**One-page essay topics for the short story you choose. --- You many respond to one of these topics or a topic of your own design. Use textual evidence to support what you think about your choice.**

**NO 1ST OR 2ND PERSON!**

**“A Good Man is Hard to Find”**

Who is the real Misfit? How is the grandmother herself a misfit in the story? Support your argument with concrete, specific details from the story.

What might the thwarted family road trip symbolize in this story?

Did the story shock you or were you unfazed at the ending? Why or why not? Discuss the author’s techniques that allowed you to be shocked or not.

**“A Rose for Emily”**

What kind of person is Emily Grierson? Why does she live in the past? How do the townspeople feel about her? How do you feel about her?

What kind of person is Homer Barron? Why do the townspeople consider him not good enough for Miss Emily?

Explain the function of dust and decay in the story.

Write an essay focusing on Emily Grierson’s relationship with her father as contributing to her tragedy.

**“A Worn Path”**

How is the complexity of the issues of race depicted in “A Worn Path” by Eudora Welty?

From what point-of-view is “A Worn Path” told, why was it chosen and how can a reader tell? (Note: You could compare the POV in this story to that of “A Rose for Emily.”

Race Relations – Could Phoenix’s journey be symbolic for the black person’s journey at the time the story was written? Think about the hindrances Phoenix faces along the way. Also, what does the ending imply?

**“Good Country People”**

How is Hulga defined by her disability?

Analyze the theme of power in the story. Who has power over whom?

Identify and explain at least three of the story’s symbols.

Are there any “good country people” in the story? Are there any “good men” in “A Good Man is Hard to Find?” Why does O’Connor title her stories this way?