



Short Story Encapsulation Project

100 points (x2)

A.P. ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION
Archbishop Moeller High School, Mr. Rose

Encapsulate means “to put into concise form; to condense.” The result is called **encapsulation**. Yes, encapsulation is similar to providing a synopsis – of a novel, a play, a film, etc. It is different in that it seeks to capture the *essence* of a work, without necessarily accounting for all its essential parts. We’re going to use the term in this assignment to refer to an abridged dramatization of a short story.

The Assignment

You will be encapsulating the short story you have been assigned. In other words, you’re going to create an abridged dramatization of the story, one that captures its essence. You will have a set of criteria to follow.

The Players

You will work on this project with the other students who are in your short story group.

The Stories

The stories chosen for this project are: “The Body Snatcher” by Robert Louis Stevenson, “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Conner, “The Birthmark” by Nathanael Hawthorne, “The Blue Lenses” by Daphne du Maurier, “William Wilson” by Edgar Allan Poe, and “The Destroyers” by Graham Greene.

The Criteria

1. You must dramatize the short story in a 4-5 minute presentation. That means you will have to abridge, digest, condense. You and your partners will have to get together to decide what is of vital importance to telling the story and capturing its essence.
2. You must identify one important symbol in the story and somehow emphasize or explain the symbol through your dramatization.
3. You must choose a “theme song” for the short story encapsulation. This song can be either an instrumental or a song with lyrics, but you must be able to justify your selection. It should in some way capture the “essence” of the story. If at all possible, include part of the soundtrack with the video. If that is not possible, then you’ll play the selection separately for the class.
4. You may not use narration. Dramatization only! To this end, you will want to create a mini-screenplay, which is simply a way to organize the dialog and main action of the encapsulation.
5. Since this is a dramatization, you and others will be acting out your “encapsulation.” You may do this either as a short film/video or as a live in-class performance. My preference is for a short video, if possible. If you are making a film/video you may use, of course, any location, props, actors or actresses as you deem fit. Feel free to be creative. Be creative!

Due Date: _____

Presentation materials due

N.B. It may seem silly to you that you have so much time to work on a 5-minute presentation. Don’t be fooled. There’s plenty involved: reading and annotating the story, reading it again, condensing it, writing out the “screenplay” and filming or performing it.