AP Literature Short Story Group Presentation

You will select your group members and randomly draw one of the stories below:

“A Good Man is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor, pg. 445
“The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman—Read online
“A & P” by John Updike, pg. 753
“Everyday Use” by Alice Walker, pg. 757
“The Birthmark” by Nathaniel Hawthorne, pg. 416
“The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe, Read online
“Cadillac Flambe” by Ralph Ellison—Read online
“Soldier’s Home” by Ernest Hemingway, pg. 185

Everyone will read all of the stories; everyone will also take a reading quiz on each story, bring 10 discussion questions to class, and participate in the discussion (which will be recorded/graded). You will complete the requirements for your story and work with your group to present/teach the story to the class. In order to teach your story, you are expected to prepare and submit the following to me in typed form:

1. A short story worksheet (attached on the class blog); this should be typed and include good examples of each literary feature with page number references.
2. Questions
   --Reading quiz questions-7-8 good, thoughtful questions. These should be able to be answered in several sentences (no multiple choice questions); they should be a mix of literal and brief interpretive questions.
   --Discussion questions for the class (10)
3. A one-page handout for your classmates—using Google docs?—This should include:
   • key biographical information about the writer (life events, what the writer is known for stylistically, time period-literary period)
   • key literary analysis points about your story (from worksheet above—coordinate with the classmate doing this)
   • literary theory points that pertain to your story (from researched articles below)
   • Bring copies of the handout to class.

ALL GROUP MEMBERS will also each do the following:
4. A summary of 1 critical article on your story—A typed paragraph with the author, title, and overall thesis of EACH article as well as key discussion points (probably 5-6 sentences), your identification of the theoretical perspective imbedded in the scholarship, AND a correct, complete MLA citation. (Check out the Owl at Purdue online.) ** Plan to discuss the articles in your presentation—either at the end or throughout (as appropriate). Share with the class how each article has illuminated the story for your group. ONLY ONE OF YOUR ARTICLES CAN BE FORMALIST. Refer to pages 2079-2100 in the textbook. This will be graded individually.

On the day your group is assigned to teach your story, I will give a reading quiz. Next, you will lead the discussion. Refer to your short story worksheet and discussion questions to prompt an engaging whole-class discussion. Remember to refer to Foster’s How to Read Literature Like a Professor and your Bedford text for insights. At the end of the discussion, and as part of the overall presentation grade, you will be evaluated by your peers.

Be sure you communicate with all members of your group and be sure to include all group members in the planning and the actual presentation/discussion. If for any reason one of your group members is absent on the day of your presentation, you are still expected to present your story. Presentations begin on Tuesday, Oct. 20th.
Essay Assignment

In this paper you will demonstrate your understanding of different literary theories and how they can be applied to the story you presented.

Find 3 scholarly essays that discuss some aspect of your story; each article should be from a different literary perspective. In your paper you will discuss the aspects of your novel that the articles shed light on the most. Keep in mind that you will be using third person pronouns (not I, me, my or you).

Sample organization:
I. Introduction (novel, author, aspects that you will be discussing) Thesis statement should make it clear which aspects you will be discussing.
II. First aspect- for example, how the novel reflects its historical time period (HISTORICAL article)
III. Second aspect: for example, elements of theme (FORMALIST article)
IV. Third aspect: for example, how psychology reveals specific, important aspects of characterization in the novel (PSYCHOLOGICAL)
V. Why/how the novel is so excellent-overall- something to make others want to read it

This is a five-paragraph scheme, but your paper could be longer with more paragraphs. This is just a suggestion. I do expect the following AT A MINIMUM:

☐ Correct MLA formatting, including documentation (See The Owl at Purdue online); paraphrases MUST be documented.
☐ Several quotes or paraphrases from the essays in EACH of your paragraphs- NO unsupported points
☐ Paper submitted to turnitin.com (information forthcoming)
☐ At least 3 typed, double-spaced pages. Overall range- 3-5 typed pages PLUS a CORRECT Works Cited page.

Due: November 3, 2015
Story Title __________________________

Please write in each group member’s name next to his/her section of the project. Remember that each group member will also complete a summary of a critical article (above-#4). Please coordinate with your group members to insure variety of articles.

_____________________Worksheet
_____________________Worksheet
_____________________Reading quiz questions and class discussion questions
_____________________Handout—You must bring copies to class-I cannot make copies for you.