



**AP English Literature & Composition**  
**March 16, 2020 – April 5, 2020 WE RETURN: APRIL 6, 2020**

**I. Use *The St Martin's Guide to Writing* for the following reading and writing assignments (A – C).**

**A.** Please **read** the background information on “Interpreting Stories,” Chapter 10, on p. 514. Assignment: Why do stories have a special place in most cultures? What “power” do stories have on us, the reader?

**B.** Then **read and write** (in ink or typed) about the following short stories:

1. a. “The Story of An Hour,” pp. 516-518.  
b. Respond to the following interpretation question in writing.  
How do you interpret Mrs. Mallard’s thoughts in paragraph 14?  
(Response: 1-2 paragraphs, typed or in ink.)
2. a. “Sunday in the Park,” pp. 518-521.  
b. Respond to the following interpretation question in writing:  
How do you interpret the relationship between the wife and Morton?  
(Response: 1-2 paragraphs, typed or in ink.)
3. a. “The Use of Force,” pp. 521-523.  
b. Respond to the following interpretation question in writing:  
How do you interpret the doctor’s ambivalence in paragraph 32 about his own actions?  
(Response: 1-2 paragraphs, typed or in ink.)
4. a. “Videotape,” pp. 524- 527.  
b. Respond to the following interpretation question in writing:  
How do you interpret the behaviors of the “Video Kid” and of the narrator, especially toward his wife?  
(Response: 1-2 paragraphs, typed or in ink.)
5. a. “Araby,” pp. 527-531.  
b. Then read the two sample student interpretive essays and commentary about them. They are both interpretations of “Araby.” The first one is titled, “Gazing Into Darkness,” by student Sally Crane, pp. 532-535. The second one is titled, “From Innocence to Insight: ‘Araby’ as An Initiation Story,” by student David Ratinov, pp. 536 -539.  
c. Assignment: 1. Do you agree or disagree with student Sally Crane’s interpretation that the boy does not experience” some profound insight about himself” ? Explain.  
2. What reasons does student David Ratinov argue that “Araby” is the “story of an adolescent boy’s initiation into adulthood” through the boy’s disillusionment with love?

**C. Read** “Basic Features: Interpreting Stories,” pp. 540-541. .) Assignment: What elements are needed for a reader’s effective interpretation of a short story? **(After the break, you will write an interpretive essay on a different assigned short story)**

**DUE DATE:** Monday, April 6, 2020 (A Day)  
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 (B Day)