Joseph Solís

Advanced 2/3

Short Story Synopsis: Part One

**Working Title:** "Sunsets"

**Characters (Primary and secondary; static or dynamic):** Mike (primary, dynamic): Mike is the narrator of the story and husband to Beth, his wife of forty years. Beth (primary, dynamic): Beth is the wife of Mike. She is coping with the first stages of Alzheimer’s.

**Point of View:** The story is told in First Person; the narrator, Mike, recounts his years with Beth in the story.

**Conflict:** In the beginning of the story, Mike and Beth are dealing with marital issues, and they are close to filing for divorce because of an affair Mike is having at the time. Later on in the story, the two of them attempt to deal with Beth's diagnosis of Alzheimer’s.

**Story:** Every year Mike and Beth go to St. Joseph, Michigan. This has been a very special place for them since they began dating. After learning of his wife’s diagnosis with early on set dementia, Mike proposes to back to this place in an effort to make his wife happy and distract them both from the situation they’re currently facing.

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Short Story Synopsis: Part Two

**Story Title:** "I Remember Sunsets and St. Joseph"

**First Line:** "I would like to believe that there are things in this world that are too beautiful to forget regardless of age or condition."

**Synopsis:** Many years ago as young college graduates, Mike and Beth began a spontaneous tradition of driving to St. Joseph, Michigan during the summer. While at Silver Beach, these youthful lovers visited the local shops and swam in Lake Michigan. During that first visit, the two of them sat in Mike’s truck and watched the sunset; it was Mike’s first, and one of the most memorable moments of his life at the time. Mike and Beth's forty years of marriage are recounted-ranging from joyful, memorable milestones involving their children to painstaking struggles involving the near-collapse of their marriage-and during that time they have always gone back to St. Joseph to reconnect and regain some of the same romantic vigor that they once possessed when they first met. After experiencing some lapses in memory and displaying several bouts of confusion, Beth is given a life-altering diagnosis: she has early on-set Alzheimer’s. This forces Mike to remember that time over twenty years ago when he and Beth were skirting the edges of filing for divorce due to an affair that Mike was having at the time. Looking back on their time together, Mike realizes that the one place the two of them felt happy was on their trips to St. Joseph, so he begins planning a trip there in an effort to preserve a positive lasting memory for both he and his wife before her condition is irreparable. When they get there they visit the same places that they did the first year that they came. Mike is naively hoping that somehow he can help his wife retain one lasting memory, and he can seek self-redemption in helping her do that.

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Short Story Analysis Chart: First Edition

**First Edition:** *Before* writing your story, you are going to identify the major elements in your story as they are presented on your rubric. For each element, provide a general description so that I and other readers are capable of understanding the role these elements play in your story. At this stage, you do not have to include textual evidence.

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| **Short Story Analysis Chart** | | |
| **Setting (3-5 sentences)**  Provide a description of your setting, and include the significance it plays to your character’s situation. | A majority of the story takes place at Silver Beach in St. Joseph, Michigan. It’s a scenic lake town located off the shores of South Lake Michigan. It’s on Silver Beach where Mike and Beth witness the setting of the sun, which holds a symbolic meaning for Mike and his wife’s condition. | |
| **Conflict (3-5 sentences)**  Provide a description of both types of conflicts that at least **two** of your characters are facing in your story. | **Internal (Man vs. Self)**  **Mike**, the narrator, feels regret for the infidelities committed in his marriage. This intensifies after learning of Beth’s diagnosis. He feels he has an opportunity to redeem himself and correct past mistakes. | **External (Man vs. Nature)**  **Beth vs. Alzheimer’s**  **Beth**, Mike’s wife of forty years, is struggling with early-onset dementia. She struggles with memory lapses and confusion. Her diagnosis has left her despondent, and she’s looking to her husband of forty years for help. |
| **Theme (3 possibilities)**  Since theme can be interpreted subjectively, provide **three** themes that can possibly be evident to your reader. Label them based on **major** or **minor**. | 1) Things in life can sometimes fade due to age, but true love is committed. (Major)  2) No matter what mistakes have been made, there is always a chance for redemption. (Minor)  3) Even the smallest events can be made to seem grand. (Minor) | |
| **Characterization**  Provide **four** examples of direct and indirect qualities of at least **two** of your characters. | **Indirect**  **Mike:** remorseful, loving,committed, bumptious  **Beth:** stunned, angry, despondent, forgiving | **Direct**  **Mike:** angry, selfish, confused, mild-mannered  **Beth:** free-spirited, adventurous, ill,apathetic |
| **Dialogue (3 examples)**  Provide **three** examples of significant correctly punctuated dialogue spoken by your characters in the story. | 1) *She leaned against me, and entwining her arm with mine said, “You know, if this is the only thing I ever remember, I would be okay with that.”*  2) *“I’m glad to be here with you,” she said.*  *“I’m glad to hear that,” I replied.*  3) *“I still feel hope for us,” she said, tears welling at the rim of eyes. “And I hate that.”* | |
| **Mood (3 possibilities)**  **(5-7 sentences)**  Provide **three adjectives** that can possibly be felt by the reader. Be sure to include reasons as to why the reader might possibly feel that way when reading your story. | The reader can gain a sense of **sympathy** for Beth due to what Mike’s past involves with another women. His past discretions lead the reader to dislike Mike and feel pity for Beth. Beth can also cause the reader to feel **empathetic** toward her given her state and condition; someone reading this might have a relative coping with a similar situation. Given that Beth and Mike find a way to work through Beth’s condition together, someone reading this story will feel **inspired**. They will feel as if their problems they’re facing are insignificant compared with people like Mike and Beth, or they might feel that their challenges need addressing like the characters’. | |

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Short Story Analysis Chart: Second Edition

**Second Edition:** *After* you have written your story, you are going to edit your story along with the information contained on this chart. When you submit the final draft of your story, you will submit a second edition of this chart that will include textual evidence to support most of your elements. Failure to do this correctly when submitting your story will result in loss of points from your original score.

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| **Short Story Analysis Chart** | | |
| **Setting (5-7 sentences)**  Provide a description of your setting, and include the significance it plays to your character’s situation. **Include textual, tangible evidence to support this.** | A majority of the story takes place at Silver Beach in St. Joseph, Michigan. It’s a scenic lake town located off the shores of South Lake Michigan. It’s on Silver Beach where Mike and Beth witness the setting of the sun, which holds a symbolic meaning for Mike and his wife’s condition. The text states: *“During the day, the blue water reflected the sun’s rays on all the commuters, quickly turn their skins shades of pink and brown. Now dusk had come, and most of the people had dispersed to town’s eateries and shops up the hill overlooking the beach. We were left alone for the most part, gazing at graying sand and sky melded with orange and blue hues (page 1).”* | |
| **Conflict (5-7 sentences)**  Provide a description of both types of conflicts that at least **two** of your characters are facing in your story. **Include textual, tangible evidence to support this.** | **Internal (Man vs. Self)**  **Mike**, the narrator, feels regret for the infidelities committed in his marriage. This intensifies after learning of Beth’s diagnosis. He feels he has an opportunity to redeem himself and correct past mistakes. The text states: *“It pained me now more than ever to know that my wife would retain the memory of me with that woman. Now, in the wake of Beth’s diagnosis, it seemed as though we would be equally haunted by this fact (page 2).”* | **External (Man vs. Nature)**  **Beth vs. Alzheimer’s**  **Beth**, Mike’s wife of forty years, is struggling with early-onset dementia. She struggles with memory lapses and confusion. The text states: *“I found her next to the front door crying. Her car keys were gripped her hand, her purse hung loosely on her shoulder. ‘I got so lost, Mike. I’ve taken that way to Jenni’s for years. How did I get so lost?’ she cried into my shoulder (page2).”* |
| **Theme (3 possibilities)**  Since theme can be interpreted subjectively, provide **three** themes that can possibly be evident to your reader. Label them based on **major** or **minor**. **Include textual, tangible evidence to support this.** | 1) Things in life can sometimes fade due to age, but true love is committed. (Major)  *“Driving down the road, the familiar smell of the lake wafting into the vehicle, I realized that despite driving three hours to get to St. Joseph, we had gone much further than that. While marriage is a long, arduous road, we still have to navigate it to get to our intended destination. I felt-and hoped-that we still had a little road ahead of us (page 5).”*  2) No matter what mistakes have been made, there is always a chance for redemption. (Minor)  3) Even the smallest events can be made to seem grand. (Minor) | |
| **Characterization**  Provide a description of direct and indirect qualities of at least **two** of your characters. **Include textual, tangible evidence to support this.** | **Indirect**  **Mike: Remorseful**The text states: *“It pained me now more than ever to know that my wife would retain the memory of me with that woman. Now, in the wake of Beth’s diagnosis, it seemed as though we would be equally haunted by this fact (page 2).”*  **Beth: Stunned** The text states:*“I told her that night at dinner. She didn’t say anything; she only sat there, looking lost. There was a small, quick exhalation, like the wind had just been knocked out of her (page 2).”* | **Direct**  **Mike: Angry**The text states*:**“I contested vehemently and became* ***angry****. One of the doctors got up to shut the door to the room so that nurses outside wouldn’t hear rantings (page 3).”*  Beth: **Free-spirited/adventurous** The text states:*“That was always one thing I adored and loathed about Beth when I first met her; she was so free-spirited and adventurous that it made me seem boring by comparison (page 1).”* |
| **Dialogue (3 examples)**  Provide **three** examples of significant correctly punctuated dialogue spoken by your characters in the story. | 1) *She leaned against me, and entwining her arm with mine said, “You know, if this is the only thing I ever remember, I would be okay with that.”*  2) *“I’m glad to be here with you,” she said.*  *“I’m glad to hear that,” I replied.*  3) *“I still feel hope for us,” she said, tears welling at the rim of eyes. “And I hate that.”* | |
| **Mood (3 possibilities)**  **(5-7 sentences)**  Provide **three adjectives** that can possibly be felt by the reader. Be sure to include reasons as to why the reader might possibly feel that way when reading your story. | The reader can gain a sense of **sympathy** for Beth due to what Mike’s past involves with another women. His past discretions lead the reader to dislike Mike and feel pity for Beth. Beth can also cause the reader to feel **empathetic** toward her given her state and condition; someone reading this might have a relative coping with a similar situation. Given that Beth and Mike find a way to work through Beth’s condition together, someone reading this story will feel **inspired**. They will feel as if their problems they’re facing are insignificant compared with people like Mike and Beth, or they might feel that their challenges need addressing like the characters’. | |