

Formalist Homework (partners ok)

Read the 3 stories and answer the book questions. Use quotes and evidence from the text for all of your answers. Discuss the *Formalist* and *Structuralist* questions from chapter 33. Summarize your findings by answering the questions below for each story.

“Guests of a Nation”

1. Why was the opening confusing? Who are the prisoners/guests? Who are the guards? Where are they? Why the title? Who is the woman and why is she in the story? Who is Irish? Who is English?
2. How is Jeremiah Donovan different than Bonapart and Noble? Use examples from the story. Why is Bonapart telling the story? Would it be different if it were told from Donovan? How?
3. What is “duty” and what role does it play in the story?
4. How are Bonapart and Noble different at the end of the story? Why? Use evidence.
5. How does Form=Content?

“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall”

1. There is a lot of irony and unreliable narration in the story. How does the narration confuse us and why? Find examples and explain. Think: FORM=CONTENT. Find examples and explain.
2. What does Granny feel about her life, her soul, her death, and her jilting? Is there a pattern here? How does she treat the priest?
3. Explain the ending. Start reading at “Light flashed on her closed eyelids...” and read through to the end. What happened? Who is the bridegroom? What is the jilting? WHY? (Hint: Think biblical allusions.)

“I Stand Here Ironing”

1. What do you think happened to make the mother have this monologue? What do we learn about the setting from her monologue?
2. How does Form=Content? How does her ironing mirror the tone shifts and syntax/organization of the story? How is the iron a symbol? Cite examples.
3. Show feelings/reasons/excuses the mother has towards her daughter. Give examples. Read from “She has said it before. She believes it.” ...til the end of the story. Who or what is to blame? What’s the verdict?