Midterm Essay: Explication

Date due: Thursday, May 6

The assignment: You will write a short explication of a passage from one of the stories listed below. Carefully read the description of an explication in your text (pp. 1773-1774) and on the handout provided.

Guidelines:
• Read the attached handouts on explication, especially the sample essay.
• After selecting your story and passage, formulate a tentative thesis (main point) you want to develop in your essay.
• Start with a “simple outline,” as noted on p. 667 on the attached handout. The points you make in your paper should all support your thesis. Note the advice on your handout: “Focus on the details that strike you as most meaningful. Do not try to cover everything” (667).
• Write a rough draft and revise.
• Use the “Revision” checklist on your handout to help you as you draft and revise your paper.
• Type the passage at the beginning of your essay.

Format:
• Times New Roman, 12 font, double-spaced, numbered pages (Use the numbering format you see on sample essay on handout.)
• Include a heading and title (see p. 668 on handout)
• Include a Work Cited page at the end (see p. 670 on handout)
• Length: at least 500 words (excluding the passage)

Story choices:
• “The Story of an Hour” (Chopin)
• “The Cask of Amontillado” (Poe)
• “The Worn Path” (Welty)
• “Everyday Use” (Walker)
• “A & P” (Updike)
• “A White Heron” (Jewett)
• “The Lesson” (Bambara)
• “Hills Like White Elephants” (Hemingway)
• “Everything That Rises Must Converge” (O’Connor)
• “A Rose for Emily” (Faulkner)
• “The Yellow Wallpaper” (Gilman)