Sedaris) – In this personal narrative, David Sedaris reflects on his experiences in speech therapy during his childhood in North Carolina. Through this reflection on his lisp and his interactions with his speech therapist, what commentary is Sedaris making about masculinity?
3. *A Temporary Matter* (Jhumpa Lahiri) - In Jhumpa Lahiri’s “A Temporary Matter,” the narrator describes a brief power outage that the characters experience. Beyond this brief power outage, what is “temporary” in this short story?
4. *A Good Man is Hard to Find* (Flannery O’Connor) - At the end of the story, the Misfit says, “She would have been a good woman if it had been somebody there to shoot her every minute of her life” (133). What does he mean by that line? Please use examples from the text.
5. *Going to Meet the Man* (James Baldwin) – Baldwin is an African-American writer who confronts issues surrounding race in his writing. With this in mind, how does the meaning of the n-word change over the course of the story?

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| **Formal Paragraph Rubric** | |
| **Content: A(10)   B(9)   C(8)   D(7)   F(6,5**)  **Topic Sentence**   * Summarizes the argument * Directly answers given assignment * Argument is not a fact.     **Evidence (Quotes/Paraphrase)**   * Every argument claim is supported with textual evidence * Every quote is relevant to topic sentence * Every quote is introduced and provides context * Quotes are appropriate in length     **Analysis/Argument**   * Provides adequate explanation of the quote * Connects quote to topic sentence and argument * Adds new insight (non-repetitive) * Is not summary * Demonstrates understanding of the text/topic | **Language:   A(10)     B(9)     C(8)     D(7)     F(6,5)**  **Grammar**   * no run-ons/fragments * use simple, present-tense verbs * spelling * capitalization * possessives * typos/carelessness * correct comma usage * correct preposition usage     **Formal Academic Style**   * only use 3rd person pronouns * use transitions effectively within a body paragraph * formal language * no contractions * no unclear pronouns * no wordiness * no redundancy * varied sentence structure * clear sentences (not awkward) * active verbs     **MLA Formatting**   * quotes and citations formatted correctly * indents, spacing, heading, and layout * works cited – book with an author, translated, periodical, website, anonymous book |
| A (20) A (19) B+ (18) B- (17) C (16) D+(15) D(14) F (13 or less) | |