I heard a bird sing in the dark of December,
A magical thing and sweet to remember.

**Analysis:** Please choose one of the following to focus and develop your analysis. Consider about 3 well-developed paragraphs as an adequate development of your analysis.

1. A literary symbol has been defined in this way: “On the most literal level, a symbol is something which is itself and yet stands for or suggests or means something else… In a literary sense, a symbol is a vehicle which combines a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract or suggestive aspect” (Holman 519). Starting with the bird in the cage, explain how the various objects in the kitchen are symbolic of Minnie’s life after her marriage. Add to your discussion any further observations about symbolism – distinct from signs in *Trifles*.

2. We defined irony as the recognition of a reality different from the masking appearance. In drama, “irony refers to knowledge held by the audience but hidden from the relevant actors” (Holman 279). Identify and discuss all of the instances of irony that you observe through close reading. Explain how these instances of irony contribute to the overall effect and meaning of *Trifles*.

**Response:** Please choose one of the following to focus and develop your response/connection. Consider about 3 well-developed paragraphs as an adequate development of your response.

1. **Friendship** is an important issue in this play. Mrs. Hale feels that she has committed a crime in not going to visit Mrs. Wright when “ . . . I might have known she needed help! I know how things can be – for women. . . We live close together and we live far apart. We all go through the same thing – it’s all just a different kind of the same thing.” Consider and write about the power of friendship.

2. Did the women, the “jury of her peers,” do the right thing in hiding the damaging evidence? Why or why not?

3. Someone once said that story gives a character the opportunity to change. We’ve seen some remarkable changes in the drama stories we’ve read this term. Like Oedipus, Mrs. Wright’s change marks a fall (“The loftiest climb precedes the greatest fall.”). Think about this profound change (from Minnie Foster, “one of the town girls singing in the choir” 30 years ago to the woman locked up in the county jail) and write about similar changes that you’ve witnessed.