**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mr. Beck - English 9**

**Short Story Unit Assignment!!**

**For this project you must choose one short writing assignment & one creative assignment.** The writing assignments should be a minimum of one page typed. The response should be written in an organized fashion with introduction and several paragraphs. You will want to do an outline ahead of time to organize. Be sure to answer your question completely. Keep in mind a paragraph is around 5-9 sentences. The creative assignments must be done in a neat & creative manner; be ready to explain your project to the class. All text on the creative project MUST BE COMPUTER GENERATED. Also, keep in mind it must be high school caliber-no crayons. Be creative! No late passes will be accepted; every day assignment is turned in late, it is downgraded one letter.

**Writing Assignments (choose one):**

1. If you could change the ending of one of the stories, how would you change it? Why would you make this change? Write the new ending.

2. Which character do you feel the closest to? Why? Make sure to provide specific details using the text.

3. Which character has the most difficult problem? Does this character successfully solve the problem? What advice would you like to give to that problem?

4. Choose one of the authors from this unit and tell why you would like to read more of his or her stories. Support your choice with details from the story and perhaps some personal observations and experiences.

5. If you were judging a short story contest, which story would you select for each of the following awards: most exciting, most amusing, most realistic, most ironic? Discuss each choice in a separate paragraph with specific details to support the choice.

**Creative Assignment (must be larger than 8.5x11) (choose one):**

1. Do a character collage to show personality traits of one character from a story. Be ready to explain why you chose all of the items to represent the character.

2. Design a book cover for a short story based on the story. Pretend you are an artist for a publishing company. Your task is to design the book jacket that the story will appear in. You may choose a scene or something from the story to show what the story is about. Be sure to include the summary of the story on the back.

3. Design a movie poster to depict your short story. Pretend you have transformed your short story into a movie. You have to choose actors & actresses to play the roles. These may be famous people, or just people you think look like the characters. Design the movie poster with a title (oftentimes they change the title of the story) & include actors’ & actresses’ pictures (these may be cut out of a magazine). Poster should tell us something about the story.

4. Make a CD soundtrack for the story. For each song or musical piece, print out the lyrics; then, write an in-depth analysis/explanation (6-10 sentences) that explains its connection to the story and why you chose the song. You should reflect the different moods as the plot changes from exposition to climax to resolution. Create a case cover for your CD. Be artistic. You should have at least 8 songs.

5. Create your own graphic novel or comic book depiction of one of the stories that we read. The quality of your project will be determined by the extent to which your scenes portray the entirety of the story you select, the quality and effort of the artwork, and an introduction that explains what you tried to capture and why. Use quotes from the text as your narration and dialogue but feel free to alter anything as needed as long as the ideas of the text are unchanged.

**OR in lieu of the two projects you could do just one longer one:**

Create and present your own *original* short story. It should be somewhere between 3-4 pages. You must consider all of the following in the creation of your original piece:

• exposition

• characters

• setting(s)

• theme(s)

• plot

• action

• conflict

• climax

• resolution

• point of view

• foreshadowing

• sensory language

You must have a creative hook, incorporate dialogue to some degree and develop your action. Include an outline of your story as part of the final copy. If you need additional help, I can supply supporting worksheets to get you started.