

Instructions per paragraph	60%+ ish passing version that has all required components	90%+ ish version has more than required components and stronger voice
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead / Hook to do with main idea /meaning and your chosen lens which puts this idea in context • Explanation / elaboration on this main idea / meaning & define your terms – what do you mean by this main idea?– GET specific • Citation of text(s) and author(s) AND short summary of text(s) that has to do with main idea / meaning • Thematic statement – say what the theme of the story is with your two sub-ideas (needs to be about the human condition, not just the character in that story) AND how you / we SEE this in the story (your two techniques) 	<p>Women have often not been seen as equal to men. When feminism started, things began to change, and women got some rights. In the short story “The Blue Jar” (1942) by Isak Dinesen, Lady Helena is a woman ahead of her time who takes over her father’s merchant ship and spends her life sailing the open sea in search of rare blue china. She shows that you should always do what you want in life and forget what other people say.</p>	<p>With the exception of the Amazons (and possibly Xena the Warrior Princess), women have been seen as second-class citizens for centuries, not equal to men in thought, ability, employment, or even to throw down at hot dog eating contests. Things began to change with early feminist icons like the Suffragettes and Rosie the Riveter. Lady Helena, in Isak Dinesen’s short story “The Blue Jar” (1942), is such a feminist heroine who runs a merchant ship and lives freely on the open sea as she searches for rare blue china. Through her, Dinesen demonstrates that with perseverance and an independent spirit you can define and determine your own path to success, despite what other people may say or expect from you. Or in the modern parlance of Taylor Swift “haters gonna (sic) hate...shake it off...[just] keep cruising”. We see this by Lady Helena’s sheer determination to keep sailing and by how content she is at the end of her life having fulfilled her true purpose.</p>
<p>Body Paragraph 1 Based on sub-idea 1 (KC1) _____ (what is this paragraph about?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead / Topic sentence (you can use connections which illustrate / put this idea in context) • Explanation / elaboration of idea(s) in this paragraph • Identify technique • Cite / quote / evidence from text which goes with this idea for this paragraph • Reasoning: explain why/how this example shows your sub-idea and your main idea / meaning 	<p>People say that anything worth having is worth working for, no matter what we decide we want. But first, we have to want something. Lady Helena repeats several times: “Nay, I have got to sail” showing her dedication to her job but also to her passion – sailing and searching for blue china. In the end she found her trophy, and it’s because she never gave up. Passion and perseverance go hand in hand, because it’s hard to keep working for something when you don’t have a passion for what that effort will eventually bring you. When you do, and you achieve your goal, it’s all the more sweet.</p>	<p>According to the film <i>Hustle & Flow</i>, “it’s hard out here for a pimp, cause he’s trying to have thangs (sic) but it’s hard...it’s blood, sweat, and tears”. You know, like you actually have to work for what you want, even if you’re a criminal! All joking aside, the truth is: everything that is worth having is worth working for, no matter who you are or what your goals. (Also, I have never heard anyone say that life was easy). And, who are we anyways without our goals and accomplishments, and the pride we take in achieving them? Lady Helena repeats several times: “Nay, I have got to sail” showing her dedication to her job but also to her passions – the sea and the chase. In the end she found her trophy, one could argue through compulsion and a responsibility to the men in her employ. But I doubt that kind of perseverance can exist out of obligation and duty alone, and certainly not to be sustained over the course of a lifetime; no, that kind of perseverance needs passion, an inner fire. I believe this is shown through the shadow ship “...with which [she must] keep pace...as the moon draws the tides, all through the bulk of the earth...[and that when both ships sink]...there, in the midst of the world, we two shall meet” (2). I think these two ships represent her real self and her dream self which drives her to achieve her goal. We all have this split personality of a sort, and when you finally achieve all you’ve ever striven for, you feel complete. It’s her passion that drives her, and it’s our passion that sustains us when it’s hard out there. The question is: how do we find it?</p>

<p>Body Paragraph 2</p> <p>Based on sub-idea 2 (KC2) _____ (what is this paragraph about?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead / Topic sentence (you can use connections which illustrate / put this idea in context) • Explanation / elaboration of idea(s) in this paragraph • Identify technique • Cite / quote / evidence from text which goes with this idea for this paragraph • Reasoning: explain why/how this example shows your sub-idea and your main idea / meaning 	<p>Life coaches say that the key to happiness is finding your purpose in life. So while Lady Helena had passion and perseverance, she also needed a purpose and this was to follow in her father’s footsteps and sail the open sea. This may seem like a bit superficial, materialistic, or even obsessive to some, but to her that blue jar is a symbol of the freedom and independence she had at sea. There she got to be who she wanted to be, do what she wanted to do, not what her aunts expected of her which was to find a “...great match” (2). And so, when she died, all she wanted to do was to go back where she felt at home, so that “...in the midst of the blue world [her] heart will be innocent and free...” (2).</p>	<p>Fear not! Like the Magic 8 ball of life, Oprah has all the answers! All you have to do is find your true purpose. You do this by taking Joseph Campbell’s advice to “Follow your bliss”. So, passion and purpose go hand in hand. In Lady Helena’s case, she followed in her father’s footsteps, and at an early age, found her true calling. Many people may look at her persistence as an obsession or even think her pursuit of a material object is trivial, but to her that blue jar is a symbol of the freedom and independence she had on the open sea for most of her life. Away from courtly life, from the gender expectations and social constraints that Victorian England held for her to find a “...great match” (2), she could live as she chose. And so, when she died, all she wanted to do was to go back there. To be forever enveloped in the blue of the ocean – literally where her heart lay, where her life’s purpose had been – so that “...in the midst of the blue world [her] heart will be innocent and free...” (2). So if you take her example, and you want to find eternal contentment and peace, all you need to do is find your purpose and pursue it with passion.</p>
<p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead / Topic sentence to wrap up whole response • Explanation of those idea(s) and why they are relevant or not to you as a reader / audience • Discussion of text as a whole and why it is effective or not as a well-crafted short story? • USE aspects of the chosen lens to help you defend and justify your STANCE, ie how is this Feminist heroine relevant today..., or how are the archetypal patterns still visible today? • Generalization to humankind or transference and universality of the message to all – deal with the meditation on humanity – the literary merit or value of the story, what we can ALL learn from it. 	<p>By making a woman the heroine of her story, and setting it back in a time when women’s rights were more limited, Dinesen actually shows how far women had come by 1942. Today, the message is still important; it’s just harder to settle on a purpose because we have so many more options, and we’re overwhelmed by technology. Also, she never tells us what the blue jar actually means, and so we have to figure it out for ourselves. This was hard at first, until you look at how Lady Helena lived and her choices and struggles. I guess it’s the same for us. What are we willing to fight for? For me it is my career, which was hard won, and continues to stimulate and challenge. So I’d say that finding what you love and never giving up is a pretty good message, no matter how old you are.</p>	<p>Ha! Easier said than done, considering that today, many of us feel like zombies, sleepwalking through life. We’re on auto-pilot just getting through the day. We are so bombarded by technology, by reacting, by the latest Trump tweet, that we hardly have time to really think about what <i>we</i> really want. The sky may be the limit to our potential, but if we never look up, how will we find it? Oftentimes, this comes through struggle, conflict and hard work; as it did for Lady Helena, who butted up against her family’s expectations, as well as those of her gender and her class. In this way, Dinesen creates a real feminist heroine battling both herself and society to live her life on her own terms. By writing this allegory set back in a time where the constraints on women’s freedoms were even greater, she shows the contrast of what we would become in the intervening years (and ever since). By 1942, it didn’t seem weird to have a heroine, a Lady, sailing the open sea. After all we had Amelia Aerheart sailing the open air. The structure of the story around the pursuit of the symbol of the blue jar – whose real meaning is never revealed - allows the reader to imagine whatever their own passion is that may be worth pursuing to similar lengths. Like Lady Helena, when I found my true passion, teaching, I haven’t stopped. Not that I am going to cut my heart out and bury it in a book, mind you, but passion and purpose nonetheless, and I certainly have never worked harder for anything in my life than becoming a teacher, and trying to be good at it. It is my life’s work. They are the two sides of the coin of life. Don’t know where to start? Flip it. Lands on passion and you start with things you love to do and build from there. Lands on purpose and you start with what you do that makes you feel worthwhile. Either way, you’ll be winning at life and on your way to fulfilling your destiny. What are you waiting for? Flip that coin today.</p>