**Literary Essay Checklist**

* Title and author mentioned in introduction; short stories, poems and essays in quotation marks, novels and plays in italics.
* Thesis is last sentence in introduction.
* Introduction starts with a general statement, then “focuses down” to thesis.
* No evidence (i.e. proofs or quotes) in introduction.
* No personal pronouns (unless in quotes).
* All verbs describing the story in PRESENT tense.
* No “I” statements (e.g. “I think...”, “I believe...”, “In this essay I will....”, “This makes me think...”
* No use of the word “quote” when integrating a quote.
* No use of the word “theme” when discussing theme (i.e. Do not say “The theme of...”
* Quotations correctly integrated.
* Quotations used as evidence to support your analysis, NOT for plot details.
* If characters have names, use them; if they are un-named, use a logical replacement (e.g. the narrator, the old neighbour, the man’s wife, etc.).
* No value judgments about the story (e.g. “In this gripping tale of suspense...”, “The author brilliantly uses....”).
* Do not give the story human abilities (e.g. “The story shows...”, “The story says...”)