The purpose of this assignment is to provide a short essay (3 to 4 pages in MLA format) in response to one of the following passages from the following short stories:

**Passage #1**  
D.H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner,” pp. 613-4 (starting “And so the house came to be haunted…” and ending “…that breath is coming and going all the time”)

**Passage #2**  
Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery,” p. 598 (starting “After that, there was a long pause …” and ending “…drawing for households is concerned, that’s you, too. Right?”)

For the passage you select, begin by preparing a list of significant features—that is, those features which make the passage important in and of itself. These may include language, imagery, theme, contribution to character and/or plot development, etc. Don’t worry if you feel you are repeating features specifically discussed in class. Note everything you think is important about each passage.

Then consider how the passages (and their noteworthy features) contribute to the short story as a whole. For example, does the passage develop previously established imagery? Does it develop the short story’s theme(s)? Does it change the way we, as readers, understand a particular event, character, or the short story in general? Does it force us to re-evaluate the short story in any way?

If you are not sure what “imagery” and “theme” are, try looking up these literary terms (and any others unfamiliar to you) in a glossary in the library or online at the Thomson Gale Group’s glossary of literary terms (found under “Resources” at course website).

Now organize your “brainstorming” list into a formal outline, one in which you select only 3 or 4 main observations for discussion in your paper. Once you have a detailed outline, you are ready to draft your essay. Keep in mind that your essay should have a well-crafted rhetorical structure. In other words, they should not be a stream-of-consciousness outpouring of your random thoughts on a piece of literature. Instead, your paper should present

1. a unified, specific, and coherent thesis;
2. textual evidence in the form of direct quotations from the literature (properly documented according to MLA guidelines) that clarify and support your argument/observation about the text; and
3. your mastery of standard American English, including grammar, punctuation, and syntax.

This final essay must be sent to me via email no later than midnight on Sunday, October 8th.

**Please Note:** Essays that do not provide textual evidence (i.e. direct quotations properly documented from the short story) to support arguments cannot earn a grade higher than a C.