Based on Alice Walker’s “The Flowers” story, please begin thinking about and writing your own short short story today. This pre-writing handout will prepare you to being drafting the story.

Pre-writing: \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 points

Drafting: \_\_\_\_\_ / 25 points

Requirements:

* 8 paragraphs (3-6 sentences/paragraph) and 1 single, meaningful line at the end.
* 1-2 characters
* A well-defined setting
* A moment of suspense
* A ‘discovery’ (literal or metaphorical)
* A resolution

Pre-Writing Questions and Ideas

**Introduce 1-2 characters:**

Who will your characters be? Think of names, ages, basic background details.

What will they look like?

**The well-defined setting:**

Where does your story take place?

What does it look / sound / feel like in this place? What are some key words & phrases that you can include to set your scene?

**The exposition and rising action:**

What is happening at the beginning of your story?

What happens next?

**The climax (in this case, the discovery):**

What does your main character discover?

How does this happen?

**The falling action:**

How does your character react to the moment of discovery?

What does he / she think about?

**The resolution:**

What happens at the end?

How does your character feel?

**The final line:**

What is the subtle message you would like your story to communicate:

**Drafting:**

Now that you have some basic ideas, begin drafting the story. Keep in mind your story length: 8 paragraphs plus one line at the end. Each paragraph should be at least 3 sentences. You should complete this pre-writing handout and continue drafting in your notebook. By the end of class, please have a **very rough** draft with at least 8 paragraphs and 1 meaningful line at the end.

(25 sentences minimum.) You may end up changing your story…Think of this as Draft #1!

Paragraph #1

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Paragraph #2

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