ENG 105 Spring 2010
Midterm Exam Review

Literary terminology
- Includes all literary terms on checklist
- Be able to identify each in practice, or identify the definition
- May be short answer, multiple choice, or fill in the blank

Readings
Questions about the following pieces may appear:
- “A Worn Path”, Eudora Welty
- “Girl”, Jamaica Kincaid
- “The Necklace”, Guy de Maupassant
- “The Lottery”, Shirley Jackson
- “A Rose for Emily”, William Faulkner
- “Sonny’s Blues”, James Baldwin
- “The Yellow Wallpaper”, Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings”, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- “Hills Like White Elephants”, Earnest Hemmingway
- “Bloodchild”, Octavia Butler

Questions will include: Re-appearance of quiz questions, short-answer, short essay

Possible Essay Questions:

“Sonny’s Blues” by James Baldwin
II-a. What event in the narrator’s life causes him to make contact with his brother Sonny? What significance does his motivation have to the story?

II-b. What connection does “Sonny’s Blues” make between art and suffering?

“The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
III-a. The narrator is clearly invested in her writing; just as clearly, her husband considers this occupation dangerous to her. Precisely what does writing mean to the narrator? To her husband? How does the notion of writing and creativity contribute to the theme of the story?

III-b. The narrator’s descriptions of the wallpaper are both vivid and disturbing. How do the images she conjures up reflect her state of mind? How do they reflect the oppression she feels as a result of her confinement?

III-c. What leads the narrator to determine that there is a woman behind the wallpaper? Why does she eventually refer to the woman as herself?
“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson
IV-a. If Tessie Hutchinson is the protagonist in this story, who are the antagonists? What is the conflict? How is it resolved?

IV-b. How does an omniscient point of view contribute to the story’s plot, especially its ending? How might the story be different if written from a different point of view?

IV-c. What does the story suggest about tradition and change? About gender roles? About community?

“Bloodchild” by Octavia Butler
V-a. Where does “freedom” exist in “Bloodchild”? How is this sense of freedom different from the ways in which we conventionally understand it?

V-b. The Tlic are obviously dependent upon the Terrans in order to reproduce; in what ways are the Terrans dependent on the Tlic? In what ways is that moral judgement complicated in the story’s context?

V-c. Where in the story do you find indications of a moral judgment being made about the relationship between the Tlic and the Terran’s? In what ways is that moral judgment complicated in the story’s context?

Be prepared to spend 50 minutes (full class period) completing the exam.