**Fiction Unit**

**Take Home Essay Prompts**

The final draft of you essay must be submitted in MLA format. If you are unclear of what that means, BE SURE you clarify BEFORE you submit your final paper. Any final drafts that are not typed or formatted correctly will be marked as missing until the proper corrections are made. Any drafting/prewriting (which isn’t required, but highly recommended) must also be submitted with your final paper. In addition to submitting your paper and drafts, you must also cut/paste your paper onto the website [www.paperrater.com](http://www.paperrater.com). This site will analyze your paper for grammatical/spelling/ structural errors, in addition to assessing it for authenticity (i.e. plagiarism). Follow these steps for this service:

1. Paste your paper into the copy box (you will also need to create a title for the title box).
2. Select your education level (your grade level)
3. Select the type of paper you are submitting (an essay)
4. You wish to **INCLUDE** originality detection
5. Agree to the terms of service
6. Click “Get report”
7. You may check the various feedback the site includes. What you MUST do, though, is click on “Plagiarism Detection”. Print this screen (be sure that the feedback is included in the page you print). **Attach this one page to your final draft of your essay.**

Your essay prompts are as follows:

1. In each story, the main character(s) is expected to experience an epiphany (a realization or new understanding) after completing some sort of quest. Is there any true meaning to the quests that these characters undertake? Why or why not? What are their epiphanies? Do their epiphanies have any meaning? According to Updike and Joyce, is there any true significance in the day-to-day experiences of their characters?
2. How are sexuality and desire related to issues of class and socioeconomic status? How are they related to issues of consumption and merchandising? Are Sammy and the narrator from “Araby” in a sense choosing a "commodity" which he'd like to consume? How is that commodity related to his own socioeconomic position?
3. Explore the narrative structure in two of the short stories you have read (one from class, one you read individually). Who tells these stories, why, and how does the narrative voice affect the way in which the story is told?
4. Trace a Joycean motif and offer insight into the layers of meaning it creates. Examples of motifs you might pursue: fire/heat(and their converse), windows, eyes/vision, light/darkness.
5. Explore vision, blindness, and the gaze as it relates to identity/self.