Choose one of the following essay prompts and compose a paper answering all questions within.

Technical requirements:
- 3-4 pages
- Typed
- MLA format

Formal Paper #1 due Wednesday March 10, 2010

Essay prompts:

1. “A Worn Path”
   Many Writers have used the idea of the journey to teach a lesson about life. In this story, Phoenix Jackson travels quite a distance on foot. Her journey can be said to be symbolic.
   a. Why is Phoenix making this journey?
   b. What do you think her journey represents?
   c. Identify at least three setting details that describe what Phoenix faces from the beginning to the end of her journey. Clearly explain how these details contribute to the symbolism of this journey and the theme of the story.
   d. Describe a time when you or someone you know performed and action or made a journey that was symbolic to you/them.

2. “The Necklace”
   Mme. Loisel is proud and will not go to a ball without a proper necklace, though her husband has struggled to get an invitation for them. Mme. Loisel borrows a necklace from her friend Mme. Foster to wear to the ball and looses it.
   a. In order to replace the necklace, what do the Loisels do? What happens to their lives? What happens to Mme. Loisel’s pride and vanity?
   b. How does the irony of the kind we see in this story affect the reader? What is the feeling when the irony becomes clear? Does it caution the reader to be careful?
   c. Social pressures can force us to do truly silly things. Why do we let ourselves be drawn in by fashion and style, even when we cannot afford new clothes?

3. “The Lottery”
   a. Jackson tells the story from an omniscient point of view. Analyze how this point of view contributes to the story’s plot, especially its ending. Speculate about how the story might differ if it were told from another perspective.
   b. What does the story suggest about tradition and change? About gender roles? About community?
4. “Sonny’s Blues”
   a. Investigate the relationship between Sonny and the narrator. How do they reflect one another’s worldview? What similarities and differences do they have?
   b. Explain the connections between the narrator’s realization and the earlier stories he tells about Sonny. What does this realization show about the narrator and about Sonny?
   c. Describe a time when you realized you didn’t really know someone close to you. What did your realization mean to your relationship?

5. “The Yellow Wallpaper”
   a. In order to understand the importance of perspective in this story, consider how the narrator’s actions must appear to her sister-in-law and husband. Compose a letter from Jennie to John describing the narrator’s behavior. Just as the narrator’s language reveals her condition, consider the language Jennie would use as a reflection of her attitude and position.
   b. How do societal views on post-partum depression today compare to those expressed in the story? What role do ideas about gender expression play in these views?