

### COMPARATIVE PROSE ESSAYS

1. 'The Two Grandmothers' and 'Berry' are two short stories that deal with the theme of racism.
  - a. Summarize EACH short story.
  - b. Discuss two incidences of racism that Berry, from 'Berry' and the female protagonist from 'The Two Grandmothers' encountered.
  - c. Highlight, then examine the protagonist that, in your opinion, suffered a greater degree of racism and discuss why.
  
2. Racism is an important theme in West Indian Literature.
  - a. Identify, and discuss, one instance of racism, or racist sentiment, in the short stories 'Berry', 'The Two Grandmothers' and 'Dah-Duh, in Memoriam'.
  - b. Choosing two stories from section b), discuss the extent to which racism affected the characters of both short stories.
  
3. Children often make the most interesting protagonists.
  - a. Using the short stories 'The Two Grandmothers' and 'Dah-Duh, in Memoriam', discuss how the theme of innocence is highlighted through the actions of the child protagonists.
  - b. Using one of the short stories in section a), discuss one other theme that is highlighted by the child protagonist's actions.
  
4. Innocence can be a wonderful thing, but it comes with negative ramifications at times.
  - a. Summarize the short stories 'Man of the House' and 'Dah-Duh, in Memoriam'.
  - b. Discuss the manner in which one innocent act, on the part of each protagonist, affected one character adversely.
  - c. Discuss one redeeming character trait, besides innocence, that each protagonist possesses.

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5. Innocence can be a weapon of survival, as well as a simple state of being that can be easily lost.
  - a. Discuss the circumstances that forced Berry, from the short story 'Berry' to don the garb of innocence, as well as the circumstances that facilitated the young protagonist from 'The Two Grandmothers' to slowly lose her innocence.
  - b. Discuss the extent to which Berry is aware of using innocence as a survival mechanism, as well as the extent to which the young protagonist is unaware of her loss of innocence.
  
6. 'The Day the World Almost Came to An End' and 'The Man of the House' are two stories that have protagonists who are innocent in their view of the world.
  - a. Define the term innocence, and examine how both characters displayed their innocence.
  - b. Discuss how the adults in the protagonists' lives responded to the negative results of their innocence.
  
7. Disillusionment is an important theme in the short stories 'To Da-Duh, in Memoriam' and 'Georgia and Them There United States'.
  - a. Summarize both short stories.
  - b. Discuss one encounter, or experience, that a character from each story has, that facilitates the feeling of disillusionment.
  
8. Innocence is a state of purity, where a person is not corrupted and lacks guile.
  - a. Summarize the short stories 'Emma' and 'The Man of the House'.
  - b. Examine the extent to which each character, from both stories, can be viewed as innocent.
  - c. Discuss one situation in which each character loses their innocence, as well as a character trait, other than innocence, that is highlighted by their situation.
  
9. The protagonist from 'The Day the World Almost Came to an End' and 'The Two Grandmothers' were innocent at the beginning of the short stories.
  - a. Examine one incident, each, that displays this innocence in their character.
  - b. Discuss the details of one incident that facilitated each character's loss of innocence.

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10. 'The Day the World Almost Came to an End' and 'The Man of the House' are two short stories that deal with the theme of loss of innocence.
  - a. Examine, through one incident each, the extent to which each character can be described as innocent.
  - b. Discuss how each character's innocence is lost through one embarrassing incident.
  
11. 'Emma' and 'The Two Grandmothers' are short stories that have young female narrators.
  - a. Discuss how the first person perspective that is used by the young female narrators emphasizes their innocence.
  - b. Examine one incident, each, that destroys the young narrator's innocence.
  
12. Friendship is a complex phenomenon that is not as simple as it first appears.
  - a. In the short stories 'Emma' and 'The Two Grandmothers', discuss the relationship between Emma and Mrs. Robinson, and the young protagonist, from 'The Two Grandmothers', and her friends Eulalie and Ermandine.
  - b. Compare the friendship between Dori and Maria, with that of the nameless protagonist in 'The Two Grandmothers', and her friends Eulalie and Ermandine.
  - c. Discuss which of the two friendships is the more desirable to cultivate and why.
  
13. Emma, from 'Emma', and Mom Luby, from 'Mom Luby and the Social Worker', are two mothers that play a vital role in their children's life.
  - a. Discuss the major role that Mom Luby and Emma play in their wards, and child's life.
  - b. Examine the sacrifice that one of the mothers made in order to ensure their child/children's survival, as well as the character trait that is highlighted by this mother's actions.
  
14. Shabine, from 'Shabine', and Emma, from 'Emma', are two women that have led hard lives.
  - a. Discuss one major challenge that each protagonist has experienced in their life.
  - b. Examine the manner in which one character reacts to her struggles and discuss what this highlights about her personality.

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15. Squeeky, from 'Raymond's Run' and Mom Luby, from 'Mom Luby and the Social Worker' can be considered to be disciplined and strong females, despite being opposites in age.
- Discuss, using examples from each story, the truth of this statement as it relates to both characters.
  - Discuss the extent to which both females have a positive impact on at least one individual that they encounter, or relate with, on a personal level.
16. 'The Two Grandmothers' and 'Georgia and Them There United States' are stories that deal with women and how they relate to each other.
- Discuss the manner in which Aunt Letitia relates to June, and how Towser relates to the country grandma Del.
  - Discuss the light that this sheds on Letitia and Towser's characters, as well as how you feel that they should relate to each other.
17. Religion plays an important role in people's lives.
- Discuss the extent to which religion played an integral part in the lives of the unnamed protagonist in 'The Day the World Almost Came to an End' and grandma Del in 'the Two Grandmothers'.
  - Choosing one of the characters from one of the short stories in section a), discuss the impact that religion had on this individual's life, and how they reacted to it.
18. Discrimination is a part of every society at some point in its history.
- Discuss the extent to which Mom Luby, from 'Mom Luby and the Social Worker' and Shabine, from the short story 'Shabine' suffer from discrimination.
  - Choose one character from one of the short stories in section a), and discuss how this person defies discrimination by breaking stereotypes.
19. The character Shabine, from 'Shabine' and Raymond, from 'Raymond's Run' frequently face discrimination.
- Using examples from each short story, discuss the discrimination that each character faces.
  - Examine the details that surround the defense of one of these characters, as well as the character trait that is highlighted about the defender.

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20. 'The Two Grandmothers' and 'Raymond's Run' deal with different types of discrimination.
- Give details about the discrimination that Eulalie and Ermandine, from 'The Two grandmothers' and Raymond, from 'Raymond's Run', suffer.
  - Discuss the extent to which this discrimination is unfair to the characters.
21. Berry, from 'Berry', and Mom Luby, from 'Mom Luby and the Social Worker', are two individuals that choose to care for young children.
- Discuss how Mom Luby and Berry take care of the children in their care.
  - Using one of the short stories in section a), discuss one particular challenge that the character faces in the caregiver role that they have undertaken, as well as how they respond to the challenge.
22. The father/daughter relationship is a very important one.
- Summarize the short stories 'Emma' and 'The Day the World Almost Came to an End'
  - Discuss the contrast that exists, in both stories, regarding the father/daughter relationship.
  - Examine the character trait that is highlighted, about both fathers, from their actions towards their daughters.
23. 'Emma' and 'Man of the House' are two short stories that highlight a child's love for their mother.
- Summarize the short stories 'Emma' and 'Man of the House'
  - Examine how the two protagonists display their love for their mothers.
  - Discuss one character trait, other than loving, that is displayed by Emma and Sullivan's mother in their relationship with their children.
24. Georgia, in 'Georgia and Them There United States' and Da-Dah, in 'To Da-Duh, in Memoriam' deal with bitter/sweet relationships.
- Discuss the bitter, yet sweet nature of the relationship between June, Georgia and Aunt Letitia, and Da-Duh and her granddaughter.
  - Discuss the extent to which each character resolves her relationship with her relative.

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25. 'Man of the House' and 'Raymond's Run' are two short stories in which the young protagonists are saddled with monumental responsibilities.
- Identify, and discuss, the responsibilities that each child has towards a family member.
  - Discuss the extent to which each child is able to successfully carry out his/her responsibilities.
26. The short stories 'Raymond's Run' and 'To Da-Duh, in Memoriam' highlights the competitive spirit in the young.
- Summarize the two short stories.
  - Discuss the extent to which each character's competitive nature, namely Squeaky and the young narrator, is highlighted in each story.
  - Discuss one character trait, not competitiveness, which is highlighted through these characters' actions.
27. Shabine, from 'Shabine' and Emma, from the short story 'Emma', are two young mothers.
- Discuss the difference that exists in the social standing of both mothers.
  - Discuss one challenge that one mother has in her family life and how this challenge affects her parenting.
28. 'To Da-Duh, in Memoriam' and 'The Two Grandmothers' have interesting relationships with their grandchildren.
- Describe the relationship that the three grandmothers; grandma Del, Towser and Da-Duh, have with their grandchildren.
  - Examine the extent to which each grandmother is invested in having a good relationship with their grandchild.
29. Racism is a theme that is a constant in West Indian Literature.
- Using any two short stories, examine the manner in which racism affects one major character from each story.
  - Discuss each character's reaction to the racist act that they encounter, as well as the character trait that is highlighted about these persons.
30. Innocence and loss of innocence are themes that work together to create interesting plots.
- Using one major character from any two prescribed short story, discuss two examples that highlight the innocence of these characters.
  - Examine one way that each character loses their innocence, and how this affects them.

31. To be disillusioned is to be disappointed in someone, or something, that one discovers to be less good than one had believed.
- Using any two prescribed short story, discuss the extent to which one major character, from each short story, is disillusioned by either a person, or an event in their life.
  - Examine the two characters' reaction to the feeling of disillusionment, and discuss the character trait that is highlighted by their reaction to the feeling of disillusionment.
32. Define the word patriotism and explain its significance to a developing country. Using any two characters from the prescribed list of short stories, discuss the extent to which the two major characters are patriotic.
33. Love and family relationship is a theme that is applicable to every short story on the prescribed list.
- Describe the family dynamic that exists in any two short stories.
  - Discuss how each protagonist reacts to the family dynamic, as well the character trait that is highlighted about each protagonist.
34. Women wear many hats; mothers, grandmothers and wives, just to name a few.
- Discuss the manner in which one female character, from any two short stories from the prescribed list, executes her role as two of the above.
  - Examine how the recipients of these women's attentions – within the confines of the roles chosen in section a) – react to how they are treated.
35. Religion is an important aspect of some societies.
- Examine the extent to which religion is an important aspect in the lives of any two characters in any two short stories from the prescribed list.
  - Discuss how the people around this character react to the religious emphasis in these characters' lives.
36. Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people based on age, race and sex.
- Describe, and discuss, using two characters from any two short stories, the part that discrimination plays in these characters' lives.
  - Discuss the extent to which this treatment is fair, or not, to these characters.

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